

BERKSHIRE GUITAR SOCIETY

A brief newsletter just to wish everyone happy guitar playing in 2009 and to remind ourselves of what's coming up.

January, February and March meetings

Something a bit different for this month's meeting on January 11th. In an effort to ensure that we at least occasionally pay due attention to modern music, Steve Christmas has very kindly volunteered to give us a presentation on Leo Brouwer. This will be illustrated with examples of Brouwer's music, and will seek to place Brouwer in a broader context - both in terms of the many influences upon him, and his impact upon the wider guitar world.

After Steve's presentation, there will be time for member's solos so if you've been working on something over Christmas now's your chance to give it an airing, so see you on January 11th, 7.30 at SHP as usual for what promises to be a fascinating evening!

The February meeting is the AGM followed by member's solos.

The March meeting is a member's evening, when it is hoped that we will have been inspired by what we have heard from Steve in January to find a piece of modern music to bring along and play. This need not be a piece by Brouwer, but could simply be something related to Steve's presentation, which would seem to offer both plenty of scope and plenty of time for preparation

December 2008 meeting

We were pleased to welcome a small but select band of guests to our Christmas meeting on December 14th, and as promised we started off by entertaining our visitors with Ivan Andrew's Berkshire Scenes. I think all the players involved would agree that this was not our best effort, and clearly we missed the hour or so of practice beforehand that we seem to need before Ivan's piece sound as good as we know it can be. However our audience seemed appreciative nevertheless and we moved on to members solos.

George Macdonald kicked this part of the evening off with Sevillanas, a flamenco piece delivered with his usual panache. I came next with Se Ela Perguntar (which translates as "If she should ask") by the Brazilian composer Dilermando Reis. Mike Hickey then gave us David Burden's Light Dancing on the Water, a piece which was new to most of us and which provided enjoyable listening.

We were then pleased to welcome Martin Heath, who bravely for his first appearance offered us Manuel de Falla's Homenaje pour le tombeau de Claude Debussy, which he is working on for his Grade 8 exam. Steve Tucker followed with an Irish double jig "The fair haired boy and three little drummers" arranged by David Russell and the English folk song "Bushes and Briars" from a collection by Vaughan Williams and arranged for guitar by John Duarte, both highly enjoyable. The playing came to an end with Gary Jordan's

rendition of Leo Brouwer's A Day in November and a selection of carols which meant that the music at least ended on a seasonal note.

The evening closed on a social note over an admirable spread of food and drink provided by those present.

Thanks to our players (in addition to those already mentioned, Richard Butters, Allan du Feu, Cheryl Slater, Alan Randle, Steve Christmas and Sue Antell), and not least to our guests who provided a welcome audience and gave every appearance of having enjoyed the evening's entertainment.