



Newsletter No 7

August 1994

Dear Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for making our first season such a success.

We staged six professional concerts and were able to enjoy the artistry of such prominent guitarists as Charles Ramirez, John Mills, Anthea Gifford and Arne Brattland as well as the guitar duo of Brattland and Adamson and the guitar/flute duo of Chris Daly and Elly Rickelton.

Our twelve club meetings brought together in various combinations every playing member of the club, as well as a number of guests, and this year we are planning to extend our repertoire of musical activities in order to give every member the largest possible opportunity to play, learn and enjoy themselves.

We continue to enjoy the artistic skills of our Chairman, Ian Burt, whose creativity and expertise can be seen in the posters, handbills and programmes which have accompanied nearly all of our meetings. As Chairman, Ian has brought a strong sense of structure and timing to our work - which has made all of the club's events so well organised and at such a minimum expense to the club's funds.

As Treasurer Rob Enticott has also helped us immensely - not just by keeping our finances in perfect order but also by giving valuable advice and practical help in all matters concerning the club.

It is with great regret that we say goodbye to our Secretary Edie Smith who is leaving this post due to increasing family commitments. Thanks to Edie most of our events were well publicised in the local press and mentioned several times in "Guitar International" and "Classical Guitar".

We would also like to thank Colin Smith, who at crucial moments offered us indispensable help with his video camera.

Kit Crowhurst has accumulated a good collection of recordings which are available to club members and has started a sheet music library. Many of our events could not have been imagined without Kit's quiet yet particularly efficient help.

And we could never overstate the splendid touch to the atmosphere of every performance and the aesthetic arrangements of many club evenings that was the work of Jill Royall and Barry Smithen.

Many times Michael Royall stepped in to help at the door and we are very grateful to him.

Naturally we extend our thanks to all our performers, whose contributions to the concerts by both guests and members brought to life so much wonderful music written for the classical guitar.

Nina and myself will continue to help run the club in every way we can and would greatly appreciate every bit of help any of you may be able to offer us.

We are particularly grateful to Sue Enticott for all her constant help throughout the year.

Some of our more special events such as the wonderful evening with Richard Slack, the Regis Guitars' appearance on the "Rox" Festival in Bognor and the Revels Party are recorded on video and will be available with some commentaries from our librarian at the beginning of the next season.

Club Evening and A.G.M. on 17 September

Following popular demand, we should like very much to invite all the members of our club to join in with one of the two guitar ensembles conducted by tutors of the club, which will take place at this club meeting.

Anyone able to read music will have no difficulty finding interesting and enjoyable repertoire to share with the other club members, and as the music will be prepared from 'scratch' we hope that the evening will create a great deal of fun if not a concert performance.

The more serious part of the evening will consist of the A.G.M. where we hope as swiftly as possible to complete elections, adopt a programme for the following season and deal with comments and suggestions about how the club should be improved.

I hope very much that everybody has had an excellent summer and that your interest in guitar music will be met to good effect by our combined efforts this season.

Yours sincerely,

Alexander Levtov

**REPORT FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
of WEST SUSSEX GUITAR CLUB ON THE FIRST SEASON 1993/4**

The main aim of the first season of our Club was to achieve a membership of around sixty. This goal was met with considerable success and the first season ended with club membership of 100 people.

Our promise to invite professional artists of international reputation was fulfilled by four concerts given through the year by such renowned musicians as Charls Ramirez, John Mills, Anthea Gifford and Arne Brattland.

Two concerts in this year's programme were dedicated to a guitar duet and an ensemble of a guitar and flute.

The audiences at all of the professional concerts were such that all the financial obligations were met.

Judging by the comments of the artists the aesthetic arrangements for the concerts were at a high and inspiring level and were much to their liking.

During the intervals our audiences were able to relax in the comfort of the hall and wine and beverages were provided and distributed by the committee.

Our Club meetings were arranged in such a way as to explore the maximum variety of ensembles to encourage performances by members and guests and to bring an element of creativity and fun into the music making.

Altogether we had twelve Club meetings, each one accommodating a concert given by members and guests and concluding with a buffet. We heard around 124 performances given by 40 performers!

We organised two parties during the year where the music making was supported by some spontaneous theatrical effects and even some gastronomical "illustrations".

The visit by the Danish Guitar Orchestra generated an excellent response from our members who provided accommodation and looked after the guests and shared their music with them. It is unfortunate that we are not able to follow up this connection.

On National Music Day - 26 June 1994 - the Clubs members were invited to take part in the One Day Guitar Festival on Bognor Regis seafront.

The evening with gifted Guitar maker Richard Slack was organised to enhance the fusion of technological and artistic elements in creating a musical instrument such as the guitar.

Many of the Club's events are recorded on amateur video and are available to members for viewing during Club evenings and can be borrowed from the Librarian.

A library of audio recordings and sheet music has been started and is also available to Club members.

Reports of all our events are compiled in the Album. This has been done by Jill Royall.

All of the work that goes into organising the Club events is done by the members of the committee and a small number of volunteers.

We are proud to report that at the end of a very busy first year our budget shows a small profit.

We are happy to say that our efforts to provide the musically inclined public with these artistic and cultural facilities have been recognised by the Arun District Council and rewarded with a grant of £350.

These funds will enable us to improve in such areas as audio-visual recording, publicity and a number of ways beneficial to our Club.

Alexander Levtov