



Registered Charity No 1157262

## **Newsletter – Spring 2021**

### **Election of Trustees**

I am delighted to announce that at the Trustees' meeting in November, Stephen Inglis was unanimously elected as our new Chair and taking over from Greg Smith to whom we are very grateful for occupying the helm since 1997! Thank you to all who contributed to his gifts, you can see a picture of the lovely work by Janet Edwards at the end of the newsletter. I am sure many of you will know Stephen through his connections with the Jazz Band and his tireless work on our two virtual ensembles and he also plays the bagpipes. In addition, he has also designed and maintains our new automatic check in system which has made a real difference this year to being able to register people more safely and avoid the need for carrying lots of change around!



*If you feel that you have a particular area of expertise, some enthusiasm and a little bit of time to donate to helping the organisational side of Workshop, please do get in touch with Arwen or Stephen – we are always on the lookout for a variety of skills and interests that will bring fresh ideas to how we run.*

### **Future Workshops**



**Poetry – date TBC, likely Autumn-Spring 2021/22**

**Guitar with Ed Boyd (of Flook fame!) – 15<sup>th</sup> May**

**Brass Workshop with Vijay Prakash of the Brass Funkeys – Autumn 2021**

**Benedetti Foundation singing/rhythm Workshop for children – Summer 2021**

## Future Social Events

**Summer BBQ and picnic with live Jazz – date TBC**

**Autumn term 2021 – French evening with food, bar and dancing**

**Spring term 2022 – Burns Night Ceilidh and supper**

It goes without saying that all of these plans are subject to government guidance at the time!



## Zoom coffee concerts

These have been held weekly with performances given by Workshop members. Thanks to all those who have offered an item or two, too many to mention individually but appreciated by an enormously supportive audience! If you would like to attend one of these, I send the zoom code out each Friday but it is the same each time.

Over time, we have developed a variety of ways of performing, so for the more nervous amongst us, recordings are made and sent by Whatsapp, WeTransfer or OneDrive and played on the day by screen sharing. This has enabled many more people to work up the confidence to present a piece or two.

**Time and place: Saturday mornings, 10.30am on Zoom!**

## Current classes continuing online

We now have a number of classes taking place on Zoom on a Saturday, with varying frequency, and whilst the remote format is in no way as satisfying as the face to face sessions, it is lovely for participants to see familiar faces, keep their musical skills ticking over and allow those who have shielded up to now the opportunity to feel part of Workshop again. The timetable for next term is as follows:

<b>27th Feb</b>	<b>6th Mar</b>	<b>13th Mar</b>	<b>20th Mar</b>
Folk Guitar	Folk Guitar	Folk Guitar	Folk Guitar
Improver Ukulele	Beginner Ukulele	Improver Ukulele	Beginner Ukulele
Folk Fiddles	Flute Choir	Folk Fiddles	Flute Choir
Virtual Ensembles*			



*All classes take place at 11.30 unless specified otherwise by the tutor.*

If you are interested in taking part in any of these and haven't been involved up to now, please do let me know as each class is run by a different tutor, all of whom send out their own zoom links.

\*The Virtual Ensembles class is being put on by Stephen Inglis, Catherine Wilson and Will Lucas-Evans. They will talk though how to set up remote individual recordings and then how to

combine audio and video to create a visual of people playing/singing. There will be separate sessions for Apple and Android/PC users.

### Instrument hire

Thank you to all those who have returned their instrument hire forms to Arwen and paid their fees. If you haven't yet done this, please could you do it as soon as possible? I have attached the form to this email in case it's helpful. We are hoping to pick up the instruments which went in for maintenance and repair from Woodwind and Reed imminently so please let me know if you are waiting for one or would like to hire something so we can get it to you before it gets taken back to the school.

### Return to face to face music making

It will come as no surprise to you all that it is not possible to provide any firm dates at the moment. All I can say is that a timetable is ready and waiting for when we are allowed to meet again and when it is felt to be safe. This is not a decision we will be hurrying, but like you, we are all very much hoping it won't be too much longer!

### Fundraising



Workshop is now registered with *easyfundraising*. Over 4,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use *easyfundraising* to shop with them and this will enable us to keep equipment maintained, stands repaired, music bought as well as supporting projects as outlined above. It does require a sign up but there is no cost to yourself - the link is:

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/duxfordsaturdayworkshop/?utm\\_campaign=raise-more&utm\\_content=gs-e1](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/duxfordsaturdayworkshop/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=gs-e1)

These donations really mount up and make a difference to us, so we'd appreciate it if you could consider taking a moment to sign up and support us.

### Competition time!

The Great Big Art Exhibition is being launched by Sir Antony Gormley (he of Angel of the North) who is asking people to make an artwork at home and put in their window or garden. The famous sculptor said the ambition was to create a country-wide show of imagination and optimism, inspired by the rainbow images people made to celebrate the NHS and keyworkers during the first lockdown. Details of how to take part, including a free activity pack, are available from arts organisation FirstSite (<https://firstsite.uk/>).

As far as Workshop's involvement is concerned, I thought we could run this for both children and adults (different categories) over the next month. Please send pictures of your artworks to Arwen at the usual email address – winner to be announced at the end of the next half term.

There may even be prizes – watch this space!

