



# WOS News

Issue 17

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## New President for the Westbourne Orchestral Society

A short time ago it was announced that Prudence Whittaker, clarinettist, had graciously agreed to become President of the Westbourne Orchestral Society. All members are highly delighted at this great honour.

It was whilst on holiday in Stockholm that long serving committee member and timpanist Tricia Davis browsing in a music shop came across a CD of Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante E flat for oboe, clarinet, horn, bassoon and orchestra, played by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra featuring Prudence Whittaker.

As Tricia knew Pru had been a member of the WOS before turning professional Tricia promised the WOS committee to contact Pru and ask her if she would accept nomination for the then vacant position of President of the Society.

Much to the delight of everyone Prudence accepted and all members of the Orchestra are deeply honoured.

This is particularly appropriate as although Pru is now living in East Sussex she still makes periodic visits to Bournemouth. Hopefully, it may be possible to arrange for some of her future visits to coincide with WOS concerts. One such possibility is March 24<sup>th</sup> 2007. If this comes about we shall be delighted

## Bad light stops play?

With our increasing membership, it is becoming more and more difficult to position the lights to suit everyone. Those at recent rehearsals may have noticed some members of the violin sections have resolved this problem by arming themselves with their own personal stand light. It runs off batteries (so no wires to trip over or sockets to find) which last for a very long time. This brilliant little device is the "XTRA FLEX DUET". It was obtained from John Packer Ltd., 141 Staplegrove Road, Taunton, Somerset, TA2 6AF for £14.99 although you would probably have to add p&p to that. You may be able to find it at other music shops and it is also worth having a look on the web. One word of warning though—you will no longer be able to use the excuse 'can't see the music' for wrong notes!

## Dates

18th November 2006	St. Katharine's, Southbourne
24th November 2006	St. Ambrose, Westbourne
25th November 2006	St. Clements, Boscombe
2nd December 2006	BCMS, Talbot Heath School (3pm)
17th March 2007	St. Thomas', Ensbury Park
24th March 2007	St. Stephen's, Bournemouth

The next Bournemouth Chamber Music concert is on 2nd December at 3pm at Talbot Heath School. Everyone is looking forward to this particular concert as it is a return visit of pianist Bobby Chen. His first visit was 2 years ago when he gave a spectacular performance and made such an impression on the audience that there was a huge demand for a return visit.

See [www.bournemouthchambermusic.co.uk](http://www.bournemouthchambermusic.co.uk) for further details.

[www.westbourne-orchestra.co.uk](http://www.westbourne-orchestra.co.uk)



## Summer Concerts Review

Many members of the audiences at the Summer Series of Concerts this year will have been somewhat surprised and perhaps concerned at the absence from the rostrum of our conductor of nearly 30 years **Mr Sam Newgarth**.

Early in the summer term at the beginning of April Sam was seriously ill with pneumonia and taken into hospital. Afterwards he was advised to take a rest period, which prohibited him from attending WOS rehearsals. However, those who attended the concert at St. Nicholas Church, Corfe Mullen may have seen him in the audience and we are happy to report that Sam is now fully recovered and back in command of the orchestra. This meant that Deputy Conductor **Mr Dave Brooks** was required to take over the responsibility of the three Summer Concerts which he did so with great enthusiasm, energy and aplomb and deserves our thanks and congratulations. The

same programme was presented at St Ambrose Church, Westbourne and St Thomas's Church, Ensbury Park.

The concerts opened with the **overture** from the comic opera "**Candide**" by **Leonard Bernstein** with its explosion of challenges, including a wealth of glissandi and acrobatics, for all sections of the Orchestra.

This was followed by something of an entirely different nature "**Romance in F**" by **Beethoven**. This simple and charming work scored for strings, flutes, oboes, bassoons and horns was performed beautifully, the solo violinist part being taken and exquisitely rendered by Orchestra leader Jane Bultz.

The first half of the concert finished with **Sullivan's** enjoyable and bubbly music from the comic opera "**Pineapple Poll**" with a score by **Charles Mackerras**.

The second half of the concert was taken up with **Beethoven's Symphony No. 5** (nicknamed the *Victory Symphony*) and everyone immediately recognised the opening notes, which are the most well known in whole of classical music. Once again the Orchestra acquitted itself admirably particularly the cellos and violas in the exposed section at the introduction of the third movement.

Comment from Mr Don Patis at St Ambrose - "The strings and wind sections are always reliable. This time the brass played equally well." **Praise indeed.**

Proceeds amounted to some £800, which after deduction of expenses will be given to the venue hosts. The WOS is indebted to the hosts for permitting the concerts to take place and providing interval refreshments.

### FRIENDS OF CANFORD CLIFFS LIBRARY

Are you at a loose end on Mondays? Well why not visit Canford Cliffs Library and for a "Coffee and Biscuit" morning from 10.00 am to noon. You will be most welcome. No formalities just come along at a time to suit yourself.

You will meet some very interesting people plus you can enjoy the wonderful facilities there.

Full details from James Monger, Chairman Tel:01202 700451.

We have received the following from Jean who recently had a double hip replacement operation:

*Thank you everyone for your good wishes, cards and prayers when I was in hospital. I'm sure they helped my speedy recovery. Thank you Sam, Sue and Horsham for your visits. Many thanks for all the kindness and attention given to me before and after the op.*

*Jean.*

## The Violin Shop

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



## Member News

There have been some 'milestone' events in the lives of some of our members recently:

- Violinist Jean Budd and husband John (who makes us a superb cup of tea during our rehearsal break on a Friday) celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary. Congratulations on this wonderful occasion.
- Horn player Dave Brooks now qualifies for his bus pass and we all enjoyed his birthday cake at a recent rehearsal.
- Our leader, Jane Bultz has a second granddaughter, Lilly-Anna, and you must agree from the photo that she is beautiful.



