



# WOS News

Issue 6

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Probably you can count the number of WOS members on the fingers of one hand who were born before the Orchestra was formed in 1930. Nevertheless there is a significant number who have been with the Orchestra for 10 years or more with our venerable President heading the list with well over 50 years service. Yet with all this history we find that the WOS is still not very well known and as you know the Committee has embarked on a number of initiatives to rectify this situation.

One of the most rewarding was the decision to place weekly adverts in the Advertiser and two days a week in the Daily Echo. With a total circulation figure of nearly a quarter of a million between them it is not perhaps surprising that as a result of the adverts we have seen quite a steady number of new players joining us over the last several months very necessary to replace those players who have had to move on for one reason or another.

## Dates

**DON'T FORGET**—Rehearsals re-commence after the summer break on Friday September 5<sup>th</sup> September 2003. However, the following two rehearsals i.e. the 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> September will be at St. Michael's Church Poole Hill, owing to a special evangelist mission at St. Ambrose which is taking place during those 2 weeks.

### WOS Summer Concerts

Saturday 21st June @ 7:30—St. Mary Magdalene Church, New Milton

Friday 27th June @ 7:30—St. Ambrose Church, Westbourne

Saturday 28th June @ 7:30—St. Thomas' Church, Ensbury Park.

Yet again, Brenda has produced wonderful posters and handbills to advertise the concerts. If there isn't one displayed in your supermarket, library, etc. then take one and ask for it to be displayed.

If you don't know where to go, check on [www.westbourne-orchestra.co.uk](http://www.westbourne-orchestra.co.uk) and click on "Next Concerts" to find location maps for all concert venues for 2003.

### BPS (formally BAPS)

July 5th @ 7.30—St. Mary Magdalene Church, Taunton.

For more information, see their web site [www.baps-orch.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.baps-orch.fsnet.co.uk).

### BCMS

The Bournemouth Chamber Music Society season has now finished. First concert of next season is 11th October.

For more information, see their web site [www.bcms.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.bcms.fsnet.co.uk).

### Orchestral Workshop

This will take place on 11th July 2003. It is intended to be a fun evening with no commitment to encourage lapsed players of any standard to dust down their instruments and have a go in a friendly, non-threatening atmosphere as well as to enable experienced players to see if they like playing with us. See below for more details.

## Orchestral Workshop—11th July 2003

As you are aware the orchestra is organising an orchestral workshop evening as suggested by a member of the audience at one of our previous concerts. This is to take place on Friday July 11th from 7 - 10 PM. So far the response has been slow but positive. There has also been several enquiries which will hopefully come to fruition.

Posters have been produced, which are available for orchestra members to distribute. The workshop has also been advertised in the programmes of our last concerts. It would obviously be nice to have a large number of people registered for what promises to be a fun and interesting evening. If anyone knows of someone who may be inter-

ested, please can you give them my contact details or get their contact details so that I can send them a registration form and other relevant information.

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01202 722716

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

Please note our web address has changed. This change opens the way for us to do exciting things in the future—more in the next newsletter. You will still be able to access the site using the old address for the foreseeable future but please ensure that you use the new address on any promotional material.



## Member News

More gossip and news....

### John Berry (viola)

As reported earlier John went out to South Africa to help his uncle settle his affairs and intended to return in April.

Fact is he will be returning but unfortunately for us only for a short time. He will be returning with a new wife and will go back and settle in South Africa for good - but who knows? Maybe his wife would prefer our weather!

### Jennifer Wiles (violin)

Sadly for us we had to say goodbye to Jennifer after the Spring concerts. Jenny is off to South London in the vicinity of Crystal Palace where she is to continue her career with special needs children. We shall also miss her fiancé, Steve, as he has been so helpful with the organisation and selling of programmes at the last few concerts.

Jenny has indicated that she will make contact with the Bromley Symphony Orchestra (BSO!!) yet another prestigious non-professional orchestra established in 1918 even longer than the WOS.

### Rie Uehara (violin)

We were also sorry to have to say goodbye to Rie after the Spring concerts.

