

## Shipston Music Society. October Concert

Before that start of the concert given by the Orchestra of the Swan, their conductor David Curtis was introduced for the first time, as the new President of Shipston Music Society, thus cementing the continuing association between the Orchestra and the Society.

The large audience of members and visitors in the Townsend Hall, were looking forward to an evening of English music and they were not to be disappointed.

The first piece to be performed was Holst's *St Paul's Suite* written for the St Paul's Girls School where he had been director of music. There were four lively movements concluding with Allegro with its echoes of *Greensleeves*. This was followed by a Delius string quartet *Late Swallow*, a slow and dreamy composition so typical of his work. The first half closed with John Ireland's Downland Suite a sumptuous musical picture of the English landscape.

The second half opened with Elgar's *Serenade for Strings*. Written in 1892, it was reported to be the first of his compositions with which he was satisfied. The sweeping strings of this quintessentially English composer, conjuring up past walks and picnics in the countryside. The concert closed with Britten's *Simple Symphony*, a wonderful illustration of his earlier work. The second movement in particular, *Playful Pizzicato*, demonstrated not only this Orchestra's range of ability but also the sheer joy the musicians found in its performance.

It was quite obvious from the audience reaction at the end of the concert, that this was one of the best evenings of music heard *and* seen, in Shipston.

For further details of the Society's activities, ring Clare Faulkes on 01608 663207

John Wheeler