

Gary Ryan Recital



Our first concert of the new season was given by the Club's Patron, Gary Ryan. Gary is an acclaimed solo performer, composer and teacher of guitar. He has an International career and has played all over the world and so it was wonderful to have him come to Bognor Regis to play for us. He studied both guitar and piano from the age of 8. He studied further at the Guildhall School of Music and later at the Royal Academy of Music where he won many prizes. In 1996 at the age of just 27 years, he was appointed Professor of Guitar at the Royal College of Music where he is now also Assistant Head of Strings. In 2013 he became the first guitarist since John Williams (in 1983) to be awarded a Fellowship of the RCM in recognition of his contribution to the instrument.

The packed audience was treated to a wide range of the very best of guitar music all superbly

played with great feeling. The concert began with the *Suite Populaire Bresilienne* which Villa Lobos composed between 1907 – 1912. Gary explained that this was a fusion of both Brazilian and European music. We then heard *Hello Francis*, a rare composition by John Williams. In 2015 Gary was invited by John Williams to form a new collaborative guitar trio - '6 Hands' – with jazz guitarist John Etheridge. Gary would play after John William's solo spot and John's composition *Hello Francis* was a jolly piece to bridge the gap. The first half of the concert finished with three popular compositions by Gary. *Lough Caragh* (a lake in Kerry, Eire) a very emotional piece with rich guitar tones. *Hot Club Francais* which Manus Noble had commissioned Gary to write in memory of Django Rheinhardt. Gary confided that he had woven part of Villa-Lobos's *Prelude no. 5* into the piece. Finally *Benga Beat* which Gary wrote in 2011 and was based on popular Kenyan music of the 1940s. This featured Gary invisibly humming along.

The eagerly awaited second half began with Bach's *Fugue for Lute BWV 1000*. Gary said that Bach had written this for keyboard and violin as well as for lute and in his arrangement he hybridised some of the sections. There was then a total change as Gary played Dyen's arrangement

New Members

We extend a very warm welcome to
Cordelia Worsley Bognor Regis
Liz Davis Emsworth
Cynthia & Nikita Kalnicenko Bognor Regis

We hope you enjoy many happy
evenings at the Club!

of Jobim's *Felicidade* which we were told means 'Happiness'. The concert finished with a number of compositions by Gary. We heard five folksong arrangements from all over the world which Gary hopes to publish soon. These were followed by *Rossbeigh Strand* and *Shamal*. Gary explained that the latter piece came about after a trip to Saudia Arabia in 2013 when he gave a concert at the British Embassy where he got involved with

indigenous music that was played on an oud. He retuned his guitar to C, G, D, G, C, E which despite not being the tuning used by an oud, does gives an Arabic flavour to the piece. Shamal is a wind that blows in from across the desert.

For his encore piece Gary played another of his wonderful arrangements of a popular song – *Morning Has Broken*. A truly fitting end to a fine concert.
TW



Gary Meets The Two Sues—Sue Mc Quillan and Sue Reeve



Gary Signs His cds



Gary with Sasha



Gary with Baz Boxall

Richard Smith Concert



is at the top of his profession whether he is playing classical, jazz, evergreens or pop. He works out such rich harmonies to accompany his arrangements and will go to any lengths just to find a note or chord he needs – darting up to the 15th fret and back in just a nanosecond in order to achieve the flavour he wants.