Rie is an extremely talented violinist but unfortunately for us she has finished her stint in the UK and has had to return to Japan in order to continue her studies. The good news is that her sister Nako also a violinist has now arrived in Poole and hopefully she will be joining us shortly.

### Mel Espin (oboe)

Mel writes ...

"On 13 April I took part in the fourth Southern Finance Tresco Marathon in the Isles of Scilly. This is an annual event held on Tresco in aid of the Cystic Fibrosis Trust. It comprises 7.5 laps around the island, including a few challenging hills.

While the rest of the country was basking in sunshine, the 111 runners on Tresco battled against Gale Force 8 winds and horizontal rain. There were very few personal best times, but I think we'd all agree it was a memorable occasion - certainly the free champagne at the party afterwards was good! I spent three months training for this running in and around the Purbeck Hills near where I live. I'll be doing the New Forest Half Marathon in September and hope to get a place for the Tresco Marathon again next April. I raised just over £400 for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust and would like to thank members of the orchestra who sponsored me."

Well done Mel—a tremendous achievement. Don't forget to remind us of your next run nearer the time, I'm sure you will find some willing sponsors.

### Victoria Slingsby (viola)

A beautiful baby boy (Benjamin) was born to Victoria a little earlier than expected on 15<sup>th</sup> April after some 29 hours labour! Victoria came home from hospital just two days after the birth and her husband reports both mother and baby are well although mother (and probably father as well now) rather exhausted.

### Kathy Skinner (tea lady)

Very pleased to report that Kathy is making very good progress after her very serious double by-pass operation. Apparently just 2 or 3 days after the operation she was walking about the ward and just a week later she was sent home. She reported that she had absolutely marvellous treatment and care from all the staff at the Kings College Hospital South London. She is now able to walk for quite comparatively long distances. She has to report back to Poole hospital on 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Hopefully soon after that or perhaps even before we shall see her at rehearsals once again.

### Ernie Smith (violin)

Vic visited Ernie recently and learnt that his niece had seen the Arts Tax letter in the Echo yesterday and this led to them chatting about advertising in general. Both Ernie and his niece were surprised to learn how much it cost us over the year for the weekly insertions. Ernie then promptly made out a cheque for £75 to cover the year's cost.

He is doubtful if he will be able to come back to rehearsals just yet as he is unable to drive and at the moment he has pleurisy as well which is being treated by his doctor. We have since learnt that in addition to his other health problems Ernie had a fall on and cracked 2 or 3 ribs and broke his forearm.

In spite of his troubles he maintains a very cheerful disposition and his sense of humour is quite remarkable.

We certainly wish him well.

### Arthur Shaft (violin)

Arthur has now returned from his world cruise. Unfortunately, things did not go to plan as he first picked up a nasty bug during the cruise to Peru. Then he and Margo were not able to take the planned route via Hong Kong owing to SARS and had to go a longer route through Singapore.

### New Full Members

We welcome the following new members since the last newsletter:

**Julian Simpson** (trombone).

**Deborah Jones** (double bass).

We hope you enjoy playing with us.

### New Friends

We welcome the following new friends since the last newsletter:

Mrs. Joanne Crozier from Leics. This is Trish's (Timps) niece.

## Interesting Web sites

[www.makingmusic.org.uk](http://www.makingmusic.org.uk) The site of the National Federation of Music Societies of which WOS is a member.

[www.chamberlainmusic.com](http://www.chamberlainmusic.com) Claim to have over 200,000 publications on their sheet music database.

[www.cdsheetmusic.com](http://www.cdsheetmusic.com) Sheet music on CD Rom. For example, complete Beethoven & Brahms String Quartets on a single CD Rom. Just print it out and play.

[www.strings4pleasure.co.uk](http://www.strings4pleasure.co.uk) Strings and accessories.



## Spring Concerts 2003

The two Spring Concerts were held at St. Nicholas' Church, Corfe Mullen and St. Michaels Church, Bournemouth. WOS has presented a concert at St Nicholas Church every year for several years and in his thank you speech Mr. Humphrey Vines, Lay Chairman of the PLC commented that "..... WOS goes from strength to strength.....".

There is no doubt that under the professional direction of conductor Sam Newgarth and with the leadership of Rebekah Reeve WOS has reached a degree of excellence that surprises even some of the players themselves!

