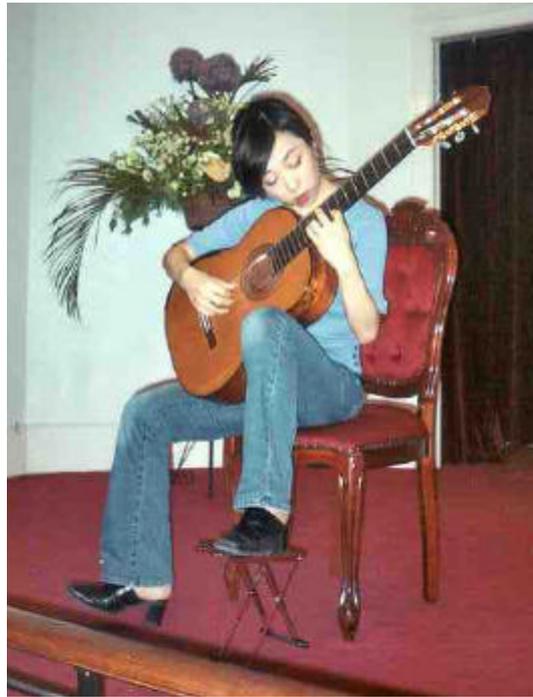


Xuefei Yang Concert

Xuefei Yang is one of the new generation of charismatic classical guitarists. She began playing at the age of 7 years. She made her first public appearance at the age of 10. The composer Rodrigo attended her debut concert in Madrid when she was only 14. During her short career, she has achieved many firsts – the first Chinese guitarist to graduate at the Beijing Conservatory of Music with a BA degree in guitar and the first Chinese guitarist to study in the UK. She has been awarded many guitars for prestigious playing, the most recent being John



Xuefei Practicing on the Club Stage

Williams own Greg Smallman guitar which she was playing at the concert.

With such accolades, it was no surprise that the concert hall was packed to capacity for the final professional

concert of the season. The concert began with two sonatas by Domenico Scarlatti – still very much firm favourites with the audience but not heard so much these days in concerts. We were treated to two pieces especially written for Xuefei by Stephen Goss (*Raise the Red Dragon*) and Carlo Domeniconi (*I Ching*). Both pieces had a distinctive Oriental feel to them and make a refreshing change to the guitar repertoire. Xuefei showed her versatility on the instrument by playing the *Baden Jazz Suite* by Jiri Jirmal. This was a tribute to the South American guitarist Baden Powell. I have long owned Tarrega's transcription of *The Carnival of Venice*, but never heard it before. Xuefei gave a truly virtuoso performance of this piece, but it made me realise that it is way beyond my capabilities, so that piece will continue to languish in the box labelled 'Pieces to Play' (which is a considerably larger box than the one labelled 'Pieces I can Play'). The concert finished with a superb rendition of Tarrega's *Recuados del Alhambra* – never played before with such feeling.

New

Members

We extend a very warm welcome to the following new members:

Jeremy & Dianne
Rogers Bognor Regis

Louise Carvalho
Littlehampton

Pam Buchanan
Felpham

Barbara Jones
Felpham

**We hope you enjoy
many happy evenings
at the Club!**

Sailing Well

Ian Barnett, after sponsoring the Club through his business Takbro, has been turning his hand to his sailing expertise. After warming up with a win at Hayling Island two weeks ago, he went to East Lothian in Scotland last week and managed a very creditable

seventh in a fleet of 81. This was despite some very windy weather which stopped all sailing for two days. The sailing was spent in the shadow of Bass rock with it's gannetry and puffins. He did not see the gannets but managed to catch sight of a few puffins.



Ross Godon



Mathew Farrant



Linda and Mathew



Lydia



Mitch and John



Mitch

Bandstand Performers 17th July 2005

The Pirates of Bognor Regis

Yo ho ho and a bottle of Britvic. The Regis School of music turned into a dive of murderous cut-throat pirates with cutlasses and pistols on the night of the summer party. Any Bognor rowdies did well to keep clear of the area that night. I was at least thankful for the presence of some stately sea captains whose authority stopped the knaves from becoming too boisterous. Many of us had too much grog that night and thought we saw mermaids, but that is what happens when you are at sea for a long time.

