

# Dorset Guitar Society

Newsletter



July 2010

## DGS summer concert



Jacqui on flute during the performance of Pitfield's 'Variations on Country Dance Tunes'

The evening of **July 3** saw a coming together of the DGS Guitar Orchestra for the annual **DGS Summer Concert**, ably directed (in the broadest sense of the word) by **Stephen Kenyon**. As usual, despite the slow development of the pieces over months, it all came together admirably just at the right time (luck or judgement - take your pick...!).

A reasonable audience of around 45 paying persons, plus members of DGS, saw a first half of good solo and duet pieces. **Jacqui and Andy** started off with the Guitar and Flute 'Grand duo Concerto Op 85' by Giuliani. **Pete** then presented the first of a series of transcribed items (Bach's 'Gavotte en Rondeau'), followed by **Stephen** who played Chopin's Prelude Op 28. No 15 (Raindrop) (arr. Tarrega).

**Maurice** gave a spirited rendition of Albeniz's Mallorca, with **John and Chris**

'book ending' with another duo, and two pieces by Haydn - Symphony 104 (The London) (arr. Carulli) and Symphony 101 (The Clock) (Arr Duarte).

An appreciative audience retired to the bar for 20 minutes whilst the Orchestra set up, and off we went, confident (hopeful?) that the past 8 months of rehearsal and practice had paid off. And, in general, from where I sat, it certainly seemed to. **Da Pacem** was a great starter, fairly straight forward but effective, and gave us chance to find notes and make sure fingers were warmed up. Which was just as well, as the first movement of the '**Variations on Country Dance Tunes**' flew out of the traps like the proverbial hare and grey hounds. **Jacqui** did a great job on flute, and the guitars sitting behind her (physically and musically) really seemed to come together. Almost before we noticed we'd got through the entire three

movements, which seemed to go down well. It was particularly nice to have **Frederic Pitfield's** wife in the audience to hear this first performance of this piece, written by her husband in 1956.

Stephen's composition **Solstice** provided some calm and reflection to the evening, and sounded superb. It also enabled us to get our collective breath back before the final piece, Schubert's **Marche Militaire**. If the first movement of the Pitfield had gone off at speed, then this last item practically raced. However, although there seemed to be a little uncertainty and wavering right at the end, it all went well. The audience seemed suitably happy with proceedings, and events came to a close for this year - apart from the well earned cake and tea, which occupied many for well after the finish time!

**Stuart**

## Warbour pilgrimage

**Wardour Chapel** (Chapel of All Saints) is part of Wardour Castle, between Semley and Tisbury in Wiltshire. Julian Bream made many of his great recordings in this chapel, which is a couple of minutes drive from the house he lived in for many years, just outside Semley. (He has recently moved to a smaller house, in the Shaftesbury area).

Fascinated and moved by the power of the acoustic on these recordings I have long wished to visit Wardour to see the place for myself. It is regularly used for services, but not wishing to attend masses, it was necessary to await one of the occasional open days. One such occurred on Saturday 19th June, when many vestments from the chapel collection (and perhaps elsewhere - it was not too clear) were on display, along with altar artifacts.

As the pictures show, the chapel has rounded ends and a high, ornate ceiling. It is 95 feet long, 40 feet wide and 40 feet high, and can eat 300. In 1770 Lord Arundell started to build New Wardour Castle to replace the old castle which had been severely damaged in the Civil War over a century before, defending the Royalist interest. The chapel had to be incorporated into the main building of the house because at this time it was still illegal to construct a Catholic church as a separate building, and it was the first new Chapel built since the Reformation. It was first used in 1776. The organ



shown dates from 1791 (restored 1960). A succession of organists performed here on this occasion. In this space were made some of the most important guitar recordings in history. No doubt many things in the performance, the repertoire and the recording technology were equally or more important than this body of air between hard surfaces, but I can't help thinking there's much in the atmosphere of an acoustic environment that shapes the final recorded product.

Bream recordings made here include;

20th Century Guitar  
The Dances of Dowland  
Classic Guitar  
Romantic Guitar  
Together  
The Woods So Wild  
Together Again  
Julian Bream  
The Lute Music of John Dowland  
Julian Bream- Villa-Lobos  
Music of Spain Vol 1  
Dedication  
Music of Spain Vol 5

...and many of the BBC recordings broadcast on Radio 3 many years ago, if you have tapes of these.

If you have the book **"A Life on the Road"** by **Tony Palmer** you will find mention of recording in Wardour from page 157.



**Stephen Kenyon**

## Guitar for sale.

This guitar is owned by Colin Thompson who has owned it since the 1970s. Colin was a student of guitar and violin at the London College of Music and is now a general musician and instrument technician working in Dorchester. He was present at the gathering that preceded the formation of the Dorset Guitar and Lute Society in 1984.

The guitar is undated, assumed to be from the early 70s, and is by **Marcellino Lopez** of Madrid. The front is cedar, and the back and sides are (almost certainly) Brazilian. The scale length is 5mm more than the standard nowadays, at 655mm and the neck is a little bigger than many modern guitars but nowhere near as large as many older guitars.

I found it quite easy under the hand and certainly not unusually hard work. The sound is very reminiscent of early Ramirez instruments, though as the guitar has not been played much for many years, is in need of playing-in to restore its full capacity for tone and balance. The guitar has been extremely well looked after, and has very few marks, the only notable one being a string-slip mark by the bridge. Asking price £1200. Comes with case.