We have received the following which I am sure will be of interest to many members. I am certain we will empathise with the problems they will undoubtedly face during the year.

## *Valley of Song*

*Every Wednesday at 8.30pm on BBC FOUR starting on November 15<sup>th</sup>*

I am writing to let you know about a new series starting on **BBC FOUR** that follows an amateur Symphony Orchestra based in rural West Wales called **Symphonica Tywi**. The series called *Valley of Song* is a six part series and follows the orchestra over a year as they struggle to fit in rehearsals and some ambitious concerts into their day-to-day lives. As a company we really value amateur orchestras and their contributions to making music in the community and as a result worked extremely hard in persuading the BBC to commission a series. We really hope you will watch and support the series so that more series of this strand can be made for Network television. If you would like any more information on the series, please do not hesitate to contact me on the numbers below.

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## Pen Portrait—Jean Budd (Violinist & Secretary)

In less than 4 years time the population of Bournemouth will be proudly and justifiably celebrating the bicentenary of the town. Yet some six miles to the north of the centre of the town and within the Borough of Bournemouth since 1931, lies the tiny village of Kinson, which was listed in the Doomsday Book some 1000 years ago. Now that is a history of which to be proud.

Furthermore, to this country village in 1935 was born one baby Jean Sheppard later to become a member of the Westbourne Orchestra. Something else for which the village can be proud.

That same year all the schoolchildren in the village received a commemoration mug. The bottom half of the mug was stuffed with paper and the top half was filled with paper wrapped toffees.

Not that these two events were connected in any way. It just so happened that in 1935 King George V and Queen Mary celebrated the twenty fifth anniversary to their accession to the throne and their likenesses, not Jean's, were portrayed on the outside of the mugs and similar mugs were distributed to schoolchildren throughout the land.

Jean's mother played the piano and both Jean and her brother David took piano lessons reaching grade 3 standard.

During the war Jean enjoyed school, exploring and playing in the countryside - climbing trees, collecting chicken eggs and rabbit food. She also joined children's dancing and drama groups. Jean became an enthusiastic Girl Guide and then a Sea Ranger later owning her own little boat that she learnt to sail, on one occasion capsizing, in Poole Harbour.

Later she became a Guide Commissioner for 6 years and ran a Girl Guide Company for 10 years taking the Guides to camp and to Brownsea Island each year.

In 1949 Jean started learning the violin at Talbot Heath School but soon transferred to the Bournemouth Education Authority violin classes and then joined the Bournemouth Student Orchestra.

She had a few months of private lessons with Jack Butterworth of the Bournemouth Municipal Orchestra (later BSO) and

worked for 2 weeks at Fortes Café to earn £6 in order to buy one of his violins.

Jean enjoyed the Saturday evening classical music concerts at the Winter Garden Theatre Bournemouth. Concessionary tickets at one shilling (5p) permitted holders to sit anywhere in the house. One Saturday she met John Budd outside the Winter Garden and he offered her a spare ticket, which diffident and timid Jean initially refused. But John being persistent returned and she then accepted the offer, not knowing that this was to be possibly the biggest single and most important decision of her life as later they were to be married.

In 1953 Jean started a three and a half years training course to become a Children's Nurse at Great Ormond Street Hospital. Whilst she was there she was able to take advantage of many complimentary tickets for London, concerts, opera and plays.

The day after completing the training course Jean and John were married. Six months later they went to Uganda. Jean worked in the old Mulago Hospital, Kampala and John took up a post as schoolteacher. They were there for seven years.

During the first four years and while still working at the hospital Jean also ran a Girl Guide Company taking the guides camping on occasion with the extra responsibility of looking out for snakes, rhinos and hippos etc. There the first two children Vivian and Timothy were born and so in 1964 they returned to England to live in West Marden, Sussex where Jean had her third child another boy, Jeremy. After about a year they decided to move back to Bournemouth.

Jean's violin had accompanied them to Uganda but the opportunity to practice was limited so that she was very rusty when she joined the Bournemouth Adult Education Orchestra, which later became the Poole Chamber Orchestra. Jean still plays with the PCO where she is *major factotum* and very much the lynch pin of that orchestra as well.

It was in 1988, seeking yet another challenge, that Jean on the suggestion and recommendation of a friend Ann Clay, she joined the second violin section of the WOS. She very soon found herself on the front desk. Later she was invited to join



the WOS committee and then in the early 90s she took over the onerous responsibilities of Secretary from violist Gil Twamley. She has carried out the ensuing duties with integrity, loyalty, tenacity and inspirational imagination ever since. It was Jean who suggested the two concerts with children we held in recent years and also the Composers Competition.

She says "I thoroughly enjoy belonging to the Westbourne Orchestra where over the years I have found so much kindness and encouragement from everyone. I feel very privileged to play, alongside so many very talented musicians, the music I discovered and loved in my teens"

In addition to music making, and bringing up her children, Jean was a Welfare Assistant at St James School, Pokesdown for 6 years and then a Supply Nurse for 3 year mainly looking after elderly people living in their own homes.

Her hobbies include bee keeping, painting, reading, writing poetry, listening to music, gentle walking, including walking the dog, swimming including swimming for charity, caring for grandchildren and of course helping at St Thomas' her local church at Ensbury Park.

You will have gathered by now that our Jean is an extraordinarily very busy lady but **still not without ambition**. She has plans in her head for taking up the piano once again in the not too distant future.

John tells me that he has had a most wonderful life and he wouldn't want to change one minute of it.