

The Nash

Newsletter of "The Friends of the National Youth Orchestra of Wales"
Registered Charity No. 1,053,788

www.friendsofthenash.co.uk

Summer 2015

This Year's Conductor



Paul Daniel CBE conducts the Orchestra this summer in a programme of powerfully evocative music showcasing the musicianship, energy and considerable talents of the 115 members of NYOW 2015; a programme that will appeal to music and dance lovers alike given the lush Romantic harmonies of Dukas' ballet score and the thundering rhythms and haunting melody of *Rite of Spring*.

Paul Daniel has appeared as a guest conductor with major orchestras and opera companies throughout the world as well as holding several permanent positions. From 1990 to 1997 he was Music Director of Opera North and Principal Conductor of the English Northern Philharmonia before becoming Music Director of English National Opera until 2005.

In 2013 he became Music Director of the Orchestre National Bordeaux Aquitaine and is also currently Principal Conductor and Artistic Director of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra of Galicia, a post he also held at the West Australian Symphony Orchestra in Perth from 2009 – 2013.

Paul also conducted members of the National Youth Orchestra of Wales in a NYOW/BBC NOW collaboration in 2009 where the combined Orchestra performed Respighi's *Pines of Rome* and Shostakovich *Festival Overture*. We are very much looking forward to Paul guiding his young charges through this year's exciting repertoire!

Concert programme and schedule

Dukas - *La Peri*

Schmitt - *La Tragédie de Salomé*

Stravinsky - *The Rite of Spring*

Prichard Jones Hall, Bangor

28 July 7.30pm

£14 (£12), £5 under 25s

03700 101 051*

Standard geographic charges from landlines and mobiles will apply.

Three Choirs Festival, Hereford Cathedral

30 July 2.30pm

£34, £29, £24, £15, £10, £5

0845 652 1823

www.3choirs.org

Y Ffwrnes, Llanelli

31 July 7.30pm

£14 (£12), £5 under 25s

0845 226 3510

www.ffwrnes.ticketsolve.com

St David's Hall, Cardiff

1 August 7.30pm

£14 (£12), £5 under 25s

029 2087 8444

www.stdavidshall.co.uk

Fundraising Activities

Marathon Walk raises over £1,500!



Gerald, Dafydd, Carys, Bethan, Gareth, Sian



Mission accomplished! Outside Y Mochyn Du, Cardiff with Gwenni Jenkins-Jones who joined in for the last leg of the journey.

One of the most successful and profitable ventures undertaken by The Friends in recent years was the Sponsored Walk. Our chairman Gareth Tudor put forward this fundraising plan towards the end of last year and in March his idea came to fruition. The Friends owe a huge debt of gratitude to the Tudor

family and also to committee member Sian Jenkins and friend Gerald Wilson.

The pictures reveal that they could hardly have chosen a worse day as far as the weather was concerned, but undaunted by the appalling conditions they soldiered on. The following is a first-hand report by Gareth's daughter Carys.

NYOW Friends Marathon Walk

On Saturday the 28th of March a few members of the Friends of the Nash hiked a marathon walk of 27 miles all the way from Merthyr to Cardiff. We were to walk along the Taff Trail from Merthyr down to the Mochyn Du pub in the capital in order to raise funds for the Friends of the Nash.

A cloudy morning and a mixed weather forecast ahead of us, we set off from Merthyr at 9am. Having walked no further than the first mile, on came the waterproofs as the rain decided to follow us along our march down the Taff Trail.

The heavy rain continued through the morning. As soggy as we were, spirits stayed high and we made good progress to get to Pontypridd by lunchtime. At 1.30pm we arrived in the Llanover Arms to stop for a drink and some sandwiches. We had a well-earned break and a chance to inspect for blisters before heading on through Ynys Angharad Park towards Cardiff.

Just after 2 o'clock, we walked through Rhydyfelin and onwards to Taff's Well. We felt that we were nearing the end of the journey when we arrived in Tongwynlais with the final 7 miles to go. We must thank Gwenni Jenkins-Jones, a first violinist in the orchestra, for joining us in Llandaff bringing with her some new energy in the form of chocolate digestives!

Finally, by 7pm we arrived at Y Mochyn Du! A 10 hour journey, with about 9 hours walking, we had made it! We'd like to thank John and Hetty Watkins, Noreen and Tony Harries for meeting us at the end. It was great to be able to share our experiences with them and lovely to see some familiar faces.

We would like to thank everyone for all the support and generous donations. We are delighted that we raised over £1,000 for the Friends of the Nash.

£660 raised at Cardiff Golf Club lunch

On Saturday, 18th April, members and supporters of The Friends met for lunch at Cardiff Golf Club. Once again this turned out to be a great opportunity to meet old friends, chat and reminisce. Following on the success of our last Golf Club lunch we invited two distinguished musicians as our guests – harpist and composer Catrin Finch and conductor Grant Llewelyn - both of whom have been closely associated with NYOW in recent years.

Unfortunately, owing to family circumstances, Grant was unable to be with us on this occasion, so we wish him well and hope that he will be able to join us at a future event.

After we'd enjoyed an excellent lunch Catrin entertained us with a harp recital which included one of her own very evocative compositions. She also spoke about her charitable work involving visits to Africa during which she had taken her harp to remote communities in impoverished regions. At the end of her recital committee member Sian Jenkins presented her with a bouquet of flowers. Many thanks to Catrin for making the lunch such a memorable occasion.