We heard classical pieces including *El Relicario*, *Variations on the Magic Flute*, *Barrios's Danza Paraguay* and *Requiem for a Marionette*. There was ragtime with Joplin's *Entertainer*, stride piano with James P Johnson's *Snowy Morning Blues*. We heard some amazing jazz improvisations in *Sweet Georgia Brown* and *Stomping at the Savoy*. There were evergreens like *Georgia on my Mind*, *Tenderly*, *Girlfriend of the Whirling Dervish*, and *Polka Dots and Moonbeams*. Country guitar was fulfilled with pieces by Jerry Reed and the *Streets of Laredo* and *Cherokee Shuffle*. Pop pieces were covered by the Beatles' *Here There and Everywhere*, *Spanish Flea* and *Music to Watch Girls Go By*. Richard even sang a couple of hilarious songs for us – a parody of *Sukiyaki* which involved Richard eating Yuckie Sushi and a faithful reproduction of the *Tennessee Waltz* which he heard originally played on his grandfather's old jumpy wind up 78rpm Edison Victrola. We were introduced to Hawaiian Slack Key tuning whereby with a one finger barre we could play almost any pop music without the need for all this practising! In total we heard 27 pieces played at the highest level of dexterity and musicality. Small wonder then that Richard received a standing ovation at the end. My favourite must be Sousa's *Stars and Stripes Forever* where Richard covered a full marching band of brass and woodwind including a piccolo, but many instruments were somehow played simultaneously.

We had a fun evening, but above all the playing was at a top level and truly unbelievable. Not only was Richard's left foot keeping time throughout the concert, the audience's feet were also tapping along. What an amazing player.

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Our club was very honoured that Globe Trotting super guitarist Richard Smith managed to come and play for us in November. During the past year he has played in five continents – North and South America (including Brazil), Europe, Asia (including China and Japan) and Australia. He began his current One Man Roadshow (the title of his latest cd) tour of England, Scotland and Germany on October 2nd and flew back to Nashville after a concert the following day.

We were pleased to have the mayor of Bognor Regis, Councillor Phil Woodhall and his mother come to the concert. Bognor Town Council is very supportive of our club and they were made very welcome. The audience were treated to an eclectic mix of unmatched guitar playing skills covering all genres of the instrument. Richard has shown that he



Richard with the Mayor of BTC and 'Mum'



With New Members Trevor & Sheila Chambers

West Dean International Guitar Festival

On Saturday 24th August 2019, I along with another 44 students and tutors arrived at West Dean for the 28th International Guitar Festival. The course began with four ensemble groups with around 10 guitarists in each group, each group were led by Gaelle Solal, Boris Gaquere, Fabio Zanon and Manus Noble. I happened to be in Fabio's group where we played two movements of a concerto by Gerald Garcia. This was followed by the orchestra so all the groups joined together to meet in the library and play a couple of pieces written and conducted by Vincent Lindsey- Clark. After dinner we were treated to a concert in St Andrews Church by Fabio Zanon playing Torroba's *Nocturn* and *Sonatina* followed by 6 *Etudes* by Mignone and 10 short pieces from the Americas.

Sunday morning we continued rehearsing with the orchestra and ensembles. In the afternoon Fabio Zanon gave a workshop with Linda Kelsall-Barnett playing an excellent rendition of Barrios's *La Cathedral*. After that Manus Noble performed a piece behind a screen on nine different guitars each guitar made by a different luthier. The guitar makers were then asked if they could pick out which guitar they had made. In the evening Crazy Nails (Gaelle Solal and Boris Gaquere) gave a light-hearted comic performance in various styles with music by Mozart to the Beatles.

On Monday after the orchestra and ensembles you had a choice of whether you went to repertoire classes where you could play a piece in front of a few of the other students and one of the tutors would constructively comment on the piece for up to 20 minutes for each performer. Each student had two private lessons during the course and the option of theory classes too. At lunch there was a student concert where Barry Boxall performed in front of Andrew Gough and a number of the students and the Gala Quartet also played Gershwin's *Summertime*. In the afternoon Liz Lerner gave a short talk and demonstration on finger/hand exercises and warm-

ups to help recovery or to prevent an injury to the hands, shoulder and back. This was interrupted by the fire alarm so we gathered on the front lawn of West Dean and Liz continued to show us some of the exercises and Fabio and a few of the other students joined in. In the evening we were treated to a concert by Raphaella Smits in which the highlight was her performance of the Bach *Chaconne*.

