



WOS News

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Some readers may have been a little puzzled by the text that appeared on the front cover of the Queen's Golden Jubilee Souvenir Programme. Fact is it had been suggested that the name of our orchestra is not descriptive enough and suggested we should call ourselves the **Westbourne Symphony Orchestra**. Some disagreed as so much has been put into advertising and promoting the name of the Westbourne Orchestral Society over the last couple of years and felt such change would be detrimental.

However, it was also thought that there is no reason why the Westbourne Orchestral Society should not be known as managing the affairs of the Westbourne Symphony Orchestra as well as other sections of the organisation such as the proposed "Friends" section see elsewhere in this Newsletter. Hence the suggestion was to use both names on the programme. Any comments on this decision to the editor please.

Looking through the orchestra archives recently Roger Sansom came across a membership card and learnt that in the 1930s the subscription for playing members was 1 shilling (5p) per rehearsal, thus a year's subscription would have been roughly equal to a labourer's weekly pay i.e. £2.8.0! Our current annual subscription of £20 compares favourably with the weekly pay of a labourer today of £200 absolute minimum. Are we getting our music on the cheap? It would seem that only rich people could belong to the orchestra in the 1930's. Better make sure you have paid up for this year to David before he gets any ideas!!!! Just a reminder copies of the 1938 photograph are available from Liz at £5.

Please keep us informed of any news items concerning members of the orchestra as and when available. That could be school and university exam results, participation in other events including non-musical events such as charity walks marathons etc. Also we would like to have your comments about this Newsletter and, if positive, your ideas for improvement.

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

Member News

Welcome back to **ALAN BRAUGHTON** (bassoonist) who returned a few months ago from his 12 month exploration of the English canals. What a wonderful experience. We understand you had a marvellous time taking some instruments with you to ensure you didn't get out of practice.

We are very pleased that our second violin section has been enlarged by **ANNE FINLAY-BROWN** who joined the orchestra a few weeks before the Jubilee concerts.

We were very sorry that **GRAHAM MORGAN** has had to resign from the orchestra mainly through ill health. He has been a loyal member of the St. Aldhelm's Orchestra for many years and joined WOS only fairly recently, but decided that he is unable to attend both orchestras. We do wish him well and hope that he will keep in touch and be able to attend some of our future concerts.

Congratulations to **FRANCK LEPRINCE**. Since leaving the army Franck has been studying law and has recently qualified as a legal consultant specialising in the writing of will and probates. He has now obtained a position with a local firm of solicitors. In addition Franck has obtained a position of Senior Facilities Manager at the newly re-

vamped "Lighthouse" Poole Arts Centre where he will be leading a small team of trouble shooters to ensure that everything runs smoothly and efficiently. We are sure that with Franck running things there will be very few complaints from theatregoers, artistes and staff. WOS wishes him every success with both these new jobs.

CATHERINE DENTON (violin) made a very important decision recently when she applied and was accepted to become a Student Nurse in Southampton. For three years Catherine has been working in the Operating Theatre at The Royal Bournemouth Hospital. She left there on Friday 27th September and moved to live in lodgings at St. Peter's Vicarage, Southampton. She commenced her studies on Monday 30th September. We do miss her terribly at orchestra rehearsals (especially her infectious laughter) as she is so talented and reliable. However she assures us that she will keep in touch and we will see her from time to time and will make every effort to join us for the concerts. Please do Catherine every success with her new studies and hope she has a very interesting and enjoyable 3 years at Southampton.

We have missed our good friend **ERNIE SMITH** (violin) who has been unable to attend rehearsals over the last few months also owing to ill health. We understand that

he attended the Canford Summer School during the holidays - something that he has done practically every year over the last 50 odd years. Unfortunately, he was only able to stay for a few days and had to be brought home on the Tuesday or Wednesday. Ernie first attended the Summer School in 1953 when the cost for a week's tuition was £13. Now the charge is in excess of £400. Hopefully, he will soon be well enough to attend rehearsals again in the not too distant future.

Our leader, **REBEKAH REEVE**, has recently taken a distance learning professional development course in instrumental teaching and obtained a diploma from the Associated Board of the Royal School of Music (CTABRSM). As part of the course, Becky had to run a training class and those who attended can bask in the reflected glory as we understand that Becky obtained a special excellent commendation for that part of the examination. Well done Becky.

A warm welcome to **VALERIE SEAGER** (Cello). Valerie has recently moved from Bath where she was very involved in the music 'scene'. Welcome to the area and to WOS.

Welcome also to **MELANIE ASPEN** (Oboe) who comes from Wool and joined us very recently. We hope you enjoy playing with us.



