



BRAMSHOTT & LIPHOOK PARISH COUNCIL

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PRESS RELEASE

“Memories of Flanders and Swann”

This April sees Liphook Millennium Centre host an evening of musical entertainment that has delighted audiences up and down the country.

Mates and Godfree road tested some Flanders and Swann songs at a fund-raising dinner at Farnham Castle in September 1995, and subsequently put together a full-length entertainment entitled *'Memories of Flanders and Swann'* which made its debut in Winchester the year after. They have now performed the show the length and breadth of the country. This April sees a return to Liphook for the duo that previously performed at the Liphook Millennium Centre more than a decade ago when the venue first opened. Described as 'a g-nother musical farrago' the show features songs such as 'The Gas Man Cometh', 'The Gnu', 'Transport of Delight (The Omnibus)', 'The Hippopotamus' and many more.

Former MP Michael Mates was a boy chorister at Salisbury Cathedral, and after Cambridge he joined the Queen's Dragoon Guards, rising to the rank of colonel before he resigned his commission and became Member of Parliament for Petersfield in 1974, and later for East Hampshire. In 1992 he was Minister of State at the Northern Ireland Office, the year, coincidentally, that he first met William Godfree. Sometime before this he had made his mark in an informal evening with Donald Swann at the piano, as, according to Swann himself, 'the nearest thing to Flanders since Flanders'. In 2004 he became a Privy Councillor on his appointment to the Butler Committee. He retired from Parliament at the 2010 Election. These days he is mostly to be found in an idyllic country retreat in West Sussex with his wife Christine, skilfully juggling the demands of a large garden, two sons, three daughters, a stepson, a stepdaughter and the occasional Sudoku.

Liphook resident William Godfree was a student at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama where he learned piano and composition. Although he did not study voice, he was surrounded by hordes of singers and picked up some handy tips for occasions such as *'Memories of Flanders and Swann'*. He was a teacher from 1976 to 2009 and pursues a career as a composer, having written music for television, theatre and the concert hall. His 'Folia Variations', commissioned by the organist Christopher Herrick, were premiered at the Newbury Festival and broadcast on Radio 3; his Requiem has been sung frequently in London, Paris, Norway and elsewhere. He is currently working on a community opera to be performed in Surrey, and a one-man show based on the songs of Noël Coward. Usually he is to be found in a leafy corner of Hampshire, for relaxation playing music of the '20s and '30s with the Add Hock trio as well as continuing his regular confrontations with the Times Crossword, the Sudoku generally being beyond him.

Michael Mates and William Godfree perform '*Memories of Flanders and Swann*' on Friday 15 April 2011 at 7.30 pm. Tickets are priced at £8, with a concession of £6 for children and those aged 60 and over. Tickets are available from the Liphook Millennium Centre 01428 723889, Bramshott & Liphook Parish Council Office – Tel: 01428 722988, and on the door. Tickets can also be ordered by e-mail: liphookmcentre@tiscali.co.uk for collection and payment on the day. A range of refreshments will be on sale.

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