

Contrabass Flute Fund!

Flutes & Co is currently saving for a contrabass flute - not an easy task considering how expensive they are [c.£10,000], however we are well on the way to buying one with £1138 in the bank!

[‘well on the way’ is a bit steep isn’t it Andrew?]

A contrabass flute sounds an impressive one octave below the bass flute and stands taller than a fully grown man! As well as being fun to play and providing an extra ‘wow factor’ to the ensemble, it gives an extra depth to a flute choir that enhances and fills out the bass section and

anchors the sound.
Andrew playing Eva Kingma’s contrabass flute at the National Flute Choir day in Birmingham.



Future Rehearsal Dates to add to your diary!

Sept 9th

(PLUS meeting following rehearsal, open to all interested in organising the next Wissam Day)

Sept 23rd

Oct 7th

Oct 14th

Nov 11th

Nov 25th

Dec 2nd

Dec 16th



The Swimarathon!

On Saturday the 24th March, a group of us went to the Kendal Leisure Centre in order to take part in a sponsored swim. In total we raised £710.67! (including gift aid) which will be put towards the contrabass flute. This is the most we have ever raised from swimming and it means we now have £1138 towards the contrabass flute!

Everyone seemed to enjoy the experience and my personal highlight was Ann’s impressive butterfly stroke! Well done to everyone who took part and to everyone who gave us some money!
Heppy



Westmorland Arts Trust

On 22nd of November last year, Suzanne, Heppy, Jenny and I played as a quartet for the 10th anniversary of the Westmorland Arts Trust, at the Abbot Hall Gallery. We were there to entertain as background music for 30 minutes at the beginning, while the Trust members walked through the gallery and dined on canapés and wine. We played on a small raised platform in the corner of one gallery, which seemed to make our music echo quite a lot! *[So much so, that no-one came near us!]* We had a brilliant time and raised £100 towards Flutes & Co contra bass funds, as well as getting paid in gift cards too!

Overall, we had an excellent time playing and I hope the Trust enjoyed it and that Flutes & Co may benefit from the money raised.



Libby

Heppy, Ann and myself have recently been playing for some of the residents at Heron Hill nursing home, having a fun time, entertaining old people and earning some brownie points along the way!

After a hurried practice at Ann’s house (and stealing some trios off Suzanne) we headed down to home where we were enthusiastically received by our audience. We played a number of well known traditional pieces such as ‘Danny Boy’, and some more modern numbers, such as ‘Everybody wants to be a Cat’ (from Disney’s Aristocats). It seemed that those that weren’t asleep really enjoyed our performance, with one of the ladies reminiscing about similar music that she listened to during the War!

We’ll definitely be playing there again during the summer holiday time so if any body would like to come with us then just let us know.

*The Sage and
The Katabatic Winds
Concert*

On the February 18th, Flutes & Co went to play on the concourse at The Sage in Gateshead. We played a selection of pieces including Monti's 'Czardas' and some of the Balcony Suite. It went really well, and it sounded great in the concourse! After our performance, we had the chance to do workshops. There were a few choices and I couldn't choose between Jazz and Folk. Finally I chose the Folk class. It was amazing. We played as a whole group and in smaller groups, in order to learn all the ornaments needed.

After the workshops we had some free time so I headed to an art gallery nearby with Libby and her mum. The gallery was really good, but there was some weird and wacky things, including a bird song recorded using peoples voices. After finally finding somewhere to eat, we returned to The Sage to watch an evening concert given by the 'Katabatic Winds'. The group playing had all sorts of instruments including clarinets, oboes and trumpets as well as flutes. The day was really enjoyable.

Bethany

The Mary Wakefield!

All our entrants this year into the Mary Wakefield Festival (in Kendal) did supremely well and showed just what talent we have amongst our ranks:

Ann, Jenny, Heppy and Libby took part in the individual solo woodwind classes and some memorable and musical, though nerve-racking experiences followed!

Heppy and Libby both played evocative pieces by Ian Clarke, a flutist-composer that the adjudicator had obviously never heard of and Jenny followed them with music by Gary Schocker, another unknown composer for the adjudicator to fathom.....

With 2 second places and a first amongst our players, Ann then made it through to play as a finalist in the Jim Noble Award with her tongue-twisting Hamilton Harty piece with finger-numbing piano accompaniment and has successfully gone on to re-enact this piece several times since!

Well done to the 4 of you!

Flutes & Co first began life as 'The Sedgwick Flutes' In 1994 and we've been in touch with one of the founder members of the original group - Loren Hosein who was working in London as clerk to the President of the Immigration and Asylum Tribunal, then left to go travelling in Australasia and this summer is doing an internship at the International Court of Justice in The Hague!