Queen's Golden Jubilee Concerts

In keeping with the celebrations, our summer concert programme was made up of popular classical music predominantly by English composers. This programme proved to be exceptionally enjoyable and many members of the audience re-

quested to be kept informed of future Westbourne Orchestra concerts.

The Westbourne Orchestra was delighted and honoured that the Mayor of Ferndown, Councillor Maureen Godfrey found time from

her exceptionally busy schedule of civic duties to attend the first of this series of three celebration concerts on 22nd June at the Ferndown Community Centre Barrington Theatre.

The Orchestra was similarly proud and pleased that the Mayor of Bournemouth Councillor David Baldwin and local MP Mr John Butterfill graced us with their presence at the second concert on the 28th June at St. Ambrose Church Westbourne.

The third and final concert in the series was at St. Thomas' Church Ensbury Park on the Saturday the 29th June. No civic dignitaries this time but for the third time an almost full capacity house none the less. What a fantastic programme of joyful, musical entertainment. Not a question. It's a fact. You really had to be there to fully appreciate the sheer joy and emotion of that thrilling climax. Without being invited to do so the audience at each concert rose spontaneously to sing "Jerusalem". Similarly the audience rose again to join the Orchestra with singing "Land of Hope and Glory". After singing it three times which should have been the final item the audience demanded to sing it yet again. Highly respected and much loved **Sam**

Newgarth MBE, conductor of the orchestra for over 20 years, opened the programme with Fingal's Cave (The Hebrides) overture by Mendelssohn composed in 1830 when he was just twenty-one years of age, as a result of a visit to Scotland.

Elgar's Cello Concerto in E minor followed this, the solo part being superbly played by young, beautiful, diminutive **Zoë Hunting** who was almost dwarfed by the instrument. But when



Suite No.2" and what many had been waiting for the premier performance of "Celebration Rhapsody" composed by **Paul Coles** who lives in Poole. The music is written for solo piano and full symphony orchestra. The pianist was **Christine Taylor** who tackled this difficult and as yet unknown piece with the assurance built up by the ability and confidence she has acquired by playing with the WOS and other orchestras over many years. In this seven or eight minute colourful, festive piece the composer hopes he has conveyed a musical perspective of the last 50 years of our special heritage. The permission granted by Buckingham

we heard those powerful opening chords we knew we were in for a memorable performance and we were not disappointed.

With great joy and enthusiasm deputy conductor **Dave Brooks** ("Dishy" Dave to some young ladies in the Orchestra) opened the second half with the lively "English Folk Song Suite" by **R Vaughan Williams**. The solo violin in the second movement was taken and played with assured competence by the leader of the orchestra **Rebekah Reeve**.

After this **Sam Newgarth** took up the baton once again for first of all "Elizabethan Serenade" by **Ronald Binge** who at one time lived in Ringwood. Then **Malcolm Arnold's** "Little

Palace to add the dedication 'Composed in Commemoration of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of The Queen' is an honour for both **Mr. Coles** and the Westbourne Orchestra. The concert finished with **C. Hubert H Parry's** "Jerusalem" and **Edward Elgar's** "Pomp and Circumstance No.1" and the evening concluded with a

stirring rendition of the National Anthem.

The concerts were sponsored by a Lottery Grant under the "Awards for all" scheme and raised over £1200 for charity.

A recording was made of this programme and a limited number of CDs are now available.

Thank you for the most enjoyable concertAll present thoroughly enjoyed an excellent performanceenjoyable evening.....hope you will be able to repeat a similar performance in the not too distant future. E Farrow , St. Thomas' Vicarage

I greatly enjoyed the Queen's Golden Jubilee Concert at St. Ambrose Church and thought the standard of playing really quite remarkable. You may rest assured I will pass the word around.....John Butterfill , MP

It was a great evening on Saturday, everyone enjoyed it. Thank you all for a wonderful concert.....ticket sales amounted to £354.50.....Erid Rothwell , Ferndown Community Centre

On behalf of my friend Christine Bennett and myself I would like to express our appreciation for a most wonderful evening of music last Saturdaythe orchestra is to be congratulatedThe two soloists held us in raptureplease pass on our good wishes to Paul Coles for his continued success.....his composition "Celebration Rhapsody" was superb. Maureen Godfrey, Mayor of Ferndown.

.....It was an evening of absolutely beautiful music and the Mayorress and I had a wonderful time.....We thought Zoe Hunting was just fantastic - what virtuosity - and so brilliantly supported by the orchestra. Paul Coles also has great talent and he must have been thrilled to have his "Celebration Rhapsody" showcased that evening. It was a great piece and we enjoyed it very much indeed. We did enjoy the Pomp and Circumstance" especially the singing and flag waving.....David Baldwin, Mayor of Bournemouth.

