

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2010

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

My dear Friends

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter. Spring is my favourite season of the year. It is the time of new birth and I love to see the buds of the flowers coming into bloom. Let's hope we have plenty of sunshine this year which always makes us feel good. Something that never fails to make me 'feel good' is my music. My music means more to me now than it ever has. Just imagine a world without music! I shudder the thought!

I have been very busy training my students for the Swindon Music Festival - the results which you will find later in the Newsletter. Well done to everyone.

The June Show Case is well under way and what a show it is going to be! We have Paul Maguire and his Little Big Band accompanying us this year. Saxophone, trumpet and trombone join our list of great musicians with us. I would appreciate some feedback on this show and perhaps we can have a 'letters page' in the next Newsletter. Don't forget the Youth/Kids show on 1st and 2nd October at the Arts Centre and then our Christmas Cracker at the Wyvern on 28th November.

Many of you will know that our lovely President, John Dankworth, went to join my dad and his heavenly band a few weeks ago. He was completely "worn out" but what a genius and musician extraordinaire! I was honoured to be at the concert when Dame Cleo announced his passing. Chris and myself were also invited to his Service of Thanksgiving. Two events I will never forget! I wrote in the book of remembrance *'John certainly did "Accentuate The Positive". A true gentleman, friend and President. Thank you for your fabulous music! We will never forget you! Much love, Sheila, Chris and your Kentwood Show Choir'*. Yvonne has printed two of the poems at the end of this letter that were said at his celebration. Cleo is going to continue singing. I wonder if I can coax her to come to Swindon? We still have a wonderful President - Dame Cleo Laine.

See you all at the June Show. I am just going out to entertain on the radio!

Kindest regards and much love,

Sheila





PS: I have started the Swindon U3A choir (University of the 3rd Age). I have about 50 members and they will make their debut at the St George's Day Concert at the Wyvern Theatre on 23rd April 2010 - a date for your diary.

The Celebration

It's a little known fact that St Peter
Likes Jazz played on heavenly horns,
And rates nothing higher
Than improvised lyre
For curing celestial yawns.

So he thrilled at the thought of his fate
When he found Sir John there at the gate,
"Come in my dear Peer,
I've work for you here,"
John thought it best not to debate.

"See that cloud on the left with the gable,
Looks remarkably like an old stable,
Well I'd like to know
Could you put on a show?
Is that something you feel you'd be able?"

John banished all thoughts of restraint
And replied to the musical saint
"With a stage and spot light
And some seats we just might,
But it will need a lick of new paint."

"Not a problem" Saint Peter replied,
"So what more do we need to provide?"
"Well, musicians and stars
And tickets and bars,
And helpers to work alongside."

"Oh yes, and I nearly forgot,
We do need a sax which is hot,
An ethereal harp
Maybe tuned to G sharp,
They'd both make a good solo spot."

"And arrangements for base cherubim
Would help if the sound's a bit thin,
And a back line and score,
And a cosy dance floor,
That would make it all go with a swing."

Cont'd over

And so, with a wing and a prayer,
He'll slowly begin to prepare.
Next, divine TV's
Will be offering fees
For the broadcasting rights to "up there".

And we know how this ends, you and me,
Now the Saint has our heav'nly JD,
For the John we all know
Will deliver that show,
Of that, we can all guarantee.

Poem - We Miss You

By The American Dankworth Family

Of course the music - the beautiful music - the soaring notes and the soulful playing
that touched our hearts and lifted our spirits.

But so much more.

The wonderful man who shared our lives.

The crazy antics that made us roar with laughter.

The dinner conversationalist who would entertain for hours.

The jokes and stories that never seemed to end.

Those rakish hats, sometimes worn several at a time.

The dare devil repair man at home on a high wire ladder.

The gourmet chef making tomato soup.

The midnight composer.

Those shopaholic trips to any nearby store.

The love - hate relationship with any new technology.

The crossword puzzle king.

The whirllybird of energy that filled up any room he entered.

The father and grandfather - the friend you could always turn to.

The gentle man who was always there for us and whom we loved

How lucky we are to have had you in our lives.

We miss you.





THE 101st SWINDON MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Kentwood School of Music again did extremely well at this year's music festival and here is the list of prize winners. Many congratulations to you all - you did Sheila and Kentwood proud.

Sacred Solo

(The George Snook Sacred Song Trophy)	William Forty
	2 nd Natalie Barwell
	3 rd Catherine Forty

Nostalgia - Popular Song (1914 to end of 1940s)

(The George Snook Nostalgia Trophy)	Becci Benson
	2 nd Jill McCrae

Songs from Shows & Films - 26 and over

(The George Snook Trophy)	Becci Benson
	2 nd Jill McCrae

Songs from Shows & Films - 17 to under 26

(The Vera Bennett Trophy)	Matt Cremin
	2 nd William Forty
	3 rd Natalie Barwell

Modern Pop Song

(The Gary Beint Trophy)	Jill McCrae
	2 nd Becci Benson)
	Lauren Durrant)

Jazz Solo

(The Mervyn Penny Trophy)	Becci Benson
	2 nd Natalie Barwell

Duet: Songs from Shows & Films

(The Pauline Grant Memorial Trophy)	Jill McCrae/Becci Benson
	3 rd Dorinda Dodson/Sam Humphreys

Songs from Show & Films - under 8

(The Sheila Marcer Trophy)	Lowri Hughes
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Songs from Shows & Films - 11 and 12

(The Clarry Bean Trophy)	Imogen Nelson
	2 nd Eleanor Dixon

Songs from Shows & Films - 13 and 14

(The Esme Waite Trophy)	Joao Carolino
	2 nd Emily Hayward

Songs from Shows & Films - 15 and 16

(The Kentwood Trophy)	Hannah Cole
	2 nd Edward Baxter
	3 rd Jade Wilkinson)
	Liam Farrow)

Kentwood showchoir

Open Folk Song (The Esther and Reginald Eatwell Trophy)	Rebecca Grout
Contralto Solo	2 nd Bridget Cowling
Male Solo (The Arthur Walters Trophy)	William Forty
Junior Vocal Champion (The R G Cripps Challenge Trophy)	Joao Carolino
Senior Vocal Champion (The Free Church Council Challenge Trophy)	William Forty

FUTURE PUBLIC CONCERTS 2010

April

Fri 23rd Mayor of Swindon Charity Concert, Wyvern Theatre with the Aldbourne Band (01793 524481)

May

Fri 7th Sundial Theatre, Cirencester. John Pether (01285 659093)

Sat 15th Haydon Centre, Swindon. Rosemary Lusty (08444 996631)

June

Fri 11th and Sat 12th June Show, Wyvern Theatre (01793 524481)

July

Fri 9th Ridgeway School. R Jankinson

August

Sun 1st Hilton Hotel (for Macmillan). Jenny Rainbow (01793 882104)

Fri 13th Wyvern Theatre Circle Bar. Rickie Leyton (01793 327521)

September

Fri 17th St Mary's Church, Castle Eaton. Sheila Theobald (01285 810403)

October

Sun 24th Blunsdon House Hotel. Alan Fletcher (01793 827589)

Sun 31st Festival of Remembrance, Wyvern Theatre (01793 524481)

November

Sun 28th Christmas Cracker at 5pm and 8pm, Wyvern Theatre

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