

SUMMER 2009



YWO NEWS

The Newsletter of the



Wind Orchestra

Band News

Our picture shows some of our members at a concert performed in Erskine Hospital on 12th June. Also in the picture is Mr Jack Harrison a retired RAF officer now resident in Erskine. The concert turned out to be quite a special occasion for all of us but you can read more about it later in this newsletter. The players in the picture are from left to right, Gayle Davis, Helenor McQueen, Janice McCormick, Lynn Jeppesen-Thomson and at the front, Karen Clayton and Lindsay Graham.



and must surely be the most unflappable tuba player in the world! Nothing fazes Roz! Her calm reassuring presence at the back of the band will be greatly missed but we wish her, and Silvie the cat, all the best in their new home.

We are also sorry to lose Lindsay Shuttleworth from the percussion section. We'll miss her cheerful presence but most of all her wonderful playing. Her solo xylophone playing has been a musical highlight for the YWO concerts recently. We wish her good luck in her musical career.

We are very sorry to lose two of our stars from the band. Our tuba player Roz Threlfall has decided to relocate to Gloucestershire to be near her family again. Roz has been a wonderful member for 7 years



Congratulations...

...to Charmaine Butler who was the winner of our last competition. We hope she enjoys spending her prize. Thank you to everybody (all four of you!) who took the trouble to enter.

...to Declan Burns who recently passed his Grade 5 in trombone. Declan should be an inspiration to anyone who thinks that they

have left it too late to take up playing again. Declan's trombone lay dormant in a cupboard for 20 years before a friend suggested that he take it out and get playing again. Since then he has had a new lease of musical life! He is now working on his Grade 6 so we wish him good luck with that.

...to Stuart McNally (trumpet), Laura Friel (trombone) and

Duncan Parkinson (euphonium) all of whom graduated from Glasgow University this summer. Stuart has gained a BSc (Hons) in Anatomy and hopes to begin a career in the Scottish Ambulance Service in their Emergency Medical Dispatch Centre. Stuart had further cause for celebration when his honours project studying facial paralysis was published in the British Journal of Clinical Anatomy. We

wish him all the best in his chosen career.

We hope to have more details about Laura and Duncan in our next newsletter.



Stuart McNally

Inside This Issue:



Citizen of the Year 2

It's a Boy 2

Concert Report 2

*Traveller's Tale—
A Visit to the Windy City* 3

News from Switzerland 3

Competition 4



Citizen of the Year



In the YWO, we have always depended on the help of the family and friends of the players to keep things running smoothly, especially at concerts and on our various foreign tours. In this respect, one of our stalwarts for the last 22 years has been Jim McQueen, husband of flautist Helenor. For years Jim has been our chief roadie and we're not sure what we would have done without him on our trips to Massachusetts and Maastricht. It is no surprise to us, therefore, that his home town of Renfrew has named him as Citizen of the Year 2009. Jim has always been a keen community worker becoming a member of his ward committee at the ripe old age of 18! It wasn't until after his career in the Merchant Navy when he took over his family engineering business that his serious community work began. He was elected to the Renfrew Community Council where he was soon appointed treasurer. During his term of office he steered the Council safely

through the Renfrew 600 celebrations. The YWO were pleased to take part in these celebrations by performing a concert in Renfrew Town Hall and I think those of us who took part in it can still remember the wonderful buffet provided for the players afterwards! Jim was the last president of the Renfrew YMCA and during his period of office he negotiated a merger with the Paisley Y becoming a trustee of the joint Paisley and Renfrew YMCA. He is currently the treasurer of the "Friends of Renfrew" and a deputy member of the local area council. In 2004 he received a Commendation and Certificate from the Renfrew Community Council in recognition of his unstinting good work on behalf of others and this year the people of Renfrew and the community Council awarded him the high accolade of Citizen of the Year 2009 in recognition of his lifetime's work in Renfrew. He was presented with a silver cup and an engraved goblet at the annual Gala Dinner in the

Town Hall. Jim's first duty as Citizen of the Year was to judge a Bonnie Babies Competition at Renfrew's Gala Day! Although we are sure that he carried out this duty with his usual aplomb, we can't help feeling that he'd have preferred to be judging a Bonnie Mummies Competition! Jim's next official duty will be to switch on the town's Christmas Lights. We can't think of anyone more suited to the task! Even if anything goes wrong, we're sure Jim will be able to fix it with his big spanner! We congratulate Jim and wish him and Helenor a happy and successful year.



