



WOS News

Issue 8

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Welcome to yet another edition of WOS News. Thanks to those who have submitted items to be included—there would be no WOS News without them! I am now on the look out for items for the next issue so please don't forget to let me know of anything that may be of interest.

Another successful year ...

Unquestionably the WOS 2002/3 season was an unqualified success. Under Sam's skilful guidance the Orchestra has enjoyed another successful year with a wide variety of music including the Mozart piano concerto with Christine Taylor and ending with the very successful children's concert and experimental workshop. Good audiences, new members, additional 'Friends of the Orchestra', and enjoyable yet challenging programmes. In the November series we enjoyed Christine Taylor's musicianship in the skilful interpretation of the difficult piano concerto No.21 by Mozart.

Our Annual Dinner at the Liston Hotel was very enjoyable and many thanks are due to David for organising it and for all his hard

work and time he gives throughout the year to the orchestra. Our two March concerts were popular and memorable for Valerie Seager's lovely playing of the Bruch's Kol Nidrie and for the exciting 4th Symphony by Tchaikovsky. We were fortunate to be given a grant by the National Lottery Awards for All schemes to organise three special children's concert in which local schoolchildren could participate in three pieces. These concerts were a great success and all enjoyed themselves. The programme ended with breathtaking performance of Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto by Jenny Holt and the audience went home stunned by her beautiful and masterly playing. The Mayor of Bourne-mouth attended the last concert of the

three and was very impressed with the standard of playing from everyone including the schoolchildren.

We ended the year with a Workshop in which we welcomed over a dozen members of the public to join us in rehearsing and playing Liberty Bell and two movements of the Haydn Clock Symphony. Afterwards we all, including friends, enjoyed an American buffet.

The 2003/4 season promises to be equally successful with a full programme of music already listed and an influx of several new members including Anja Butler our new deputy leader, Roger Uren, Ted Willis, Jane Nixon, and Adrian Gunner.

Jean Budd

Rehearsal for the New Milton concert is hard work!



Guest members in our summer concerts.



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The search for Viola players ...

Vic's fantastic efforts to make the orchestra known to the wider community brought the following snippet from viola player, Paul Jeffery. Unfortunately, Paul lives in Winchester so will not be joining us, but you may find the following interesting:

"... Incidentally, I was brought up in Bournemouth, and my father (Nelson Jeffery) did play in the Westbourne Orchestra for some time in, I think, the late 1960s. I came along

with him myself on a few occasions, though my memories of this are not very clear. I do remember Cecil White, whom my father had known in Bournemouth back, I think, in the 1930s, who I think was the conductor of the orchestra at that period when my father played with it. I am glad to know that the orchestra is still playing! A significant part of music becoming the important part that it is in my life was due to the wonderful opportunity I had in that period to hear the Bourn-

mouth Symphony Orchestra. As a member of the Junior Western Orchestral Society I could go in to concerts for 2/6d and in the summer there were two a week. From about the age of 15 I went to almost every concert until I went to university at the age of 18! I play both violin and viola myself - but at the present I would not wish to come as far as Bournemouth to play. There is plenty of music in and around Winchester!"

Membership

New Members

The WOS extends a warm welcome to new members who have joined the Orchestra since the last issue of WOS News.

Julian Simpson - Trombone

Olive Hall - Violin

Deborah Jones - Double Bass

Roger Uren - Violin

Anja Butler - Violin

Adrian Gunner - Trombone

Jane Nixon - Violin

Adam Park - Violin

Most of the above learnt about the Orchestra from the adverts that appear in the Daily Echo and Advertiser.

Melanie Morgan (violin)

Unfortunately for us, Mel has gone to University to take up a 3 year music study course so has had to resign from the Orchestra at least for the time being. She goes of course with our very best wishes and thanks for the extremely valuable contribution she has made since joining the orchestra 2 years ago. We do hope she will take time off to visit us during her holidays and perhaps play with us at future concerts if she can fit them in with her study programme. Good luck Melanie

Victoria Slingsby (viola)

You will be pleased to learn that six month old baby Ben has already at 5 months taken his first dip in the sea. He will shortly be taking up swimming lessons

in the local baths. Obviously, he is making great progress but as yet there are no plans for viola lessons - shame.

Victoria plans to start work again on the 1st October and will make every endeavour to attend a few rehearsals at the end of October and the beginning of November so that she is able to play with us in the autumn concert series. This is great news indeed for the Orchestra and especially George Barker.

John Berry

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 did return but unfortunately for us only for a short time. He has remarried and once again gone back to South Africa and has decided to settle in South Africa for good - but who knows?

Ernie Smith

The 2003 Canford Summer School was the first that Ernie had missed in many years. Although at nearly 92 years of age Ernie Smith has number of physical problems, including reduced hearing and sight he is still extremely interested in all that goes on with members of the Orchestra. He was the first to pay his annual subs this year and is intensely keen on still being recognised as a bona fide member. Ernie has a keen sense of humour and welcomes all visitors with old world charm and enthusiasm.

