

DORSET GUITAR SOCIETY  
REG CHARITY 1101122

FUTURE  
MEETINGS

Sunday 17th September 2023  
2:00-5:30pm

Sunday 15th October 2023  
2:00-5:30pm

Sunday 19th November 2023  
2:00-5:30pm

Sunday 10th December 2023  
2:00-5:30pm

Provisional dates for 2024

Sunday 21st January 2024  
2:00-5:30pm

Sunday 18th February 2024  
2:00-5:30pm

Sunday 17th March 2024  
2:00-5:30pm

Sunday 21st April 2024 2:00-  
5:30pm SPRING CONCERT

Sunday 19th May 2024  
2:00-5:30pm

Sunday 16th June 2024  
2:00-5:30pm

Sunday 21st July 2024  
2:00-5:30pm

Sunday 18th August 2024  
2:00-5:30pm

Sunday 15th September 2024  
2:00-5:30pm

Sunday 20th October 2024  
2:00-5:30pm

Sunday 17th November 2024  
2:00-5:30pm

Sunday 15th December 2024  
2:00-5:30pm

# On The Beat



## Newsletter of the Dorset Guitar Society

ISSUE 54

AUGUST 2023

## Visit from West Sussex Guitar Club

**O**n Sunday 14th May, a group of around 10 West Sussex Guitar Club members travelled to Dorset to meet with DGS— this year at West Moors Memorial Hall. The Facilities there were perfect for our joint gathering and gave us ample space for the combined ensemble as well as rooms for the lunch spread.

We started with our usual joint rehearsal and this year Steve used his 'Deadwood Stage' arrangement for all to play.



**Bob, Sue & Martin**



**WSGC performing**

Everyone looked to be enjoying the experience of playing in a large ensemble and the combined sound was impressive.

We then took turns to play to each other our orchestral items. It was then time to enjoy the buffet together and to have

good time to chat with our friends from West Sussex. DGS members did a great job with the food and hospitality.

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**Sasha with pupil**

## First Year at Royal Welsh College

**I** have thoroughly enjoyed my first year studying at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and wanted to share a few notable achievements and events with you all.

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with my duo partner, Ash, and we performed Bartok's Romanian Folkdances for my Chamber exam in March. We have also performed at New



port Cathedral, Classical Café at RWCMD, and St Peter's Church in Winchcombe.

I had the amazing opportunity

to sing in a choir alongside the Welsh Bass-Baritone, Sir Bryn Terfel at the 'Cronfa Syr Bryn Terfel' launch event. This was part of our Integrated Musician module which includes working on movement and rhythm as well as choral skills, harmony and aural.

I have had the opportunity to work with some amazing and inspiring guitarists in addition to having 1:1 tuition from the Head of Guitar, Helen Sanderson.

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# Guitar friendly continued....



James playing Andrew York's 'Reflections'

After lunch each side took turns to perform a range of solo, duo and small ensemble items before we finished the day with a play through of 'Deadwood stage'



WSGC ensemble performing Moonlight Sonata



Richard with 'Scarborough Fair'



An enjoyable time had by all and I very much hope we can continue with what has now become a tradition between the 2 guitar societies to meet in the summer each year.



## DGS SPRING CONCERT

Please put the 21st April 2024 into your diaries as we plan to hold a DGS Spring Concert on this date.



# Bethany's first year

*continued from page 1*

This includes having lessons with visiting guitarists John Mills and Zoran Dukic, and a masterclass with Petrit Ceku after which he gave his UK debut performance at RWCMD.



Guitar Ensemble performing at Classical Cafe

After the whirlwind of first year, I completed my end-of-year recital on 24<sup>th</sup> May, playing a programme of Torroba, Rodrigo and Brouwer.



End of year recital

On Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July I will be performing Rodrigo's 'Concierto Andaluz' with the City of Cardiff Symphony Orchestra, alongside Luke, George and Eosaph.

This year has been an amazing experience and I can't wait to see what year 2 has in store. I would like to thank everyone at DGS for the valuable experiences I had there, and I hope to be back soon!

Bethany Cooper



Rehearsing for Rodrigo Concierto Andaluz



# DGS Social— March 2023

This was a very enjoyable event especially since we had a good turnout and so lots of chat, and good opportunities to speak to members one does not always get a chance to speak to during busy playing rehearsals. I thought some background music was a good idea but this only seemed to work well at the beginning of the evening when the sound system was at a low level, which is a point worth remembering for such future events.

We had a good size room exclusively for us which proved quite adequate, and although the Commodore staff did their best, there were a few mix-ups, and some dissatisfaction with the food.

Maybe next year we can try a different venue and save on the costs by either ordering a set menu, with payment in advance, or perhaps supply our own food and drink as we did with WSGC back in May.



## NAIL TROUBLE

*I have heard a couple of members complain about finger nail issues, and I think it is worth mentioning a product called 'Mane 'n Tail' (Hoofmaker) which is a cream developed from a product vets use on horses hooves to help prevent splits, and in my experience it has worked well on my own nails especially when trying to get rid of the ridges that make it so difficult to shape a good playing surface. It should be easy to find on the internet.*



# Upcoming concerts

Southampton Classical Guitar Society are hosting the VIDA guitar quartet in association with Turner Sims concert hall in Southampton. The recital is on **28th October at 7:30pm** More details can be found on the SCGS website or by scanning this QR code



West Sussex Guitar club have two recitals this Autumn. The first is **Richard Smith on Saturday October 28th 2023 at 7:30pm** and the second is a recital by **Gary Ryan on Friday November the 3rd 2023**



also at **7:30pm**. Both recitals take place at the Recital Hall, Sudley Road, Bognor Regis. More Details can be found at [westsussexguitar.org](http://westsussexguitar.org) or by scanning this QR code



**VIDA Quartet 28th October 2023**

# Doug Hawkey— Luthier



Doug Hawkey—no.3

A few months ago, Doug and his wife visited us at St Andrew's during one of our meetings. Doug contacted us as he has just started making guitars and wanted to show us his first couple of guitars for some feedback. It was interesting to have a little play on each guitar and to learn about how he makes them, including the detail behind the rosette and bindings. Doug's guitars are all currently based on the Hauser designs with 7 fan

braces. German Spruce tops Indian rosewood back and sides, Honduras mahogany necks and bindings, rosewood bridges and ebony fingerboards. The rosettes are hand made and one off.