*Loren Hosein
(1994 - 1996)*

Does anyone out there think that practise makes perfect? Well what I remember from my teenage attempts at world domination by dominant sevenths was Suzanne's mantra: "Don't just practise until you get it right, practise until it never goes wrong!". She had a point, and what better opportunity to put it to the test than with a ready made group of fellow students, the SEDGWICK FLUTES. I'll never forget waiting in the wings at the Brewery Arts Centre, knees shaking, exchanging nervous glances with the team, wondering what we had let ourselves in for. But in a second, the lights came up, the piano started playing and we were giving it our all in a synchronised cakewalk, bow ties, choreography and everything. Ah, and did I mention we did it all from memory?

Of course I haven't appeared in anything nearly so spectacular in the last decade, although I did get to join up with the gang at former member Helen's wedding! I made a feeble attempt at stardom in the university opera society and played the part of a tree in a community music project for the Young Vic theatre. I don't know what's next, but you can guarantee that whatever I get up to, thanks to Suzanne I'll always be bending my knees on the correct beat of the bar.

WORD SEARCH !

Hidden in the above grid are 17 flute related words. How many can you find? (including full names and second names of professional flautists, makes and types of flute, a flute maker & a flute shop.)



British Flute Society International Convention 2006

[August 2006 was the highlight of the year for me! It saw us performing at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. OK, so it was a lunchtime slot but we were amongst eminent international presences and we did have to audition to get there!]

I'm sure everybody who attended the 2006 International Flute Convention in Manchester thought it was an amazing 3 day event and had a fantastic time both performing and attending the celebrity flute recitals. **Flutes & Co** performed extremely well in the Main Hall that even led to an anonymous donation...!



Wissam, Eva Kingma
and Matthias Ziegler

All 3 mornings began with early workshops to wake everybody up, followed by energetic warm up classes taken by Alexa Still on the first morning and Rhonda Larson on the second, just in case you hadn't quite woken up! This was followed by a hearty breakfast, and by this time the day was well under way.



Ian Clarke

There were many different choices of concerts by various artists throughout the day and lots of difficult decisions to be made about which to attend. I particularly enjoyed Rhonda Larson's morning session where she had us all soloing away to some funky rhythms. Perhaps the least comfortable was **Ian Clarke's** extended techniques class, where the room was so full that I just managed to squeeze in and wriggle my way between some of the chairs where I spent the rest of the hour on the floor with my knees up against my head trying not to annoy the person whose feet I was sitting on, however Ian had some excellent advice to give us on vibrato, flutter tonguing and even tongue ramming! Carla Rees also demonstrated Contemporary Alto Flute and there were flute choir sessions to be attended.

All the celebrity concerts were very entertaining and inspiring. Rhonda Larson and her virtual band was one of the highlights for me and she demonstrated her crystal flute as well as other exotic instruments. **Wissam's** recital was another highlight, of course performed from memory in true "Wissam style" [with amazing accompanist also performing from memory!].



Marco Granados

Emily Beynon, Bulent Evcil and Mike Mower also gave inspirational performances that I think made everyone want to go back to their rooms and do some practice! **Shashank**, the Indian flautist hypnotized everyone in the concert hall where a lot of people ended up gathered around him sitting cross-legged having been led from their seats by Trevor Wye.

Of course, **Marco Granados'** performance had to be mentioned. The sensational flautist from Venezuela wowed the audience with furiously fast but perfect tonguing and exciting Venezuelan tunes, accompanied by his band (including a very lively maracas player!)



Shashank

The last night saw a spectacular concert in celebration of William Bennett's 70th Birthday, preceded by the Gala Dinner (Ian Clarke sat on the same table as us!) The concert featured himself and some of his former pupils including Emily Beynon, Dennis Bouriakov, Petri Alanko and Lorna McGee and the evening concluded with a mass playing of "Cantique De Jean Racine" after which everybody reluctantly left, and I'm sure most people were looking ahead to the next one that will be taking place in 2008.

The next convention is also being held in Manchester at the RNCM and I would definitely urge everybody to go. The BFS has already announced some of the performers :

Andras Adorjan, Sharon Bezaly, Denis Bouriakov, Wissam Boustany, Ian Clarke, Robert Dick, Mathieu Dufour, Marianne Gedigian, Marco Granados, Adrienne Greenbaum, Timothy Hutchins, Barthold Kuijken, Rhonda Larson, Jaime Martin, Lorna McGee, Amy Morris, Nikos Nikopoulos and Georgia Xagara, harp, Andrea Oliva, Emmanuel Pahud and Daniel Pailthorpe.

