DORSET GUITAR SOCIETY
REG CHARITY 1101122

On The Beat

Newsletter of the Dorset Guitar Society
ISSUE 56 OCTOBER 2025

FUTURE MEETINGS & EVENTS

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

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

Sunday January 18th 2026 2:00-5:30pm– St Andrew's

Sunday February 15th 2026 2:00-5:30pm– St Andrew's

Sunday March 22nd 2026 2:00-5:30pm– St Andrew's

Sunday April 19th 2026 St Nicholas– Durweston 7:15pm CONCERT

Sunday May 17th 2026 2:00-5:30pm– St Andrew's

Sunday June 28th 2026 2:00-5:30pm– St Andrew's

Sunday June 28th 2026 2:00-5:30pm– St Andrew's

Sunday July 19th 2026 2:00-5:30pm– St Andrew's

Sunday August 16th 2026 2:00-5:30pm– St Andrew's

Sunday September 20th 2026 2:00-5:30pm– St Andrew's

Sunday October 18th 2026 Friends & Family Concert

Purbeck Guitar Festival 2025

On 22nd June 2025, we returned for our 2nd year performing at the Purbeck Guitar Festival. This year we performed at the Lady St Mary church which was the main venue for guitar concerts at the festival. 2025 saw an increase in the variety of concerts on offer. These ranged from solo guitar recitals by Carlos Bonell and Xuefei Yang to a lute recital and workshop by Sam Brown. Also on offer was a tudor experience concert at Kingston Country Courtyard. Due to the amount of concerts staged in the week– our audience was modest, yet enthusiastic! We managed to squeeze the orchestra into the front of the church and gave a good performance of our 2025 orchestral programme along with a varied selection of solos and other small ensemble items.

Reports from the organisers were that audience numbers we down across the board on last year but we hope that the Purbeck Festival will return again next year and that we may again be invited to perform– meeting our constitutional aims of bringing classical guitar to a wider audience.

As a bonus– we kindly received £100 for DGS funds.

2026 Repertoire

Now that we have come to the end of our 2025 concert season, we will now begin working on some of the following pieces.
We will continue with:
Telemann, In My Life & Misionera

We will add over the next few months:
Homage to Manitas (Steve Marsh), Parade of the Tin Soldiers (arr. Grant Bocking), In the Hall of the Mountain King (arr. Andrew Forrest), Beethoven's Fifth(arr. Jim Kirk) & Monkey Business (Pete Nuttall)

New Members

A very warm welcome to junior member **Henry Clayson** We hope you enjoy many happy rehearsals and concerts with us at DGS.

Bournemouth Oratory Concert

On Saturday 6th September 2025, DGS performed a fundraising concert in aid of vital organ repairs at Bournemouth Oratory. The evening was very well attended and our music was equally well received by all.

The church was incredibly grateful to DGS for performing and with our help they have made a great start to funding those organ repairs. We've even had an invite to return again next year!

Dear Jim and Paul,
Many thanks to you and your orchestra colleagues for a wonderful concert yesterday evening! Everyone enjoyed themselves immensely and the music was first-class.

Your joint efforts brought in over £760 for our organ appeal! An amazing start to our fundraising programme.

We would be delighted to welcome you all back again next year if you are interested. Let's stay in touch, and, in the meantime we send you our renewed thanks and best wishes. Well done, one and all!
Felicity - Bournemouth Oratory

A New DGS Chairman

John Edwards has been an active DGS member for many many years and as Chairman of the Society for the last 10 years or so. He has decided to step aside from this role as he is taking a break from the society for a while. We all thank John for his time and efforts in keeping the society going over the last decade and for being such an active player in the society for so long. We will miss John's presence at our meetings but hope this isn't the last time we will see him and hope he will return to being a playing member sometime soon.

Peter Nuttall has kindly offered to step into the chairman role and has already made a great start at supporting the committee and the Society.

DGS Friends & Family Concert 2025

October 19th saw this year's Friends and Family concert at St Andrew's. With so much going of for DGS during the Spring and Summer– this event was postponed until the end of our 2025 season.

Members did a great job of promoting the event and we enjoyed a good sized audience for our 1 hour concert.

We began the afternoon with a selection of solos and small ensemble items.

Paul Thomas & James O'Neil kicked things off with their performance of Albeniz's Granada. Paul stepped in for Martin Apergis to perform 'Cavatina' with Tom Wood. We then heard Capricho Arabe performed by our newest junior member Henry Clayson. Mark Armitage then took to the stage to perform 2 flute and guitar duets with flautist partner Diana. This part of our concert concluded with Peter Lubbock, Martin Goodhind and Sue Chick performing Capricho Catalan and Flower Duet.

The whole DGS orchestra then took to the stage and performed highlight pieces from our 2025 season.

These included Grant Bocking's Spanish Suite, Peter Lubbock's 'Green' and Debbie Burford's arrangement of ' In a Persian Market'.

We then thanked our enthusiastic audience by serving tea and cake. The event was a good finale to our season. Attention now turns to new repertoire in preparation for whatever opportunities 2026 brings.

Donations totaled **£164.00** which is a welcome boost to our society funds.

South Coast Guitar Friendly 2025

This year it was our turn to host what has now become an annual event with our friends at West Sussex Guitar Club. Our 'Guitar Friendly' this year also included friends at Southampton Guitar Society– a combined ensemble of just under 50 guitarists! The meeting took place on Sunday 21st September 2025.

