

# ***Sunderland Symphony Orchestra***

Founded October 1999      Charity registration no. 1082431  
Founders & Vice-Presidents - John Lennox, Mark Greenfield, Winifred Lundgren  
Musical Director – Paul Judson

## ***Newsletter – New Year 2017***

### **Next concert**

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2017 7.30pm**

**'Music from the British Isles'**

**In West Park Church**

### **Future concerts**

**Saturday 1st July 2017 7.30pm**

**Saturday 14th October 2017 7.30pm**

**Saturday 9th December 2017 4.00pm**

**Saturday 24th March 2018 7.30pm**

**Saturday 7th July 2018 7.30pm**

**Venues to be announced (Hopefully, in West Park Church)**

### **Musical Director**

Paul Judson's wife, Fay, recently had a medical problem which required hospitalisation and surgery. Fay is now home and is on the way to making a full recovery.

This, understandably, resulted in Paul being unable to take rehearsals for some weeks, and also prevented him from leading the Christmas concert.

We are very grateful to Alan Price who stepped in at short notice and took the remaining rehearsals up to the concert, and also presided over the concert itself.

Alan is a very experienced and accomplished musician, as a violin/viola player, singer and conductor. He is a great friend of the orchestra and has played with us as a guest on many occasions.

We extend our sincere thanks to Alan for his help.

### **Christmas concert**

The Christmas concert was attended by an audience of just over two hundred.

This is the highest recorded to date at West Park.

Guest singers were the twenty strong Middle School Choir from the local independent school, Argyle House, under the direction of their musical director Teresa Dewhurst, who is also their school music teacher (and was soloist at our October concert).

The choir sang Christmas carols, items from 'Mary Poppins', music from 'The Snowman', and were accompanied by the orchestra in some well-known Christmas songs.

The whole programme was designed so as to be attractive to young people, and as an experiment had a later than usual start time.

### **Publicity**

Thanks to some hard work by our Vice-President, Mark Greenfield, and by the City of Sunderland's press officer, we have finally received publicity in the Sunderland Echo. Both the October and December concerts received write-ups prior to the events.

Further publicity was given by 'The Cultural Spring' in their newsletters, in 'SeeitdoitSunderland,' and by 'Sun FM'.

The orchestra's chairman gave a short live interview on 'Radio Newcastle' prior to the Christmas concert.

### **Closure of West Park Church**

No further developments have taken place.

### **Donation of clarinet**

A clarinet has recently been donated to the orchestra by Mr. Ian McSkinning, from East Kilbride in Ayrshire, Scotland.

Mr. McSkinning is a friend of our secretary's family, and the instrument previously belonged to his daughter.

Many thanks.

### **Donation of violin**

A violin has also been donated to the orchestra, by Mr. Arthur Riddler - a local violin, viola and bow maker and restorer. He has requested that the instrument belongs to the orchestra and is played by a member of the orchestra.

The instrument was made by him and also partly restored by him.

Mr. Riddler has regularly attended our concerts over the years.

The instrument is now being played by our secretary, Joy Lowther, and will be heard at the March concert. 'Thank you' Arthur.



Editorial address: 64 Kirkstone Avenue, Fulwell, Sunderland. SR5 1NH.

Tel. 0191-549 1784.

E-mail: [orchchair@btinternet.com](mailto:orchchair@btinternet.com)

Web site: [www.sunderlandsymphonyorchestra.org.uk](http://www.sunderlandsymphonyorchestra.org.uk)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/sunderlandsymphonyorchestra](http://www.facebook.com/sunderlandsymphonyorchestra)