Thank you very much for sending us your folder of information about the Westbourne Orchestral Society and the Golden Jubilee Concerts. We have added the folder to your entry on our data base of Golden Jubilee Ideas. We are very grateful for sending this very detailed record and it is very clear a great deal of time and care went into its production.Amy Philpott, Golden Jubilee Office, Home Office, 85 Buckingham Gate, LONDON SW1E 6PD.



Autumn Concerts

The programme for all three autumn concerts is to include: *Overture to Hansel and Gretel* by Engelbert Humperdinck; *Saint-Saens' Danse Macabre* with solo violin by orchestra leader Rebekah Reeve; and Mozart's popular *Piano Concerto No.21* with soloist Christine Taylor. A fourth item is the wonderful *Unfinished Symphony* by Franz Schubert and finally the well-known *Symphony No 8 in F* by Ludwig van

Beethoven (sometimes known as the Shakespeare of music). The proceeds, after music and orchestra expenses, for the first of

St.Luke'sChurch,Winton	Saturday	16thNovember	7.30PM
St.AmbroseChurch,Westbourne	Friday	22ndNovember	7.30PM
St.Katharine'sChurch,Southbourne	Saturday	23rdNovember	7.30PM

the three concerts at St. Luke's will be given to PRAMACARE . Proceeds from the other two concerts, after expenses, are in aid of the host's funds. Brenda has once again produced wonderful posters and handbills to ad-

PRAMACARE is a Christian charity organisation that works in East Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole with 650 clients per week and offers care to young and old alike from 0 to 100 plus. Referrals are accepted for people with any medical problem or disability. PRAMACARE subsidises the care and nobody is turned away because they cannot afford to pay.

vertise the concerts. If there isn't one displayed in the supermarket, library, etc. that you use, then take one and ask for it to be displayed.

Recently, the attendance at the Saturday afternoon run-through has been abysmal. If you don't attend then it makes it much harder for everyone else. Members should only be absent in exceptional circumstances and only after clearing it with Sam.

WOS Annual Dinner

WOS Annual Dinner will be held at the Liston Hotel, Wollstonecroft Road, Boscome on Friday 6th December. Price is £14 per person.

Friends of WOS

This is a new venture to promote WOS and enable friends of the orchestra to officially demonstrate their support and to be part of the orchestra. In the few weeks since it started, we already have 6



friends: Mr. James Monger, Mrs. D. Lewis, Mr. J. Lewis, Mrs. M. Locker, Mr. D. Locker and Mrs. Peggy Angel. Thank you for your support. We really look forward to seeing you at our concerts and on some of our more informal occasions.

CDs and Tapes

£14 was raised from the sale of CDs and tapes during the three June concerts. Some 30 videos of the February 8th Memorial concert have been sold. CDs and Videos of the Jubilee concert are now available but under the terms of the licence, production is limited. Only a few remain and are available on a first come first served basis.

Flower Festival

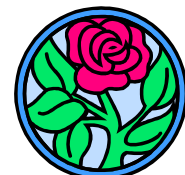
The St. Ambrose Flower Festival was a huge success and over the 3 days Friday 6th - Sunday 8th September some 180 people attended. There was no charge for admission but visitors were asked for a donation upon receipt of the programme. We have to thank Gill Slater for designing and creating the very splendid WOS display entitled The National Anthem. We can



all feel proud of our contribution. Gill expressed her thanks for the encouragement of David Portsmouth and the help she received from Churchwarden Jane Steer and other members of the St. Ambrose congregation. Although Gill loves arranging flowers and has built her skill for family and friends occasions, this is the first time she has attempted anything quite so

grand and for public display. We are indeed grateful to you Gill.

By cooperating with the church in this way it demonstrates our sincere appreciation of the good fortune we have in being able to use the Church for our rehearsals.





Pen Portrait - Eileen Tombe (ex leader WOS)

Eileen was born in Plymouth in 1915 and started playing the violin when she was seven. She continued with violin training and music studies taking the Trinity College examination and winning two top awards.

Later, in London she was coached by the senior string professor at the Royal College of Music, Spencer Dyke, and obtained an LRAM Performer's Diploma. Eventually, she decided to study for a Geography and Economics Degree at University College London and became a teacher specialising in geography. While at the university she became deputy leader of the University Orchestra which was conducted by Thornton Lofthouse.

Her first teaching post was at a Grammar School near Hartlepool in Co. Durham and in 1940 she became the head of the Geography Department at Barnsley High School for Girls. During the war Eileen joined the Voluntary Entertainment's Service playing to and entertaining the troops billeted in some of the lovely houses in Yorkshire and was awarded the Voluntary Entertainment's Badge.

