



# The Berkshire Guitar Society

www.berkshireguitar.freemove.co.uk



Newsletter No 137

March 2005

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March 13th - Orchestra

### February meeting

When South Hill Park decided to relocate us from one extremity of the Centre to the other, our intrepid members were not easily put off and a good number found their way to the Terrace Room for the Society's AGM.

I'm not going to give a blow by blow account of the AGM, but hopefully it will help to pick out some highlights for those members who were not present.

George MacDonald in his Chairman's report drew attention to a couple of the methods by which we are trying to achieve one of his objectives on becoming chairman, to encourage members to play together. The ensemble music in the Society's library is being put into a database, an early version of which is now on the BGS website, so that members know what we have available (yes, it's there to make use of, folks). Also, we hope to enter more than one group into the Woodley Festival, to be held in March 2006, which may provide motivation for members to get together.

I think we'd all agree with George's view that the Society has enjoyed a full and varied year which included a number of meetings the like of which the Society has not seen for a long time, such as the Ray Burley workshop, Steve Spearing's presentation on Guitar Making, and the Student Concert. However the undoubted highlight was the concert with Paul Miron and the Rosewood Trio (mutterings off stage at this point from those of us whose lack of foresight in buying tickets meant that we couldn't get in).

It is understandable after that after some years of service Jeremy Allison has decided to hang up his baton as Musical Director of the Society. Jeremy's skills in bringing order to the potential chaos that our Orchestra and ensemble sessions could become, and ability to ensure that despite the varied abilities present a "listenable"

result was obtained by the end of the evening, has been much appreciated. Every drop of the bottle of wine with which Jeremy was presented was richly deserved. Let's hope that we haven't seen the last of Jeremy's arrangements which have varied in my experience from the classical "Rosamunde" to unusual "Dambusters" and have provided so much entertainment.

It was unsurprising in view of the healthy state of the Society's finances that Richard Butters was not given a hard time in his Treasurer's report. Members will be pleased to know that subscriptions will be remaining the same.

The Committee for the new year will have a familiar look to it, with the exception of Jeremy's departure and the addition of Michelle Cole - welcome aboard Michelle!

Steve Tucker summarised the developments on the web site, which is developing into a valuable resource for members and also attracts a lot of interest from "out there" with some 2,800 hits during the year - so don't forget to keep up to date with what's on the website as it develops!

"Any other business" failed to produce any contentious items as a sting in the tail, so after a short interval there was an opportunity for those of us present who fancied picking up our guitars to do so.

Alan du Feu started proceedings with 2 short pieces, a waltz by Bartolome Calatayud and "Spencil Hill", a piece with a strong Irish flavour. Steve Tucker played us Tarrega's Maria, which left Gary Jordan to bring the evening to a close with Ponce's Balleto, and an impressive rendition of Albeniz' Leyenda to send us home.

## BGS news

### NEXT MEETING

The March meeting is on Sunday 13th, 7.30 pm as usual at the South Hill Park Centre. This month we will be "orchestra mode", so come along and see how we fare in our first session without Jeremy.

### DIARY 2005

The Diary through to December is being circulated with this newsletter. Most of the programme will be self explanatory, but a comment on a few highlights are in order.

We have been invited back to the Reading Spanish Circle again, so it would seem that last year's visit was the success we felt it to be at the time. This is a popular event with our own members, and well worth the preparation at the May meeting to ensure that it all comes together on the night.

After our successful Early Music evening last September, we'll be returning to that period in October when Graham Cooper has volunteered to organise a more "structured" session. Details to come nearer the time.

As already mentioned, for the first time, we hope to enter some groups into the Woodley Music Festival which takes place in March next year. However entries have to be in by December this year, so the November meeting has been set aside for the purpose of sorting ourselves out.

Following recent successes, we also hope to organise at least one concert to take place in the winter.

All in all, it promises to be another full and varied year, so keep reading the newsletter for updates!

## Other News

### GUILDFORD MUSIC FESTIVAL

A reminder about the guitar sessions at the Guildford Music Festival - highlights John Williams and Richard Harvey at 7.30 pm on Thursday March 10th, and on Saturday 12th Xuefei Yang and the Hand-Dupre duo will be playing at 12.30 and 6.00 pm respectively. Phone the Festival Box Office on 01483 444334 for tickets.

### GUITAR COURSE IN FRANCE WITH ELEFThERIA KOTZIA

Ellie Kotzia will be holding a guitar course which promises to be stimulating, relaxing and friendly in magnificent surroundings at Veules Les Roses near Dieppe in northern France. The course is for classical guitarists of all standards with a minimum of 2 years behind them. Dates are July 2nd - 9th.

If you interested in attending the course or require further information please contact Eleftheria Kotzia on phone/fax 020 8785 4054 or email her at [ellie@eleftheria.info](mailto:ellie@eleftheria.info)

### Web site of the Month

We've all probably got at least one CD by David Russell, and may well have thought of getting others, but have been put off by the price of the disc.

If you go to David's web site, this now features an MP3 player which provides a choice of David playing 47 clips mostly of Latin music and each typically 1 minute long:

<http://www.davidrussellguitar.com/index.html>

Follow the link above the MP3 player to Telarc (David's recording label) and you will be taken to David's page at the Telarc site:

<http://www.telarc.com/biography/bios.asp?aid=91>

Scroll down to the list of David's Telarc recordings, and click on the disc - a number of these come with audio clips in MP3 or Real Audio formats. They provide good listening and if they do entice you into buying the disc then at least you will have a pretty good idea of what you are getting.

Anyway, back to David's own website. Follow the "video" link on the left hand side of the page to a number of videos of David performing. Some of these are of live performances and they are a bit dark lighting wise, but the sound quality is OK - well worth watching.

### And Finally ...

Apparently found in hospital patient notes ...

I saw your patient today, who is still under our care for physical therapy.

She is numb from the toes down.

Patient has chest pain if she lies on her left side for over a year.

On the second day the knee was better, and on the third it disappeared.

While in emergency, she was x-rated and sent home.

Patient has 2 teenage children, but no other abnormalities.