Sue had expertly researched suitable venues in the area and booked us at St Ives and St Leonard's Village Hall– a great venue that was capable of housing the large ensemble and also gave us parking, extra rooms and easy access from the A31.

Our day began at 11am with the mass ensemble rehearsal of 'Misionera' with our guest conductor– Amanda Cook. Amanda took us through the piece at a steady tempo and helped us to negotiate tricky parts and sections together in order to gain a good understanding of the piece. After our session, we enjoyed a great spread of food and had ample opportunity to chat with members of SCGS and WSGC.

We began the afternoon with a performance of 'Misionera' along with a short set by the 'Mosiac' octet– also directed by Amanda. Mosaic is formed of members of all 3 societies so it seemed fitting that they took this opportunity to perform. Many thanks to James O'Neil and Mark Eden for stepping in and playing the 2 missing parts for Mosaic's performance.

We then said farewell to Amanda as she had other commitments in the afternoon. We continued with performances by SCGS, WSGC and finally DGS to finish the day. We even managed a group photo on the stage before everyone departed.

As usual, DGS members did a fantastic job of providing food and taking on the role of hosts for the day. Although these events are a lot to organise for our very small committee– it really is a great opportunity to strengthen our links with neighbouring societies who, like us, are aiming to promote our special instrument to a wider audience. Many thanks to Sue for taking on much of the organisation for the day along with Pete N for being MC as well as all those that helped prepare food tables and serve tea/coffee. Thanks also to Raymond for setting up and packing away all the chairs and of course for Jim's direction of the DGS orchestra.

Below are emails from WSGC and SCGS

Hi Paul
Thank you so much for a great day on Sunday. Really enjoyed by all of us from West Sussex - fabulous organisation, music, food and company.
Photos are so colourful!
Best wishes
Linda (WSGC)

Thanks for organising Paul, it was a great day and Amanda was an excellent choice to direct the mass ensemble. The food was a very generous touch as well, I even had a glass of wine!
I think everyone enjoyed it and took away plenty of inspiration and satisfaction.
Our turn next year!
Best Wishes,
Tim (Redlynch)

Very many thanks Paul, both on behalf of SCGS and personally. We all had a brilliant day and the feedback was tremendously positive. I'm aware it was a lot of work by very many people so please pass on our thanks to your Society and particularly to those who were involved in organising it. A great day. Hazel (SCGS)

South Coast Guitar Friendly 2025

The combined 3 societies orchestra

Mosaic Ensemble

Dorset Guitar Society

SCGS Soloist Jane performing Prelude no.1 Lobos

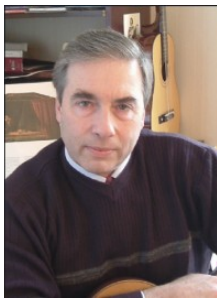
Southampton Classical Guitar Society

West Sussex Guitar Club

Tim & Gilly– SCGC 'Sound of Bells'

Obituary

Alexander (Sasha) Levtov



It is with huge sadness that I report that our 'South Coast Friendly' was the last time that DGS will see Sasha Levtov (the man with the camera) as he passed away very suddenly on October 19th 2025.

Sasha was a huge driving force behind the inception of the West Sussex Guitar Club and the Regis School of Music. He and his wife Nina moved to Bognor from Russia in 1989. They very soon sought to establish a music hub for the community and over the years have turned 46 Sudley Road into the magical place that so many musicians, including myself, have benefited from so greatly. The Regis Recital Hall is home to the West Sussex Guitar Club, which Sasha set up in 1992, and has been the venue of our meetings with the club over the last 11 years. It also hosts 3 festivals per year– the guitar classes of the Chichester Festival, their own Regis School of Music Festival and the West Sussex Guitar Club festival. They are also an exam centre for ABRSM and Trinity exams, as well as being a venue for hire for other musical groups. All of this almost singlehandedly managed by Sasha.
I was lucky enough to meet Sasha when I attended Chichester University in 2000 and started lessons with him. His dedication and enthusiasm for all things classical guitar were clear to see and I was soon signed up for every festival and concert as well as club event in and around Bognor! We became good friends and Sasha has been a constant in my life ever since.
A truly inspirational man who will be impossible to replace.
Rest in peace

Paul

Dorset Guitar Society

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Chairman– Peter Nuttall
Peter.nuttall@hotmail.com
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

Friday 5th December 2025 at 7:00pm

Craig Ogden

Trinity Church, Ringwood

Programme:
Sonatina for Guitar & Madronos -Federico Moreno Torroba
Five Preludes - Heitor Villa-Lobos
Invierno Porteño, Primavera Porteño - Astor Piazzolla
Incantations 3,6 & in G - William Lovelady
Lullaby of Birdland George Shearing (arr W Lovelady)
The Usher Waltz -Nikita Koshkin
Kinkachoo, I love you - Philip Houghton
Les Voix Humaines - Marin Marais
Introduction, Theme & Variations - Sor on a theme from The Magic Flute
More details here

Saturday, November 22nd 2025 at 7:30pm

Irina Kulikova

Recital Hall, Bognor Regis

Widely acclaimed for the rare beauty of her sound and her enchanting presence on stage, Irina Kulikova has established herself as one of today's leading guitarists.

Irina Kulikova presents an evening of sublime music for the guitar including classics by composers Sor, Mangore and Aguado. These are interspersed with works dedicated to her by a range of composers.

More details here