On Tuesday and Wednesday we continued with the ensembles, orchestra and repertoire classes. On Tuesday evening Mark Eden and Chris Stell gave a memorable performance of Castelnuovo-Tedesco and Mompou and also a world debut of Laura Snowden's *Damn Everything but the Circus* written for the Eden Stell duo. At the interval they gave out the results of the raffle, the funds of which aid some of the younger performers to attend the course at West Dean. This year the lucky winner won a £4500 guitar kindly donated by the maker Stephen Eden. Who knows? Next year it could be you.

Wednesday evening was the student concert, the warm-up act was an ensemble by all of the tutors. In the concert we heard a very good solo by Leigh Boyle of the club, the Gala Quartet played Debbie's arrangement of Albert Ketelbey's *Bells Across The Meadow* and Linda played beautifully on her Torres guitar. To conclude the evening Pam Fereday and David Clarke gave an entertaining performance on guitar and ukulele of Bach's lesser known works for ukulele, Bach's *Variations called Honky Tonk*.

On Thursday we gave a final performance of the orchestra and ensemble pieces.

If you have not attended the course before then I would suggest that you give it a try.

If you attend some of the club evenings you might hear the sound of a very nice guitar that one of our club members acquired while on the course. Next year you might win one so sign up at West Dean for the course on 22nd to 27th August 2020.

John Mason



The Eden Stell Duo



Raphaella Smits

West Dean International Guitar Festival or “What I did in the Summer Holidays”

I first read about the annual international guitar festival at West Dean on the West Sussex Guitar Club website. It sounded fun, so I signed up, even though it seemed a bit like entering Bake Off when I could only cook flapjacks and open a tin of custard.

My confidence almost completely left me when I went to the welcome meeting on the first afternoon, to be surrounded by 45 participants. We were told about the action-packed timetable of orchestra, ensemble, repertoire classes and formal and informal student concerts together with some thankfully less stressful sounding activities such as Alexander technique lessons, and recitals. Altogether there were 9 people from the West Sussex Guitar Club, so we made up 20% of the people there. Already I was among a supportive group, which was reassuring, but there seemed no doubt that I was going to spend six days pretty much glued to my guitar.

My ensemble group was with people of my standard or thereabouts. Initially we struggled a lot with the two pieces we would be playing at the concert on the last day. Our ensemble group leader Liz Lerner was just brilliant at helping us and getting us to bring it together, making changes along the way to suit the strengths of individuals right up until the day before we were to perform.

Joining in the orchestra was optional, but because it was to be conducted by Vincent Lindsey-Clark playing pieces he had written, I really wanted to give it a try. I had chosen one of his pieces to study for my recent Grade 3 exam and I had also heard him play at a Club meeting, so it seemed to be an opportunity not to be missed. In truth I was a little star struck! The orchestra parts were emailed out to us about a month before the festival and I spent a lot of time learning them with the help of my guitar teacher.

I think it is fair to say that the orchestra, with its 11 parts, struggled at first with getting near what was

required. Vincent Lindsey-Clark had placed those playing the easiest parts (including me of course!) right at the front to make sure we were “not hiding at the back”, which added to the pressure. Luckily those of us playing the easiest parts managed to support each other from the start, and Vincent came to check on us at the end of the first rehearsal to make sure we were happy.

To my delight and also my horror, I was timetabled to have a 30 minute one-to-one lesson with Vincent near the end of the festival. I also joined one of his repertoire classes and played him his own piece for him to critique. He seemed genuinely grateful that I had purchased and studied his “Simply Spanish” book, and at one point amended his own score to add a musical rest in order to make it easier for me to play. I will never rub out his pencil marks! He also gave me a sheet of exercises to do to improve strength and flexibility. Above all he was incredibly patient and inspiring as well as brilliant.

The funniest parts of the week were from “Crazy Nails” and “The Aldwick Duo”. Never miss an opportunity to see either of these duos, who both combine fine playing with great humour. Of course, it goes without saying that you should never miss a performance by the Gala Quartet or Linda Kelsall-Barnett either, who all played at the student concert, with Linda also performing in a masterclass with Fabio Zanon. There were many seriously good performers.

