

# News Release

21 November 2016

## Harborough sax players get to work with Wood!

Harborough was alive with the sound of sax recently when 28 saxophonists descended on Church Langton Community Hall for an all day saxophone workshop.

Organised by members of the Great Bowden Recital Trust (GBRT) saxophone choir, the workshop was led by Nigel Wood, founder of the National Saxophone Choir of Great Britain and one of the world's leading players of the tiny 'soprillo' saxophone.

The workshop drew together players of the soprano, alto, tenor and baritone sax from as far afield as Manchester, Birmingham, Coventry and Grantham, as well as 11 members of the Harborough-based GBRT group.

The group worked through five different ensemble pieces during the day including Nigel's own arrangements of Ravel's Bolero, a collection of Rumanian Dances and Billy Joel's heartfelt Lullabye (Goodnight my Angel), which you can hear the group playing at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5xYz7vle4D0> .

Nigel also spent some time with the group looking at technique including tonguing, breath and diaphragm control, tone and intonation, along with that thing that most sax players seem to struggle with – yes, you've got it, playing quietly!

Over lunch, several members of the group took the opportunity to try out Nigel's soprillo, sopranino and huge bass saxophone that he'd brought along for the day.

"It was a real pleasure to work with such a responsive group," said Nigel. "Everyone really stepped up to the mark to produce some great ensemble playing – from the loud, intense Bolero to the soft and sensitive Lullabye. It just goes to show that saxophones can play quietly when they need to, and they were a great bunch of people to work with too!"

Liz Pearce from the GBRT saxophone choir, who organised the event, said: “It was an absolute honour for us to have Nigel come along to take us through our paces. We all learned a lot and it was amazing how quickly he got us working together and listening to each other to make a really good sound.”

Established in 2010, the currently 15 strong GBRT saxophone choir plays a range of classical and modern ensemble pieces under the direction of musical director Tony Rifugiato. The choir, which rehearses in Great Bowden every other Sunday morning from 10am to 12 noon, is open to people of all ages – you just need to be able to read music fluently and play to a minimum grade 4 standard. Right now, the choir is particularly keen to recruit tenor and soprano players. If you're interested, please contact Liz Pearce at [saxchoir.gbrt@gmail.com](mailto:saxchoir.gbrt@gmail.com) or give her a call on 01664 822751. More information is available on the GBRT website at [www.gbrecitaltrust.co.uk](http://www.gbrecitaltrust.co.uk).

### **Photos attached**

- Nigel Wood (centre) with workshop attendees in Church Langton
- Big and small – workshop attendee Anne Mortimer (left) and Georgina West have a go on the soprillo and bass saxophones.

### **ENDS**

### **Notes to editors**

- The GBRT was established in 2004 and is a registered charity (No.1118140).
- The GBRT's aim is to GBRT's aim is music development, appreciation and participation for all.

### **For more information, please contact:**

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