



Compiled and edited by Simon Rawlings FRMS committee member

## Happy New Year to all our readers!

### From the Chairman's desk

"Just when you thought it was safe ...". The tagline for the film *Jaws 2* has become one of the most famous in cinema history and has been parodied and adapted many times. As I write these words in mid-December, with the omicron variant of Covid threatening to be the Grinch that stole Christmas, many of us may be wondering if the resumption of society meetings really was safe.

Safety at society meetings, of course, is not limited to reducing the risk of Covid infection; there are other hazards which have always been present but which may have been overlooked in our preoccupation with the Covid pandemic. Safety in the use of equipment is the subject of an item elsewhere in this newsletter, but there are other potential hazards to be aware of, even something as seemingly trivial as spilling a cup of tea during the refreshment interval. All hazards have the potential to trigger a claim against a society, whether for damage to property (e.g. a fire caused by faulty electrics) or personal injury (e.g. slipping on a wet floor). This is why the FRMS has a public liability policy covering all affiliated societies to the extent of £2,000,000 – but that does not obviate the need for risk assessment and taking reasonable measures to reduce risks.

To return to my opening comment, though, whether continuing to meet is advisable, as we face this new threat from Covid, is for individual societies to decide. For many societies Christmas and New Year will have provided an extended break between meetings and by the date of the next meeting the position may be clearer; one expert has suggested that the rapid spread of the omicron variant may be followed by an equally rapid decline so there is some hope that we may soon return to what currently passes for normality. But, whatever the future holds, I and my fellow committee members wish all societies a happier and more successful year in 2022 than has been possible recently. A Happy New Year to you all.

*Allan Child FRMS Chairman*

## THE FRMS MUSIC WEEKEND AT ILKLEY

**This event is planned to take place from 25th to 27th March 2022.**



### Best Western Craiglands Hotel

Cowpasture Road

Ilkley LS29 8RG

01943 430001

[sales@craiglands.co.uk](mailto:sales@craiglands.co.uk)

Some adjustment to the programme may be necessary but at the time of writing we hope that all the original presenters and recitalists will be able to be with us.

All bookings and payments have been transferred to the new date, and as bookings were made directly with the hotel, we have asked the hotel to notify participants individually.

This may take a little while, so if you know of anyone who may be wondering what the situation is please feel free to make them aware of this.

The hotel can be contacted by email or phone – see above for contact details.

**It may be possible to accept additional bookings for the rescheduled dates. If you are interested; please email [chairman@thefrms.co.uk](mailto:chairman@thefrms.co.uk) for further information.**

***Why not make contact and hopefully join what will, no doubt, be an interesting enjoyable weekend and meet like-minded people and perhaps make new friends?***

Please go to [www.thefrms.co.uk](http://www.thefrms.co.uk) and scroll down to 'FRMS Weekend at Ilkley' for details including the planned programme.

## Safety and Use of Electrical Equipment & Appliances



As affiliated societies start meeting again, it would be a good time to inspect all sound equipment and electrical appliances\* used. In addition to basic checks, which include looking at the overall condition of each item, power cables and plugs, consideration should also be given to having equipment tested (PAT). This should be carried out by a 'qualified' person.

*Guidance and Reference for Portable Appliance Testing can be found in Newsletter No. 20 (September 2019), available at [www.thefrms.co.uk](http://www.thefrms.co.uk) Home page 'Previous Newsletters'.*

As well as inspection and testing, it is also essential that all electrical equipment is correctly and safely operated. All sound equipment should be positioned safely, in order to minimise the risk to the operator(s), and those in attendance. Loudspeakers, for example, should be positioned safely and securely. Cables should be covered with rubber protectors or tape in areas where people are likely to walk and should be routed in a safe, secure and appropriate manner.

The importance of the 'Duty of Care' should always be considered - 'Safety first, First Aid second!'

\*NOTE: Appliances supplied by the venue, such as kettles, for example, should be tested (PAT) periodically, which would normally be organised by the management of the venue. However, a basic inspection should still be carried out by users and any problems found reported accordingly.

*Simon Rawlings Ed*

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### Jim Bostwick FRMS Vice President



It is with great sadness we have to announce that Jim Bostwick died on the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

I first met Jim Bostwick at the FRMS AGM in Huddersfield in 2008. Soon after this he joined the FRMS Committee and became Secretary when Tony Baines retired in 2011.

During his first few meetings on the Committee, he was always having problems with his trains and connections. Eventually I persuaded him to drive over to Rochdale and then travel with me. Through this we became close friends and he enjoyed visiting the bookshop at Buxton on the way.

We also worked together on the (now defunct) Yorkshire and NW Region Committee of which he was the Secretary. On two occasions he visited Rochdale GS as our guest speaker and our members enjoyed

his presentations. We had a few days out in the country together and had planned more, but such is life. I will greatly miss him and my visits to his house and our many chats on the phone.

We all express our condolences to Jim's family.

*George Steele FRMS Vice-Chairman*

As Chairman, it was my privilege to work with Jim during his time as Secretary, particularly in organising the Music Weekends at Daventry. But Jim was also a technical expert and an essential member of the 'sound crew' at the Yorkshire weekends and music days. His expertise extended to cleaning up crackly vinyl recordings and (if out of copyright) transferring them to CD and in this respect, he was associated for several years with the CRQ historic reissues label. He will be much missed.

*Allan Child FRMS Chairman*

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### John J Davis President of the Torbay RMS

John Davis, known nationally and internationally as an authority on the Finnish composer Jean Sibelius, died on the 27<sup>th</sup> October in Torbay hospital at the age of 92.

John was the son of musicians, his mother a piano teacher and his father a church organist from whom he inherited a love of these instruments and classical music in general. John had been interested in Sibelius since his teens when his father bought him his first record, a 78rpm disc of the Karelia Suite, just as news came through of the Russian annexation of the Karelian islands from Finland during World War II. Sibelius and his music were to become his abiding interest and the basis of his international reputation, especially in Sibelius's homeland, Finland.

After national service with the Royal Navy and later working as a driving examiner – he liked to say he had allowed over 32,000 drivers onto the public highway – he also devoted his considerable energies promoting music, supporting musicians, and developing music appreciation amongst a wider public.

John will be remembered by many in Torbay as effectively the founder and inspiration behind the Torbay Gramophone Society, later to become the Torbay Recorded Music Society. John joined the Torbay Gramophone Society in 1958 and under his leadership it grew from a rather small group to a vibrant society attracting over 200 members to its weekly presentations. As well as recorded music, he organised many concert trips for groups to attend live performances, which were later expanded to include venues in Europe, Finland and the USSR. *Continued...*

Soon John was being asked to present programmes nationally, typically of his musical enthusiasms which included, as well as Sibelius, the Philadelphia Orchestra and its celebrated conductor Leopold Stokowski.

In 1970 John was also instrumental in the creation of the Torbay Musical Weekend, which attracts guests, performers and presenters of the highest calibre to a residential weekend of music-making and listening in Torquay. Initially under the management of the Recorded Music Society, it has developed into an independent event managed by the Friends of Torbay. Still going strong and celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, this year's event was held from Friday 19<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November at the Grand Hotel, Torquay.

Known as a friend to so many in the world of music, including performers and administrators, John Davis did much to promote the cause of musical appreciation both in Torbay and further afield. His welcoming presence will be greatly missed at meetings of the Torbay Recorded Music Society.

*Michael Collop, for the Torbay RMS*

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## **Brendan Sadler Street & Glastonbury RMS**

It is with great sadness that we record the death of Brendan Sadler at the age of 94 on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Brendan was a key player – indeed, *the* key player - in the Street and Glastonbury Recorded Music Group, taking over as Secretary in 1960 (the group had been formed in 1953) and eventually undertaking all the planning and administration single-handedly. Brendan was an energetic advocate of the work of the FRMS and actively promoted its mission to develop greater enthusiasm for recorded classical music as well as to widen the musical horizons of its members. His passion for classical music was unbounded and he generously shared his wealth of knowledge and experience with everyone he met. This commitment led him to serve on the FRMS national committee from 1998 to 2000 and he was instrumental in recommending that I consider the role of Secretary when it became vacant in 2018.

Brendan's enthusiasms were not limited to recorded music and he also contributed significantly to the live music offering of his local community. He founded Strode Opera in Street in 1969 and for twenty-five years conducted two staged productions a year, in May and November. The ambition and scope of these productions was enormous for a small rural theatre, ranging from Gilbert and Sullivan and Johann Strauss to the grand operas like 'Carmen'. Brendan retired from the company in 1994. Strode Opera continues to this day and is now known as Strode Musical Theatre Society reflecting another broadening of range.

In 1996, Brendan inaugurated a revival of the original Rutland Boughton Glastonbury Festival, producing, at the theatre in Street, the first live performances since 1953 of Boughton's cult opera, 'The Immortal Hour'. The performance attracted Boughton family members and distinguished aficionados from all over the world together with the broadsheet press. A similarly prestigious production took place in St John's Church in Glastonbury a few years later when Brendan conducted Boughton's opera 'Bethlehem'.

Retirement was not a word that existed in Brendan's dictionary and he continued to be a member of the local theatre board in a more strategic capacity right up to his death. The monthly meetings of the Recorded Music Group, hosted in Brendan's home, were a highlight of the month for many members. Brendan's legacy will be remembered fondly by the very many who have benefited from his vast musical knowledge and his boundless energy.

We shall miss him very much. The Recorded Music Group has suffered a brief hiatus, but it was Brendan's wish that we continue and I am proud to report that we will be re-commencing in 2022.

*Adele Wills FRMS Secretary*

## **Miss Pauline Everett**

As the former chairman of Croydon Recorded Music Society, now sadly closed, I feel the need to announce the death of Pauline Everett during October 2021. I first met Pauline during the sixties when we were members of St Mary Madalene's Church, Addiscombe. Later she joined the Croydon RMS and had a great love of music. Pauline was a teacher and later became a much-loved headteacher. I can do no better than by quoting an extract from a letter she wrote to me some months before she died. It is filled with optimism, as well as grounded in the reality of present circumstances, and that outlook, I think, summed up Pauline's life: *"It has been such a strange year without our normal activities. At least we have had some time in the summer to get out, but it was a very weary winter. Several groups I belonged to have closed for good, but I hope CRMS will re-start when it is possible. It will be so nice to see everyone again... Pauline"*

*Adrian Falks*

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## **Society News...**

**The Salisbury Recorded Music Society** resumed meetings again starting with its first one in September. It has a full programme for the rest of 2021 and into 2022. It met regularly during the pandemic using a mixture of Zoom and YouTube with a series of very successful presentations. *Continued...*

This has led to a desire for more multimedia evenings and at the first meeting we enjoyed a presentation on the legend of Orpheus and the birth of the opera enriched by visual material on a screen to help explain the history. [www.salisburymrs.org](http://www.salisburymrs.org).

*Peter Curbishley Publicity officer for the Society*

**Rochdale Gramophone Society's** 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary lunch was held at The Royal Toby Restaurant on the 19<sup>th</sup> November and enjoyed by all who attended.

The main guest was Mr Allan Child, Chairman of the Federation of Recorded Music Societies who was accompanied by Mrs Ruth Child. Other guests included Mr Gordon O'Brien (Chairman of RGS), Roy Smithson (member for over 60 years), Mrs Pat Barlow and Mr Gordon Barlow (members for over 40 years) along with other members. More information and photos available at:

<https://www.rochdaleonline.co.uk/news-features/2/news-headlines/143850/rochdale-gramophone-society-celebrates-90-years>

**The Havergal Brian Society** has announced the first recording, indeed the first performance of Havergal Brian's opera 'Faust', which has been released on the Dutton label to mark the 50th anniversary of his death. It is performed by the English National Opera Orchestra and Chorus under their musical director Martyn Brabbins, who is also the President of the Havergal Brian Society.

The Society has asked its members to publicise the recording. Please see website shown below.

*Tony Sanderson FRMS Committee*

<https://www.duttonvocalion.co.uk/proddetail.php?prod=2CDLX7385>

*'The British composer Havergal Brian (1876-1972) considered his opera "Faust" to be his greatest single achievement, but he never heard a note of it performed. To mark the 50th anniversary of the composer's death, the orchestra and chorus of English National Opera, recorded at Abbey Road Studios, give the world premiere of the complete work under the baton of the ENO's Music Director, Martyn Brabbins' (extract from the website).*

### **Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)**

2022 is the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his birth!

It is hoped to publish more details about the man and his music in the next edition of this Newsletter.

Please send any contributions for consideration to:  
[simon.rawlings@thefrms.co.uk](mailto:simon.rawlings@thefrms.co.uk)

## **A note from the FRMS Treasurer**



I am still occupied in the composition of a number of major works scheduled for both performance and recording over the next five years or so, a process which makes unexpected interruption unwelcome. Under the circumstances, should societies need to contact me please e-mail and **not** telephone unless the matter is extremely urgent. I will reply as soon as possible. Thank you. [paul.godfrey@thefrms.co.uk](mailto:paul.godfrey@thefrms.co.uk)

*Paul Corfield Godfrey FRMS Treasurer*

## **The current FRMS Officers and Committee**

### **Chairman**

Allan Child – [chairman@thefrms.co.uk](mailto:chairman@thefrms.co.uk)

### **Vice Chairman**

George Steele – [george.steele@thefrms.co.uk](mailto:george.steele@thefrms.co.uk)

### **Secretary**

Adele Wills – [secretary@thefrms.co.uk](mailto:secretary@thefrms.co.uk)

### **Treasurer**

Paul Corfield Godfrey – [paul.godfrey@thefrms.co.uk](mailto:paul.godfrey@thefrms.co.uk)

### **Website Manager**

Ron Mitchell – [website-manager@thefrms.co.uk](mailto:website-manager@thefrms.co.uk)

### **Committee** (in alphabetical order)

Simon Rawlings [simon.rawlings@thefrms.co.uk](mailto:simon.rawlings@thefrms.co.uk)

Tony Sanderson [tony.sanderson@thefrms.co.uk](mailto:tony.sanderson@thefrms.co.uk)

David Wherrell [david.wherrell@thefrms.co.uk](mailto:david.wherrell@thefrms.co.uk)

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[simon.rawlings@thefrms.co.uk](mailto:simon.rawlings@thefrms.co.uk)

*The next newsletter is planned for September 2022. Please send any society news or articles in good time.*

Current and past Newsletters can be downloaded at:

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