

Amersham Festival Society

Lascelles Bursary Scheme Report 2019

We have continued to offer support to young local musicians through our bursary scheme. In 2019 we received a record number of applications and in total awarded £4000 to 17 young people. Their ages ranged from 8 to 17 years. Most requests were for help with the cost of tuition and a few used the award to buy a new instrument. Several applicants study 2 instruments and some 3. 10 students study violin, 5 piano, 2 trumpet, 1 saxophone, 1 bassoon, 1 voice, 1 recorder and 1 clarinet.

Once again students were also offered free seats at one orchestral concert for themselves and one parent. This initiative has proved very popular and is much appreciated by students and their parents. We give the opportunity for them to meet a few members of the orchestra during the interval, if possible including a member who plays the instrument they are studying. They like to ask questions of the players – the most popular being ‘How much practice do you have to do?’ Hopefully they will be inspired to continue with their music studies and will become the classical audiences of the future!

Friends of the Amersham Festival Society

It has been encouraging to welcome some new Friends during the year and there are currently about 180 members. The Friends have always been the core of our audience and we are very grateful for all their support, both financially and by attending concerts. It is always a pleasure to meet and chat to Friends at the twice yearly receptions and we welcome comments and ideas they give. Having this essential group of loyal supporters helps to ensure the viability of concerts and creates a sociable and welcoming atmosphere. It is a joy to see Friends chatting together during the interval.

Mrs Jane Partridge