



# NEWSLETTER



## Music for OCTOBER Meeting

The focus for the meeting is to polish our repertoire for the concert on the 20th. This is our last chance to play together before the concert so please ensure you have practised your parts well so we can be confident about our performance.

As a reminder, our concert programme is as follows:

*Tangomania*  
*Moon River*  
*Capriol 1/2/6*  
*Boehm Concerto*  
*Slovak Folk Song*  
*Dargason*  
*La Partida*  
*Autumn Leaves*  
*Sway*  
*Encore Silver Swan*

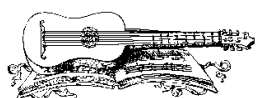
There will also be chance for those offering solo/duo options to play at the end of the rehearsal.

Anyone who is offering something, please let me have details before the meeting so that I can make a draft programme.

## AGM 2018

A brief AGM will be held during tea break at the next meeting. If you have anything you'd like to raise about the society then please use this opportunity.

After the AGM, Subscriptions for 2018/2019 will be due. James will give more details at the meeting.



## Cerne Abbas Concert

### Dress

For some of you, this will be your first concert with the Society.

So that we all look the part, we wear all black dress with music either in black folders or behind black card.

### Lift Sharing

Where we can we combine together to share lifts into as few cars as possible. DGS will pay a contribution to the driver of £20 towards fuel costs where car sharing is used. If you are able to offer a lift to another member then let me know at the meeting and we can try and sort this out.

## Future Concerts

### **Southampton Classical Guitar**

**Society** are hosting a recital by [Laura Snowden](#) on 27th October at Turner Sims Hall, Southampton. Tickets £20

**Avon Valley Concerts** are hosting [Craig Ogden](#) on November 2nd 8pm at Trinity Centre, Ringwood. Tickets £15

If anyone knows of any other concerts then please let me know and I will pass

## Priest House

The concert planned for **1st Dec 2018** has now been confirmed so please make sure this is in your diaries. It is anticipated that we will use the programme from Cerne Abbas and we will have the November meeting to work further on the pieces.

## Future Dates

OCTOBER 14TH 2018  
MEETING 1.30pm-5.15pm

OCTOBER 20th 2018  
DGS CONCERT IN CERNE

NOVEMBER 18th 2018  
MEETING 1.30pm-5.15pm

DECEMBER 1ST 2018  
DGS CONCERT  
PRIEST HOUSE WIMBORNE

DECEMBER 16th 2018  
MEETING 1.30pm-5.15pm

### Hello and Goodbye

An official welcome to new member **Mark Armitage** from Blandford. We hope you have many enjoyable times with the Society.

Farewell to **Geoff Roberts** from Seaton. Geoff enjoyed playing with us but found the commute from Seaton tiring. Best wishes from us all with your future playing.

Please send any newsworthy items for the next newsletter to me by email to

[secrtary@dorsetguitarsociety.org.uk](mailto:secrtary@dorsetguitarsociety.org.uk)

Thank you,



## **Robert Russell--- Musical Tribute**

It's been an unusually busy few weeks for me, since I heard of the sad death of my old friend, guitarist, lutenist, and builder of fine instruments, Robert Russell. We had known one another since the 1970s and I remember seeing the very first guitar he built, which showed great promise, and since the early 90s I have played a cedar top guitar by Robert. On my occasional journeys between Bristol and Bournemouth I often visited Bob and his wife, the flautist Nicky Russell, and was always treated to lavish hospitality, with home-grown veg from a huge garden that he managed to find time to tend in amongst his other activities as a guitar teacher and luthier. On these occasions conversation was stimulating and sometimes provocative, but always interesting. Bob was often forthright in his opinions, and you had to be careful not to let slip, platitudes, or any ideas not properly thought-through, or he would be on you!

Apparently he did not want any fuss made over funeral arrangements—he had been in poor health for some time—but Nicky and other musical friends thought that some sort of get together with music was needed, and so I was invited to take part in a musical tribute at St James Church, North Wraxall, Wilts on August 15th. It was great to meet up with so many people I had not seen for quite a long time. DGS members will know the names of Gerald Garcia, Alison Bendy, Steve Gordon, Alison Smith and David Cottam amongst others (see program details) the cover of which is Bob's carving of the rosette of his reproduction of the Stradivarius guitar in the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford. The instrument was built for Steve Gordon, who also brought along and played a fine bass guitar by Bob. Besides my own Russell, in evidence also was a requinto, and Gerald's brand new 7 string which was the last guitar completed. Although the program was put together at short notice and with very limited rehearsal, all went very well on the night to a large and appreciative audience. The program containing some of Bob's favourite music---Purcell's Didos Lament, and the Erbame Dich Aria from the St Mathew Passion---not too many dry eyes after these two!

## **Xuefei Yang--- Recital**

In the following week it was great to meet up once again

with Gerald and Alison as well as other friends from the not too distant past on the occasion of the first evening recital (Monday August 20) at West Dean, this was by the wonderful Xuefei Yang. Paul kindly offered to do the driving and together with Chris and Maurice we enjoyed an inspiring demonstration of our instrument's possibilities.

At first I did not think the acoustics of the church- where I understand concerts usually take place--were very good, with the sound of the guitar disappearing into the high space above, but one's ears soon adjusted and a capacity audience were treated to an evening of astonishing virtuosity, but also highly musical and thoughtful interpretations of mostly Spanish music. The first half was mainly of transcriptions from various Albeniz characteristic piano pieces, some familiar, but also a few that are not so well known, and not frequently played. Also present were Malats much loved Serenata Espanola, and three flamenco inspired pieces including one by Paco de Lucia, that showed a good grasp of the flamenco idiom and a convincing rasgueo technique. After a very substantial first half the second was no less so, containing three Spanish Dances of Granados and a powerful performance of Rodrigo's demanding Invocation and Dance which is a homage to Manuel de Falla, whose own Tombeau de Debussy preceded it in a thoughtful interpretation. Tarrega's Grande Jota followed which Xuefei told us she first played as a twelve year old! Anyone familiar with this piece will know that it contains pretty much all that can be done in the way of virtuosity, and pulls out pretty much all the stops. After such a demanding recital, three encores were called for, and more virtuosity followed with El Colibri of Sagreras, played at lightning speed, Bach's Air (G string) from the third orchestral suite, and a beautiful rendition of Recuerdos de La Alhambra, superbly controlled, and vocally phrased. I forgot to mention that we were subject to the slight distraction of a bat flying around the church during the second half of the concert, but fortunately it did not seem to upset Xuefei Yang in any noticeable way, or disturb audience focus too much. We had a good deal to discuss on the journey home.

John Edwards

