

Friends of Bury St Edmunds County Music School

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – OCTOBER 2016

As Chairperson, I would firstly like to welcome you all to the AGM of the Friends of Bury St Edmunds County Music School and the committee appreciate your attendance to this meeting.

As you may be aware that as a committee, we support the local West Suffolk Youth Music activities of Suffolk County Music Service and our volunteers run tuck shops on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings, sell programmes and refreshments at concerts and generally help-out at Bury St. Edmunds County Music School events.

Once again we have had another busy year supporting the various West Suffolk Youth Music activities through-out 2015/16 school year and my thanks go out to the committee members for their continued support. These activities have included

- The West Suffolk Youth Orchestra and Wind Band Christmas Concert held at Ashlar House in BSE
- The Saturday Morning Music School Christmas Concert was held at All Saints Church in BSE where our volunteers helped serve refreshments which included Mulled Wine, non-alcoholic Punch, and the traditional mince pies.
- In March the West Suffolk Youth Orchestra and Wind Band gave a concert at the Performing Arts Theatre, Ormiston Academy in Sudbury and again volunteers served refreshments during the interval.
- In March, the Music School held an Open Morning for people to see the children in action and the Friends of Bury St Edmunds County Music School were on hand to serve buns and biscuits.

The West Suffolk Youth Orchestra, Wind Band and Big Band Summer Concert held at the Apex in July was a very sad occasion for both the West Suffolk Youth Music members and the Friends of Bury St Edmunds County Music School committee as we said good-bye to 2 of our long servicing Suffolk County Council Music Service staff members.

Neil Carson had been the West Suffolk Music Centre tutor in charge and this summer concert at the Apex was the last conducted by him. He has led the West Suffolk Youth Orchestra for many years and both current and older members of the orchestra, made it a memorable night for him as they presented gifts to him at the end of the concert.

Neil has been very supportive to our committee attending all our meetings throughout the year and he will be greatly missed by the WSYO, the Bury St Edmunds County Music School and the Friends of Bury St Edmunds County Music School. We wish him well in his retirement.

Hilary Turner was a Senior Manager with the Suffolk County Music Service and she help co-ordinate the activities of the West Suffolk Youth Music. She always attended the concerts held by both the West Suffolk Youth Music ensembles and Bury St. Edmunds County Music School often helping at these events by sell ticket sand programmes. Hillary was also present at the Summer concert and she too was presented with gifts as a mark of admiration for all her hard work and effort. Again we wish her well in her retirement.

Finally, as Chairperson I would like to thank both Suffolk County Music Service for their continued support to the Friends of Bury St Edmunds County Music School committee during the year and to members of the committee who have guided, supported, and kept me "in-line" me during my first year in office.