All concerts at the end generated very loud applause for all performers, even where for some of us the effort deserved more than the achievement. Everyone really understands that it is scary to get up and perform and they made sure they showed their appreciation very enthusiastically. I did everything: a solo, the ensemble pieces and the orchestra pieces, and came home exhausted but inspired, with the applause still ringing in my ears. *Leigh Boyle*



Linda Plays to Fabio



Crazy Nails Share a Guitar

The West Sussex Guitar Festival 2019

WSGC Festival Junior Class Winners 2nd November 2019		1st
1	<i>Initial Class age 9 & under</i>	Non-competitive
2	<i>Initial Class age 10 - 12</i>	Non-competitive
4	<i>Solo Age 12 & under, grade II & under</i>	Aaron Butters
5	<i>Solo Age 12 & under</i>	Llachlan Grimwood
6	<i>Solo I, 15 & under Grade V & under</i>	Hazel Swain
7	<i>Solo II 15 & under 15</i>	Dennison Grimwood
8	<i>Technical Perfection age 12 & under</i>	James Connolly
9	<i>Technical perfection over 13</i>	Evelina Kisliak
11	<i>Bach Class II Age 18 & under</i>	Evelina Kisliak
12	<i>Intermediate Open Class 15 & under</i>	Peter Wall
14	<i>Junior recital I Age 13 & under</i>	Ben Ward
15	<i>Junior Recital II Age 18 & under</i>	Bethany Cooper
28	<i>Family Ensemble</i>	The Vonk Duo
30	<i>Composers Special Class</i>	Kit Dunning

WSGC Festival Adult Class Winners 3rd November 2019		1st
51	<i>Solo Intermediate I</i>	Leigh Boyle
52	<i>Solo Intermediate II</i>	David Clarke
53	<i>Renaissance Class</i>	Barry Boxall
54	<i>Bach Class</i>	Laurence Pettit
55	<i>Music From Around the World</i>	Stephen Frith
56	<i>Advanced Class</i>	Conor Miles
57	<i>Plucked Instrument other than guitar</i>	Julie Insull
59	<i>Guitar Trio or Quartet</i>	The Tatum Trio
60	<i>Guitar Ensemble</i>	Guitar Harmony
60a	<i>Guitar Orchestra</i>	WSGC Orchestra
61a	<i>Ukulele Ensemble</i>	Regis Ukes
63	<i>Recital Class</i>	Linda Kelsall-Barnett
64	<i>Arrangement Class</i>	Debbie Burford
C2	<i>Composition Class</i>	Richard Prior

This was the 20th West Sussex Guitar Festival. Entries were up on last year with 48 entries in 14 classes with the under 18s and the adults had 25 entries in 14 classes. We were very honoured to have Gary Ryan as adjudicator for the two days of the Festival. As one of the world's leading exponents of the guitar he is an acclaimed performer, composer and teacher. He has recently performed all over the world - in Australia, China, Denmark, Germany, India, New Zealand, Malaysia, Portugal, Spain and Sweden. He is Professor of Guitar at the Royal College of Music where he is also Assistant Head of Strings. Gary is patron of our

club and we were very privileged that he should come to Bognor to adjudicate for us.

Gary was very encouraging to all who entered and offered advice which would help everyone from beginners through to advanced players. He explained that performing in front of an audience was totally different to playing at home. More is learnt in one performance than in ten lessons! Under pressure it is possible to lose your way, but there are things that can be done to help recover the situation. When practising, he advised starting the piece from different points – maybe even starting from each bar. This will help prevent memory lapses, but

should they occur, recovery should be easier by starting from a nearby bar which has previously been rehearsed. When there are incorrect notes, Gary advised against drawing attention to them by pulling 'funny' faces or laughing.

