



WOS News

Issue 3

May 2002

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"Absolutely brilliant", "love it", "inspired", "I must say I like your Newsletter - very interesting", "Good piece on Gill Price. Does she have any equally talented friends?" were some of the comments from recipients of the second edition. And so, encouraged by such comments, here is the third edition.

Our aim is to publish a minimum of three issues per year depending on the number of contributions we receive. We know there are a number of interesting musical and non-musical events that take place, which involve members of the orchestra. Please keep us informed. Also we would like to have your further comments about the newsletter and your ideas for improvement.

Articles for future issues, comments and suggestions can be given to Liz Sansom or e-mailed to liz@roger-sansom.freereserve.co.uk

Golden Jubilee

Our June concerts are now included in the official Queen's Jubilee Web site www.goldenjubilee.gov.uk under the heading "Calendar of Events".

We are delighted to hear that WOS has received a grant of up to £1,085 from the National Lottery's Awards for All programme.

The grant will cover all the orchestral expenses involved in the presentation of the June concerts in celebration of the Queen's Golden Jubilee. WOS has some 45 playing members but inevitably there are some key instrumentalists missing. We will now be able to hire the necessary extra professional musicians to complete the complement of a full symphony orchestra. The grant will also cover transport, the leader and soloists' fees, the hire cost of music, hire of rehearsal facilities, publicity, performing rights royalties and recording license.

Our chairman, David Portsmouth, said "We are thrilled to get this award because as a registered charity we do not hold huge funds. This is to us is a very large sum of money and it will allow us to help many local people including the charities we support".

Our secretary, Jean Budd (Violin) has worked very hard to prepare and submit the application.

THANK YOU JEAN!

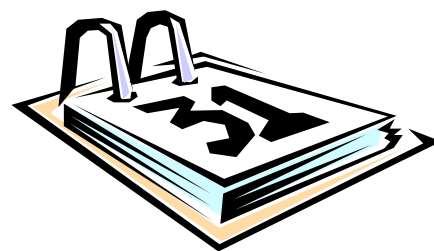
Wanted - Urgent

Do you have a portable (12") black and white TV lurking in the depths of your loft? It is needed to relay Sam (via camcorder) to the organ loft at St. Stephen's. We did this last time using a 14" colour TV, but the available shelf is extremely narrow and the cameraman spent a very anxious time waiting for the 'thud' during the *ff* passages as the TV crashed down upon the organist! Fortunately it never came - but he doesn't want to raise his blood pressure in that way again!!

Please let Liz know if you can help.

Help Please

We have a mailing list of about 80 names that we send details of our concerts to. A small number of these have e-mail addresses and therefore cost us nothing. The remainder are advised by letter and have to be delivered by hand or by post. In order to keep costs down, please look through and see if you can take any to deliver any by hand. The letters will be available at rehearsal at the beginning of June and will be sorted in postcode sequence.



Dates

Summer 2002 Concerts

Sat 22nd June at Ferndown Community Centre.

Fri 28th June at St. Ambrose Church, Westbourne.

Sat 29th June at St. Thomas' Church, Ensbury Park.

All performances at 7:30 and rehearsals at 3:30p.m. unless otherwise advised.

NPC (Sam's) Concerts

Sat 15th June 2002 at St. George's RC Church, Taunton.

Sat 7th September 2002 at St. Ambrose Church, Westbourne (Flower Festival).

Sat 14th September 2002 at Canford Cliffs Village Hall.

Autumn Term

Rehearsals now re-commence on 13th September (not 6th September!). Please make a note of this change.

AGM provisionally scheduled for 27th September.

Autumn 2002 Concerts

Sat 16th November at St. Lukes, Winton.

Fri 22nd November at St. Ambrose, Westbourne.

Sat 23rd November at St Katherine's, Southbourne.



Ella's sponsorship

One of the objectives of our Society is to encourage musical talent at all levels. Members of the orchestra demonstrated their adherence to this objective by giving generously to a sponsorship appeal for cancer care.

