



Newsletter No 8 - January 1995

Dear Friends,

A very happy New Year!

Our concert season 1994/95 was given a splendid opening by the Quatuor de Guitares de Versailles. If any of you did not make it to this concert or would like to refresh your memory of their excellent performance, you can now borrow the video recording from our Librarian, Kit Crowhurst.

The second performance of the season was an outstanding musical event by any standards. The bright, sensitive, powerful and always original Fabio Zanon is an artist of a new generation, who will promote the art of the classical guitar into the future - refreshing the treasures of the past and discovering for us new and fertile fields among the plains, rocks and deserts of modern music. Again, thanks to the artist's generosity, we have a video recording of this concert, which was very well attended.

The next professional concert should be of no less significance. Paul Gregory is a very well known English guitarist who, for the second decade, keeps his professional standards of performance at an excellent artistic level. I would like to note that we owe Paul a great deal for helping us to sustain an interest in the classical guitar by giving a few brilliant performances in this area at the time when Chichester Music Festival had only three guitar classes. It is a great privilege that we can now invite the most talented performers to play in such a wonderful hall for our "warm and receptive audience" (I quote one of the professional artists from his letter after one of our concerts). Please do come to Paul Gregory's recital on 21 January.

The club evenings which we are holding this season have shown that the orchestral work, however exciting, could only be done 'from scratch' and mostly for fun. Anything more would require regular rehearsals and constant commitments from its members. Nevertheless, to have a club orchestra would be a very attractive idea, offering our guitarists a most thrilling musical experience. I am currently working on an idea of arranging a suite from Bizet's Carmen for the orchestra, a guitar ensemble and soloists. At the moment the Regis Guitars - an ensemble of nine guitarists which meets weekly at the Old School - could act as the core of the club orchestra if we could attract a few more players. If you are interested, please contact me on 01243 866162.

Our 'Junior Department' is growing! Linda's orchestra contributes constantly to our evenings, and they have come a long way in the last few years, with more and more of the orchestra members coming forward as soloists. The latest achievements among our junior members are: Nathalie Wilson passed her Grade I with Merit, Samuel Wilde passed Grade II after only one year of lessons, and Timothy Smithen passed Grade IV with Honours. Mathew Cocks passed Grade II with Distinction in July and Jack Enticott passed Grade V with Distinction. Congratulations to all of you!

The results of Worthing Music Festival are most encouraging. Sam came first in the Novices under 16 Class, Jack came first in the Open Class, and Timothy came first in the Bach Class. Timothy and Jack continue to work together as a duo, and a very promising one at that! Sam Wilde shows an outstanding musicality and most graceful stage manners. Perhaps we can start a Junior Guitar Orchestra as well?

Congratulations to those adult players who continue to work their way up through the effective approach of taking Grade Examinations. It takes great courage and sometimes more than one attempt, but the achievement is greater and even more rewarding when you are an adult. Jill Douglas has passed her Grade II, Daniel Lambert passed Grade IV with Merit, and Peter Watkin made a very good attempt at Grade III. I wish you good luck in the future.

Chichester Music Festival this year should be a very exciting event indeed. Judge for yourselves. Firstly, the guitar section will be held at The Old School Concert Hall with its excellent acoustics, stage, lighting, and even free coffee to boost the morale of the performers! Secondly, nearly one hundred people will be playing in seventeen classes. Thirdly, the adjudicator this year is Mr Michael Lewin, professor at the Royal Academy of Music (and one of Fabio Zanon's professors while he was doing his Diploma in Performance). In view of the approaching Festival the next club evening on 14 January will give some participants a chance to perform.

The Christmas Party was good fun and was a help to club funds too. Thanks to Michael Royall for organising the Raffle, and to everyone who helped to fill our tables with delicious food and, of course, to our performers! Also thanks to Sue Enticott and Jill Royall for the Christmas decorations.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite all members and friends to the club evening on 14 January, Paul Gregory's recital on 21 January, and please come and support our performers on 19 February at the Chichester Music Festival Guitar Section, which will take place at the Old School Concert Hall.

Yours sincerely,  
Alexander Levtoy.