

DON'T LOSE THE THREAD

No 39

The Newsletter of The Cobweb Orchestra
December 2007

News

At the end of term, Derek Hobbs who has run the Newbiggin Cobwebs for many years, retired. He's looking forward, he says, to sitting on the back row and playing his horn. In true Cobweb tradition, his retirement party was full of (his) good music, a wonderful cake, lots of playing and talk and laughter. But we also had to say goodbye to Tim Hewitt, who died suddenly at the end of November. We shall miss him greatly.

We've tried new venues this term. Dalston-in-Furness was one, and Middlesbrough another, both successful in their own ways. We have a new group establishing itself in Middlesbrough, and plans are complete for the establishment of groups in Dalston, near Carlisle, and in York. We hope they will be equally successful.

And a real first – a Cobwebs CD that sounds wonderful.

As always, Cobfriends has supported The Cobweb Orchestra magnificently, and you can read Lee's report on p.3. You can read about the new groups on p.1 & 2 and about Tim on page 2.

From Catherine Holbrook, who is going to lead the new York Cobwebs (we'll get there as well in the end!)

Hi,

I first came across the Cobweb Orchestra in the pub with Chris Griffiths and Andy. I was 15 and on work experience placement from school! Cobwebs was in its early days then. Since then my bassoon and I regularly trekked to Anfield Plain (where the Harelaw group used to rehearse) until I left home to go to university in York, where I studied Music and then stayed to do an MA in Community Music. I'm now freelancing as a Community Musician. I've been back both to play with and conduct Cobwebs a number of times in the last year or so. Some of you may have played in Cinderfool at Ashington, or in the concert at Sunderland, some of you may have noticed me loitering and wondered who on earth I was – have a look at my website and see if you recognise me: www.catherineholbrook.co.uk

It's always been a joy to return to Cobwebs where everyone is so friendly and we can concentrate on the important things like enjoying playing (and food)! Which is why I was so excited when Andy asked me if I wanted to start a Cobwebs in York. So I am.

We're looking at kicking off in York with Mozart's 'Haffner' Symphony on January 13th, with regular weekly sessions commencing on Thursday 21st February. More details will follow. Hope to see some of you there!

Merry Christmas

Catherine Holbrook

And another one...!

2008 will see the start of yet another Cobwebs group, this time in the north of Cumbria. We plan to meet at the Victory Hall in the village of Dalston, just south of Carlisle. You could say the reasons are two-fold: (1) it means that we north Cumbrians will get the opportunity to rehearse the music before orchestra concerts (always a good thing!) but more importantly (2) we'll hopefully open up Cobwebs to a swathe of north and west Cumbrian and possibly even south of Scotland musicians by starting a regular session in their travel-to-work area. Peter Wood (violin and viola) is going to lead the group and, along with Andy, will launch it with a study day on Saturday 16 February, when by popular request we'll be looking at Haydn's Clock Symphony. If crowds of existing Cobwebs could come along to this, it would give us a rousing start and show potential new members not only what we're about but also what a fantastic organisation Cobwebs is!

Julie Ratcliffe

Beginners' Days - Who are they for?

The short answer is "everyone", but here's an attempt at being a little more specific.

1) Real Beginners. People (of any age) who play an instrument (to any standard), but have never played in an orchestra.

2) Recent Returners. Players who have joined the orchestra recently. There may be things you don't quite understand, but everything happens so quickly that there's never a moment to ask about them. Beginners' Days take things a bit more slowly.

3) Rusty Players 1. You may not have played for a while and forgotten some of the basics. This is a gentle reintroduction to orchestral playing.

4) Rusty Players 2. You've been playing with Cobwebs for a while, but are so busy trying to read the notes that you're not always aware of how you contribute to the overall sound. Here's a chance to understand more about how an orchestra works.

5) Old Hands. It's always helpful to have some more experienced players present as well. Please turn up if you're free.

So, tell everyone you know who fits the above categories to come along to Dipton on 23rd February.

