



# The Berkshire Guitar Society

www.berkshireguitar.freemove.co.uk



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## October meeting

I was unable to make the October Meeting as I was in Scotland, enjoying an entire week without a drop of rain (!) so am indebted to George MacDonald for the following comments.

Our meeting on October 10th was another successful Ensemble evening with a good turnout of 13 people. We split in to 3 groups. Jeremy with John and Allan performed 2 pieces by John Christian Faver and Air in A major by Pieter van der Staak. These worked very well and as always Jeremy had directed the group to play well together.

I attempted to lead Michelle, Cheryl, Sue and Tina with La Cortigiana and Il Ballerino from Six Ballets by Gastoldi. The pieces were very pleasant and we had good fun learning them and we performed them well enough, despite my dreadfully unreliable counting and playing (I am hoping this was just due to excessive marathon training and not the pressures of being BGS chairman!).

The evening was finished nicely with Tim, Gary, Debbie and Stephen performing exceptionally well together. Firstly they performed a nice rendition of Chanson de Matin by Elgar, and arranged by Jeremy. Next we were treated to the first public performance of Ivan Andrews' Maris Piper Mash. This wasn't a tune knocked up in 5 minutes for our competition, to my mind this was a professional piece of work well worthy of being published. I can see this being performed again and again. Congratulations to Ivan for an excellent composition and to the players for a most enjoyable performance.

## BGS news

NOVEMBER 14TH - AMATEUR GUITAR MAKING.

This month we look at our instrument from a different point of view, as Steve Spearing takes us through his ex-

periences of building his own guitar. Steve also hopes to be joined by Peter Wheatley on harmonica to play some blues. As usual, we meet at 7.30 pm at South Hill Park.

NOVEMBER 21ST - STUDENTS CONCERT - SHP 3.00 PM

New members may not be aware that enshrined in the Society's Constitution (yes, we do have such a thing) are the following Aims:

"To promote the enjoyment of and education in (principally classical) guitar music ....."

"To provide concert opportunities for performers of merit, giving priority to any such local performers"

One way in which the Society has sought to achieve this in the past has been by providing an opportunity for students of local teachers to play in front of an audience. We haven't done this for a while, but that is being rectified on Sunday 21st November at 3.00 pm in the South Hill Park Recital Room when we will be holding a student's concert.

Amongst the Society's members are a number of teachers who are putting forward some students and other entries are expected. Watch out for an update nearer the time but if you want to see what the next generation of local talent is capable of, then put this in the diary.

There is no charge, but there will be a collection in aid of charity.

(For information, I referred above to 2 of our 3 aims - there is a 3rd, "To foster contact with other Societies in furtherance of the Aims of the Society")

## Other news

### GEORGE'S DUBLIN MARATHON

Many thanks for the best wishes and support for the recent Dublin Marathon. I am pleased to say that I finished without any damaged limbs in a slightly quicker time than for the London Marathon. I would like to say that that will be the last marathon that I ever do, but I have got a funny feeling I might be tempted to do the next one in London. This isn't helping my guitar playing one bit!

George MacDonald

### WANT TO PLAY FOR YOUR SUPPER?

If anyone fancies playing for their supper (and perhaps accommodation), how about The Priory Inn, Tetbury, in the Cotswolds ([www.theprioryinn.co.uk](http://www.theprioryinn.co.uk))?

Dave Kelly (who runs it and is an ex-colleague of mine) is trying to book a variety of people to play live music on Sunday evenings in the restaurant.

I do not know how much he would be prepared to pay or whether you would be able to negotiate a free night's accommodation for you and the family. If you are interested, send Dave an email ([dave@theprioryinn.co.uk](mailto:dave@theprioryinn.co.uk)).

And even if you are not interested in performing to the eating public, the food at the Priory Inn is to be recommended - and it is quite reasonably priced. The breakfast is particularly good, and the place is very family-friendly, so bring the kids. That should guarantee that at least part of the audience appreciates your efforts if you do go to play!

Mike Lloyd

### SCGS CONCERT WITH BENJAMIN VERDERY AND WILLIAM COULTER SATURDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 8.00 PM

Benjamin Verdery is being joined by William Coulter, a fellow American and a renowned steel string player, in this Southampton Guitar Society Concert.

Benjamin Verdery needs little introduction, being one of the classical guitar world's greats. He has played all over the world and with top players such as John Williams and Paco Pena. William Coulter, also widely known, has been playing and recording traditional music since 1981, specialising in Celtic and Shaker music. Together they make a rare mix with the nylon strings of Ben Verdery's guitar blending superbly with William Coulter's steel strings.

VENUE: The Point, Eastleigh (1 mile M3/J13 or 1 mile from M27/J5)

TICKETS: £10 (conc. £7) Box Office 023 8065 2333 or reserve via Wayne Lines  
(mail to: [wayne.lines@ntlworld.com](mailto:wayne.lines@ntlworld.com))

### Web site of the month

Domenico Terribili has created an interesting web site with a number of transcriptions and arrangements available for downloading:

[http://www.domenicoterribili.it/home\\_eng.html](http://www.domenicoterribili.it/home_eng.html)

From the home page, click on the "transcriptions" link and this will take you to music listed by composer. This list starts with Chopin and ends with Shostakovich, and you might gather from the latter that this selection includes a number of composers not normally found on such web sites, with only one work by J S Bach featuring.

The music is downloaded in pdf files so you need the Adobe Acrobat reader. It is presented neatly and intelligibly, and has also been fingered.

As always with such web sites one can't be sure of the quality of these transcriptions until you try them but the site is certainly well worth a look. A pity about the annoying audio clip that comes up whenever you open a page however ....

### And Finally ....

One afternoon, a wealthy lawyer was riding in the back of his limousine when he saw two men eating grass by the road side. He ordered his driver to stop and he got out to investigate. He asked one of the men "Why are you eating the grass?" "We don't have money for food," the poor man replied.

"Oh, come along with me then," instructed the lawyer. The man answered "But sir, I have a wife and two children!" "Bring them along" replied the lawyer.

The lawyer turned to the other man and said, "Come with us." "But sir, I have a wife and six children?" the second man answered. "Bring them as well!" replied the lawyer as he headed for his limo. They all climbed into the limo.

Once underway, one of the poor fellows says "Sir, you are too kind. Thank you for taking all of us with you."

The lawyer replied, "No problem. The grass at my house is almost a foot tall."