



# WOS News

Issue 14

November 2005

editor: Elizabeth Sansom

email: newsletter@westbourne-orchestra.co.uk

Yet another issue of WOS news. Please don't forget to let me have any items you want included in the next WOS news. Most of the time I am relying on the sterling efforts of chief reporter Vic King.

## Workshop—July 2005

This being our 75th Anniversary year the end of season Workshop presented the Orchestra with a special challenge.

Once again guest players looking for orchestral experience were invited to rehearse with the 50-strong orchestra and present the 30-minute concert afterwards. This year we welcomed 14 guest players some of whom expressed an interest in joining the orchestra.

The programme this time was the Ralph Vaughan Williams "Folk Song

Suite" and a selection from Rossini's "La Boutique Fantasque Ballet" chosen by deputy conductor **Dave Brooks** who organised the programme.

Finally, the Orchestra, guests and audience moved to the Church Hall where refresh-

ments had been prepared. Secretary **Jean Budd** baked and iced a huge 75th birthday cake, which was cut jointly by Conductor **Sam**

**Newgarth** and Deputy Conductor **Dave Brooks** at the celebration party.

This was indeed a very happy experience enjoyed by Orchestra Members and guests alike. The Westbourne Orchestra is deeply indebted to "Friend of the Orchestra" **Noreen Price** who assisted **Tricia Davis** in organising the Workshop both before and during the event.

Also "Friend" **Richard Brown** who helped collate the music and **Jean Budd** with the preparation of the refreshments. Indeed the WOS Committee is really

grateful to "Friends of the Orchestra" who lend a hand from time to time to help this sort of event to run smoothly and become an occasion to be remembered.



*Sam making an expert job of cutting the wonderful and delicious 75th anniversary cake. Trish seems to have total confidence in Sam's cake cutting ability, but Dave looks a bit worried.*



## Sir Patrick Moore—Vice President WOS

Since the death of Arthur Shaft, WOS has been without a president.

It was suggested that we ask Sir Patrick Moore if he would consider being president of the society as he is a musician himself and has links with the local area having performed with BAPS on one occasion.

Our secretary worked hard composing a letter to Sir Patrick and we were delighted to receive the following response:



*Dear Mrs. Budd,*

*Thank you indeed.*

*I would have been delighted and honoured to accept—BUT, alas. I have to admit that my wretched body has broken down. I can't get around and I would be a passenger. How I wish it were not so ...*

*But if I could be an Honorary Vice President, I would be delighted.*

*Very best wishes to you all.*

We also are delighted that Sir Patrick wishes to be connected to the Westbourne Orchestra and welcome his offer to be Vice President.

## HELP!!!!

Front of house is looking for Honorary Members, Friends of WOS or any regular member of our audiences to help as ushers and with sale of programmes at our concerts.

We are looking to make a list of possible helpers who will be required to attend the concert three quarters of an hour before the concert is due to start. This normally means 6.45 pm. Hopefully, we can have enough names to spread the load so that the same few people don't have to do every concert.

Members of our audiences are extremely important to us and the main task is to make them feel very welcome at our concerts.

If you would care to help in this way would you please give your name to Richard Brown or Chris Sugden. If you don't know Richard or Chris then mention it to the usher at the next concert you attend and who will point you in the right direction. Alternatively, email [info@westbourne-orchestra.co.uk](mailto:info@westbourne-orchestra.co.uk).

## Dick Upton

Violinist and past member Dick Upton passed away in July aged 94. Dick joined the Orchestra in 1985 or thereabouts and continued to play with the Orchestra up until 2 years ago when he was well over 90 years of age.

Dick served on the WOS committee and was responsible for publicity for a number of years.

New members may like to read up about Dick on page 4 of the WOS News letter No.9 posted under News on the WOS web site [www.westbourne-orchestra.co.uk](http://www.westbourne-orchestra.co.uk)

## Dates

- 19th November 2005 Christchurch Priory, Christchurch
- 25th November 2005 St. Ambrose Church, Westbourne
- 26th November 2005 St. Peter's, Lower Parkstone
- 4th December 2005 Music at St. Catherine's Hill
- 25th March 2006 St. Peter's & Paul's Ringwood
- 31st March 2006 St. Ambrose Church, Westbourne
- 1st April 2006 St. Thomas's Church, Ensbury Park

*Don't forget to let me know of any dates you want included in WOS news—Editor*



## Mad about Music

*Here is an account from Vic King (1st violin) of his experiences at a very worthwhile event in Poole.*

One Tuesday during September, at the invitation of Charles Sugden, minister at St. James Church Poole and brother of our very own Chris Sugden (2nd violin), I went along to assist at the second session of a music course designed to introduce absolute novices to all the various instruments of the orchestra.