We spliced the mainbrace early on and there was so much victuals that night that the tables groaned under the weight. There were plenty of doubloons on the ship's tables and some hardy pirates actually ate them. A sea captain kept asking us questions and depending on our answers a pirate named Scurvy Sid then redistributed the wealth of these doubloons among the ships tables.

No one was actually made to walk the plank that night, but a number of press gangs got people to play on the stage. The Gala trio performed *Skye Boat Song*, *El Noye del la Mare* (where Mare means mother and not sea, but we were assured

it was played in the key of Sea)). They finished with the *Theme from Jaws* and I could swear I saw the fin of a great white shark carve its way across the floor. That sight shivered many a mariners timbers. Kit & Diana played a Venetian barcarole. We then had the full compliment of the Burford family playing guitar, piano, recorder, banjolele playing *Barnacle Bill* (The Blue Peter theme) and *I do like to be beside the seaside* which was very appropriate considering the venue. Debbie and Robin's son Crusoe then played *Albatross* which I believe once belonged to some Ancient Mariner. We had performances and actions from Linda and a mermaid named Tamzin. Long John Silver's red macaw even flew in on the proceedings to listen to Captain Pugwash's theme (*Trumpet Hornpipe*) and *La Mer* which kept changing to a higher and higher key so only dogs and bats could hear what was going on. June sang and Sally played the Skye Boat Song.

The evening finished with everyone singing some stirring sea shanties. I think many of us had hangovers the next day with all that we had seen that night – mermaids, sharks, albatrosses and parrots. What a night to remember.

Strike Up The Band

Bognor Regis has long been renowned for its beach, pier and excess of sunshine. However, on one of the hottest days in July, holiday makers and residents alike were shown another attribute of the seaside resort that is not widely known. That secret is that Bognor Regis has a very active guitar club which in fact is the biggest in the country. This fact was broadcast by way of the first public concerts given by the WSGC and the event and photographs appeared in the Bognor Observer and the Bognor Guardian.

The performances were at the Bandstand on Bognor sea front – watched by some 50 people - followed by a hurried exodus to Hotham Park Bandstand where a second concert was given before an audience of some 100 people. Both concerts were an outstanding success. Well done to everyone involved both the players who gave outstanding performances despite the heat and to Sasha and Richard Prior who both proved to be master Masters of Ceremonies. We must not forget thanks also to Steve Haines who was the roadie transporting innumerable guitars, video equipment and banners in his van. Thanks also to Andrei Zuevsky who helped set up both stages and recorded the event for posterity on video. Andrei is always a great help behind the scenes at our many events. Finally thanks also to Town Force who set up the amplification at both bandstands.

It is no mean feat to perform to a general public who are not guitar aficionados, especially under amplified conditions where the presence of a close-in microphone can be off-

putting and induce feelings that every tiny mistake is amplified a thousand times for all to hear. In fact the players were all very professional. The pieces were all very popular guitar works that the general public could instantly like. The turn round of performers was very slick with no long pauses while instruments were tuned. There were performances from Ross Godon, Mathew Farrant, Paul Thomas, Linda and Tamzin Kelsall-Barnett, Lydia Hepburn, Sally Paice and Frances Jones, Mitch Callow and John Mason. There were solo performances, duets, guitar with recorder and songs accompanied by guitar which all made for a varied concert. The amplification equipment truly brought out the rich acoustic timbre of the guitar.

It was interesting watching the public walking past the bandstands. They all stopped and listened and applauded. Some remained for the whole concert. One family said to me that it was not at all what they had expected – they thought a guitar orchestra was going to play - but it was such wonderful music that they stopped for the whole concert. Indeed, is there a better way to spend a sunny Sunday afternoon – on the sea front before the beautiful blue sea and then in the shade of the cool trees among the green splendour of Hotham Park listening to some of the finest of classical guitar music. Well done to everyone involved. You are all a great credit to the club. Thanks also to Bognor Regis Council for sponsoring the event which helped the club finances.

Selsey Festival: Support Your Local Club

West Sussex Guitar Club members are taking part in this years Selsey Festival, providing a full evenings entertainment at Selsey Town Hall on Friday 26 August at 7.30pm. Tickets £5 (Children £1) are

available from the box office (01243 604488) or on the door. All proceeds will go to the Club so please come along and make it a full house.

Jonathan.

