

PARTY NOTES

The Newsletter of the Oxford Concert Party

www.oxfordconcertparty.org Registered Charity No 1049340

August 11

The OCP in Concert – not to be missed! BOOK NOW!!

We are playing two public concerts in Oxford in the next couple of months and would love to see you!

Saturday 17th September, 7.30pm, Broughton Castle

We are delighted to be performing in the magnificent medieval hall at Broughton Castle, near Banbury, on Saturday 17th September. The concert is a fundraising event on behalf of the Katharine House Hospice, a wonderful charity.

Tickets are £25 including wine and refreshments, and are available from Katharine House Hospice. Booking: www.katharinehouse.co.uk/oxfordconcertparty.pdf

Tuesday 18th October, 7.30pm, St. Michael and all Angels, Oxford

We will be playing again in Oxford, but this time it won't be just a concert. The concert will be recorded and will be our next CD! It will be our first live recording and will be comprised completely of new work, much of it newly written by ARne. We will be at a lovely venue and we would love you to come along and add to the atmosphere! Whether you have been to a previous concert or if you haven't seen us live yet, here is a perfect opportunity to have a wonderfully enjoyable evening and also be part of something long-lasting.

The concert will be at St Michael & All Angels, Lonsdale Road, Summertown, Oxford, Oxon, OX2 7ED.

Tickets are £12 (£10 concessions), available from Tickets Oxford,

Oxford Playhouse, Beaumont St OX1 2LW,

www.oxfordplayhouse.com/ticketsoxford

tel: 01865 305305

ARne Richards and
The Oxford Concert Party
"Europe's only Baroque and Tango Orchestra"
"A decidedly unstuffy bunch of superb musicians
Look out for them whenever your spirits need a lift."
Daily Telegraph

Tuesday 18th October 7.30pm

St Michael & All Angels Church
Lonsdale Road, Summertown, Oxford OX2 7ED

Tickets: £12 / £10
Booking: Tickets Oxford
www.oxfordplayhouse.com/ticketsoxford
01865 305305

To make you laugh, cry, dance and sing,
300 years of music from around the world
- turned upside down!

Natwest Community Force WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Our Food for Thought project with older people has been accepted as a contender for potential funding through the NatWest Community Force. This is a new initiative which sees the NatWest working with local communities to support the people, projects and charities making a real difference in local areas.

By applying to CommunityForce hundreds of local charities and projects stand to win an award of £6,000 each, with the winners decided by public vote in the au-

turn. And this is where we need your help! Voting opens on 26th September and you can vote by going to our page at <http://goo.gl/XEMs9>

Please vote for us and tell all your friends and contacts to vote for us too! There is no cost to you and it could get us £6,000. We will be posting the link on our website, Facebook page and other social media sites.

HMP Shepton Mallet

We all looked forward to returning to HMP Shepton Mallet where we last worked three years ago, remembering to be a very special place. It still is. Once again we had a wonderful time with a truly remarkable group of inmates who were sensitive, creative, talented and enthusiastic, producing a final concert that really would be hard to better. It was good to meet up again with Trevor, who we first met about 18 years ago in HMP Grendon, and to find him still drumming, now with real control and sensitivity. It was Trevor's idea that OCP should play on the wing for inmates who were too ill to join the workshop project. In fact, for the first time ever, we played in the yard, which is a thoughtfully constructed area with a pond surrounded by a garden, all built by the men. It was a beautiful sunny day and many of the really ill inmates were able to sit in the sun while listening to us play. This was a memorable and moving experience. Part of the success of this project was due to the wonderful stewardship of the Chaplaincy under the current chaplain, Peter Brown. His enthusiasm and his caring relationship with the inmates created a perfect atmosphere in which to work.



Oxford Concert Party by Paul Grady, HMP Shepton Mallet

AGE UK Training Projects

Last year we ran a pilot project in Buckinghamshire in which we invited Age Concern (now Age UK) volunteers from six centres to attend music sessions, with a view to giving them some simple ideas of how to use music with older people, particularly those with dementia. Bucks County Council who provided the funding, were delighted with the project and this year followed it up with another series of projects with volunteers from another six centres. Arne and Isabel, who run the sessions, always feel that they receive more than they give, and have been

consistently impressed by the level of enthusiasm and dedication of the volunteers. The sessions themselves are often filled with laughter and memories as clients explain why they chose a particular piece for their 'Desert Island Disc', or their luxury – which very often turns out to be chocolates, or whiskey, or for some ladies 'a man!' Thanks to a generous grant from the Barings Foundation OCP has embarked on another Training Project, this time in Oxfordshire, in association with Age UK Oxon.