Once again the Orchestra attracted large

audiences and raised some £830 for charity which after expenses was shared between the "Hahnermann House and Herbert Hospital League of Friends" and St Nicholas Church.

WOS now has an excellent cello section and one of the highlights was Kol Nidrei by Max Bruch the solo cello being played beautifully and competently by **Valerie Seager** who is a relatively new member of the Orchestra. Other items included Pique Dame overture by Franz Suppe, a short orchestral selection from the popular musical play Oklahoma! by Rodgers and Hammerstein, Vltava (River Moldau) from the cycle of symphonic poems

by Bedrich Smetana, and Tchaikovsky's fourth symphony.

The following is extracted from a letter from Lin Parnell, secretary to Hahnermann House and Herbert Hospital League of Friends:

*"On behalf of HH&HH League of Friends I would like to thank the Westbourne Orchestra for raising funds for us at the St Michaels Church on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March. After expenses .....the sum of £289.40 was raised from the entry fees raffle and donations. I can assure you this money will be put to good use thus enabling us to give little extras to the patients that the NHS does not provide".*

## Summer Concerts 2003

Yet again, our secretary Jean has performed miracles in obtaining a lottery grant of £1,205 from the National Lottery's "Awards for All" programme. This will enable us to cover the cost of music hire, transport, advertising, etc. for our summer concerts. Our programme this summer is specifically made up of music to suite all tastes and ages.

The concerts will include local schoolchildren joining us in performing some of the items. The programme comprises:  
Children's Overture: Roger Quilter  
Flute and Clog Dances from La Fille Mal Gardée: Louis Herold  
Toy (Children's) Symphony: Joseph Haydn  
Peter and the Wolf: Serge Prokofiev

(Narrator Sue Newgarth)

Blue Danube: Johann Strauss

Violin Concerto: Felix Mendelssohn (Soloist Jenny Holt).

For those who don't know her, Jenny Holt is a former Parkstone Grammar School student and is now studying at Trinity College of Music.

## In the Spotlight—10th-12th July 2003

If you are at a loose end on one of these evenings then take yourself off to the Pavilion for an incredible evening of entertainment by the members of the Big Little Theatre School.

This is a full scale production of songs from the shows with amazing singing and choreography.

This is the third year that the school has given such a show and, based on previous experience, the quality of performance is so

high that you forget after a few minutes that you are watching youngsters perform. Some comments from previous years include:

*... I wanted to cry at the sheer enjoyment of it all ... (Linda Kirkman—Echo)*

*... Truly professional performance ... (Peter Fowler).*

*... The quality of the production was incredible ... (Douglas Eyre, Mayor of Bournemouth).*

*... We were stunned. The sheer professionalism, entertainment value and talent would be hard to equal in a theatre anywhere ... (Trish Neale).*

Tickets are available from the Pavilion but the school are also running a box office and have the best seats at a better price. Tickets from BLTS Box Office, 2 Western Ave, BH13 7AL Tel: 01202 708484 or from Liz Sansom (Violin).

[www.biglittletheatreschool.co.uk](http://www.biglittletheatreschool.co.uk)

## Ferndown Mayor's Civic Reception

David Portsmouth was invited to attend the outgoing Mayor's Civic Reception in March to represent the Orchestra. Unfortunately, owing to other commitments he was unable to attend and asked Vic to take his place. The reception was attended by some 180 people most of whom are volunteers helping to organise various societies and clubs with which the Mayor Maureen Godfrey had been involved with during the preceding year.

Guests were received formally and announced by the Town Crier. Vic made sure that the name of the **Westbourne Or-**

**chestra** came over loud and clear!

There was a huge buffet spread with a variety of goodies. After the meal there were the usual thank you speeches and several bouquets of flowers were given out. The entertainment was provided by the very talented 15 year old Stephanie Murray who sang songs from the Les Miserables with a maturity that belies her age. The compere forecast a brilliant future for Stephanie and added that he is sure we shall see her on the West End stage in a couple of years time. So remember the name.

Vic presented a CD to both the Mayor and her friend, who both attended the WOS Queens Jubilee Concert in June 2002.

