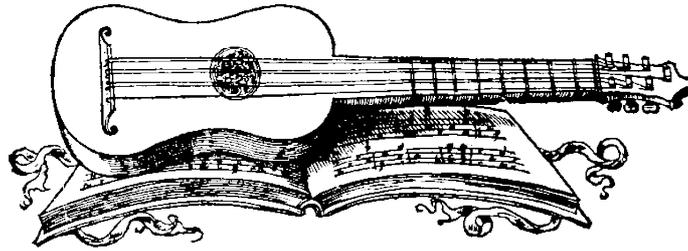


Dorset Guitar Society

Newsletter



July 2008

FGS Workshop 15th June

(from Margaret)

This was the very first FGS workshop open to all guitar societies who are members. It proved to be an excellent day and I have it on good authority that everyone enjoyed themselves immensely.

People started arriving from 9 a.m. in the morning! The very keenest of us enjoyed ourselves sight-reading through 'Two Basque Folksongs' arranged by Ian Gammie. When most folk had arrived we had a quick sail through 'Ain't Misbehaving', which really got everyone in the mood for playing.

Our first set piece 'Concerto grosso' by Vivaldi proved to be a bit tough for most of us but was fun to do anyway. Our second piece, 'Day Dreams' by Richard Charlton was a little easier (well ok, a lot easier) and we managed it very well.

The level of organisation at lunchtime was very impressive! In no time at all, tables appeared, food appeared and everyone was munching away happily. The **FGS AGM** took about five minutes, as we were keen to get back to the playing. The outcome of this was to put a list of summer schools onto the website. **Nick** will need people to email events to him to enable him to do this. **Martin** would like everyone to be aware of the excellent advertising emails sent regularly from **Chris Goodwin** of the Lute Society. Ray offered to host a similar event next year at Enfield. Well-done Ray!

Ann organised a little group outside for more ensemble while the AGM was going on and others were happy to have a chat and catch up with all the news

After lunch **Alan Gully** led us through his own excellent composition

called 'Summer Solstice'. Enfield Guitar Society have already played this lots, so it didn't take long to get it together and make a really good and lively performance of it. Alan then joined in the playing and Stephen took over the conducting. You can now see this performance on YouTube at:

www.youtube.com/user/JacarandaMusic

If you missed the chance to see **Gill Robinson's** beautiful art work, which was on display, then do take a look at her website on **www.gill-robinson.co.uk** There are paintings of landscapes, seascapes, music and more.

A much-enjoyed performance from each society ended the day. Well done everyone!

Lastly thanks to everyone from Enfield, Greenwood and Southampton guitar societies for travelling from far-a-field to be with us and for being such good sports, our own members for supplying such scrumptious food, Stephen for conducting us throughout the day, Alan Gully for allowing us to use his music and taking us through it and finally Nick for all his help and photography. You can view more photographs on

www.federationofguitarsocieties.org.uk



Alexander Technique workshop with John Edwards

Are you sitting on your 'Seat Bones' comfortably? Then I'll begin. Seven members assembled in a semi-circle in rooms 2 & 3 on 29th June for a session with **John Edwards** on the Alexander Technique. John started by giving us a little bit of history relating to the principles and benefits of the technique and also on F.M. Alexander himself.

Frederick Matthias Alexander (1869 – 1955) was a successful Australian actor/orator until he began to experience problems with his throat, which led to him losing his voice whilst reciting. Doctors were unable to help him so he decided to try to discover for himself what went wrong during performances. Over a period of many months, with the use of mirrors he observed that as soon as he started to recite, his neck stiffened, which led him to pull his head back and down. This in turn led to narrowing and shortening his back. He worked persistently on a method to overcome his problems and it took him over 9 years to develop and perfect his technique.

The Alexander Technique teaches people to use themselves more effectively. Mind and body constantly interact, the mind takes on ideas and

the body will follow. John taught us to become aware of the co-ordination between the head, neck and back by gently guiding us in and out of a chair to experience using our bodies more effectively.

Now seat bones are really the name of the game. You need to be able to feel them on your chair to keep your pelvis upright and allow gravity to support the whole body. Alternatively people tend to sit on the sacral area of the spine, reducing space and shortening the back. We did some work with our guitars to make us more aware of how we sit, reducing any twists in the shoulders and back.