OCP returns to Campsfield

After a break of about a year it was good to return to Campsfield for a two day project. Campsfield is now run by Mitie Care and Custody and the difference in the atmosphere is palpable. The staff are more relaxed and seem to have a good relationship with the detainees. We did not have to encourage them to join in, they were there, dancing and singing along with everyone. As usual we met people from many countries, some depressed at not knowing their fate, others happy soon to be returning to their homelands. The sessions

were quieter than in the past, but very rewarding. We felt as though we really had time to connect with the detainees. Many of them remarked upon the fact that just listening to us play made them feel calm and peaceful as if transported temporarily to another world. These two days really reinforced in all of us the healing power of music.



Isabel, Arne and Trevor outside Campsfield

OCP at the Thaxted Festival - and the Bodleian!

The church at Thaxted was one of Betjeman's favourites, and it is easy to see why. It is very big, beautifully light and spacious with graceful pillars and arches reaching up to a magnificent ceiling. This is a prestigious festival, founded by Gustav Holst and we were invited to play two concerts in one day: a morning concert for children and one in the evening. Both were very successful and warmly received. The highlight of both concerts was possibly the 'Violin Lesson' which was undertaken with great humour in the morning by the Festival Director and in the evening by an unsuspecting audience member who laughed so much that he completely stole the show!

OCP made its first ever appearance at another famous venue recently – none other than Oxford's hallowed Bodleian Library. This was to celebrate the work of two of OCP's most loyal and generous patrons, Catherine Walter and Michael Swan. We felt very honoured to be part of this – even though it seemed perhaps a little strange to be playing tangos and French café music in such august surroundings!

OCP's 20th Anniversary

In April 2012, the Oxford Concert Party will have been together for 20 years. We are in the process of planning some special concerts and other activities throughout the year and we will let you know about them in our next newsletter. We will also be giving you some ideas of how you might raise some funds towards our work so we can continue for another 20 years!

If you have any particular memories of the Oxford Concert Party over the years, we would love to hear them. If you have any photos, it would be great to see them too!

The OCP Anniversary Cookbook

As part of our anniversary celebrations we are compiling an OCP Cookbook. As well as giving readers a flavour of OCP on tour and our joint culinary exploits, we also hope to tickle your taste buds with some mouth watering specialities. Look out for Arne's recipe for Tasmanian Hen, and Greg's Unpromising Peaches. If you have a recipe that you would like us to include please email it asap to the Editor: email@lucyhare.orangehome.co.uk

Copy deadline is 15th September.

