

DORSET GUITAR SOCIETY
REG CHARITY 1101122

FUTURE MEETINGS
& EVENTS

Sunday 16th March 2025
2:00-5:30pm– GREYFRIARS

Sunday 27th April 2025
2:00-5:30pm– GREYFRIARS

Sunday 18th May 2025
2:00-5:30pm– St Andrew's

Sunday 22nd June 2025
PURBECK GUITAR FESTIVAL
St Mary's Church, Wareham
12pm Onwards– Concert
3:00pm

Sunday 20th July 2025
2:00-5:30pm– St Andrew's

Sunday 17th August 2025
2:00-5:30pm– St Andrew's

Sunday 21st September 2025
11am-5pm WSGC/SCGC/
DGS Playing day with
Amanda Cook St Leonard's
Hall

Sunday 19th October 2025
Friends and Family Autumn
concert 3:00pm St Andrew's

Sunday November 16th 2025
2:00-5:30pm– St Andrew's

Sunday December 14th 2025
2:00-5:30pm GREYFRIARS

On The Beat



Newsletter of the Dorset Guitar Society

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FEBRUARY 2025

Autumn Equinox Country Festival

On Sunday 22nd September 2024, the Society travelled to Boldre, near Lymington to take part in a large outdoor fundraiser for Lymington based Oakhaven Hospice. The event had been planned jointly by the land owner, Simon Parker and local choir leader Dita Broster. The idea was for the festival to celebrate music and also the immediate local area. There were stalls from local businesses as well as the local school. The musical contributions consisted of a piano recital, swing band, 2 choirs, Dorset guitar society and a finale by former Dire Straits bass player John

Illsley and his band. The organisation of the day was excellent and we were thrilled to be involved in such an event. Unfortunately the weather could not have been worse— especially during our one hour set with most of the audience off hiding under cover with only the bravest of souls remaining outside to cheer us on! Nevertheless, the DGS orchestra performed very well and with high end sound technicians on site our sound projected beautifully. We also managed to get some professional photos of the orchestra and a very helpful £300 kindly donated by Simon Parker for our Society funds.



Dorset Guitar Society Turns 40!

October 2024 marked the 40th anniversary for the Dorset Guitar Society. To mark the occasion we commissioned Grant Bocking to compose a piece for DGS which we can play as an orchestra. At the December meeting— a little later than planned due to illness, we enjoyed a rehearsal with Grant who got started on D.G.S. I think

this will be a good addition to our repertoire for 2025. We also had a celebratory October meeting with past photos and information about the Society along with performances by the orchestra and a good selection of solos, duos and small ensemble items. We were joined by a few past members that are still in the area and enjoyed a glass of fizz

and a slice of the DGS 40th cake— expertly made by Emily Thomas. We also enjoyed a fun workshop with Gerald Garcia during November's meet — more details on this on page 2. Here's to the next 40 years!



Photos from 40th anniversary

New Members

A very warm welcome to Steve Bussey, Damien Watson and Peter Doogan. We hope you enjoy many happy rehearsals and concerts with us at DGS.



Spring Concert 2025

This has been postponed to October 19th due to availability of St Andrew's and will now become the DGS Autumn Concert!



Richard Huppertz performing Carcassi



The orchestra performing with guest flute!



Pauline & Vicky- Little Piece and Melody



Tom Wood performing Dedicatoria



Mark Armitage in full swing!



Peter Lubbock



Martin performing Tanz der Vampire



History of DGS



Gerald Garcia Workshop

On 17th November 2024 the Society enjoyed an afternoon with Gerald Garcia. Gerald was in great form and brought laughs as well as insight to our afternoon of playing. The meeting started with him arriving at St Andrew's with John and boldly saying 'Hi everyone- this is John'



We enjoyed working on his great arrangement of Libertango as well as Sheila Dudels and Bagpipers.