Club Evening with Mitch and John

Mitch Callow & John Mason were in the hot seat for this event. We played 2 Orchestral pieces. For the 1st time, even I could read all the notes. It must be difficult for a conductor to strike a balance between not boring those competent sight readers & leaving the struggling poor sight readers behind. I suppose that good readers can always challenge themselves by playing at some high position in the wild and woolly injun territory beyond the 5th position.

After a break, there were some individual performances from members. Mitch played some

pieces on the Baroque guitar – predecessor of Modern Classical instrument. Mitch's guitar had only 5 strings with the 4th & 5th strings tuned an octave higher than usual. Strings 1 -3 were tuned as normal, thus the G on the 3rd string was the lowest note on the baroque guitar. The original instrument would have had pairs of these 5 strings. Mitch demonstrated Gaspar Sanz's *Canarios* played on both instruments. The baroque instrument gave a totally different flavour to the tune.

Looking Ahead

Next season has the potential of being so good that we feel we have to share the news with you now.

Graham Devine starts our concert season on 1 October making a most welcome return, only recently I overheard someone describe him as having mastered the art of playing quietly. Those of you who saw him on his last visit will be keen to repeat the wonderful experience. This November the Katona Twins about whom I have heard nothing but praise will give the Festival show case concert. Bringing in the new year is Brazilian born guitarist Marcos Diaz, now living in Spain. *Appassionata* (a trio consisting of Amanda Cook, Hayley Savage and Rebecca Baulch) are set to wow us in March closely followed by Czech guitarist Pavel Steidl who will also be running a workshop for members. If you talk to anyone who attended West Dean last year you will understand why we expect Pavel's concert to be sold out way in advance. Our final two concerts feature firm favourites with Club members; John Mills who I hope we can

persuade to play John Duarte's English Suite and Tomas Jimenez who concludes our concert season by bringing Flamenco back to our stage.

In addition to the professional recitals we will be repeating the Children's Concert by local guitar teachers, so successful last year, and we are currently discussing another joint concert with hago.

Despite fundraising and sponsorship the Club has found finances a problem and so, regrettably, we have decided to raise the price of concert tickets to £6 for members and £10 for non-members. It is seven years since members' prices were last raised. Annual membership subscriptions remain unaltered although we will be introducing an Associate Membership (£5) which will provide all the benefits of a full membership but without any entitlement to discount on admission.

Looking forward to seeing you all in the new season.

Jonathon (Treasurer)

Bruce Pain in Concert with hago

On 7 July last I was fortunate to be present at a concert that encompassed all that music making should be about. Firstly the venue, St Agathas Church, Portsmouth, a plain brick exterior but internally visually astounding and acoustically magnificent.

Next, the performers, New Zealand's Bruce Paine a very expressive and sensitive guitarist on his second tour of the UK and hago (Hampshire Area Guitar Orchestra) who are good friends of our club. For this concert Derek Hasted gave up the conductors baton and faced the audience with

guitar in hand; however his patter still included the usual playground jokes and puns.

And so to the music. Bruce commenced the proceedings with a varied and challenging programme including works by Derek Hasted, Torroba, Tarrega and several pieces from or inspired by his homeland. His rendition of Stepan Rak's *Remembering Prague* was truly memorable. hago prove that serious music making is not only entertaining but can be great

fun. Their repertoire is not only popular and accessible but is performed with great professionalism by an obviously well-rehearsed and highly competent orchestra. Bruce Paine then joined hago on stage for a finale which was dedicated to all those caught up in the bombings that had taken place earlier that day in London. The piece, *Schindlers List* by John Williams, was exquisitely played to a hushed audience.

Jonathan Parrott

Simpatico Flamenco Presents 'Café Cantanta

The Regis School of Music welcomes Simpatico Flamenco to its stage on Saturday 27 August at 8pm. (Doors open 7:30pm). Tickets £10, concessions £8.50.

Cafe Cantante is an authentic re-creation of a Flamenco performance from the legendary golden age of the quintessentially Andalucian music and dance in the early 20th century. A near two hour spectacular by a small cast of internationally acclaimed Flamencos, 14 scenes in 2 acts with numerous scene and costume changes, subtle lighting and an artist painted backdrop. A perfect evocation of the Café Cantante Flamenco music halls in southern Spain in the early 1900s.

