



The Berkshire Guitar Society

www.berkshireguitar.freemove.co.uk



Newsletter No 141

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CONTENTS

BGS barbeque
News
And Finally ...

**** Next meeting: ****

September 11th - Member's Evening

BGS barbeque July 10th

My thanks to George Macdonald for the following - astonishingly, as the bbq was happening I was enjoying the same good weather on the Isle of Skye.

In keeping with the start of the cricket season, the recent weather had been rather disappointing, which meant that we probably appreciated the wonderful weather that we had that day more than usual - maybe the Aussies can plan their BBQs months in advance without the need for any indoor contingencies, but at least we have the excitement of not knowing whether to pocket our handkerchiefs or wear them on our heads, and we can play cricket.

This year the BBQ was hosted by Graham Cooper, his wife Sue, and a goodly number of furry animals in their gorgeously welcoming garden. As it was so warm we quickly headed for the ample shade of one of the mature trees or bushes (I don't know which, I am no gardener). As was our want we sat around drinking and talking and, when it was time, we extended our activities to include eating - it's quite simple really.

Cheryl turned up in the wars, having incurred some rather nasty injuries in a half marathon earlier that day, but these did not seem to dampen her spirits. June and James as always make the effort to turn up, and James and Sue soon got involved in a conversation about bad use of English grammar (I hope neither of them are reading this!). Steve was there with his younger son, but unfortunately there were no other youngsters, so he largely had to occupy himself throughout the afternoon which was a shame. Alan was there, as were Andy, Yvonne and for a short time, due to other commitments, Gary. There was also a couple of partners for good measure.

Graham set off the musical proceedings with a grand arrangement of Verdi's March from Aida. It was one of those pieces that shouldn't but on this occasion DID need

a little bit more concentration and preparation (can't think why - ed); for several bars it was not obvious what we were playing, then all of a sudden the main, familiar theme kicked in and we looked at each other triumphantly . . . and then the theme disappeared again and we returned to a rather fumbling musical offering. It was good fun though and we didn't get any complaints from the neighbours.

I can't remember the pieces that Steve did but they sounded very nice and were well played as usual. Andy did some nice flamenco pieces which, conveniently, always sound better outside and when the sun is shining. We then attempted a few group pieces recently bought for our music library, with which we had varied success; the pieces which went well were considerably more satisfying than those which did not go well, but thankfully we will all be much better next time!

Very many thanks to Graham and Sue for hosting the BBQ, we understand that the neighbours were not too displeased, so maybe we could come back again another time in the future?



Action from the bbq - George, Yvonne, Andy and host Graham.



More action from the bbq - Cheryl plus Tuckers young and not so young (above), with (below) Graham and Gary Jordan intent on getting to grips with what to play next.



News

SEPTEMBER MEETING

We resume after the summer break at the usual time and place (7.30 pm at the South Hill Park Centre for anyone who may have forgotten it!) on Sunday 11th September. This session is a members evening. There is no particular theme, just bring along something to play.

CHARITY CONCERT

Debbie Haeck and Steve Christmas are playing a concert

with Ray Burley on Saturday, 17th September, 7.30pm at St. Matthew's Church, Southcote, Reading. Tickets cost £5 (£3 conc.) with all proceeds going to the Cystic Fibrosis Trust. Music will include duos & trios by Albeniz (Mallorca, Tango etc), Bernstein (West Side Story Suite), Schumann (Kinderszenen) amongst others.

For further details and to reserve tickets visit <http://www.duendeguitars.co.uk/>

FLAMENCO SHOW IN READING

Luna Flamenca will be doing a charity show for cancer relief in The Rising Sun, Reading on Oct 1st at 8 pm. This will be a flamenco show with dancers, guitars (including our own Andy Scott - yes that's him lurking in the background in the picture) and a singer. Please come along and bring all your friends and family.



Luna flamenca perform regularly in the area. You can see them every Tuesday in La Tasca Windsor and every Thursday in La Tasca Reading, both shows starting at 8.00pm.

And Finally

It was October and the Indians on a remote reservation

asked their new Chief if the coming winter was going to be cold or mild. Since he was a Chief in a modern society he had never been taught the old secrets. When he looked at the sky he couldn't tell what the winter was going to be like.

Nevertheless, to be on the safe side he told his tribe that the winter was indeed going to be cold and that the members of the village should collect firewood to be prepared. But being a practical leader, after several days he got an idea. He went to the phone booth, called the National Weather Service and asked, "Is the coming winter going to be cold?" "It looks like this winter is going to be quite cold," the meteorologist at the weather service responded.

So the Chief went back to his people and told them to collect even more firewood in order to be prepared.

A week later he called the National Weather Service again. "Does it still look like it is going to be a very cold winter?" "Yes," the man at National Weather Service again replied, "it's going to be a very cold winter."

The Chief again went back to his people and ordered them to collect every scrap of firewood they could find. Two weeks later the Chief called the National Weather Service again. "Are you absolutely sure that the winter is going to be very cold?"

"Absolutely," the man replied. "It's looking more and more like it is going to be one of the coldest winters ever."

"How can you be so sure?" the Chief asked.

The weatherman replied, "The Indians are collecting firewood like crazy."