[The full list can be viewed at <http://www.bfs.org.uk/>]

Andrew



Petri Alanko

Leavers!

Each year Flutes & Co has to say goodbye to members who leave for university or jobs further afield. *This year I caught up with Ann Howell to ask her about her flute playing and time in Flutes & Co.*

We will miss you and Good luck!

How long have you played the flute?

Since I was in year 4, which was...erm...10 years ago, and I've loved every minute of it!!

How long have you been in Flutes & Co?

Since 2002, and I remember those rehearsals at Levens Primary School that I'd go to after swimming ... and there was Lucy and Claire...sigh

Which flute grade have you reached?

I did my grade 8 on my 17th Birthday and got a DISTINCTION!!!!

Do you play any other instruments?

In year 10 I started to teach myself the cello, I've done a bit of Double Bass in the school orchestra this year. Then there's the good old Bass Flute, Alto Flute and Piccolo. In Birmingham I had a bash at the Contras. I have some penny whistles that I blow occasionally, a recorder, a fife and a low whistle on loan from my Maths Teacher. I also do a bit of piano...and singing...but nothing beats the flute.

Are you in any other musical groups?

I've been in the Cumbria Youth Orchestra for ages, was 2nd piccolo to Jo's (Ashcroft) 1st for years! I play in school stuff like the Windband and string group. Then there's choir, folk group and barbershop – a 6th form female singing group in which we wear sexy pink ties.

What is your most memorable experience in Flutes & Co?

Manchester for the BFS International Flute Convention – that was one awesome 4 days! It was inspirational to see soooo many flute players perform and then to talk to them in the dinner queue was ace too. The Gala Dinner was particularly hilarious with the guy “who came to Cumbria once...” (Helen knows what I mean!!). Meeting William Bennett at 7.00am the day after a car park barrier had fallen on his head was interesting. The highlight for me was the guy playing the Contra Bass whilst recording himself and playing it back whilst he was playing something else. He did this by pressing pedals on the floor. Then there was the french piccolo dude who had lips of steel and a good taste in hats.

What are your favourite pieces played with Flutes & Co?

'NOLA'!!! I love that Piccolo Part. 'Dance Macabre' is pretty good to play, once you've worked out what part you play and whether you're a 1, 2 or B3. I've played 'King of the Fairies' in various forms and it always works when your busking. 'Leyenda' is nice. There's good old 'Cossack Ride'. 'Rhododen-dance' and 'Havah Nagilah' bring back fond memories of the Mary Wakefield. There is one piece, however, that I never want to hear again... 'That's a Plenty'... gggrrrh!

What are you going to do at University next year?

Play my flute, with a bit of Maths and Physics, at Bath Uni – hopefully. I also want to join the fencing team and feature in a musical. Then I'm going to work for NASA and take over the world...oops (that last bit is after Uni, He He)

I just want to say I'm going to miss you all, soo much next year!!!! Thanks for all the good times – it's been amazing. I wish you the world of luck (especially if you play the bass or piccolo), happy tooting.

'In Search Of Inspiration' Day with Wissam Boustany & Brenda Blewett

Once again, Flutes & Co's biennial 'Wissam' Day was a huge success. Whether you were participating in a masterclass, playing in the flute choir or just watching, everybody said how much they had enjoyed it and had learned a lot from Wissam.

Helen, Andrew, Nicola and Ann took part in the masterclasses, Helen played the 1st movement of 'Histoire du Tango' by Piazzolla accompanied by Chris Waddington on guitar, Ann played the 3rd movement of Burton's Sonata and Andrew played 'Hypnosis' by Ian Clarke. Nicola played the 2nd movement of 'Concerto' by Ibert. The masterclass participants were accompanied by the sensational Brenda Blewett on piano, who currently combines a concert career with her position as joint Head of Accompaniment at Chetham's School of Music.

Suzanne led the massed flute choir in various sessions throughout the day leading to the performance in the evening concert. 'Windstruments' shop from Bingley also attended the day bringing shiny expensive flutes for everybody to try and drool over. The evening concert had an almost magical feel to it, Wissam performing sonatas by Poulenc and Joseph Jongen. Suzanne and Wissam also played the 'Three dances for two flutes' by the composer Gary Schocker, ending in the fast and furious 3rd movement 'Coffee Nerves'. Wissam chose 4 masterclass participants from the day to perform in the concert which included: Andrew, Helen, Michael Cave and Chloe Burke who all performed brilliantly.



Wissam giving Ann some helpful advice



Helen and Chris