Thanks are also due to Sian, and chairman Gareth for all the work they did in making this event possible. Our former chair – Muriel Lewis – also played an important role in liaising with the golf club who provided such excellent service and good food.

A raffle - with prizes donated by members of The Friends - produced the goodly sum of £240. A further £420 was made from the proceeds of the lunch. Another magnificent contribution by The Friends in their support of the National Youth Orchestra of Wales - here's to the next time!



Sian Jenkins, Gerald Wilson and Carys Tudor

Obituary - Allan Betts

With great sadness we announce the untimely passing of Allan Betts - a long-standing member of The Friends - who died on 4th January this year aged 77. Allan was a dedicated member of the Cardiff Philharmonic Orchestra for 15 years sitting next to his wife Wendy in the viola section. He also played with most of the amateur orchestras in South Wales as a highly regarded player on both the violin and viola. He was a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Biomedical Scientists and worked for the National Health Service for 47 years as a biomedical scientist until his retirement from the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend. Allan and Wendy were fortunate enough to survive the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami and were involved in the fundraising concert by Cardiff Philharmonic Orchestra which raised over £15,000.00 for the victims.

Allan leaves his wife Wendy and daughters Rachael and Kate who is a cellist with CPO. He was a true and kind gentleman and will be sorely missed by his family and fellow musicians.

More Memories of the Nash

Former Nash members, now husband and wife, Stephen Broom and Julia Watkins were to become professional musicians at the highest level. Here they recall what the Nash meant to them as youngsters and the extent to which it influenced the course of their future lives.



Stephen was born and brought up in Pontypridd and was a member of the NYOW during Arthur Davison's time as conductor. He studied at the Royal Academy of Music before returning to Wales as a member of the BBC Welsh Orchestra. He subsequently returned to London as Principal viola with the BBC Concert Orchestra, later becoming a member of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, then Number 3 viola with the London Philharmonic before becoming Section Principal viola with the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, a position he held for twenty years before returning to Wales to live in the Brecon Beacons. Since returning to Wales he has played with the Orchestra of WNO and appeared as Guest Principal with the BBCNOW and the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra amongst other freelance engagements. He has been viola tutor for the NYOW since 2003.

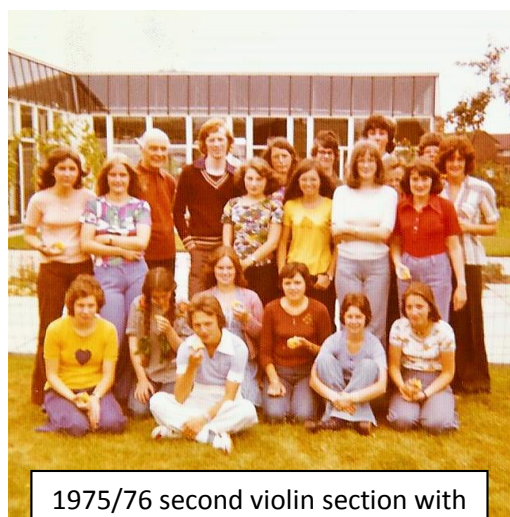
I joined the Nash in 1968, I can still remember my very first full orchestra rehearsal on the first evening. I sat at the back of the section and for most of the time was completely lost, but two memories of that rehearsal stay with me, John Cullis playing the cello solo in Venus from the Planets Suite and while I was struggling with all those notes in Jupiter, a fantastic swirl of an arpeggio from the oboist sitting just behind me who turned out to be David Theodore (or Dai T as he was known then). I was later to have the pleasure of becoming colleagues with both of them; John in the BBC Welsh orchestra and later at Covent Garden and David with the LPO. There were many in the Nash who later joined the profession and when we meet we always refer back to our time with the orchestra with great affection and an appreciation of how much we

owe to our time as members; still when certain pieces come up (Tchaikovsky 4 recently) I remember my fingerings from those courses drummed into me by George Alexander.

I was immensely proud when I was given a place in the orchestra in 1968, and in 2003 I was just as proud to be invited to become the tutor of the viola section. I might add that in both roles as player and as tutor I've had great fun, the present generation of players, as well as being incredibly talented, know how to have a good time - mind you so do the tutors!

Julia was born and brought up in Brynmawr where she was introduced to the violin at an early age. She went on to study at the Royal Academy of Music in London. During her illustrious career Julia has worked with some of the UK's leading orchestras including the BBC Concert Orchestra and Philharmonia. More recently her freelance work has been with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House.

I was a member of the NYOW from 1975-80. In those days courses took place in Wrexham and Swansea on alternate years, depending on whether the Eisteddfod was in north or south Wales, as the final concert of the course was at the Eisteddfod and was always an amazing experience. The Nash courses were always the highlight of the summer holidays as we all looked forward to meeting up with friends from all over Wales that we'd made in previous years, playing in exciting concerts and learning about orchestral playing from the tutors, and especially Arthur Davison, the conductor at that time. I have very fond memories of my time on the Nash and still have friends that I met there. I have no doubt that what I learnt through the courses helped me when I entered the music profession over 30 years ago and I hope it continues to help young people like me for many years to come.



1975/76 second violin section with
Julia kneeling third from right