When playing, move the fingers of the right hand rather than the whole wrist which is both inefficient and can lead to undesirable 'twangs' as the strings bounce off the frets. Gary also advised looking at the right hand when playing. A guitarist has to look somewhere when playing and usually chooses to look at the left hand. The right hand is just as important but is often neglected.

It can sometimes be efficient to use the 4th finger of the left hand, but because it is weak, it is often neglected necessitating a change in position. Remember your little finger is small and needs exercise to strengthen it! Always keep the fingers of the left hand low over the fingerboard. Be like that aquatic insect the 'pond skater' which just skims over the surface of the water. Beware of playing too many 'spread chords'. In moderation they can be very effective, but if over-used they can become tedious. Similarly Gary advised that too much vibrato can give the music an 'Hawaiian' flavour.

He explained that just as a picture in an art gallery has a frame around it, so a piece of music should be framed by silence at both the beginning and end. During the silence at the beginning, get comfortable and think about the first few bars you are going to play.

Gary advised always to think of the character of the piece. Do not get bogged down too much in the technicalities of what you are playing. This is particularly so with Latin-American pieces which should sound relaxed and laid back regardless of the technical complications.

Ensemble playing without a conductor can give rise to timing difficulties since everyone has a slightly different internal clock. Gary tried to demonstrate this with the audience clapping on every fourth beat then on every second beat and finally on every eighth beat. Things went reasonably well counting every fourth and second beat, but did go awry when counting in eights. This demonstrated the difference in our individual internal metronomes. This can be helped if ensembles practised with a metronome.

Warm up exercises before playing can help and Gary recommended stretching fingers on the left hand out of position by an extra fret. In particular, when playing Bach, Gary suggested singing along. This will help establish the phrasing and help identify where there may be a 'conversation' in the music. He suggested that it can typically take two years of study before a student understands a piece of Bach.

It is important to pick the right tempo for a piece and maintain the pulse throughout – try not to slow down when the going gets difficult. Beware of starting a piece too slowly. Just as a kite requires a minimum wind speed to get airborne, so a piece of music requires a minimum tempo to give it some 'lift'.

Throughout the Festival, Gary's compositions were played by both juniors and adults. In fact it was good to see that there were seven junior entries for the Composers Special Class where pieces written by the adjudicator are performed. *The Junior Class 12 Intermediate open class age 15 and under* had four entries who were all playing for the first time at our club. There was a new class 61a for Ukulele Ensemble which was a class in memory of Sally Paice, a very early member of the club who sadly died this year. Julie Insull commissioned a lovely wooden Sally Paice Trophy for this new class. Sally had formed a number of local ukulele groups. The guitar's little cousin added an enjoyable dimension to the day.

It was good to see some infrequent long-standing members at the Festival. Richard Prior, our website manager who moved to Devon some time ago had entered a few classes and Sam Brown who now lives in Bath brought a pupil along.

There is no doubt that with each successive Festival, the standard of all performances gets better. Well done everyone. It was nice to see after an absence for a few years there were two fine entries in the Composition Class. The Arranger's Class also had two interesting entries. The New Gala Quartet played Debbie's amusing arrangement of *The Music Lesson* by Charles Williams (1955). Debbie dedicated her arrangement to Sasha and Nina to celebrate 25 years of the Regis School of Music. Conor Miles had arranged *Golden Brown* (recorded by the Stranglers in 1981) which featured Yvonne Scott on harmonica together with Jay Huff and Conor on guitar. The harmonica added a different texture to the sound. Thus a whole range of music was covered at the Festival from the Renaissance, Bach, ukulele music, The Stranglers, through to modern composers like Gary Ryan and also our very own club members, Richard Prior and John White.

As always, the Festival was a most enjoyable and informative weekend and thanks to everyone who made it happen – Gary, our very encouraging adjudicator, the multitasking Sasha, Nina, the contestants, their teachers and the helpers for the weekend - Debbie Burford, David Clarke and Terry Woodgate. As always, please get your trophies engraved and returned early for the 2020 Festival so as to avoid any last-minute panics on the day.



