

## Dinnigan Dazzles Again

The last Saturday in September saw a welcome return for the popular Simon Dinnigan to the West Sussex Guitar Club stage, more at ease than ever – despite the 'flu – his joviality and humorous introductions to each piece sit very comfortably alongside his prodigious talent and technical composure making him a warm stage presence, a presence shared with rising performer Nichola Bassnet in the second half as they performed 3 very varied duets.

But to return to the first half, a strong and varied programme of pieces covering 3 centuries and as many continents opened with Armand Coeck's Constellations and displayed Dinnigan's faultless technique in mastery of a fiendishly difficult piece, a more leisurely yet as perfectly performed Andante and Fugue from Bach followed then it was a return to 20<sup>th</sup> century music with 2 captivating pieces from Agustín Barrios Mangoré, an eerie piece from Nikita Koshkin based on Edgar Allan Poe's Fall of the House of Usher and the first half closed with



*Simon Dinnigan—an outstanding performance*

Rodrigo's lively and uplifting Zapateado.

More Iberian music opened the second half, the warm and delightful Dos Suggestiones by Salvador Brotons Soler impeccably played. Then came time to re-arrange the stage so that Nichola could join Simon in 3 pieces, three very different pieces, the Vivaldi Andante, the well

known Satie Gnossienne No1, a stunning piano piece all too rarely transcribed for guitar, and a wondrously descriptive piece by Simon Dinnigan himself, a sound painting of the isolated rural valley where he lives, each was beautifully played by the duo, the roles shared and swapped frequently

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## West Sussex Guitar Festival

Next week we will celebrate the opening of the first West Sussex Guitar Festival initiated, organised and run by our Club.

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### New Members

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members:

*Sara Conlon,  
Westbourne*

*Martin Denyer,  
Hailsham*

*Stephen Gartshore,  
Cosham*

*Janet Mhuto and family,  
Felpham*

*Canon Ken Prior,  
Worthing*

*Natasha Walker  
and family,  
Hayling Island*

We hope you enjoy many happy evenings with us.

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# West Sussex Guitar Festival ...

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For many years the majority of our playing members and teachers have taken part and supported a number of local music festivals. Chichester Festival for Music Dance and Speech, Worthing Music Festival, Portsmouth, Brighton and even Reigate Music Festivals. Whilst every festival provides a valuable opportunity for performers to play in front of an expert musician and the audience, each festival is different.

There are many aspects of the music festival which could be very different. Firstly - the number and description of the classes—it is vitally important that the performing standard

of every class gives the participants an equal chance to show their best and to be judged in equal circumstances. Providing a variety of the classes gives the performer a better chance of exploring the repertoire, but too many classes runs the risk of having fewer performers in each.

The venue plays very important role. The attitude of the organizers and stewards is the main factor in creating a good atmosphere which is of paramount importance. Also important are the time of the year chosen for the event, the distance to travel and the entry fees. Regrettably, many of the festivals in our area are declining in numbers of entries. This cannot be said about the guitar section of Chichester Festival which was adopted few years ago by our club.

At last we are in a position to combine the best experiences gathered from various festivals during a number of years and offer

our many guitarists and guests an opportunity to perform in a new event which we have called the West Sussex Guitar Festival.

It is less than a month since we started the publicity but already we have received almost a hundred applications in 16 Junior, 11 Senior and 4 Flamenco classes.



*Our thanks go to Ian Burt for designing the Festival logo*

Very encouraging is the record number of entries in the non competitive classes for beginners. The young guitarists in these classes are our future generation of performers. What could be more beneficial to them all than to receive encouragement and good advice from such an excellent guitarist and vibrant personality as our adjudicator Helen Sanderson.

The competitive classes are divided by age and there are several thematic classes including Bach, Renaissance and Latin American music. As an experiment we have included this year two 'Technical Perfection' classes and a 'Virtuoso' class in the Senior section. For the more advanced players there are Recital classes which will allow the competitors to demonstrate not only their virtuosity but also their taste in compiling the programme. I

It is good to see how popular the ensemble classes are in both the Junior and Senior sections.

It will be very exciting to watch and listen to the Flamenco classes. With Helena and Graham Bengé opening their 'Duende' - Flamenco shop in Worthing, this section of the festival should grow in popularity. This year it has only few entries, but no doubt it will present a very inspiring and relaxing interlude during the senior day to the audience and all the musicians. We are grateful to Rosario Serrano, a very gifted and experienced flamenco performer, for agreeing to adjudicate this section of the Festival. At the end of the Junior day (Sat 11th November) everyone is invited to a very special recital which will be given by the outstanding Australian

guitarist Craig Ogden and Claire Bradshaw, his wife and excellent mezzo-soprano. John Mills who is adjudicating at the Senior day will be in the audience. He is coming the day before especially to listen to the Ogden - Bradshaw duo.

Please, if you are interested in helping to run the festival - to be a steward, to assist the adjudicator or to be on the door - ring me on 01243 866462 and you will be able to give contribute toward creating the most important element of every musical event - its atmosphere, and will be able to help the Club to launch one of its most ambitious and enjoyable projects ever!

*Sasha Levto*



## WSGC Questionnaire 2000

**O**ur thanks to everyone who completed the questionnaire this year. I thought you might be interested in the results. A total of 18 questionnaires were returned, not quite as many as in previous years, but enough hopefully to be representative of the membership.

