

On the stage with Rubberlips.

HOW MANY OTHER PEOPLE have trouble with their diaries? I like to think that I am a fairly organised person but unfortunately, by the end of the week even my diary looks like an explosion in a mattress factory. Why do I always manage to double-book the special events in my life? To date I have clashed with cup finals, Grand Nationals, firework displays, school fetes and the odd Christmas bazaar.

This year I excelled myself and as Mick Jagger strutted his stuff on the Wembley stage, so Olivia Duffin opened the 1999 Roseneath School of Music Summer Concert to a packed hall at Wychwood School. Thank you to all who came – I knew it would be a hard choice to make but trust that you thought it was worthwhile. To those who did go in search of the “satisfaction” – just look what you missed! – Peter Crowther playing Bach’s G major suite for cello, items from Titanic, the slow movement from Beethoven 5 Pathetique sonata and Brahms’ Lullaby played by Chris Powley sitting at the piano in the lotus position (yes, really!). Ian Duffin ensured that the Queen of Sheba finally arrived, while Sian O’Neill sang to us in welsh and Simon Gidman brought some Brazilian flavour with Villa Lobos’ prelude No.5.

At the prize giving, special awards were made to Duncan Smith and Rebecca Marshall for outstanding achievements during the year. In the competition for the Young Musician of the Year, Kelly Cooper, Lisa Sharp, Matthew Gidman and Thomas Tinsley emerged in third place while the runners up were Hannah Browne, Laura Browne, Victoria Bowes and Christopher Catling.

Bethanie Nisbet was announced as this year’s Young Musician of the Year – well done to all of you. The adult piano prize was presented to Nancy Marflit and Ingrid Ridley won the prize for theory.

This has been a back to the drawing board year for me. For some years I have been trying to get around to completing the Associated Board’s professional development course, but things, like the chaotic diary and the odd fiscal austerity crisis, kept getting in the way. Until this year, that is, when everything fell into place. What an enjoyable year it has been – closeted in the music department of the beautiful setting at Radley college. Being mentored by gracious and highly talented musicians, exploring the capabilities of Radley’s extensive music laboratory and being involved in many bizarre and often hilarious experiments has had a profound effect upon my teaching and produced interesting implications for my pupils. All of you pianists reading this may discover that you play better standing up – one lady plays her scales far more accurately when she is blindfold and some positively blossom when they play Mozart in the flamingo position.

As I write this I am surrounded by packing cases and long forgotten nondescript bits and bobs. The removal men arrive in a few hours and then it will be time to move from the Wychwoods. Thank you to all who have sent us cards and good wishes, they have been much appreciated. Although we will not be living locally I hope to continue my musical involvement in Shipton and Milton and look forward to another rewarding year in 2000.

Pauline Carter