BRENTWOOD ORGAN AND KEYBOARD CLUB



www.organfax.co.uk/clubs/brentwood.html

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DEAR FRIENDS,

NEWSLETTERS 377/378.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2017.

I AM CONTINUING TO PRODUCE THE NEWSLETTER BI-MONTHLY IN ORDER TO SAVE ON POSTAGE AND THIS ISSUE IS FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY. AS I SAID IN THE NOV/DEC 2016 NEWSLETTER THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT THE BOKC WILL CLOSE AFTER THE MARCH CONCERT THIS YEAR. THERE HAVE BEEN APPROACHES TO HELP THOSE ON THE COMMITTEE WHO WISH TO RETIRE AND THIS IS BEING INVESTIGATED.

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MONDAY 23rd JANUARY 2017 – our artiste for the evening is <u>CHRIS JONES</u> who played for us in January last year when at the last minute he stood in for Nicholas Martin who was unable to get to us in time. Chris lives in Petts Wood, Orpington, Kent and this was a big help to Jean when she needed to get an alternative player who was not too far away. In fact he came to us straight from work.

Now about Chris – his interest in music began with piano, which he studied from the age of 11, until at 13 he was introduced to the electronic organ. At the age of 14 he gave his first public performance playing at his local organ society in Orpington as well as at school both on organ and various musical productions.

Upon leaving school Chris worked in an Estate Agency in retail, including an organ shop in Croydon. During this time he assisted as deputy organist at Streatham Ice Rink, playing Hammond C3 for dancing etc. He also performed small concerts for dancing local to his home. In 1985 Chris met David Lingwood at the first Caister Keyboard Festival and he turned professional and ever since then he has played for organ societies all over Britain including the Channel Islands both solo and in duet with David. Also performing at most of the major Keyboard festivals as well as writing for various Keyboard publications. In 1991 Chris worked as Showroom manager for Wersi at their headquarters in Purley, in 1994 for GIG Sounds in Streatham, South London and 1995 Rose-Morris in the West End.In 1996 Chris was offered a job as manager at Roland Friday Keyboards, Bromley. They later sold the retail business to Music Land.

Chris's musical tastes cover a broad spectrum although he says he is particularly keen on Musicals, Marches, Romantic Ballads, and Latin American and he likes to include music from the shows in his programme. On his last visit to the BOKC Chris played a selection of music for everyone and it was an enjoyable evening. Looking forward to seeing you on MONDAY 23rd JANUARY with CHRIS JONES.

MONDAY 27th FEBRUARY 2017 – our artiste for the evening is JOHN COOPER who last played for us in November 2015 which was his first visit to the BOKC.

John showed interest in music at an early age when his dad and sister attended music lessons, playing the electronic organ. It was not long before they realized that John had an ear for music and he would often come home after their lessons and play the tune that they were learning before them, without the aid of music. John would often be seen balancing on one leg so he could play the pedals, although it was not long before he was tall enough to reach them while sitting on the organ stool.

John then had lessons and was often put forward into Yamaha Electronic festivals where he was successful in getting to the England finals. He was inspired by players such as Glyn Madden and Max Takano. At the age of 16 he left school and was teaching classes for the Yamaha music school. He also had an active part in demonstrating keyboards, pianos, and the then top of the range organ – the Yamaha EL90 which was his dream to one day own his own. John married at the age of 21 and as money was needed he was forced to sell his beloved Yamaha HS6, which we are told turned into a Fiat Panda and kept up his music by teaching the keyboard but missed the enjoyment of playing the organ.

Sixteen Years later John got his ultimate dream organ, The Yamaha EL900m, he says he has always prided himself on making the organ sound like a full orchestra, big band or traditional organ, the EL900m allowed him to do just that. John spends time on making his arrangements unique and full of feeling, he uses his own rhythms to add that personal touch and never uses multi-tracking as he believes in playing the organ live making it entertaining to watch. John has put together a concert that he feels has something for everyone.

John is now touring the U.K. with the new Yamaha Stagea ELS 02c – one of the latest Electone organs from Yamaha – he was not using this instrument when he last came to us but he has been seen and heard at other clubs and the report has been excellent.

Shall we try and fill all those empty seats at the Mountnessing Hall and give a big welcome back to JOHN COOPER on MONDAY 27th FEBRUARY

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I next come to a brief report on the STEVE HUBBLE concert on 28th November last year.

It was the first visit by Steve to the BOKC and it was well supported by visitors and members and with a very useful raffle profit the surplus for the evening was over £100.00. after all expenses.

Steve played a variety of good music and the audience showed their appreciation of his playing by standing and applauding him at the end of his concert which had been an entertaining evening of music played by a very professional artiste.

Steve had a number of CD's for sale and it is great to listen to and bring back memories of his choice of music.

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Page 3 (January/February 2017).

