

News from Arun Young Musicians September 2017

It is a long time since we have sent news from Arun Young Musicians, the reason being that we have undergone some big changes, some sad, some for the better.

To begin with we have a new Chair. John Mitchell, a Littlehampton Rotarian has been involved with Young Musicians from the start, sponsoring for many years. He has taken over the Chair, replacing Mark Kendall, whose business and home responsibilities were increasing. Mark, with his wealth of musical knowledge and ability stays on the committee to help us with his expertise. John brings us a wealth of administrative, IT and practical skill as well as lots of AYM experience. To further strengthen the committee two new Rotary members have joined. These are Bernie Homer, whose idea started it all off 34 years ago. Bernie has sold his jewellery business in Rustington and we benefit from some of his extra free time. Eric Holmes, having handed over the Angmering Chorale Chair after many years now retains his support for music but with a different group – our young musicians. Very sadly Bill Skelton, our Treasurer, handsome scene shifter in the black shirt, Friends of AYM co-ordinator and all round good egg has had to resign on health grounds. Jane Seamer has taken on Treasurer and Ann Findlay the Friends role.

Miraculously amid all this you will be pleased to hear that plans for our 2017 Festival are firm. Classes are booked for Friday 20th through Sunday 22nd October. The Gala Concert will be on Sunday 12th November at 2pm. We have a new venue – with the only Steinway in West Sussex I'm told. It is the Steyning Centre at Fletchers Court, Steyning BN44 3XZ. Tickets on sale now via our website www.arunyoungmusician.co.uk or from Jane seamer j.seamer@btopenworld.com 01903782941

Finally good news from some of our earlier young musicians. Tamsin Barnett is studying at Manchester and gave a concert in Chichester recently, accompanied on guitar by sister Zoe. Jennie Witton sings with the Glyndebourne Chorus and Tim Rumsey begins his degree studies at the Royal Academy. Rudi Eastwood – a 1997 winner - returns as our official accompanist for this festival and is in the throes of putting together a new youth orchestra.

We look forward to seeing you later this year.