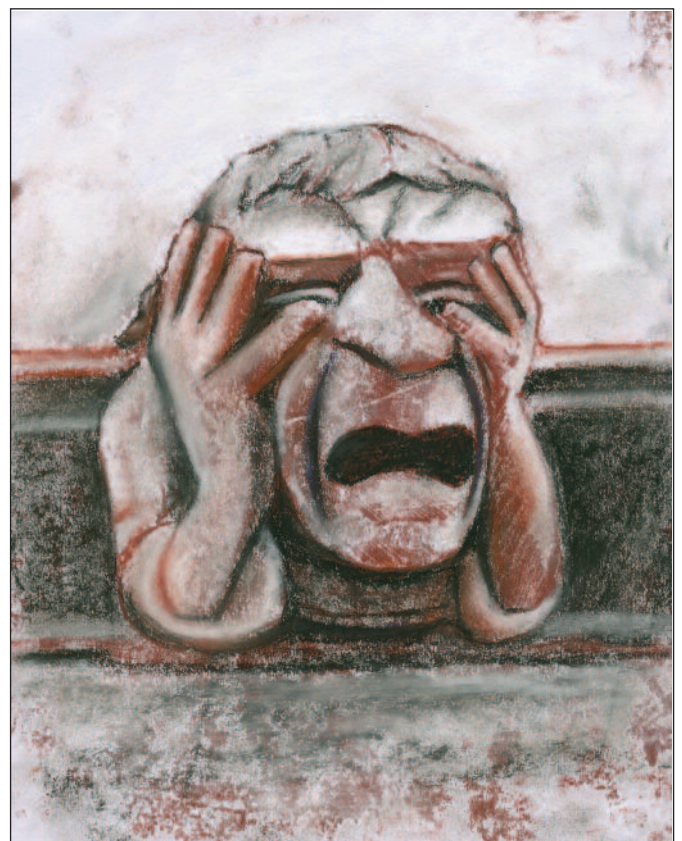
A Note From ED

We are celebrating twenty years of being OCP next year!! Twenty years of being "Europe's only Baroque and Tango Orchestra!" Twenty years of newsletters with our very own Auntie Beryl answering reader's enquiries about Arne's hair or accordion problems (she must be 105 by now!). Twenty years of being together as a group and we are enormously proud of our achievements as a performing group as well as our work in the community. We are enormously proud of all the friends we have made throughout this time and of being able to harness the power of music in many different situations. We feel very privileged to have been part of all of this and we would like to thank you all for making this possible.

We hope to see you all soon at our forthcoming concerts.

All the very best

Ed.



'Oh no! Not that accordion again' Monprint by Isabel Knowland

OCP online

Latest news, sample music tracks and to donate www.oxfordconcertparty.org

Raise money through internet searches by making this your homepage: www.everyclick.com/oxfordconcertparty

Join our group on Facebook: www.facebook.com

Receive our newsletter via email: send an email with "Email Newsletter" in the subject line to debspollard88@yahoo.co.uk and I will add you to the emailing list.

ARne Richards and the Oxford Concert Party

ARne Richards

Artistic Director
Harpichord & Accordion

Isabel Knowland

Violin

Greg Warren Wilson

Violin

Lisanne Melchior

Viola

Trevor Burley

Cello

Lucy Hare

Double Bass

Contact:

Isabel Knowland, 10 Orchard Road, Hook Norton, Banbury,
Oxon OX15 5LX

01608 737955 isabel@oxfordconcertparty.org

Patrons:

The Duchess of Abercorn, Prof Baruch Blumberg,
Lord Michael Cecil, Prof Raymond Dwek, Catherine Walter, Michael Swan.

Trustees:

Jeremy Lewis (chair), Stephen Barratt, Charles Ellis, Anthony Kedros,
Peter Strange.

OCP on YouTube!

Go to our website www.oxfordconcertparty.org

follow the link and take a look

THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS

Once again our funders this year have been both numerous and generous. We are particularly grateful for the continued support of the Mary Kinross Charitable Trust which has been instrumental in helping us develop our work. Others include:

Patsy Wood Trust

Oxford City Council

Joseph Rank Trust

Ithaca

Music in Detention

Bedford Lions

Arts Council England

Age Concern Buckinghamshire

Maud Elkington Trust

Watts Trust

Florence Turner Trust

Helen Roll Charity

Concertina Trust

Bishops Down Trust

Wycombe Arts

Worshipful Company of Grocers

Wycombe District Council

The Baring Foundation

Buckinghamshire Community Foundation

We also thank the many Friends of OCP for their continuing support and generous donations.

West Oxfordshire District Council

Vale of the White Horse District Council

design by Paul Medley

JOIN THE FRIENDS OF THE OXFORD CONCERT PARTY

You may not realise that the Oxford Concert Party is a registered charity. Apart from giving public concerts OCP, and Arne and Isabel in particular, have an extensive community outreach programme bringing music to prisons, immigration detention centres, schools, the disabled, and the elderly throughout the year. Ticket sales barely cover the cost of concerts, which may surprise you. But the community project workshops are entirely funded by charitable donations and grants (when available).

You could help this excellent work by becoming a Friend and making a financial donation. Any contribution, small or large, one-off or regular, will help make possible the Oxford Concert Party's mission to bring the healing power of music to those who need it most.

Become a Friend simply by filling in the form and sending it to the address below with

either a cheque, payable to the Oxford Concert Party

or by Standing Order by completing the Banker's Order Mandate.

You can effectively increase your donation, if you are a UK tax payer, by making a Gift Aid declaration.

Please tick the box if you would like us to send you a Gift Aid declaration form

Thank you for your support.

I would like to become a Friend of the Oxford Concert Party
Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS

Title: _____ First Name: _____

Family Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Tel: _____ Email: _____

I enclose a cheque for £ _____ payable to **Oxford Concert Party**

BANKER'S ORDER - Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS

To: (Name of your bank)

Your Bank/Building Society address:

Sort code:

Account name:

Account number:

Please pay the Oxford Concert Party at:

CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent
ME19 4LQ

Sort code: 40-52-40

Account number: 00018214

quoting ref: OCP Friend

Amount:

Annually, quarterly, monthly

(please circle appropriate payment period)

Signature: _____

Date: _____