This particular morning was all about strings concentrating on the violin (Vic), viola (Rachel Flynn), cello and guitar (Charles Sugden) and double bass (Alison Sepping).

Charles opened the session by introducing everyone and then with the aid of an overhead projector, made a few remarks and comments about the various instruments of the orchestra and where they would normally be placed relative to the conductor.

After this the ten students, aged between 20 and 60, were split into 4 groups and went to seats placed in the four corners of room where each of the leaders talked about the instrument demonstrated its function and allowed each of the students to hold the in-

struments and have a go.

After fifteen minutes or so the groups moved round so that each student was able to learn something about all four instruments.

Some students had played an instrument of some kind in the past but had not actually played for some years.

The session closed with us listening to a recording of Elgar's *Introduction and Allegro* which adequately demonstrated the variety of sound that can be achieved by this section of the orchestra.

There is no doubt that this was a great success and I am sure some of the attendees people will take up an instrument as a result of attending.

The first session took place during September and further sessions are planned.

This particular course is completely full but Charles will probably be arranging other courses in conjunction with Poole Adult Education.

Anyone interested in future courses (either helping out or as a novice) should contact Charles at [parsons.paddock@ntlworld.com](mailto:parsons.paddock@ntlworld.com).

## Music at St. Catherine's Hill, Christchurch

Following the success of the May Day concert held at the St. Catherine's Community Hall, Anne Finley-Brown was asked to organise another, similar event and this is to take place at the same venue on December 4th at 3:00pm. Items include string quartet, wind quintet, cello solo and cello and violin duets. This is a very relaxed, informal affair and is a pleasant way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

## The Violin Shop

Visit Geoff at 52a Wycliffe Road, Winton for all your string requirements, repairs, accessories, etc. Tel: 01202 513823/657077.



## Pen Portrait—Bill Fendley

Poole born and bred, cellist Bill who celebrated his 69<sup>th</sup> birthday in September has been a stalwart and reliable member of the Orchestra for over 20 years and over the last several years has been a great support by occupying the first desk. He decided to join the WOS at the invitation of past chairman Richard Davis whom he met when both were playing in the cello section of the Corfe Mullen (sometimes known affectionately as the Monday orchestra) Orchestra under George Freeth.

Bill was one of seven children and during the Second World War his Mother, who was Irish, took most of them to Ireland for the duration.

Bill started to play the cello at the age of thirteen when at the Kemp Welch School in Herbert Avenue, and continued to take lessons for the next five years. During this time he was encouraged to take some examinations up to grade 5.

At the age of 18, Bill was called up for National Service in the Royal Artillery and served in

Germany for three years. He was fortunate to be accepted into the RA Portsmouth Band. He was never given further tuition but had plenty of time for practice not only the cello but also the saxophone.

Upon leaving the army Bill took a rest from playing instruments for a couple of years but in the early 60's he took up the cornet. He was a founder member and became principle cornet of the Bournemouth Concert Brass. Bill was with them for about twenty years but dropped out in the middle eighties to take up his first love, the cello, again.

In addition to playing with the WOS, Bill also helps out with other orchestras such as the Poole Chamber Orchestra as well as playing duets and quartets with friends.

Bill married Anne in 1960. Anne is not an instrumentalist but his son David plays keyboard and guitar and daughter Jo took up the French horn for a time whilst at school.

When Bill left school in 1951 he was employed in a clay pit (now

"Tower Park") until he joined the army. Later on in life until his retirement in 2001 he was employed in the aircraft industry as a welder.

Bill enjoys caravanning and has visited Cornwall as well as touring Wales and the local area. He visits mainland Europe every year, but not in the caravan. In 2001 Bill and Anne visited New Zealand for five weeks in a mobile home.

Bill reads a lot, mostly crime fiction by authors such as Patricia Cornwell and Jeffrey Deaver and the like.

He also enjoys music of course and works to make sure that he stays fit to enjoy all these activities for many years to come.

Bill has never been back to Ireland since his time there during the war but who knows he may some time in the not too distant future take his caravan over there for a long holiday and revisit the places where he spent some of the most important formative years of his childhood.

## Canford Summer School

Once again, several members of the orchestra attended the Canford Summer School of music. As the kitchens at Canford were undergoing refurbishment during the summer, the whole school was shifted north a bit to Sherborne School. Attendees

were divided about whether they preferred the completely tranquil 'away from it all' atmosphere of Canford which is situated in its own grounds, or Sherborne which is totally integrated into the small Dorset town. Apart from the marvellous

music making, the one item that dominated conversation was the food. It would have been difficult for a top quality hotel to provide better. We all returned home exhausted from the music and probably a few pounds heavier!