Andy Jackson

Tim Hewitt

The Cobwebs community was shocked and saddened by news of the sudden and unexpected death of Tim Hewitt on November 24, 2007. Tim was a highly enthusiastic member of the flute section who rarely missed a practice session at Harelaw. He was a frequent performer at Cobwebs concerts and a stalwart supporter of overseas trips. As a highly respected senior crown court judge, Tim's death led to numerous tributes in the local media which spoke of his integrity, his expertise and his compassion for people, particularly victims of crime. The huge turnout at his funeral, causing complete closure of the Newcastle court sessions for the morning, affirmed the high esteem in which he was held in his workplace and elsewhere. In the Cobweb community, however, he was happy to be one of the crowd. He was completely without arrogance, utterly pleasant and always good company. His love of music, and in particular his flute, was self-evident, and his enthusiasm was infectious. I think he truly loved his times with us in Cobwebs, and he will be missed by all of us who shared those good times with him.

Michael Cave

Cobfriends Report November, 2007

What is Cobfriends?

Cobfriends is the organisation which tries to 'grease the wheels' of the Cobweb Orchestra. Anyone who supports the purpose and aims of the Cobweb Orchestra is considered a part of Cobfriends and its activities. At the Annual General Meeting on November 11, reports of activity and finances were received. Last year the Cobfriends bank account dealt with Cobweb Orchestra monies during the period between the orchestra becoming independent and trading as a registered company and charity. Members of the elected committee facilitated our expressions of condolence and congratulations by organising cards and small gifts on behalf of us all. They helped provide refreshments at various Cobweb events. The Bursary scheme is now running and should be more widely used by those who wish to participate in events but are constrained by finance. Contact Sue or Lee for details.

What should Cobfriends do next year?

At present, Cobfriends' role is to facilitate the Cobweb Orchestra and its participants. There is a possibility of expanding this role in the future by encouraging participation of non playing supporters who might like to be involved in areas such as fund raising and organising social events. If anyone reading this would like to help, please let us know.

The widespread, regional nature of the Cobweb Orchestra benefits from the informal support work of Cobfriends. We need a committee member/representative from the new Cobwebs Middlesbrough (Cleveland) rehearsal orchestra.

Cash reserves have accumulated beyond the immediate needs of Cobfriends, although it is early days for the Cobweb Orchestra and the financial position is not entirely clear yet. However Cobfriends' accumulated funds can be borne in mind should needs or opportunities arise.

Lee Fairlie

Cardio-pulmonary resuscitation training in memory of Tim Hewitt

Richard Best has suggested that a good way for us to remember Tim is for people to become familiar with CPR. Richard has offered to arrange a training session, which will take place during the Sedbergh Residential weekend, and which will be open to anyone who would like to do it.

CONTACTS

www.cobweborchestra.org.uk For information and access to the e-mail group.

General enquiries to:

Liz Carlile,

48 South Road, Norton TS20 2SZ.

Phone 01642 873973

E-mail: liz.carlile@ntlworld.com

Specific enquiries about regional events to:

Andy Jackson, 13 West Road, Bishop Auckland DL14 7PP.

Phone/fax: 01388 602436.

E-mail: andy.jackson0@talk21.com

Other useful contacts:

David Hutton (NorthumberlandCoordinator) 0191 3344235 david.hutton@cem.dur.ac.uk

Ian Potts (Tebay Co-ordinator) 01768 351934 musicianpotts@aol.com

Rebecca Pedlow (Middlesbrough Co-ordinator) Rebecca.pedlow@gmail.com

Catherine Holbrook (York Co-ordinator) 07811 772 332 catherineholbrook@yahoo.co.uk

Peter Wood (Dalston Co-ordinator) 07720783225 peter@peterwood01.wanadoo.co.uk

Lee Fairlie (Cobfriends Chair) 0191 3847464 Leefairlie@aol.com

Howard Roche (Chair of the Trustees) 01207 570003 rocke@beeb.net

Trustees

If you have ideas or concerns about The Orchestra, please contact one of the Trustees, whose main areas of interest are listed below.