From 1948 until 1975 she was head of department at the Girls High School in Devonport. She joined the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra and in 1953 was appointed leader. She remained in that post for the next 22 years until retirement age but she continued in the first violin section for yet another 7 years. During her time with the PSO she had the privilege of meeting and playing with many famous professional solo-

ists including Alan Loveday, Moura Lypany, Peter Donoghue and Nigel Kennedy to name but a few of various generations.

Eileen also became leader of a number of other orchestras. One such orchestra accompanied Choral Societies in the great classics playing for well-known soloists. She also led the Canborne Wesley Orchestra for several years participating in Good Friday Oratorios. Eileen also became involved with the Plymouth Chamber Orchestra playing as leader at venues in and around South Devon and East Cornwall. Programmes included Eileen as soloist in the Brandenburg Concertos and Mozart Violin Concertos. Eileen led an orchestra attached to the Dartington Adult Education Centre orchestral course and was in an orchestra led by Colin Sauer for the choral course. She enjoyed string quartets and playing at home with small groups of strings. Piano and violin sonatas were firm favourites at local and nearby music festivals. As she approached retirement she gave even more time to music and undertook sojourns into Cornwall leading a Symphony Orchestra under Geoffrey Self. Among other things this orchestra was engaged to play in Truro Cathedral for a special Centenary Celebration concert attended by Prince Charles who read one of the lessons. Not to be designated solely as "highbrow" she enjoyed leading light opera and musical comedy orchestras including Gilbert and Sullivan Society the Carmenians in Plymouth, the Plymstock Amateurs, the Manadon Naval Engineering College Society

and the Redruth and Camborne Operatic Society. She enjoyed many residential Summer School and acted as leader of orchestras with conductors Charles Ham-bourgh at Banbury and Wilem Tausky in South Cornwall.

At the Edinburgh Festival she enjoyed the privilege of playing with and leading rehearsal orchestras.

Eileen eventually decided to move to Westbourne where she joined the Westbourne Orchestra in 1983 and owing to her expertise and competence was promoted to leader in 1985, a position she held for some 13 or 14 years. In 1998 Eileen decided to resign from the position of leader of WOS through ill health but remained with the orchestra until 1999 when finally she found that she was no longer able to play to her own satisfaction.

Since suffering a stroke that was very traumatic and left her partially paralysed with speech, walking and writing difficulties, Eileen is now resident in the Aranlaw Nursing Home at 26 Tower Road, Westbourne, where she is being looked after very well. She is fighting a long slow battle to try to get back to as normal life as possible. Her speech has improved and she can hobble with the aid of a zimmer frame. Eileen receives copies of WOS Newsletters and continues to have an avid interest in all the activities of WOS. She has a regular date with a hairdresser who visits the home and her hair is always bonnie and immaculate.

Pen Portrait - Franck Leprince

Franck, who took up residence in Westbourne in 1999, was born in Dover in 1957 of French/German parentage and started to play the violin whilst in Sixth Form at the age of 16.

He was taught by the eminent Hungarian violinist, Nicholas Roth and later studied at the Frankfurt Conservatoire under Egmont Gansz. His professional debut as orchestra leader of HM The Royal Artillery Orchestra (Britain's oldest orchestra, dating from 1557) took place at the British Embassy in Paris at a dinner given by Her Majesty The Queen, in 1979.

After seventeen years as a State Musician, playing for several Royal families throughout Europe and in other parts of the world, Franck became a founder member and the leader of the Army Air Corps Orchestra, before accepting the position as Orchestra Leader at the Royal Military School of Mu-

sic, Kneller Hall. Three years later, he was appointed as Orchestra Leader of the Band of The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, in June 2000. He also led the orchestra of The Royal Logistic Corps and from time to time, he played as guest leader, with the Royal Engineers Orchestra.



Franck is grateful to the late Wilfred Josephs, Jim Parker, Howard Blake and other composers for their help and encouragement in building his musical career. He enjoys playing for

recording sessions for television and featured in a documentary for HTV/C4 on the life of the composer Paul Lewis: "Music Writers On Television".

Franck has played for many celebrities, including Roger Whittaker, Moira Anderson, Nigel Kennedy, Harry Secombe and Joan Plowright and regards the string quartet as his favourite way to make music, having, for many years, performed with the Lutz Quartet of Dortmund.

Now Franck's traveling days are over (for now at least—see members news) he has a chance to enjoy his other interests in fine arts, equestrian sports and walking. We are delighted to have him join us in WOS and bring us the benefit of his experience and expertise.