Simpatico Flamenco consist of dancer Josue Vivancos from a legendary Barcelona Flamenco family, recent winner of the top male dancer award in Madrid, dancer Helena who has performed on stages all around Europe, many times on TV and was appointed resident Flamenco teacher at Sadlers Wells during the prestigious

London Flamenco Festival, the UK's major annual Flamenco event. Joining these two great dancers are cante jondo - deep song - singer Manuel de Cadiz, an Andaluz singer of enormous voice and a stunning young guitarist, Xavi, from Sevilla, the very heart of Flamenco, a very traditional player steeped in Flamenco rhythms from an early age. Simpatico Flamenco delve deep into the very essence, the heart and soul of Spain to expose Flamenco's essential themes, the fire in the eyes and the passion in the soul, the richest Flamenco with fabulous staging, vintage costumes, dazzling dancers and fiery guitars.

There will also be Flamenco Dance and Guitar workshops during the afternoon, ask for details including ticket discounts for participants!!!

Tickets at door or for advanced tickets/information call 01903 204321 or 07968 515401 or email duendeflamenco@aol.co.uk.
Website: www.duendeflamenco.co.uk.

John W Duarte (1919-2004) A Celebration Concert

On 12 June 2005 a group of musicians gathered together at St Michaels Church, Highgate to pay their respects and celebrate the life of British born composer John 'Jack' Duarte.

It was a very moving but joyous occasion with all performances being of music either written or arranged by Duarte or that had a special meaning to him. The players included Vladislav Blaha, Neil

Smith, Maria Isabel Siewers, Raymond Burley, Antonio de Innocentis, John Mills, Arne Brattland and Debra Adamson-Brattland, Eleftheria Kotzia, Gabriel Guillen and Stein-Erok Olsen. There were poems, orations and the belated presentation to John's wife of the 'Chitarra d'Oro' from the International Guitar Festival of Alessandria, Italy.

Jonathon Parrott

Editor's Piece

As usual time has flown by since the last newsletter, but the committee have still crammed in many events over the past few months. We have had the Eden-Stell duo and Xuefei Yang give professional concerts. We have had a wonderful summer party with a nautical theme to celebrate the bi-centenary of Trafalgar. On the 16th July, the club gave its first public concerts in the grandstands on the sea front and in Hotham park. Both were very well received by the general public and even made the front page of the Bognor Guardian and the mid pages of the Bognor Observer. Well done to everyone who continues to make our club flourish.

We are very grateful to TakBro Ltd who kindly sponsored our two professional concerts. This has helped considerably with the finances of the club. If you know of any business which may wish to sponsor future concerts please inform our treasurer Jonathon Parrott (01243 528573). If you cannot help with sponsorship, then please try to attend as many concerts as possible (and bring

your friends and neighbours along). Running the club together with the concerts is a costly affair and we need all the financial assistance we can get.

We now enter the long period of the summer break, however events are still going on. There is the Selsey Festival on Friday 26th August where the WSGC will be playing at Selsey Town Hall. Please try to get along and encourage our performers. The next WSGC meeting begins on 10th September when we have an AGM followed by a Club Evening. Please come along and have your say about what you like about the club and what you do not like.

You may have noticed for some time now that our hall has been brightened by some charming water colours from member John White. The pictures do change, so please take time to view them. The scenes are all local – Bury Hill, Arundel etc and if any take your fancy, they can be bought for a modest sum – see either John White or a member of the committee.

Federation of Guitar Societies

I was privileged to be able to represent our Club at this year's annual meeting held in Richmond on 19 June. Other societies represented included Richmond, Windsor, Enfield, Dorset and Surrey; with apologies from Southampton and The Lute Society.

Much of the discussion revolved around the FGS website which is the primary means of communication between societies. It was agreed to add two new themes to the Forum; 'Societies Getting Together' to be used to organise joint ventures such as workshops and 'Booking Performers' to enable societies to co-operate by organising a programme of concerts for a professional visiting from abroad and so help share some of the expenses. Existing themes on the forum are concerned with the exchange of ideas on both ensemble and solo pieces of music. Anyone wishing to participate in the forum should register on-line on the FGS website, the webmaster will then contact our Club to ensure that you are a bona fide member and then issue you with an account. If you experience any difficulties with this procedure please contact me.