The next report, which again will be fairly brief, is on JAMES GOFF who played for us on 12th December, at our end of year and Christmas concert which was not too well supported by members and visitors but nevertheless whilst the Committee had over catered with the festive fare it was all consumed and I am sure was enjoyed by us all.

How quickly the year has passed and here we were at December once again and we met for our last concert of 2016. James Goff our artiste for the evening began his programme with a selection of well known tunes associated with the festive season. We then heard some Henry Mancini pieces - 'Theme From Pink Panther', 'Days Of Wine And Roses' and 'Baby Elephant Walk'. Ted Heath put in an appearance here with 'Hot Toddy' and then just time to sing some carols before the interval when we tucked in to sausage rolls, mince pies, cakes and sweets with tea and coffee. What 'No Hot Toddy'.

After all the festive fare, the bumper raffle was drawn before it was back to the concert when James began the second half with 'Sleigh Ride'. After that a medley of tunes from films and a selection of music made famous by the group 'The Seekers'. James did tell a few jokes during the evening - not exactly new ones and most we had heard before on previous visits but he still drew plenty of laughter - or was it sympathy?.

Bringing the evening almost to the finale, we heard Glen Miller's 'Moonlight Serenade' before some more festive music which included James's encore of 'White Christmas'.

Another enjoyable evening to bring 2016 for the BOKC to a close which because of the early date in December was only two weeks after the previous concert with Steve Hubble.

This is the spot in the newsletter that I need to say a big thank you, firstly to those who helped set up the tables and lay out the plates of eats - well over a hundred but in particular thank you to Jean and Pat Sherman who together, as in other years, went out and purchased the fare and catering needs for us and I must not forget Jean and Pat who provided and cooked 300 mini sausage rolls.

Also thank you to Rodger for getting the raffle prizes for us - we always spend more in December each year on prizes and of course together with the cost of refreshments the deficit for the evening was quiet large.

BIRTHDAYS. Happy birthday greetings in February go to:- Patricia Best, Maureen Bundy, Jean & Derek Heath, Hazel Honour, Brenda Hutton, Joyce Priest, Patricia Sherman, David Sims and **Judy Travis.**

and for March (because there will be no newsletter in February) happy birthday to Margaret **Curtis and Yvette Roberts.**

REFRESHMENTS.

Thank you to Brian & Janet and Jean for looking after us in November and John, Peter and Jean in December and to those who gave extra help in the kitchen. It was great to see Keith Blackman's wife Cham again – she is such a helpful young lady.

I understand that Audrey & John Blake and Jean are doing the honours on 23rd January and James Eringa, Keith Blackman and Jean will be 'on duty' on 27th February. As always please let Jean know if you are unable to help on either evening.

Page 4 (January/February 2017).

CLUB DIARY DATES (for next 3 months).

MON. 23.01.17. CHRIS JONES 8.00pm (doors open 7.15pm).

MON. 27.02.17. JOHN COOPER " " (" ").

MON. 27.03.17. RYAN EDWARDS " " (" ").

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OTHER CLUB DIARY DATES (for FEBRUARY and MARCH 2017).

COLCHESTER 03.02.17.	JOHN COOPER/A.G.M.	7.45pm 01787 269458
COLCHESTER 03.03.17.	PETE SHAW	u u u
WANSTEAD 08.02.17.	DANIEL WATT	8.00pm 02085 303717
WANSTEAD 08.03.17.	DAVE SMITH	u u u
CLACTON 08.02.17.	A.G.M./SOCIAL EVENING	7.30pm 01255 428628
CLACTON 08.03.17.	MIKE HALL	" " "
CHELMSFORD .02.17.	UNKNOWN	8.00pm 01245 324930
CHELMSFORD .03.17.	UNKNOWN	u u u

I ALWAYS SUGGEST THAT IT IS AS WELL IF YOU CHECK WITH THE CLUB PRIOR TO YOUR VISIT IN CASE THERE HAVE BEEN CHANGES TO DATE/TIMING/ARTISTE. IT IS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT TO DO THIS AS CHELMSFORD CLUB IN PARTICULAR DO NOT SEEM TO PUBLISH THEIR CONCERTS OR AT LEAST I CANNOT FIND ANYTHING. I AM SURE SOMEONE WHO VISITS CHELMSFORD WILL SEND ME A LIST OF THEIR CONCERTS FOR THE YEAR — IT WOULD BE USEFUL.

I AM AWARE THAT CHELMSFORD HAVE BROKEN AWAY FROM THE ACCEPTED WAY OF RUNNING THEIR CLUB. I DO NOT THINK THEY HAVE MEMBERS AND MAKE ONE CHARGE FOR EVERYONE WHO COMES TO THE CLUB AND I UNDERSTAND THIS IS WORKING VERY WELL.

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Tomorrow I will be looking for another source to get this newsletter printed as the Company I have used for many years has vacated her premises and moved away – there should not be a problem. By the time you get this newsletter your committee will have met and finally resolved the future of the BOKC and I will keep you informed.

With very best wishes,