

Founder Member Feature

We're keeping you on tenterhooks, as Tracy Reed's interview is postponed to a future month.

July's Founder Member interview will be with Jean Ord, who has provided a summary of her multiple roles within The Cobweb Orchestra, to whet your appetite:

"As you now know, I was present at the first ever session of Cobwebs in Annfield Plain Library playing Violin. If memory serves me right there were about 28 of us then, including Lesley, Tracy and Howard. I was hooked from the start because the music was so challenging from what I was used to and everybody was so enthusiastic and friendly.

When the orchestra 'divorced' from Sage support and funding, I became a trustee and volunteered as Treasurer to help get us started. My background is in banking/finance and I had been a treasurer for my Golf Club for several years. Trustees all worked together to incorporate Cobwebs as a charity and a limited company and the founder members all became 'Directors'. I served 9 years as Trustee, 6 of those as treasurer.... but I was nearing retirement age and thought someone younger should take over!

Also at this time I decided to take up another instrument, having played the violin as an amateur since age 9. I started with the Stanley Civic Orchestra at age 12 and was with them 25 years until I joined Cobwebs for greater experience. I also had played for amateur operatic societies shows since age 15 and loved nothing better than being part of a show week in the pit - I was also a singing member of Riverside Operatic society where I went on to be Musical director of this group and also Seaham Operatic society.

Once retired, around age 58, I took up the Bassoon: an instrument I had always wanted to play, I started to have lessons and once I thought I was up to it, changed from violin to Bassoon at Spennymoor group whilst still playing Violin at Dipton. I have continued to be a member at the Annfield Plain/Catchgate/Consett/Dipton group throughout its chequered history; also the Spennymoor group (originally to support this group as its Conductor).

I am a member of the Chamber Orchestra and the Cabaret group and try to attend as many workshops as I can to play big works. I have had the privilege to lead the orchestra in Hall 1 of the Sage in a very scary performance: but don't consider myself to be a leader, preferring to be buried in the ranks of the violins!!

I have also taken part in the Conductors workshop we held some years ago which culminated in conducting one movement of a work in a concert of the orchestra in Hall 2 of the Sage.

My experiences with Cobwebs have been scary, exhilarating, challenging and extremely satisfying over the years and I am a much better musician because of it. Long may it continue."

Wow – what an eclectic mix!

That should give you plenty of ideas to come up with some interesting questions for Jean?

Please send them through to me by Sunday 12th July.

As ever, please send all replies and queries to nikki.k.lipinski@gmail.com