(Notes on appearance, sound and playing style by Stephen Kenyon).

Contact Colin on email; [fiddler@casterbridge.net](mailto:fiddler@casterbridge.net)



**PETE KIRKBRIDE**  
- SOLO GUITAR CONCERT -  
BAROQUE TO MODERN

A selection of guitar music from some of the most influential composers from the last three centuries played by an experienced and dynamic guitarist.

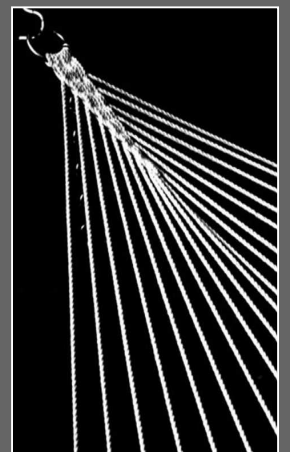


Strangways Hall Abbotsbury  
Saturday 7th August — 7pm start  
Contact — [peter02es@hotmail.com](mailto:peter02es@hotmail.com) or 07837 354595



## Strings Attached out and about ...

Valerie and Bill (Strings Attached) have give a couple of charitable concerts recently. They played for the MS Society at Sturminster Marshall on 19 June, and played interval music for a performance with The Strolling Players for the Evergreen Club at Broadstone on 7 July. Among their pieces were Carnavalita, Mond, The Entertainer and The Teddy Bears Picnic.



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

### Committee Members

<b>Terry Robinson - Chairman</b>	<b>01305 834 774</b>	<b>chair@dorsetguitarsociety.org.uk</b>
<b>Stephen Kenyon - Musical Director</b>	<b>01305 257 099</b>	<b>sbk@jacaranda-music.com</b>
<b>James Martin - Secretary</b>	<b>07767 494576</b>	
<b>Bill Eggleston - Treasurer</b>	<b>01425 650076</b>	

Member of **The Federation of Guitar Societies** ([www.federationofguitarsocieties.org.uk](http://www.federationofguitarsocieties.org.uk))  
& CADArts ([www.cadarts.com](http://www.cadarts.com))

### Future Meetings and Diary Dates

18 July	5.30 pm - 9.30 pm	21 November	2.00 pm - 5.30 pm
15 August	5.30 pm - 9.30 pm	19 December	2.00 pm - 5.30 pm
19 September	5.30 pm - 9.30 pm	16 January 2011	2.00 pm - 5.30 pm
17 October	2.00 pm - 5.30 pm	20 February	2.00 pm - 5.30 pm

#### Third Thursday of the month - 'North Dorset Guitar Forum'

Regular playing opportunity organised by Julian Garner  
Woodhouse Gardens Pavilion, Blandford Forum  
7.20pm. email: [julian@renrag.co.uk](mailto:julian@renrag.co.uk)  
or tel: **01258 830334** for more details

#### 24 July - 30 July - Cheltenham Guitar Festival

David Russel, Tom Kerstens, Nigel North, Amanda Cook,  
Scott Tennant

[www.igf.org.uk](http://www.igf.org.uk)

**Sat 21st to Fri 27th Aug West Dean Guitar Festival** featuring concerts by **Ben Verdery** (21st), **Berta Rojas** (22nd), **Roland Dyens** (23rd) and **The Mandolinquents** (25th) plus Open Day (22nd) and masterclasses.

West Dean, Nr. Chichester, PO18 0QZ

**01243 811301**

[enquiries@westdean.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@westdean.org.uk)

**12th Oct, 8pm John Williams Turner Sims Concert**  
Hall, Southampton University. Tickets 023 8027 5114

#### 16th Oct 8pm Johannes Moller (Sweden). 2101 GFA Winner.

The Point, Eastleigh.  
Tickets £12 (Conc. £10) Visit their website or call the box office on 023 8065 2333.  
Tickets are on sale now!



**23 - 25 July Winchester Guitar Festival - featuring orchestra, technical workshops and masterclasses as well as several concerts and a student concert (see below).**

Holy Trinity Church Hall, Upper Brook Street, Winchester with concerts in Milner Hall, St Peter Street. Details online from: <http://www.winchesterguitarfestival.co.uk/> or 01962 860192

#### 23 July 1.00pm Winchester Guitar Festival: Helen Sanderson & Eden Stell Lunchtime Concert.

St Lawrence Church, High St., Winchester. Tickets £7 (conc £7). Tickets from 01962 860192

**23 July 8.00pm Winchester Guitar Festival: Mark Ashford.** Milner Hall, St Peter Street, Winchester. Tickets £12 (conc £10). Tickets from 01962 860192

**24 July 8.00pm Winchester Guitar Festival: Dale Kavanagh** (Canada) Milner Hall, St Peter Street, Winchester. Tickets £12 (conc £10). Tickets from 01962 860192

**7 August, 7.00 pm. Peter Kirkbride.** Baroque to Modern. Strangways Hall, Abbotsbury. 07837 354595 for tickets

#### Editors bit ....

Thanks to Terry, Stephen, Valerie and Pete 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 August newsletter as soon as possible after the next meeting - Ideally by e-mail to: [Stuart@nundy.fsworld.co.uk](mailto:Stuart@nundy.fsworld.co.uk) Many thanks, **Stuart**