Vic sat next to the Chairman and wife of the Ringwood Bee Society who were also Opera and Classical music lovers so there was much to talk about.

Vic was also approached by people representing the St. Leonard's Hospital league of Friends who asked if the Westbourne Orchestra would be prepared to put on a concert for their organisation.



## Pen Portrait - Helen Müller (Amazing Coincidences)

Helen is 21 years old and has been playing the 'cello since the age of 10. Her home is in a small village in close proximity to the town of Basel, Switzerland. There she belongs to the Tri Rhenum Symphony Orchestra whose conductor is a professional French Horn player, Julian Gibbons from Poole. That surely is a coincidence, and it later transpired that Julian was not aware of the existence of the Westbourne Orchestra.

Helen comes from a musical family with one sister, Cornelia, playing the oboe and the other, Rachael, the piano. Helen also plays the piano to a standard that enables her to accompany singing and instrumental soloists. Over the past years, Helen has made a point of continuing her musical studies during summer holidays by attending orchestra and chamber music short courses. Two years ago, Helen



took an important musical examination which included playing Bach Sonatas and required her to present a 30 minute solo recital.

Helen arrived in England in September last year in order to take up an au pair position that became available in Canford Heath, principally to improve her command of the English language. From this point of view we can confirm that the exercise has been singularly successful.

Soon after she arrived she was anxious to make contact with an orchestra and the deputy au pair organiser, Mrs U Foyle, gave her the name of a local librarian Andrew Darth, who in turn put her in touch with Sam and initially she went to the BPS Orchestra rehearsals.

Helen had transport problems travelling from Canford Heath to Avonbourne School

but talking to Rob Hanmore, a fellow cellist, she found that he lived only few doors away from where Helen was working. Another coincidence. Rob told her about the WOS and offered to bring her to rehearsals at St. Ambrose instead.

Shortly afterwards Helen was offered and accepted an au pair position in Alumdale Road, Westbourne not far from St Ambrose and where Hor Shun and David Bird live so her transport problems are well catered for. The third coincidence.

Unfortunately for us Helen is returning to Switzerland in July where she will be starting a 5-year study course in Psychology and eventually hopes to become a Music Therapist.

Surely she will be very successful and she will be taking our very best wishes as well as happy memories from her time with the Westbourne Orchestra.

## Pen Portrait - Arthur Shaft

As a change, we have a potted history of our president in the form of a poem written by his son, Malcolm, for his 80th birthday over 10 years ago in 1991. Not many people realise what a varied and interesting life Arthur (Bob) has led!

Bobby Shafto goes to sea  
Only when the wind is free  
And when it's hot and sunny  
Bobby Bobby Shafto

Born in Russia in 1911  
Where he stayed until he was seven, or was it eleven  
Witnessed a revolution and queued for bread  
Never got this out of his head

Fled in cattle trucks and sailed away  
To England where he did stay  
To London where he went to school  
And everyone thought he was a fool

The English language he strove to master  
He learned slowly but couldn't get faster  
Unable to communicate he found himself lone  
Two speed Shaft he became known

A draughtsman he wanted to be  
But in time of recession  
British Rail said "Wait and see"  
Then a hernia got in the way

When it was all cleared up  
The job had gone away

Then off to Shoreditch to be  
a woodwork teacher  
The things he made have been  
a feature  
Some have survived until this day  
And even some of his shelves  
have held sway.

He needed a job but couldn't  
force it  
Then he got one down in Dorset

In a sleepy village called Broadstone  
A place he was to call home

But first it was back to London  
A temporary end to his country wanders  
There was much he had to do  
Teaching, the Army, and a wife to woo

With peace is was back to Broadstone

Where family life helped to lower the tone  
Then off to Lockyer's  
where he would stay  
Through many changes  
over many a day



With visits back to his  
Russian past  
To recent stories that  
would last and last and  
last  
Played violin, and marked  
time

Since retired he takes  
things easy

But any differences you may not see  
Round the world and far and wide  
In Dorset he still sometimes resides

So Bob a man with many strings to his bow  
Hs done more things than you might know  
A man never known to skip and hop  
Has accomplished much with his dead slow  
and stop