Howard Roche, Chair, rocke@beeb.net ; overall ethos and direction

Sue Baker, Vice-chair, suebaker@ktdbroadband.com ; overall ethos and direction

Jean Ord, Treasurer, jeanord@excite.co ; finance

Lesley Wearmouth, Secretary, lwearmouth@hotmail.com ; membership

Anita Arris, anita@arris.freearrives.co.uk ; liaison with other bodies

Caroline Dunn, caroline@carolinedunn.com ; fundraising

Andrew Forsyth, andrew@weasdale.com ; overseas trips, overall ethos and direction

Peter Fuller, peterfuller8@btinternet.com ; finance, human resources, programming

Alison Kitson, alison_kitson@yahoo.co.uk ; funding applications

Toby Lipman, tobylipman@btinternet.com ; programming

Ruth Robson, ruth.robson@thebowesmuseum.org.uk ; funding applications, promotion and publicity

David Wood, dave@davewood.clara.co.uk ; marketing, concert promotion, archives

Cobfriends committee members are:

Northumberland - Sandy Alden, Christine Oakes, Sheila Ryan

Cumbria – Sue Baker, Terry Mullett, Julie Ratcliffe, Ruth Wood

Durham – Pauline Holbrook, Lee Fairlie, Howard Roche

Cleveland – vacant

Others – Edinburgh, Alison Cairns

The Cobweb Orchestra
January – March 2008 Diary

January

- January 12th** 10am – 2pm Composers and Arrangers
10am – 2pm GPO at Stanhope Church Hall (FREE)
- January 13th** 2pm – 6pm Mozart 'Haffner' Study Day at York Earswick Village Hall (£12/£9)
- January 19th** 10.30am – 4.30pm Leader Training
1.30pm – 4.30 pm GPO at St. George's Church, Morpeth (FREE)
- January 26th** 11.30am – 5.30pm Baroque strings group at Kolbeh Restaurant at Skitby House, Smithfield, Carlisle, CA6 6DL (£10 incl. lunch) Contact Eleanor Afsari for more information (ellieafsafsari@hotmail.com).

February

- February 2nd** 2pm – 6pm Play the Romantics in The Sage Gateshead (£4/£3)
- February 9th** 10am – 5pm Mahler 1 Study Day at Middlesbrough Town Hall (£16/£12)
- February 16th** 2pm – 6pm Haydn 'Clock' Study day in Dalston Victory Hall (£12/£9)
- February 23rd** 11am – 3pm Beginners Day at Dipton Community Centre (£4/£3)

March

- March 2nd** 11am – 5pm Beethoven 6 Study Day in Newbiggin Sports and Community Centre (£16/£12)
- March 8th** 10am-4pm Leader Training
1pm – 4pm GPO Stanhope Church Hall (FREE)
- March 10th (Monday)** 7.30pm Joint concert with Derwentside Community Orchestra at Blackfyne School, Durham Road, Consett, DH8 5TW (£4/£3) 6pm – 7pm Rehearsal
- March 28th - 30th** Sedbergh Residential Weekend

Remember the changes to how you enrol

If you receive your information by email, you are sent automatically an enrolment form for each event we run; please complete and return enrolment forms for the events you want to attend. You don't need to send back a ticklist.

If you receive your information by post, please will you send me a list of the events you want to attend so that I can post out an enrolment form to you for each of those events, or contact me two or three weeks before the event to enrol.

Liz Carlile

Change/update of contact details

Name _____ Instrument _____

Email address _____ Tel. Nos. _____

Address _____

Spring Term 2008 dates for The Cobweb Orchestra's regular groups

Harelaw

First meeting January 10th 2008
Half term February 21st 2008
Last meeting April 3rd 2008

Newbiggin (dates to be confirmed at first meeting)

First meeting January 8th 2008
Half term February 19th 2008
Last meeting March 18th 2008

Tebay

First meeting January 8th 2008
Half term February 12th 2008
Last meeting March 18th 2008

Middlesbrough

First meeting January 14th 2008
Half term February 18th 2008
No meeting March 24th 2008 (Easter Monday)
Last meeting March 31st 2008

Dalston, Cumbria

2nd and 4th Mondays of the month
First meeting February 25th 2008
Last meeting March 10th 2008

York

First meeting February 21st 2008
Last meeting March 20th 2008

Harelaw – Thursdays at 7pm in Harelaw School, Annfield Plain near Durham

Newbiggin – Tuesdays at 7.30pm in Newbiggin Sports and Leisure Centre, near Ashington, Northumberland

Tebay – Tuesdays at 7.30pm in Tebay Methodist Church Hall

Middlesbrough – Mondays at 7.30pm in the Crypt of Middlesbrough Town Hall

Dalston – 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 7.30pm in Dalston Victory Hall, Dalston, Carlisle, Cumbria

York – Thursdays at 7.30pm in Earswick Village Hall, Earswick Chase, Earswick, YO32 9FY