Six-year-old student violinist **Ella Armstrong**, granddaughter of our Secretary Jean Budd, is in the starter section of the Wessex Youth Orchestra. Ella had undertaken to practice each day for 10 minutes for a number of days in order to qualify for the sponsorship money promised by individual members of the orchestra

We were delighted to receive a neat and carefully written letter of thanks

Dear Orchestra

I have done all my practice and all the money came to £120. Thank you all very much for sponsoring me in aid of the Sargent Cancer Care for Children.

Love from Ella

Well done Ella!

Christine Taylor

Christine (our pianist and percussionist) was born and educated in Bristol studying the piano from the age of six. Having a number of musical families nearby and her father being a fine singer and organist she began playing duets and ensembles whilst still quite young. Music was a fun activity and there were many good concerts to inspire one.

Although Christine obtained the gold Medal of L.A.M.D.A. at sixteen, she decided to make architecture her career, continuing with her piano lessons concurrently.

Later in life she began to play large scale chamber music and since joining the Westbourne Orchestra some 40 years ago has had the opportunity of playing with them as soloist on numerous occasions. Christine also assists with the percussion section from time to time when the music being performed does not call for her piano expertise.

Over the years Christine has enjoyed an ever widening diversity of accompanying, playing for the Barclays House Choir and as one of the official accompanists for the Bournemouth Music Competition Festival. She plays frequently with the Cameo Singers and other small groups mainly for retirement homes. Also for recitals, auditions competitions and even pantomime. Every term a stream of musicians arrive to rehearse their exam pieces or just to enjoy the benefits of working with an accompanist. Christine has been lucky enough to meet a number of gifted and outstanding young players and hopefully to encourage them to succeed.

Christine retired from architectural practice in 1989 and since then has been fully occupied with music.

She will be the piano soloist for the Paul Coles "Celebration Rhapsody" in the Queen's Golden Jubilee concerts in June and also for the Mozart Piano Concerto in C no. 21 K467 in the November concerts.

WOS is extremely lucky to have such a talented and experienced pianist as a regular member of the orchestra.

Summer Concerts

These concerts are to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee and the programme will include predominantly works by British composers: Elgar's 'Pomp and Circumstance' and 'Cello Concerto in E Minor' with soloist Zoë Hunting; 'Little Suite No. 2' by Malcolm Arnold; 'English Folk Songs' by R Vaughan Williams; and Mendelssohn's overture 'Fingal's Cave'.

WOS is proud to be able to include in the programme the premier of 'Celebration Rhapsody' by local composer **Paul Coles** who lives in Poole. The music is written for solo piano and full symphony orchestra and has taken almost three months to complete. The pianist is to be **Christine Taylor** who has been with the orchestra for many years. This colourful, festive piece is approximately 7 minutes in duration and the composer hopes he has conveyed a musical perspective of the last 50 years of our special heritage. The

permission granted by Buckingham Palace to add the dedication 'Composed in Commemoration of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of The Queen' is an honour and both Mr. Coles and the Westbourne Orchestra are delighted to be able to be a part of the local celebratory activities being presented throughout this summer. It is hoped that the three performances will attract capacity audiences as admission charges, less expenses, are to be distributed between the various charities the orchestra supports.

The soloist for the Elgar cello concerto, **Zoë Hunting**, started playing the cello at the age of eight in Suffolk where she grew up. Zoë then went on to study at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London studying under Leonard Stehn. Later she attended the Middlesex University to train as a music teacher and now teaches cello in Southampton for the Bournemouth and Southampton Music Services.

Thanks

Audrey Carnell is delighted to inform us that the memorial collection taken at the time of George's funeral raised £300. She wished her grateful thanks be given to the orchestra for their donation. The £300 has been sent to Age Concern.

Dorothy Marshall

Dorothy played in the St. Ambrose Orchestra in the nineteen-thirties and tried desperately to attend one of our concerts since reading about the orchestra in the Dorset Life. Unfortunately she died on April 3rd. Vic visited her at the Kingfisher Residential Home and gave her a tape of one of the WOS concerts which she played quite often. The funeral was on 12th April at the Bournemouth Crematorium.



Member News

Alan Braughton (Bassoon) Welcome back Alan after your travels round the canals of England. We missed you.