The first question asked how much you enjoy the various activities the club is involved in. Top by quite a long way were the professional recitals, followed by performances by young professionals and performances by members/guests. A little way behind were workshops, then playing as an orchestra, meeting with other guitar societies, lectures/demos, festivals & competitions, and lastly exploring different guitar styles.

The second question asked you to rate specific events at club evenings during the past season. Very much enjoyed, although poorly attended was the performance by our young professional, Andrew Gough. This was closely followed by performances by members. Quite enjoyed were the junior/senior orchestra and the Christmas and summer parties.

Next we asked you to rate our

professional performers. Top marks went to Fabio Zanon and the Eden-Stell Duo both for their individual performances and for their joint performance at the Alexandra Theatre. Top marks also went to Mark Ashford, Tomás Jiménez and the Wilde-Sanderson duo, although these three events

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### *Top marks went to Fabio Zanon and the Eden-Stell Duo*

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were not so well attended. There were slightly mixed feelings about Hezy Levy as well as Shuko Shibata (who, it has to be said, had an 'off day').

Judging by the results of the third question, the library is under-used by members. Those who did use it particularly appreciated the CDs and audio cassettes, followed by magazines and sheet music. The catalogues were thought to be only mildly helpful, people seeming to prefer just to browse.

The newsletter was generally well-liked and there were a number of suggestions for articles/features. One was for an article or series on improving higher position

sight reading. This reinforces responses made in previous years when articles on guitar technique have been well-received. I would be delighted to include more on technique, but need somebody to write something. I am sure every player has something they could share—a favourite exercise, or tip given by a teacher etc., so how about it? There will be a packet of strings of your choice for the first person to send me a usable technical contribution; write to the Editor, WSGC Newsletter, The Regis School of Music, 46 Sudley Road, Bognor, PO21 1ER.

When it came to performing preferences, two-thirds said they liked playing in the orchestra and a similar proportion enjoy playing in a small ensemble. Slightly fewer were happy about performing solo.

There were a useful crop of suggestions for music and performers you'd like to hear and all these will be passed on to the committee.

Finally, thank you to all those who made offers of help. Without you the Club would be a poorer place. If you haven't already been contacted I am sure you will be soon.

*Richard Prior*

## *Dinnigan ...*

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demonstrating a close understanding of each other's playing and some solid rehearsal time.

The solo finale was a fiery piece by Mario Castelnuovo Tedesco, the Capriccio Diabolique and clearly a diabolical piece to play fast with much energetic use of the left hand, a tour de force of technique and control worthy of a Paganini, Simon demonstrating absolute mastery of the guitar and receiving ecstatic applause from a near capacity audience who were not satisfied until they were rewarded with an encore.

Always a welcome guest at WSGC, Simon Dinnigan charmed, fascinated and stunned in equal measures, more please and soon!

*Graham Bengé*

### *Diary Dates 2000*

November	11	WSGC Guitar Festival— Juniors
	11	Recital by <i>Claire Bradshaw</i> (mezzo-soprano) and <i>Craig Ogden</i> (guitar)
	12	WSGC Guitar Festival— Seniors
	25	Recital by <i>Stephen Marchionda</i>
December	16	Christmas Party

All events (except the Festival) take place on Saturdays at 7:30pm at the Regis School of Music, 46 Sudley Road, Bognor Regis. For details phone 01243 866462



## AGM Footnote—Volunteers please!

**A**t this year's AGM members passed a number of constitutional changes concerning the composition of the committee.

One of the most significant was to increase the size of the

committee by two. We are therefore looking to co-opt two people whose role will be to reflect members' interests on the committee (which meets monthly) and lend a hand in the running of the Club. The term of office will be

for a year in the first instance

If you feel you could be of help in this way or if you would just like to find out more of what would be involved we should very much like to hear from you. Please speak to Richard Prior (01903 521676).

## November Treats

**D**on't miss these two great recitals at The Regis school of Music in November!

Claire Bradshaw and Craig Ogden have been touring Australia to great acclaim and will be presenting a popular programme of solo works for the guitar including Villa-Lobos, Barrios, Bellinati, Boudounis, and songs by Schubert, Britten, Bizet, de Falla and Handel. Craig has been dubbed 'a worthy successor to Julian Bream' by the BBC Music Magazine.

Stephen Marchionda returns to our platform after an absence of 18 months. He has been called 'a strong spirited performer' by no less an authority than Julian Bream. He will be playing a programme of works including Introduction and Rondo by Aguado, 24 Preludes by Ponce, the Nocturnal by Britten and a Sonata by Antonio José.

It would be nice to have good audiences for both of these recitals. Remember, we can only continue to bring you the best with your support!

*An Evening of Song with  
Claire Bradshaw (mezzo-soprano  
with the Welsh National Opera)*



*& Craig Ogden (guitar)*

*Saturday 11th November 2000 7.30pm*

**A Classical Guitar Recital  
by**

**Stephen  
Marchionda**

**Saturday 25th November 2000  
at 7.30pm**

WSGC gratefully acknowledges the sponsorship of:



**Admission on the door:**

£7.00 (non-members)

£5.50 (members)

Full-time students Half price

Under 16 free

For further information phone

01243 866462