



# The Berkshire Guitar Society

www.berkshireguitar.freemove.co.uk



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\*\*\*\* Next meeting Sunday 11th January \*\*\*\*

Ensemble Evening

### December meeting

Not for the first time, our meeting on Sunday 14th December didn't quite go as advertised. The difference this time compared with some other occasions was that the change made for an excellent evening.

We started off in "orchestral" mode, rather than having this following the solo playing, having a go at an arrangement by Jeremy Allison of a medley of well known Christmas carols. I spotted *Once in Royal David's City*, *Away in a Manger*, *God rest ye Merry Gentlemen*, *Glad Tidings* and *Jingle Bells* but I couldn't be sure that's all so I don't think I would have won a "spot the carol" competition.

This was great fun as all 3 guitar parts made their way round the orchestra so we all had a go at each part. Many thanks Jeremy for getting the evening off to such a good start.

After having done something like justice to Jeremy's arrangement, we took a break and set about the mince pies and other festive fare before starting on the second half of the evening. Not all of these followed the seasonal theme, but never mind, it's good just to hear so many varied offerings from the members.

Steve Tucker, Robert Brown and Tim Parke very successfully played the *Penultimate Waltz* by Derek Hasted. This was actually the first time that Tim had seen the piece, so well read Tim. This was followed by Richard Butters with 3 distinctive pieces from the Venezuelan composer Vicente Sojo, namely *Cantico*, *Aguinaldo* and *Galeron*.

We then heard 2 *Barrios* pieces, firstly from John Parr with *La Navidad* (keep at it John - you are making progress with those performance nerves) and then Steve Tucker with the *Waltz No 4*. Tim Parke gave us the *Prelude* from Bach's 1st Cello Suite, followed by *George Mac-*

Donald who firstly followed the recently set classical theme with Giuliani's *Allegro Spiritoso* and then moved into different territory with some flamenco *Bulerias* drawn from Juan Martin - well done George, it's good to hear someone else having a go at this music which to me introduces more new techniques than I would like to have a go at and also seems to require real "feel".



Action pictures from the BGS Christmas meeting - Tim Parke and Gary Jordan doing their stuff.

I then played "A Christmas Waltz", a short arrangement of a piece by Sammy Cahn and Jule Styne. Gary brought the proceedings to a close with Turina's *Soleares* and then appropriately enough with 5 carols arranged by Alan Lawrence, three French and two English.

After some more chat we found the time to assemble for a group picture (see over). Those of us that were there will vouch for the fact that we didn't all have to share Richard's guitar, regardless what it may look like from the picture!

All highly enjoyable, and also good to see some new blood in the persons of Yvonne D'Souza and Michelle Cole - welcome to you both.



*BGS members enjoying themselves at the Christmas meeting - from left to right, Steve Tucker (photographer as well as guitarist), Jeremy Allison, Michelle Cole, George MacDonald, Gary Jordan, Robert Brown, Yvonne D'Souza, Gavin Smith, Richard Butters (with guitar), John Parr and Tim Parke.*

## BGS News

### NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting is on Sunday January 11th, 07.30 pm at the South Hill Park Centre in Bracknell as usual. This is an ensemble meeting, so do come along and see what Jeremy has for us this month.

### EXAM SUCCESS

Congratulations to the Tucker family - Steve's youngest, Richard, has just passed grade one guitar with a distinction. Richard's older brother, Chris, takes grade six in the forthcoming term - good luck when the time comes for the exam, Chris.

Good to see the younger generation following in such illustrious footsteps!

Both Richard and Chris are taught by Terry Bryanton.

## Other news

As most of you live in or around Reading you might be interested in a concert at the South Street Arts Centre, 21 South Street, Reading at 8.00 p.m. on Saturday 24th January.

According to the web site <http://www.readingarts.com/whatson> El Moreno will be "accompanied by pianist and singer Carol Oliver and will warm you with his rich blend of Latin and hot Flamenco. His new programme has classics by Spanish and Latin American composers mingling with spicy sambas and popular tangos."

Tickets £8.50 from Box Office 0118 960 6060.

## Web site of the month

..... Is taking a break this month.

## And Finally .....

Thanks to Richard Butters for this gem.

A shepherd was herding his flock in a remote pasture when suddenly a brand-new BMW advanced out of a dust cloud towards him. The driver, a young man in a Bronisuit, Gucci shoes, Ray Ban sunglasses and YSL tie, leans out the window and asks the shepherd: "If I tell you exactly how many sheep you have in your flock, will you give me one?"

The shepherd looks at the man, obviously a yuppie, then looks at his peacefully grazing flock and calmly answers: "Sure. Why not?" The yuppie parks his car, whips out his Dell notebook computer, connects it to his cell phone, surfs to a NASA page on the internet, where he calls up a GPS satellite navigation system to get an exact fix on his location which he then feeds to another NASA satellite

that scans the area in an ultra-high-resolution photo.

Then the young man opens the digital photo in Adobe Photoshop and exports it to an image processing facility in Hamburg, Germany. Within seconds, he receives an email on his Palm Pilot that the image has been processed and the data stored.

He then accesses an MS-SQL database through an ODBC connected Excel spreadsheet with hundreds of complex formulas. He uploads all of this data via an email on his Blackberry wireless handheld and, after a few minutes, receives a response. Finally, he prints out a full-colour, 150-page report on his hi-tech, miniaturized HP LaserJet printer and turns to the shepherd and says: "You have exactly 1586 sheep."

"That's right. Well, I guess you can take one of my sheep." says the shepherd.

He watches the young man select one of the animals and looks on amused as the young man stuffs it into the boot of his car.

Then the shepherd says to the young man: "Hey, if I can tell you exactly what your business is, will you give me back my sheep?" The young man thinks about it for a second and then says, "Okay, why not?"

"You're a consultant." says the shepherd. "Wow! That's correct," says the yuppie, "but how did you guess that?" "No guessing required;" answered the shepherd. "You showed up here even though nobody called you; you want to get paid for an answer I already knew; to a question I never asked; and you don't know anything about my business ..." "Now give me back my dog."