Gary is lost in a Forest of Initial Class Guitars



Family Ensemble Winners The Vonk Duo



The Special Composer's Class Played Gary's Music



Solo Age 15 & Under Class



Bethany Cooper Winner of Junior Recital Class

WSGF Juniors 2nd Nov 2019



Gary with the Guitar Harmony Ensemble



New Class: Ukulele Ensemble—Regis Ukes



Sally Paice Trophy



Sasha accompanies Julie Insull



Composer Class: Richard Prior & John White



Intermediate Class: Leigh Boyle & Harri Goldsmith



Stephen Frith & Peter Russell

WSGF Seniors 3rd Nov 2019



Your Club Needs YOU

Reading the newsletter makes me very proud of what the Club has achieved over the years. In nurturing and encouraging so many fine young (we can hardly call them that now!) players, both amateur and professional, the Club has made an outstanding and long lasting contribution to the musical life, not only of West Sussex, but places far beyond as our young professionals develop their performing and

teaching careers. Everyone in the Club will know just how much we owe to Sasha's indefatigable energy and imagination, so ably and lovingly supported by Nina. Perhaps not so many will realise just how much of the Club's success is due to the contribution made by each of the committee members and club officers, without which the Club would struggle to function and Sasha's creative energy would be sapped by endless admin.

To all members of the Club I would say, "You have a priceless jewel in your possession – without your care it could slip through your fingers"! If you have benefitted from being a member, either as a player, or simply from being able to hear the world's finest players on stage at the Recital Hall, please consider offering a year or two's service on the committee or in another capacity in appreciation of what you have received. You will be contributing to the ongoing success of a truly remarkable institution! What's more, I promise you will gain immense personal satisfaction from seeing the fruits of your labour in the smiles and enthusiasm of the young players who will be part of the next generation of players, both amateur and professional.

With best wishes to you all

Richard Prior

Club Night Performers

Our Club Evenings have always been popular events in our club's calendar and lately we have seen even more of our members coming along to them. There are several opportunities for all ages to perform: the All-Join In Orchestra, the rotating ukulele (which chooses random duet partners - see p16) and, of course, the chance for soloists and ensembles to perform a piece on the stage in front of a friendly and supportive audience.

Recently, there have been more members wanting to perform, which greatly adds to the enjoyment of the evening and we are fortunate in having several families taking part. The youngsters need to play before the interval so that they can leave at a reasonable hour. The adults perform after the interval. However, some of our adult members, performers and audience, have said they also need

to leave for home before everyone has had the chance to play. This means some performers don't get to play, and some in the audience don't see all the performers.

We're going to try a fairer system for future Club Evenings. We'll ask those adults that wish to perform to write their name on a list as they arrive at the Club. The children will play before the interval as usual. After the interval the adult performers' names will be drawn out of a box during the course of the rest of the evening, giving everyone an equal chance of performing. This would seem to be the simplest and fairest system without the need for anyone to choose a running order.

We're going to try this at the next couple of Club Evenings to see how it works out.

David Clarke

Concert in aid of Save the Children

Every year the younger pupils at the Regis School of Music perform at a charity concert in aid of Save the Children. I was surprised to learn that this year marked the Centenary of the founding of the charity which was formed in 1919. The concerts are always very popular and of a high standard. A whole range of instruments are played including piano, cello, trombone, cornet and other brass and of course the guitar. Well done guitarists Robbie Cartwright who played a *March* by Mertz,

Evelina Kisliak who played *Evening in Venice* and Laurence Pettit who played a Villa-Lobos *Mazurka* and a Lauro *Waltz*.

Thanks to all the performers who participated, their parents and their teachers. All should feel very proud at having contributed towards such a worthy cause. Above all, thanks to Sasha and Nina for making it all happen. In total an amazing £425.76 was collected for Save the Children.