Robert Hanmore (cello) Welcome to Robert. We hope you are enjoying playing with us.

Liz Leach (oboe) is leaving us and

Andrew Colinson (horn) is also leaving us.

Both Liz and Andrew are leaving Bournemouth University at the end of this term. Unfortunately, this means that we shall be losing them from the Orchestra as well. Liz's plans are not yet fixed so she may continue with us into the beginning of next season.

Andrew is to join the BBC at Bristol. We take this opportunity of wishing them both the best of luck in their future careers.

You're never too old ...

Gerorge Barker (viola) writes:

"At the end of 1999 I acquired a computer, being bullied into it by my children. I was unable to resist the free training offered by the branch of Cricklade College in Salisbury and later by Salisbury College. I was awarded Level 1 and then Level 2 City and Guilds certificate in Word, Excel and Access. I am now on a "Web Authoring" course and am making a web site for BAPS (www.baps-orch.fsnet.co.uk).

Last year, I visited my daughter Liz who is a professor in the College of Education in the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, flew in a balloon in their Balloon Fiesta which takes place every October and visited the Grand Canyon. I also spent some time at a spare computer in another professor's office, making a spreadsheet to save the staff time in assessing which of 25 scholarships with, between them 30 criteria, about 100 candidates would each qualify for on paper. This is now in use and is much appreciated and Liz is busy putting the spreadsheet on the College web site so that even more time can be saved by applicants being able to find out for themselves which scholarships it is worth applying for. (People over there are in general very computer-literate and keyboard-skilful but any with knowledge up to mine in Excel were not around in that department - they don't get that sort of training without paying heavily.) I also made a more ambitious spreadsheet, with a long macro, which would automatically put batches of 40 applicants through the hoop and print and file the outputs."

Following is an excerpt from a letter sent by the university to George:

... When Liz told us that "My Dad will love this project", we knew we had found an excellent resource person! We truly appreciate your time and expertise on this project. The worksheet will help our students determine scholarships for which they may apply, and it will help committee members to more quickly consider the qualifications of students for each endowed scholarship.

Spotlight on Jim Grant



Our leading clarinettist joined the orchestra in 1960 and has contributed many enjoyable solo items over the years. He has also helped many other younger and less experienced clarinetists and was known to be a hard taskmaster as far as his music was concerned.

Jim was educated at Sherborne (Fosters) School and on leaving in 1946 he obtained a position with the Daily Echo as proof reader. After

some six months or so working in a cubicle 6' x 8', a tedious job for a young man, he saw an advertisement in the Echo for youngsters to join the army as trainee musicians.

Although he had no previous musical training whatsoever, the idea of learning an instrument was very appealing. So Jim applied and succeeded in gaining an entry to the band of the Hampshire Regiment at the age of 14 years and six months.

This led to a strict training programme, the highlight of which was a much sought after course at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall (the former home of the famous artist Sir Godfrey Kneller). There he developed skills on Clarinet and Saxophone thanks to the guidance of a brilliant professor of music.

During his 12 year army career Jim played in concert halls all over the world and as varied as the Royal Albert Hall, BFN (British Forces Network) broadcasting from Hamburg and also villages in the Malayan Jungle.

On entering civilian life Jim kept up with his music. He joined the RA Lister engineering company in Dursley Gloucestershire as a trainee engineer. But Lister's had its own military band - need I say more.

Then on returning to Bournemouth he began a career in landscape gardening that provided him with time to play in pit orchestras, military bands and dance orchestras both large and small.

Unfortunately Jim has suffered in recent years with arthritis resulting in two hip replacements five years ago. However we are very happy to report both operations were successful. Jim was fully mobile again in a relative short time "truly bionic" he says and he is now hopping around like a five-year-old, having recently undergone two cataract operations.

The database will be an immense help as we determine how we will award scholarship monies. We have heard nothing but excellent reviews about your contributions to the scholarship application procedures. You have helped us come into the 21st century ...

Well done George - you are an example to us all!



