



The Berkshire Guitar Society

www.berkshireguitar.freemove.co.uk



Newsletter No 126

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February meeting

The main event at the meeting on 8th February was obviously the AGM. It was excellent to see a good turn out, with plenty of discussion as the meeting progressed.

In time honoured fashion, after the preliminaries regarding last year's minutes had been got out of the way, Gary opened up proceedings with his report on the past year. For the benefit of those not present, this is what Gary had to say:

"This time last year, I presented a number of ideas which I hoped would help to consolidate the membership, and to breath some new life into the society. Unfortunately, for a number of reasons, many of these events did not happen.

The society did not organise any concerts last year, however both Tom Kerstens and Simon Dinnigan played at SHP. This gave us the opportunity of hearing two well known artists at no financial risk to the society. Tom was also scheduled to run a guitar workshop. I was disappointed that this had to be cancelled due to lack of interest, both as a potential participant, and as organiser of this society. It was also interesting to note that no other members of the BGS attended Tom's lunchtime recital, but then I am guilty of not getting to the Dinnigan concert (and still regret it). It seems that running concerts, and particularly workshops, remains an unpredictable business that is better left to the professionals.

Having survived the restructuring of SHP a couple of years ago, I had hoped that our room hire arrangements would have stabilised. Unfortunately it seems that the only two decent rooms in the building are now unavailable to us on practically all occasions, making any plans we may have for a concert even more difficult.

Despite failure to implement some of the events in the planned programme, and problems with our venue, we still managed a successful year of music-making. The usual mix of ensembles and members evenings provided a platform for several notable performances. The Barbecue was another memorable occasion as was the Christmas party. We were commended on our performance at the now traditional Spanish Circle visit, and we have also gained some valuable new members.

In May I attended the first meeting of what has become the UK Federation of Guitar Societies, giving us access to many players visiting the country - a great resource should we wish to take it up.

Many of this year's events relied on the help of committee members, and I would particularly like to thank:

- James and June for hosting the BBQ and allowing us to rewrite the rules of croquet in their back garden;
- Jeremy Alison for running the ensemble evenings and supplying his arrangements.
- Richard Butters for looking after your money so diligently, and keeping on top of South Hill Park's ever-changing room booking policy.
- and last but not least, Gavin Smith for keeping up the regular flow of newsletters - even if he does bully me into writing articles now and again."

After Gary's remarks, Richard Butters talked us through a very well presented set of accounts which showed the society to be in a good financial position, with funds well up on last year. This basically reflects the facts that some of our plans for the year had not come to fruition, so that we did not incur the associated expense. After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that subs should remain at the same level in

case events to be organised by the committee (to be decided) incur a loss to the society.

The meeting also agreed that the circulation of the newsletter should be restricted to members and to associate members and that only ex chairmen would receive a "free" copy.

If the amount of discussion that then took place (of a constructive and non contentious nature, it should be added) is anything to go by, then the society can only be thought of as being in a good state of health.

After a short break there was time for a number of solo offerings from Yvonne (a Paganini Minuet), Michelle (Sons de Carrilhoes aka "Sound of Bells" by Pernambuco), myself (a piece called "Heath", one of Andrew York's Discernments) and Alan (a Carulli waltz).

Readers will recall from last months newsletter that George Macdonald is running the London Marathon in April. During the course of the evening George raised a total of £62 and thanks everyone concerned.

BGS News

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting takes place on Sunday 14th March, 7.30 pm at the South Hill Park Centre in Bracknell. The main objective of the session is to pull together our plans for the Spanish Circle, so if you want to have a go at something for the Spanish Circle then bring along some music with an appropriate Spanish or Latin feel.

The Spanish Circle itself takes place on Friday 26th March in Caversham (I'll email directions for anyone who is not familiar with the location nearer the time) - we meet at 7.00 for a 7.30 start to the evening.

BGS COMMITTEE AND PROGRAMME FOR THE YEAR

The Committee met the Sunday following the AGM, and had a fruitful discussion about plans for the year which will no doubt appear soon as the proposed programme.

However please note the following:

- Because the 2nd Sunday in April, which would be our normal meeting date, is Easter, the BGS will meet on Sunday 18th April;
- The June meeting date is still to be arranged as there is a clash with South Hill Park who are themselves holding a festival weekend when we wish to meet.

Now you may well be aware that Gary Jordan has been Chairman for some time (I believe it's 13 years) and that Gary has made clear his desire to step down after such sterling service. Well it seems that Gary's desire is to be met - George Macdonald has volunteered to become Chairman once he has recovered from the Marathon. Watch out for further news in April / May.

PAUL MIRON

For those that haven't already heard, Paul Miron achieved his FRSM with a Merit, narrowly missing out on a distinction. Many congratulations to Paul who has now run out of exams to take, but I'm sure you'll find something to do instead of practising for exams, Paul.

Other news

A quick reminder about Paul Miron's appearance with the Aldworth Philharmonic Orchestra on Saturday 13th in the Way Hall at the Reading Blue Coat School, Sonning on March 13th at 7:30 pm. Paul will be playing Rodrigo's Aranjuez concerto with this high quality amateur orchestra.

Web site of the month ...

I recently came across an excellent Swedish site offering a good selection of music arranged by Jan -Olof Eriksson. On offer are a number of the usual stalwarts, but also a good number of pieces by composers such as Weiss and Telemann to name two. The music is well present in Adobe Acrobat format and I'd suggest that the site is well worth a look.

Go to the welcome page <http://staff.mh.luth.se/joer/frameset.html> and click on the "Free Scores" link.

And Finally

If you haven't has a good groan recently, try some of these plays on words:

If you don't pay your exorcist, you get repossessed.

With her marriage she got a new name and a dress.

A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.

When you've seen one shopping centre you've seen a mall.

The man who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered.

When a clock is hungry, it goes back for seconds.

Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

Marathon runners with bad footwear suffer the agony of defeat (better watch those running shoes, George).