TW

Editor's Piece

As usual, the start of our new season has been extremely busy. We have had two wonderful concerts from Gary Ryan and Richard Smith, and we have had our club festival. The festival was better supported than last year when both junior classes were held on the same day. This year the junior and senior classes were held on separate days. The standard of playing was very high and we thank adjudicator Gary Ryan for his invaluable comments and suggestions.

Many thanks to Leigh Boyle, John Mason, Debbie Burford, David Clarke, Richard Prior and Julian Bobak for their interesting contributions to

this newsletter.

The diary for the rest of the season is given on p16 where as you can see we will be very busy. Do not miss our forthcoming concerts given by Vincent Lindsey-Clark, Amanda Cook and Fabio Zanon.

The committee, which is currently just four members, is quite insufficient to run a busy club such as ours. Please consider joining the friendly committee and helping out. In particular we need a librarian and no new acquisitions will be obtained until there is a librarian.

WSGC Library

Dear Members,

Please make use of the newly renovated Club Library at the Recital Hall, Sudley Road, Bognor Regis. There is a great selection of guitar music scores, now labelled under categories such as South American, Spanish, Ancient, Collections, Music for more than one guitar, Music for guitar and other instruments etc. Also, there is a large selection of DVDs and CDs including Linda Kelsall-Barnett's new CD 'La Paloma' of music of the 19th century.



The Library now has the complete set of THE 2020 - 2023 TRINITY GRADE exam books for guitar, from Initial to Grade 8.

Please do visit the Library to see the great breadth of music available. It is probably the largest collection of classical guitar music in the country. All you need to do is to write in the book provided there, what you are taking out, and return it within 3 weeks by putting it in the red box on the table.

Julian Bobak, Acting Club Librarian

Report on AGM/Club Evening 28th Sept 2019

It was lovely to welcome new families to the club evening which began with Sasha's all-join-in orchestra sight-reading two contrasting pieces. There was laughter as a game of "Guitar Roulette" (using Sasha's special rotating guitar) picked an impromptu duet for the second half. Following a delicious buffet, our youngest members – Lucy and Sofia Carson, Robbie Cartwright and Evelina Kisliak – entertained us with delightful pieces, all played without nerves or trepidation.

At 9 o'clock a short AGM was held. Chairman Julian Bobak thanked the small hard-working committee of four and reported another successful year for the club as we begin our 27th season. A total of 22 members attended the meeting. Julian agreed to continue in the roles of Chairman and Charity Officer, David Clarke as Treasurer, Debbie Burford as Secretary and Sasha Levtov as Artistic Director. There was welcome news about the post of Membership Secretary - Baz Boxall kindly agreed to take on this role once more. Julian thanked David and Sasha for carrying out membership duties for the past year.

Julian also wished to thank Terry and Moyria Woodgate for producing our splendid newsletters and looking after the archive of photographs, Julie Insull for promoting our events on facebook, Jez Rogers (in New Zealand) currently redesigning our website and Richard Prior (in Devon) for managing the website.

However, the posts of Publicity Officer*, Librarian and Hospitality Officer remain vacant. If you are reading this and think you could help with any of these posts then do please speak to one of our committee.

After the meeting it was the turn of the adults to take to the stage – Steve Hines joked that the children had already played his usual repertoire much better than he could. Ian Moorey and Evelina Kisliak performed a charming Schumann duet – they had been picked earlier by the rotating guitar and had practised so diligently that they nearly missed the buffet! David Clarke and Baz Boxall played their solos very successfully, Robin Burgess impressed with a complete Bach suite and Linda Kelsall-Barnett rounded off the evening with two delightful solos. The raffle was drawn and what luck that young Robbie picked out his own ticket and won a copy of Linda's brand new CD which he was keen to ask her to sign for him. What a lovely relaxing evening and how wonderful that all the youngsters stayed on after the buffet to watch the adults playing their pieces and even sat attentively through the AGM.