Doug's no. 3 guitar is currently with John Edwards

and is available for members to try should you wish. Doug is open to offers in terms of price, with his main aim to recoup costs of materials in order to make no.4! If anyone is interested in taking a look at Doug's guitars, please contact John directly.



**WAGOthon Midday**

**27th Jan 2024 to**

**Midday 28th Jan 2024**



## Wyvern Afinado Guitar Orchestra (WAGO)

WAGO is hosting/sponsoring a 24Hr guitar ensemble marathon to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society.

The event will run from **Midday 27th Jan to Midday 28th Jan 2024.**

Three separate groups of guitarists will play/sight-read ensemble guitar music for 24hrs. Each of the 3 ensembles will play for 20 mins/hr, every hour, for 24 hrs. Non stop music for 24hrs!

WAGO is looking for;

Guitarists to play

Non-playing supporters

Sponsorship

WAGO was formed in early 2020 as a group of amateur classical guitarists who enjoy playing and performing music together using Hewish & Puxton Village Hall, North Somerset.

The group meets monthly on the 4th Thursday evening and aims to hold at least 2 concerts a year, in Jun/Jul and Nov/Dec.

There is a £45 entrance fee to participate which covers refreshments for the 24hrs along with music and hall hire.

Deadline for entry is 30th November 2023 and the music will be sent out in Dec for those entered.

If any of you are interested in taking part in the event—please visit the WAGO website for full details.

[Wyvern Afinado Guitar Orchestra \(WAGO\)](http://www.wyvernafinadoguitarorchestra.co.uk)

Our very own Sue Chick is taking part in the event and it would be nice to have one or 2 more to represent DGS—a very similar sounding group to WAGO. Perhaps we could do something similar in the future.



## Dorset Guitar Society

St Andrew's Church

Millhams Road

Kinson

Bournemouth

Dorset

BH10 7LN

Secretary– Paul Thomas

secretary@dorsetguitarsociety.org.uk

Treasurer– Sue Chick

Spchick2014@gmail.com

Chairman– John Edwards

Joved2013@gmail.com

Musical Director– Steve Marsh

**T**he Dorset Guitar Society (formerly known as the Dorset Guitar & Lute Circle) was formed in October 1984 by a number of Dorset guitarists to promote the music of their instrument via solo and ensemble performances, master classes, workshops and concerts given by the guitar society and visiting artists

In 1994 the society formed its own guitar orchestra and has premiered Stephen Kenyon's Concerto for Guitar Soloist and Guitar Orchestra and Grant Bocking's Spanish Suite for Guitar Orchestra. This society continues to rehearse as an orchestra under the direction of Steve Marsh. The society aims to perform twice a year, collaborating with local organisations and musical groups to raise funds for charity and to raise the profile of the classical guitar.

## A view from the Chair 22-23— John Edwards



**T**ime certainly flies, and it only seemed like yesterday that I was writing my last review of our DGS year! I have

rather lost track of the Covid period— I am glad to say— which caused such disruption to our meetings and even lost us a few members, so it's great to see us pretty much back to strength and even to be able to welcome some new members.

I am sure that we all enjoyed the recent meeting with WSGC gang. It was really good turn out and I was so pleased to hear all of your individual contributions. Thanks so much for all your efforts bringing so much delicious food and for your general help with the logistics of it all, and thanks to Steve Marsh for conducting all of us.

Thinking back over the past year reminds me of the loss of our much valued member, and fine guitarist Maurice Albin, who had been such a long-standing member of

DGS. He had struggled with cancer throughout the whole of 2022 but did manage to get to one rehearsal and finally when he seemed to be back to health, the disease returned and he passed in September. His funeral at Harbour View was very moving and it was good to see so many DGS friends and family in attendance. The year's other sad happening was the retirement of our much esteemed musical director, Grant Bocking who had been with us for 11 years. He worked tirelessly, making a huge number of arrangements especially for us. In fact, casting my mind back I am amazed at the amount of music we played under his baton, the last concert being Durweston in October 22 which I remember as being artistically successful, but disappointingly low on audience numbers. Well you can't have it all can you?

Our social at the Commodore back in March was, I would say, only a mixed success. Lots of great chat over drinks but rather disappointing on the food front.

Our new home at St Andrews seems to be

working well and I think we all find it a better venue than Pelhams was. A few weeks ago, Paul and I did a grand sort out of the music in the filing cabinet. A few refinements could be made but there is a great deal of guitar music in there, and you are welcome to borrow any of it simply my making an entry in the note book of what you have borrowed.

Finally, welcome to new members John and Vicky, and welcome also to our fine new music director Steve Marsh who travels a long way to be with us. Lastly, to thank Paul and Sue for all their hard work on our behalf. Both are extremely busy people but they still find time to deal with the many issues arising from running a society such as ours, thanks also to Peter Nuttall for taking us through some of his many compositions for guitar ensemble.