Bob, Sue & Martin as a trio and Mark- solo took the opportunity to perform a piece to Gerald and get some feedback in a masterclass style session. Everyone seemed to enjoy the afternoon and was a great part of our 40th celebrations.

Christmas 2024



This year- Our Christmas meeting was held at Greyfriars Hall in Ringwood due to flooding at St Andrew's. Despite the change of venue, we still enjoyed our usual mix of music, chat and festive nibbles.



DGS visit WSGC 2024

This year it was our turn to travel to Bognor Regis for our annual guitar friendly. In fact 2024 was the 10th anniversary of our first meeting— also in Bognor back in 2014. This year there were some members from Wealden Guitar Society and Canterbury Classical Guitar Society in attendance too.

We began the day a rehearsal on 'In a Persian Market' arranged for the day by WSGC secretary Debbie Burford. Debbie is a very talented arranger for guitar ensembles and has produced a wide selection of arrangements particularly by composer Leroy Anderson.

Lunch then followed— a bountiful selection of food and drink provided by WSGC. After much food and chat, we relaxed back into the main hall to enjoy performances from solos and small ensembles as well as a small set from each society.

It was really lovely to meet and hear other societies and to see that we are all working towards the same aim of promoting the art of classical guitar to a wider audience.

A really enjoyable day— expertly hosted by our friends at West Sussex Guitar Club. 2025 is our turn— more details below.



Planned Future DGS Events

South Coast Guitar Friendly

2025 is the turn of DGS to host WSGC for the annual friendly. We have decided to invite friends from Southampton Guitar Society and Redlynch guitar group this time. We have selected the hall at St Leonards for its close proximity to the A31/M27 and is large enough to cater for our needs. We have also invited Amanda Cook to be our guest joint ensemble conductor. She will work with us all on a piece for the first part of the day before we enjoy lunch and the usual performances from ensembles and solos.

DGS at Purbeck Guitar Festival

On 22nd June 2025, DGS will be performing at afternoon of classical guitar at St Mary's Church, Wareham. The concert starts at 3:00pm and will be one of a growing selection of concerts that the organisers— Love it Local are staging to celebrate all things guitar.





Dorset Guitar Society

St Andrew's Church
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Secretary– Paul Thomas
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Treasurer– Sue Chick
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Chairman– John Edwards
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Musical Director– Jim Kirk

The 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 Jim Kirk. 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.

Upcoming concerts around Dorset and Hampshire

Saturday, 3 May 2025 at 7:30pm

Sean Shibe

Turner Sims, Southampton



A former BBC New Generation Artist, Borletti-Buitoni Trust Fellowship 2012 winner, Royal Philharmonic Society 2018 Young Artist Award winner and recipient of the 2022 Leonard Bernstein Award, Sean Shibe continues to prove himself a truly original mind at the frontier of contemporary classical music.

More details on this concert at www.scgs.org.uk

Saturday, 8th March 2025 at 7:30pm

Fabio Zanon

Recital Hall, Bognor Regis



West Sussex Guitar Club warmly invites all music enthusiasts to our forthcoming recital by London based Brazilian guitarist Fabio Zanon. Fabio was taught initially by his father and later by Antonio Guedes and Henrique Pinto at the University of Sao Paulo. In spite of his lack of inclination towards competition he achieved the accolade of prize winner of the 14th International Guitar Foundation of America (GFA) Competition and the 30th Francisco Tarrega Prize in Spain only weeks apart in 1996 when he was 30 years old.

Saturday, 21st June 2025 at 7:30pm

Eden & Stell Duo

Recital Hall, Bognor Regis



Internationally renowned for their dynamism, innovation and breathtaking virtuosity the Eden Stell Guitar Duo have '*breathed new life into the world of the classical guitar*' (Rotterdam Dagblad). Widely regarded as one of the world's leading guitar ensembles, the duo's chameleon-like ability to communicate in a multitude of musical styles makes them a constantly evolving entity with a unique creative voice.