** There has been some more good news for the club in the week following the AGM - Teresa Henley kindly volunteered to be our new Publicity Officer. We would like to thank her and also Baz Boxall for becoming our new Membership Secretary.*

Debbie Burford

WSGC Christmas Party

A goodly number of members braved the winter elements to come along to yet another most enjoyable Christmas party. The hall was wonderfully decorated with a Christmas tree that reached to the ceiling, sheets of white snow and giant snowflakes raining down on us all. Lots of friendly chat, a mountain of food and some excellent music – what more could anyone want?

We had a varied selection of music with many festive pieces. Guitar solos were played by, Linda Kelsall-Barnett, Robin Burgess, Conor Miles, Jay Huff, Baz Boxall and David Clarke. Guitar duos were represented by the John Mason/Debbie Burford Duo (two of the longest-standing club members), Evelina Kisliak who was accompanied by Sasha and had memorised her piece in just a fortnight and the Jay Huff/ Yvonne Scott Duo. We heard from the Tatum Trio (Yvonne Scott, Conor

Miles, Jay Huff). Guitar Ensembles were represented by Robin Burgess with Guitar Harmony and Linda with the WSGC Orchestra. However, we were not treated to just guitar music. Julie Insull played her ukulele, accompanied by Sasha who also accompanied John White on harmonica with a rendition of Elgar's *Salut d'Amour*. Debbie played *Christmas Time Is Here* on the piano – a piece which was rich in lovely harmonies. Judith Ratledge read a witty festive Pam Ayres poem to us all.

The evening ended with everyone singing carols on stage ably accompanied by Debbie on piano. In case anyone was in any doubt, by the end of the evening, we all knew Christmas was just around the corner.

An event like this does not just happen and a lot of thanks must go to Sasha and Nina who prepared the hall and lots of the food. Thanks also

to other helpers who decorated the hall and to those who kept us entertained with their music. The party went on until after 11:00pm and we must also thank those who remained behind to help clear up and prepare the hall for the two children's end-of-term

concerts the following day. Special thanks must go to Robin Burford who washed up countless glasses and plates afterwards. That was some marathon task to undertake!

TW



The WSGC Orchestra



The Groaning Table of Food



The Floor to Ceiling Tree



Our Compere was JS Bach



John Mason & Debbie Burford



Linda Kelsall-Barnett



Sasha Accompanies Julie Insull's Uke



Sasha Accompanies John White's Harmonica



A Table of Party Revellers



Another Table of Revellers



David Cannot Wait to Unwrap his Present



The Tatum Trio



A Choir to Rival Kings College



John Mason & Emilia Vonk



Diana Green & Tjeed Vonk



Zoe Barnett & Leigh Boyle



Evelina Kisliak & James Connolly

Club Evening Random Duets

Dates for your Diary

Jan	18th	Club Evening		Mar	14th	Amanda Cook Recital
Jan	26th	Sunday Vincent Lindsey-Clark Recital		May	3rd	Sunday at 11:00am visit from DGS
Feb	1st	Chi Festival Juniors adj Amanda Cook		June	6th	Fabio Zanon Recital tbc
Feb	2nd	Chi Fest Seniors adj Vincent Lindsey-Clark		June	13th	Club Evening
Feb	29th	Club Evening		June	26th	Fri WSGC Concert at St. Georges Chi
				July	11th	Summer Party A Life on the Ocean Wave

Unless stated otherwise, concerts usually take place on Saturdays at 7.30pm in the Regis School of Music, 46 Sudley Road, Bognor Regis PO21 1ER.
 For details phone 01243 866462. To reserve concert tickets phone **01243 696762** or visit the **Ticket Hotline** at www.westsussexguitar.org

Please send contributions for the next edition of *Good Vibrations* by **15th March** to Terry Woodgate, 3, East Ave., Middleton on Sea, West Sussex PO22 6EG tel: 01243 583355 or e-mail to: terry_woodgate@btinternet.com

The West Sussex Guitar Club is grateful for the continued support of:

