

## **Friends of the Amersham Festival Society**

The Friends of Amersham Festival Society continue to be the core of our audience and we are very grateful for all their support, both financially and by their attendance at concerts. This year we were delighted and surprised to receive a bequest from one of our loyal supporters for £5000. We would also like to acknowledge the donations Friends make in addition to their annual subscriptions.

It is always a pleasure to meet and chat to Friends at the twice yearly receptions and we welcome comments and ideas they give. The cost of staging concerts continues to rise and we do need to encourage more people to become a Friend. Only 4 people applied to become Friends this year and sadly we lost some members. This is a concern, because having such a group of loyal supporters is essential to ensure the viability of concerts. The committee will be reviewing our Friends scheme over the next year.

Mrs Jane Partridge

## **Lascelles Bursary Scheme**

We are delighted that we have been able to continue to offer support to young local musicians through our bursary scheme. Most requests this year were for help with the cost of tuition and a few used the award to buy a new instrument. The amount distributed was £2,500. This year we received fewer applications than usual. During the next few months the committee will be looking at ways to make the scheme more widely known. If you know of any local young musicians who might benefit, please alert them to this scheme!

Now concerts have been reinstated after Covid we plan once again to offer free seats at one orchestral concert for recipients and one parent. In previous years this initiative was much appreciated by students and their parents. We give the opportunity for the young people to meet a few members of the orchestra during the interval, including a member who plays the instrument they are studying.

Christine Norton