We then discussed ideas on how to raise the profile of the FGS and so encourage other societies

to participate. Current suggestions that may well be developed included a joint workshop under the tutelage of a professional conductor and a professional concert supported by FGS members to be held at the Bolivar Hall in London.

It was a fascinating meeting with the opportunity to exchange opinions with other societies and see just how diverse are their interests and aims. An excellent example of this is the Enfield society who have just eleven members, they play together weekly but every fourth week they perform at retirement homes so spreading the joy of their music making amongst their local community. With such a small membership they rarely consider engaging a professional performer. Some of the other societies only consider a concert a few weeks ahead whereas we have already booked ours up to June next year and will soon be considering the 2006/2007 season.

The FGS, formed in June 2003, has the full support of its patrons; Amanda Cook, John Mills, Peter Nuttall and Gary Ryan and would appear to have a lot to offer its member societies as long as they do not expect too much too soon.

Jonathan Parrott (Treasurer)



A Motley Crew



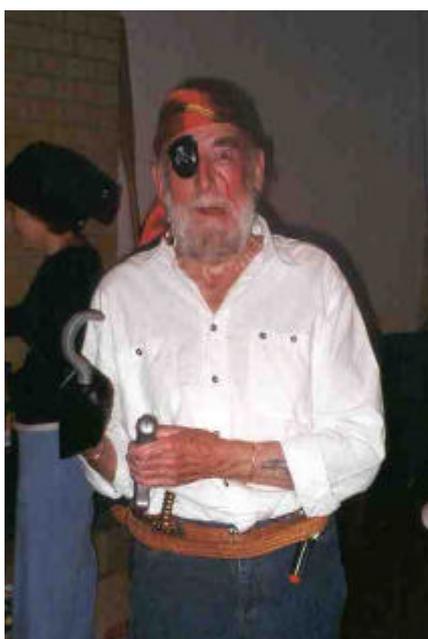
Nautical Shenanigans



Andrei repels borders



Sasha meets a mermaid



Scurvy Sid



Long Jonathon Silver

The Summer Party

9th July 2005

Eden-Stell Concert

The WSGC was very fortunate to have the Eden-Stell duo fit us in between their busy schedule of tours to Australia, Germany and Canada. As always, their playing was impeccable and they have the wonderful relaxed way of communicating with the audience. Each piece is introduced with a little preamble, which personalised the concert.

It was reassuring to see a full concert hall for the ever popular duo. I hope not too many were disappointed by the content which contained mostly little known modern pieces, the majority of which were discordant and atonal. Anyone who wished to tap their feet, or go into a trance with the many popular beautiful pieces written for the guitar, would be sadly disappointed. It may be that the popular pieces are too trivial for many a modern players who like a challenge, but at the end of the day, the purpose is to entertain the audience. The avant-garde *Per Suonare a Due* by Leo Brower did nothing for me. It really sums up the Emperors New Suit of Clothes when a piece has no time signature, no key and the movements can be played in any order. Even I



could compose a piece like that! The *Grand Pas de Deux* a guitar duel between the players was the one spot of light relief

Unfortunately the Villa Lobos *Bachianas Brasileiras* was not the one we all know and love. Although Roland Dyens and Nikita Koshkin have written some wonderful pieces for the guitar, I felt that they missed the mark here. I would venture to suggest that there is a very good reason why some pieces of music are not often heard and that is be-

cause they are not very pleasant to listen to – even if they may be great fun to play. By all means introduce one or two atonal pieces into a recital, but please not a whole concert. The only tuneful pieces to my mind were *Estampas* by Torroba and the wonderful waltz for 4 hands (and one guitar) played as an encore which regrettably only lasted some 60 seconds.

Allan Jarvis

Dates for your Diary

Sept 10th AGM + Club Evening

Sept 24th Club Evening

Sept 18th Sun Afternoon Children Concert

Oct 1st Graham Devine Concert

Most events take place on Saturdays at 7.30pm in the Regis School of Music, 46 Sudley Road, Bognor Regis. For details phone 01243 866462. For concert tickets phone 01243 528573 or visit the **Ticket Hotline** at www.westsussexguitar.com

Please send copy for the next edition of Club News by **5th November** to Terry Woodgate, 75 College Road, College Town, Sandhurst, Berks GU47 0RA
Tel: 01276 34042 or e-mail to: terry_woodgate@btinternet.com



West Sussex Guitar Club is grateful for the continued support