Spring Concerts Review

It is difficult, not to say impossible to anticipate, or estimate the size of audiences for WOS concerts. So at 7.15 PM on Saturday 16th March at St. Thomas' Church Ensbury Park box office and ushers were pleasantly surprised to see that there could be a capacity audience. By 7.20 PM an emergency plan was conceived and implemented to search out extra chairs from side rooms to supplement the rows of pews and finally even then some people were sitting in the vestibule.

Such is the undiminished popularity and pulling power of Franz Lehar's comic operetta "The Merry Widow" first produced in Vienna in 1905. With its host of lilting melodies from the 'Highly respectable wife' and 'You'll find me at Maxim's' to the hilarious 'Can-can' delightful 'Driving in the Park' strident 'Women Women' and finally the famous melodic 'The Merry Widow Waltz' it is hard to find even now a musical that compares with its variety of tenderness, wild excitement and joy to its comedy and happy ending.

In this concert version it was evident right from start of the overture that WOS conductor Sam Newgarth and SWOC Musical Director Patricia Bonelli were determined to present a programme of wonderful Viennese music that will long be remembered by the appreciative audience. Solo singers, chorus and orchestra all performed with professionalism, enthusiasm, gusto and verve.

The second half of the concert started with the orchestra playing the 'Gold and Silver Waltz' also by Franz Lehar. This had not been advertised and it was evident from the surprised reaction of the audience when it was announced that this was a bonus pleasantly appreciated.

Finally the evening ended with the playing and singing of the National Anthem as suggested by the host the Reverend Edward Farrow, owing to it being the Queen's Jubilee year. This was completely

unrehearsed but enjoyed by the audience and performers alike.

The concert was repeated at St. Nicholas Church Corfe Mullen on Saturday 23rd March with equal success. The Church was filled to capacity with a very enthusiastic and complimentary audience.

On this occasion the timpanist was thirteen-year-old Tommy Andrews from Fordingbridge. He provided all his own shiny new timpani equipment. He had received the music only 4 or 5 days before the concert and with only one practice session with the orchestra Tommy was able to fulfil all the tasks required of him with the expertise usually associated with a much older musician.

The flip side of all this, and there always has to be flip side, was that what we thought was an adequately sized car park at St. Nicholas Church became almost totally grid locked. Our grateful thanks are due to two or three sensibly self-motivated members of the audience who undertook the task of unravelling the mesh so that the car park was vacated after about 30 minutes.

The following letter was sent to Jean Budd the day after the concert at Ensbury Park.

Dear Sirs

I felt I just had to write to you with my many thanks for the wonderful performance of "The Merry Widow" your company gave last evening at

Becky's Tutorial

Saturday 18th May saw 8 members of the violin sections congregating at Trish's house for a workshop led by Becky in conjunction with her studies. Our initial horror at being asked to play scales in keys that we were hardly aware existed soon vanished as we found the whole exercise very enjoyable as well as instructive and beneficial.

Many thanks to Trish for your hospitality and to Becky for your hard work in preparing and running the session. The unanimous view of the participants was "Can we do it again please?"

St. Thomas' Church, Ensbury.

It was a truly lovely evening and something I will remember for a long time.

Yours faithfully

Olive M Saunders

It is encouraging to receive such feedback.

For your information, after sharing the ticket money with the venues and paying out all of the expenses (not least of which was the hire of the music), we made a loss of £92. Just goes to show how big an

November Concerts

The programme for the November concerts is:

- Humperdink: Overture "Hansel and Gretel"
- Mozart: Piano Concerto No. 21
- Saint-Saens: Danse Macabre
- Beethoven: Symphony No. 8

Suggestions Please

It will soon be time to work out the programmes for the 2003/2004 concerts and we would like as many suggestions as possible from as many members as possible.

There are all sorts of reasons why we can't perform various works: ensemble (a piece requiring four tubas and three harps is just not practical for us to consider!); availability of music; cost of music hire; performing rights fees; availability of soloists; cost of soloists; facilities at venue; to name just a few. The more suggestions you make the more likely we are to happen upon something that is totally feasible for us to play that nobody else has thought of, or choose something through popular demand.

Please give Liz (written down please!) any suggestions you have by the end of this term. If you don't make any suggestions then you will have to put up with what the committee come up with!