Tea Ladies

We were delighted to see that Kathy

Skinner has now almost fully recovered from the triple bypass operation she had during the Spring. Kathy took up her place as tea lady on the 5th September. Well done Kathy and we trust you will continue to make good progress until you are fit and well once again.

As you know Betty Ricketts filled the breach while Kathy was away and everyone is extremely grateful to her for stepping into the breach. By way of a thank you the Committee decided to make Betty an Honorary Member of the WOS.

George Barker

George has recently been to Venice, Monet's Garden and the Château Chantilly, snapping away with his new toy, a digital camera, and if anyone would like to look at the results, warts and all, on their computer, he can lend them a CD with them on.

Friends of WOS

We welcome 2 more Friends since the last newsletter: Man Chung Li and Marian Luker.

One of our Friends came up with the excellent suggestion that one way of supporting the orchestra and being even more an integral part of the organisation was by the Friends providing the flowers presented to the soloists. He then very generously provided a cheque for £50 to get the fund going.



Workshop

It was with some misgivings that the Committee decided to take up the suggestion of a member of one of our concert audiences to embark on a workshop evening. Not having ever done this sort of thing before we knew it would be something of an experiment and anything could happen! There were some

teething problems, inevitable with a brand new project, but in general it was a very successful evening.

17 people applied: 3 flutes, 4 violins, 4 percussion, 2 cellos, 1 oboe and 3 clari-

nets. In the event for a variety of reasons only 14 actually turned up. Several



guest players asked to be informed of any such future workshops and we have gained some new Orchestra members.

A retiring collection raised £17 which was sent to the Dorset and Somerset

Air Ambulance Charity.

A great big thank you is due to all who were able to support the experimental workshop and especially to those who helped with the organisation. Special thanks must go to Gill who spent most of the Thursday before on the photocopying machine preparing

the music and Tricia for picking up the cudgels when Claire left.

It was agreed that the Workshop was a success and that another should be organised making full use of the experiences gained this time.

Thanks

The Orchestra has recently acquired a set of Tubular Bells which will be used in the next series of concerts. The Orchestra and especially Tricia is deeply indebted to David Bird for the design and construction of the stand to carry the Bells.

Our thanks also to Chris Jones for the plentiful supply of bulbs for the portable spot lights. We probably now have sufficient for the next two to three years. No excuses now for not enough light to

see the music!

We have received a donation of £300 from the Portman Building Society largely thanks to Valerie Seager and her boss Mike. The committee has decided to use this money to ensure the continuation of the full colour cover of the Concert Programmes. These programmes are an important part of the image of the orchestra to the public and portray WOS as an orchestra that takes its music and concerts seriously.

More exciting news

We have just learnt that Derek Pomeroy (the father of our soloist Rustom) has, at a cost of £500 arranged for a professional recording to be made of the first of the Autumn series of concerts at St Stephen's Church on the 15th November. There will be several microphones used and the equipment will be housed in a recording van outside the church. Derek has also agreed to prepare flyers for the St Stephen's concert to be distributed in the area to drum up a good audience.

Dates

WOS Autumn Concerts

Saturday 15th November 2003	St. Stephen's Church, Bournemouth
Friday 21st November 2003	St. Ambrose Church, Westbourne
Saturday 22nd November 2003	All Saints' Church, Southbourne

WOS Spring Concerts

Saturday 20th March 2004	St. Katharine's Church, Southbourne
Saturday 27th March 2004	Annunciation Church, Bournemouth

BCMS Concerts all at Talbot Heath School at 3:00 p.m.

Saturday 8th November 2003	Natalie Clein (Cello), Priya Mitchell (Violin)
Saturday 6th December 2003	Etesian Ensemble with fortepiano
Saturday 7th February 2004	London Debussy Trio with Susal Milan (flute)
Saturday 6th March 2004	Divertimenti (String Quartet)
Saturday 8th May 2004	Lycydas Trio (Piano Trio)

WOS Annual Dinner 28th November 2003

Once again the Liston Hotel has been booked for our Annual Dinner. The cost is £15 per head and booking forms are obtainable from Jean Budd and David Portsmouth. The annual dinner was a great success last year and space is limited so please complete your forms as soon as possible to ensure a similar success.

Poole Chamber Orchestra Concert

Wednesday 10th December 2003 St. Clements Church, Parkstone

Tubular Bells Stand

We are now the proud owner of a set of tubular bells—but they came without a stand. Fortunately, our members have gifts other than music and here is David's account of how he constructed the stand. Television's *Scrapheap Challenge* has nothing on this!

"The top beam of black anodised aluminium was part of a sailing dinghy boom, donated by a neighbour. Into its slot track is some tee aluminium from my favourite scrap yard. On this are 11 bosses turned & grooved on my lathe, from a hardwood roller (as used by some ancient navigator to traverse parallels across his charts). The legs are of stainless steel pipe, from a scrap yard some 20 years ago, pop riveted with various stays (ex garden chairs) and with joining sleeves from old vacuum cleaners. The wooden feet are turned from parana pine wall bars bought from my youngest daughters school in 1987! The damping board was ex skip last year, lined with felt also from 1987." David Bird.



Pen Portrait—Ernie Smith

Ernest (Ernie), who until quite recently played with the Westbourne Orchestra in the first violin section, was born in Startforth near Barnard Castle, County Durham on 14th December 1911. Later the family moved to Spennymoor where his father had a Provisions Wholesale business. He was the eldest of four children although owing to marital problems he has not seen or heard of his mother and youngest brother since he was about eight years old.

Ernie first took up the violin when he was nine, taking lessons from a professional violinist who charged one guinea for ten lessons. He left college in Newcastle at sixteen and became a junior clerk in the Dean & Chapel Colliery on a salary of eight shillings (less stoppages) per week. After two years he joined his father's business.

During the war he joined the Royal Air Force and as a Leading Aircraftsman worked on airframe maintenance in Africa, Egypt and India.

After the war he took up employment as Secretary with in his uncle's bus company, which was later taken over by his father. Then he decided to set up in business on his own opening a hairdressing shop and a greengrocer's shop. These were later sold and he came to Bournemouth with his cousin to start a small hotel but this enterprise failed so he took up employment with Bow-

maker Financial Services. (Secretly he hoped he might bump into his mother who he had previously heard had gone to live in Bournemouth).

Ernie's next adventure was to join the YMCA who wanted volunteers to go out to Cyprus. He became a Welfare Officer with the rank of Captain and visited and worked in several army camps around the island and several other places in the Mediterranean area. He finished up at Aden and had to return to Bournemouth owing to a skin complaint brought on by the heat.

Ernie then took up employment with Bow-maker Financial Services finally retiring in 1975 after fifteen years.

In the early sixties he was taking his lunch at the YMCA when he met WOS conductor Cecil White who persuaded Ernie to join the Westbourne Orchestra as violinist. Cecil was also organist at the Richmond Hill Catholic Church and invited Ernie to join the choir there as well.

Ernest was voted on to the WOS Committee and served as Treasurer from 1970 until 1993 when he was presented with a clock in recognition of his valued contribution.

Ernest's musical tastes cover the whole gamut. He has played in dance bands and show orchestras as well as several other classical orchestras. He taught himself to

play the viola. He plays the flute and is currently trying to learn the cello.

He currently owns five violins, three violas, a flute and a cello as well as a piano. Ernest attended Canford Summer School every year from 1963 until 2002.

The cost of the week's tuition rose from £11 per week to £300 per week during this period.

At nearly 92 years of age Ernest Smith has number of physical problems, including arthritis, reduced hearing and sight, yet he is still extremely interested in all that goes on with members of the Westbourne Orchestra. Recently he contributed £75 to pay for the WOS adverts in Advertiser and Daily Echo. He paid his annual subs on the 17th September and is desperately keen on still being recognised as a bona fide member. He will be attending the Annual Dinner on November 28th.

Ernie lives on the eighth floor of a high-rise block of flats and enjoys marvellous views across the sea to the south and over the town and beyond to the north. He is looked after by his niece Judith a qualified nurse from Christchurch who kindly calls in on a daily basis.

Ernest is very sociable and welcomes all visitors with old world charm, humour, and enthusiasm.

Pen Portrait—David Bird

David, the youngest of 3 brothers, grew up in Purley, Surrey. They all went to grammar school till 16. His next brother learned piano, Dad always said he always did his practice when there was the washing up to be done! David learned to play his mother's old school violin in a class of 5 & played in the school orchestra. Being taken to concerts at the Albert Hall by his eldest brother stimulated his love of classical music. He then went to Birmingham did a 5 year engineering apprenticeship in Motor Manufacturing, which included fitting & turning. At 19 he had the good fortune to meet Jean, a nurse & later midwife. They were engaged on his 21st birthday when all the family went to see Kismet, which included the Polovtsian dances. They married the following year after he had finished his HNC exams. Later that year, his salary went from £705 a year

to under £2 a week for his 2 years of National service in the Royal Engineers, but as it was near the end of NS his engineering knowledge was ignored & most of his service was in the pay office! At 24, now with a son, he returned to Nuffield this time at Cowley, (on £805 a year!) for 5 years international liaison on vehicle regulations, living in a village in a converted school, bought for £1425, but in need of modernisation. Here two daughters were born. After 5 years he moved to a technical reps job selling bearings to industry from a modern home near Cambridge. After only 18 months he moved to London to BP, and their third daughter was soon born. He became a Chartered Mechanical Engineer, & stayed for the rest of his career in different interesting posts, which involved short visits to most of Europe, Cyprus, Sierra Leone & Indonesia. 5

years after retirement in Barnet they moved to a lovely sea view house at Alum Chine, & David soon joined the WOS playing second violin, which he was always used to. His present fiddle was bought at a domestic auction for £100 about 20 years ago & has a strong tone from its lower strings. His favourite composer is JS Bach. Besides being our Cashier, he is involved with the Bournemouth Natural Science Society, did 5 years as secretary of his local Residents Association, & has just finished 18 months as Secretary of the Westbourne Forum, ordinary member of the Civic Society. Of his ten grandchildren, that visit frequently, 3 are learning guitar, one plays the sax & one is learning the violin. None of his own 4 children kept up their music, but his father-in-law plays the bass.