We also did some work (now work is a very funny word to use in this context, as it was very relaxing indeed and most of us just wanted to fall asleep) lying on the floor in a semi-supine position. Now you are supposed to be awake for this and be aware of which parts of the body are in contact with the floor. The aim being to realign and lengthen the spine and reduce muscular tension. We were told to do this every day, a good opportunity to listen to music. Can't think of a better excuse! If you would like a follow up workshop then please let me know.

Margaret



Summer recital

Michael Hulmes gave one of the Summer Recitals at St Peter's, Parkstone. These are half hour lunchtime concerts starting at 1p.m. and are free, but with a retiring collection.

Michael played three Gaspar Sanz pieces- Villanos, Pavanas and Canarios, the Prelude from the 3rd Lute Suite by Bach, the Larghetto from the oboe concerto by Cimaroso, and La Catedral by Barrios. His playing was stylistically appropriate, and the sounds he produced were absolutely ravishing. I gather Michael was, as a teenager, a member of the DGS. He is a local and is Head of Guitar at Canford School. We should host/sponsor a concert by him? What do members think?

Bill R.

Blandford sounds ...

Eight DGS members have now entertained us at the informal guitar evenings in Blandford, where all classical guitar players and enthusiasts are welcome every month. Please email me (**julian@renrag.co.uk**) if you'd like to come to the event on Thursday 17th July at 7.20pm.

In June, the highlight of the night was **Chris Daly** playing **Lennox Berkeley's Theme and Variations for Guitar**. It's a work which I'd only previously heard on CD (Graham Anthony Devine's excellent British Guitar Music, Naxos, 2005) and it was fascinating to see it performed so well. Other solo pieces in June included **Un Dia de Noviembre (Brouwer)** and **Prelude & Allegro (de Murcia)**.

Julian



Congratulations

to **Sarah Fry** on passing her Grade 7.

'Treasurer's Corner'

As you know we will be holding the **AGM** at the start of the July meeting. At the meeting you will get a copy of the audited accounts for 2007-08. Based on overall satisfactory state of the society funds, I will be recommending that we keep the annual subscriptions for next year at the same level as last year. You, of course, have the final say with your vote at the meeting. As a registered charity, we try and take full advantage of the Gift Aid system whereby we can claim back tax paid on your personal subscription. Of course not everybody is a tax payer, but at present the tax we get back from those of you who do, (and who have signed up to the Gift Aid system) is the equivalent of having 5 extra members in the society. So it's well worth my time and efforts to encourage all taxpaying members to sign up. It's very simple - I give you a form to complete, which takes all of two minutes, and I then submit an annual claim. It costs individuals nothing, the money we get back comes out of what you have already paid to the government. So if you are a tax payer and would like to sign up to the Gift Aid scheme, please let me know and I'll arrange it. It is just worth mentioning the corollary; to keep me out of trouble, anyone who ceases to be a tax payer should please let me know, as I must stop claiming the Gift Aid rebate on your subscription.

The tea and coffee breaks that we all enjoy at our monthly meetings are run on a self financing basis. We ask for a contribution of 30p to cover the costs of purchasing the basic ingredients. Over recent months the fund hasn't quite been able to make ends meet! At future meetings, when you collect tea, coffee or biscuits, could you all please look for the little brown plastic container and drop your 30p in it. Thanks in advance!

Bill E.

The Lost Art of Wooing and The Lady's Answer

Jeni Melia, soprano, Christopher Goodwin and Brian Wright, Lutes
Saturday 17th May at St.Tudy's Church Bodmin, Cornwall.

Before setting off for a week's holiday in Cornwall, I checked my emails to discover that there was a concert that very evening possibly not too far from where we would be staying. We decided that we would wait until we arrived and then consult our newly acquired 'Tom Tom' as to how long it would take us.

Well, Tom Tom estimated 33 minutes, so that was that and off we went. Now although Tom did know the way, he seemed to prefer very narrow roads with few passing places, and as a consequence I am now quite adept at driving backwards! When we had 'reached our destination', we appeared to be in a little cul-de-sac, so unless the concert was to be held in someone's house, we decided that we had probably gone a bit wrong. However, we soon found the Church and managed to get seats right at the front.

The concert had two themes. The first half titled '**The Lost Art of Wooing**', was made up of 17th century love songs by **John Dowland, John Dangel, Nicholas Lanier, Philip Rosseter, Thomas Campion** and **Henry Purcell**. These were beautifully sung by **Jeni Melia** and accompanied on the lute by **Chris Goodwin**. Chris

also introduced the songs, enlightening the audience of the art of wooing, flirting, serenading and paying compliments from a time gone by.