Jim Receives his award in Renfrew Town Hall.



It's a Boy!



We have had some happy news about a former member of the flute section. Congratulations to Hazel Finnigan on the birth of her second baby. Hazel and her husband John celebrated the arrival of their son Daniel Luke in May. Our picture shows Baby Daniel with his proud parents and big brother Jack. We send best wishes to the whole family.

Concert Report

We played three concerts during the Summer. The first of these was our traditional 'end of term' concert on 5th June in the Renfield Church Centre and featured an ambitious programme which included Holst's 'Somerset Rhapsody', Strauss's 'Emperor Waltz' and Elgar's 'Pomp & Circumstance' March No.4. As usual, an audience of loyal supporters appeared miraculously (in spite of our apathy about publicity) and we all enjoyed the traditional strawberry tea. One new work entered our concert repertoire that evening and is likely to remain a favourite of the band for some time: the Antonio Carlos Jobim Medley superbly arranged by Koichi Sugimoto. That's the global village - Brazilian music arranged by a Japanese composer and going down well in Scotland! The following week, we gave a very similar programme at the Erskine Hospital. The residents were appreciative of the variety of music we played - and the occasion was made

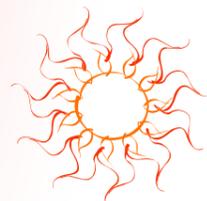


memorable by the presence in the audience of 96-year old Jack Harrison. It was a privilege for us to play the movie theme for 'The Great Escape' to a former RAF officer who was personally involved in the original escape which inspired the famous film.

Our final concert of this 'summer trilogy' was at the annual 'Pollok Families Day' at Pollok Park on Saturday 8th August.

We are glad to have reached the stage of being regulars at this major event and to have our own gazebo on the lawns of Pollok House. There was just the lightest of rain (for the first time in many years), but we enjoyed playing to good crowds - and meeting up with various families and friends who have been associated with us over the years.

Michael Philip (Musical Director)



Traveller's Tale – A Visit to the Windy City



During the summer break Alan and I were fortunate to be able to visit Chicago, a place we have been keen to visit for some time. Chicago is a city of amazing architecture, parks, culture, shopping and also with a river flowing through it. (A bit like Glasgow really!) Well known as the 'Windy City', I expected, a bit like Glasgow, that it might be a bit windy! However this term actually refers to historical heated political disputes rather than the weather! In fact, a few days into our trip we hit on an unexpected heat wave with temperatures up in the low 90s (F). The advice on the weather reports for that area was to head for Lake Michigan where the temperature was slightly lower at the shore. This turned out to be true as we walked a few blocks away from the shore and the heat increased rapidly. We packed a lot into our week there including visits to the Museum of Surgical Science, The John Hancock Building with spectacular views of the city, The Art Institute of Chicago, and a boat trip which took us out onto Lake Michigan and then through the city down the river with

excellent views of the architecture and a very knowledgeable guide who clearly knew his stuff. The main park in the centre of the city, called Grant Park, was extended in 2000 with a new park named the Millennium Park, which is where the Art Institute is located. A large open air auditorium was built within the Millennium Park and every summer the Grant Park Orchestra performs weekly concerts for free in the park on Wednesday evenings. The week that we were there they were performing American music so we thought we'd go along. As we entered the park we found ourselves surrounded by hundreds of people making their way to the concert many of whom were carrying their picnics. As well as the large seating area, many people were sitting on the grass. It was quite an experience to be sitting midweek in the open air, in the evening sun, with a few thousand other people enjoying a nice evening of live music. It turned out that there was also a guest Mexican band consisting of drums, violins, trumpets, guitars and singers who appeared to be well known to the audience. Every time they came on to do another number the audience cheered and to our



amazement at least 50% of the audience were singing along with them! Chicago also hold twice weekly firework displays on Wednesdays and Saturdays during the summer, so to finish off our evening we headed to Navy Pier to see them being launched at the lakeside. There was a great atmosphere with locals and tourists enjoying the evening. Chicago experiences extreme weather in the winter months, but it would appear they make the most of the summer months to make up for it! With a warm friendly welcome for tourists and lots of activity to experience, I would highly recommend Chicago as a city to visit.