Jeni Melia has a very light, clear voice, which is perfectly suited to these early songs. She seemed to just pick the high notes out of thin air with no effort at all. Chris Goodwin also has a very fine voice and sung a few of the songs and also a duet with Jeni, 'Gather your rosebuds while you may'.

The second half titled '**The Lady's Answer**', was a collection of 17th century women's poems recently set to music by **Brian Wright**. These were also sung by Jeni but accompanied this time by Brian himself. This was an interesting idea as not many women wrote songs in those days but apparently they did write quite a bit of poetry. The chosen ones were written by Mary Wroth, Katherine Philips and Elizabeth I and worked beautifully set to music.

Margaret

FGS (and DGS) on video

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... and just to prove it, here we are on U-tube, courtesy of Stephen (See front page)

Bulletins (0)

"Summer Solstice" for guitar ensemble, by Alan Gully
From: JacarandaMusic
Views: 75

We meet at: **Kinson Community Centre, Pelhams Park, Millhams Road, Kinson, BH10 7LH**
Registered Charity No. 1101122

Committee Members

Terry Robinson - Chairman	01305 834 774	terrydgs@fsmail.net
Stephen Kenyon - Musical Director	01305 257 099	sbk@jacaranda-music.com
Margaret Tredwell - Secretary	01425 613 739	secretary@dorsetguitarsociety.org.uk
Bill Eggleston - Treasurer	01202 824 066	
Chris Gillson and Valerie Evans		

Member of **The Federation of Guitar Societies** (www.federationofguitarsocieties.org.uk)
& CADArts (www.cadarts.com)

Future Meetings and Diary Dates

20 July	5.45 am - 9.30 pm	16 November	2.00 pm - 5.30 pm
17 August	5.45 pm - 9.30pm	21 December	2.00 pm - 5.30 pm
21 September	5.45 pm - 9.30 pm	18 January 2009	2.00 pm - 5.30 pm
19 October	2.00 pm - 5.30 pm	8 February 2009	2.00 pm - 5.30 pm

Second Sunday of the month

CODA Acoustic Night, CODA Music Trust, New Milton
An opportunity to build experience in public playing in an informal, friendly setting. All acoustic instruments welcome. 7.30 pm. Call **01305 257099** to confirm.

Third Thursday of the month

Regular playing opportunity organised by Julian Garner
Woodhouse Gardens Pavilion, Blandford Forum
7.30pm. email: **julian@renrag.co.uk** or tel: **01258 830334** for more details

WINCHESTER GUITAR FESTIVAL 2008

July 25th - 27th - Mark Eden and Christopher Stell

ENSEMBLE COACHING - GUITAR ORCHESTRA -
MASTERCLASSES - INDIVIDUAL TUITION -
CONCERTS - LECTURES - PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES
- FINGER AEROBICS - TECHNIQUE CLASSES

West Downs Centre, University of Winchester, Romsey
Road, Winchester, Hampshire, SO22 5HT.

Book on line at www.winchesterguitarfestival.co.uk
or contact **WGF 2008, Festival Office, 17 Hyde
Abbey Road Winchester, SO23 7DA.**

Tel: **01962 860192**

email: **info@winchesterguitarfestival.co.uk**

Wednesday 30 - Monday 4 August

Guitar France. Classical Guitar summer school with
Craig Ogden and Gary Ryan. Southern Normandy, in
the heart of the Andaine Forest.

<http://www.guitarfrance.com/>

Saturday 19th July 2008

10.00 am - 3.30 pm

A CLASSICAL GUITAR DAY- led by Christopher Daly at
**Dorset Rural Music School, The Close,
Blandford, DT11 7HA.**

The focus for the day will be performing solo repertoire:
Bring along music of any difficulty.

For further details Tel: 01202 685462

Fee £15. Let us know that you plan to attend on **01258 452511** or email: **office@drmsmusic.demon.co.uk**



Caption competition - please
send suggestions to Stuart
for the next newsletter ...

On the menu for the July meeting - the Bocking Suite plus something new (possibly). Stephen

Editors bit

Thanks to Margaret, Bill and Bill for sending in material for the July newsletter - I appreciate it. So, a plea to one and all - **PLEASE** send me items (concert dates, recommendations, reviews, etc) for the Aug. newsletter as soon as possible after the next meeting - Ideally by e-mail to:

Stuart@nundy.fsworld.co.uk

Many thanks, **Stuart**