Anna Baker (hom)



News from Switzerland



Dear music friends, A year has passed since I left Glasgow with my family to live in Switzerland, near Basel and it's also a year since I joined the local Swiss orchestra in our village. I'd love to take this opportunity to share some of my musical and cultural highlights with you. In February this year we had our annual concert. Yes, the YWO has an annual summer concert and a Christmas concert, so I thought I knew what to expect. But the Swiss take things seriously, so there were a few differences with the Scottish YWO approach. We started rehearsing all music pieces (just 5 in total!) in September the year before. Just before the concert we had a main rehearsal on Thursday, a final rehearsal on Friday and the concert on Saturday. There were flyers in all the shops and big posters through the whole village. The concert has a theme which differs each year. This year it was "Feel the Beat" which was reflected in the music and also in the fact that a group of young percussionists from the local music school were invited to play at the concert. It was great to see a bunch of enthusiastic young boys and girls play/hit their instruments with so much joy. The concert venue was the local town hall, which has its own large kitchen. The audience was seated at long tables and dinner was served (by the people of the local choir) before the concert. Food and drinks are (both equally) important at any Swiss event, whether it's a birthday party or a concert. I don't need to mention that the tables were nicely decorated with flowers and people were eating with proper cutlery, not plastic ones. And no doggy bags, obviously!



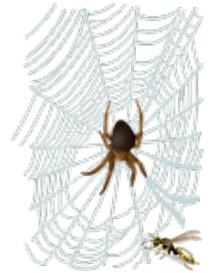
The concert was a success and afterwards the orchestra and the audience had a drink at the bar in the hall, which was open till late.

Another great event was the "Bann-tag" (Bann=border). The people of the village walk along the borders of the village through fields and woods to check the borders, to make the village youth familiar with these borders and teach them love for their country/village. Of course this walk starts early Sunday morning: at 7 (!) for the people who walk the whole route, an hour later for the amateurs and another hour later for families with prams. All groups finished around 11 at a BBQ site in the woods, where again long benches and tables were provided for everybody to sit and eat and drink. The orchestra played some happy tunes and marches to welcome all walkers and then a ceremony was held with a long speech about the Banntag tradition. When the minister finished his speech, the band started playing again and everybody grilled their own sausage and ate it with mustard and a roll. For me it was a great experience as it was the first time I played in a forest and the atmosphere was very friendly and relaxed. There were many more events like the annual meeting weekend for all orchestras in our area (Kantonal Musiktag) which took place in a neighbouring village Zwingen of all places! And the national holiday on 1st August, at which date all Swiss go crazy with loads of fireworks and traditional food. And last but not least the day that I became an official member of the orchestra and received my Swiss Music Passport! But I'll keep those for next time!

With musical greetings,

Sabine Vos (former saxophone player at the YWO)

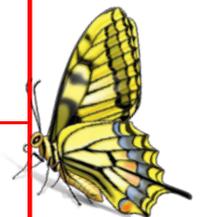




COMPETITION

This time our competition is a little bit different.
 We're still looking for song titles, but this time the clues are in the form of Dingbats.
 When you've worked out the answers,
 send them by post to: L. McMillan, 56 Lounsdale Drive, Paisley, PA2 9ED or by email
 to mcmillan2008@btinternet.com by 25th November.

1)	SLEEVES	11)	RIGIRLNG
2)	THISTLE	12)	H a p p i n e s s
3)	boy boy	13)	LOS OJOS
4)	TEXDEEPAS	14)	CHAMPAGNE
5)	BASSET	15)	VIVID i i i i
6)	REPAP PEN	16)	GOLDEN GATE w t r a e
7)	ZZZZZZZZ	17)	S s U a N i S l E s T
8)	BARLINNIE GIBRAL- TAR	18)	8 o'clock 9 o'clock
9)	SOMEWHERE Red orange yellow green blue indigo violet	19)	jug
10)	Fo 1p un 2p ta 5p in	20)	POUNDS DOLLARS EUROS



GOOD LUCK



Editor: Lorna McMillan
mcmillan@btinternet.com
 Layout Design: Lorna Johnston YMCA Glasgow