

## **The lights are low. The stage is set. Now the big question - has East Budleigh Got Talent?**

Opening with a fanfare, Raleigh Brass from Drake's School lifted the spirits and brought a cheer! The Horn Quartet gave us the uplifting Schubert Sanctus and then The Sharpshooters March, reminiscent of Wallace and Gromit! Paul's banter brought the first half to life. Jola's rendition of Handel's Aria lullaby thrilled as she hit those top notes and Elsa's graceful violin took us "Somewhere Only We Know", Amelia's own composition "London will you miss me?" struck a chord of reminiscence with many.

The Handbell choir continued the first half with Amazing Grace and a merry Schumann number both arranged for handbells by Dr Geoff Aplin and conducted by Chris Teuten. 8-year-old Samuel's Beethoven piano solo took us "Down by the Lakeside" and his brother Emil aged 7 followed with "Little Octopus" on the rock! Continuing the waterside theme, Judith and Geoff on mellow cello and piano graced us with "The Swan" by Saint-Saens.

Nick's own heartfelt composition on guitar "Don't Give Up" pulled at our emotions and Piotr's Chopin Waltz had us hanging on every note to close the first half.

Who knew? What talent there is in the Village, we all said over a tea and delicious cake or our wine and cheese or my interval choc-ice. The atmosphere in the room was very special, like the old days when everyone knew each other, they said.

Eagerly we took our seats as Nick brought us the second half. First up was Chris with Kapustin's piano Prelude which took our breath away, played with such energy! Nancy had the whole house near tears with "Castle in a Cloud" from Les Miserables. A change of scene, Evie gave us a thoughtful "Complicated" by Avril Lavigne before our delightful Open the Book ladies took us On a Mission with rousing audience participation.

Dressed in vintage train guard's uniform, Tony's recital of "Skimbleshanks, the Railway Cat" by T. S. Elliott transported us on the night train north, seen through the eyes of Skimbleshanks as he sloped through the sleeping car. The Raleigh Revellers took us through the "Graceful and Easy" tones of a Barbershop Quartet, except they were eight, maths was not their strong point they told us as they continued to delight with a traditional spiritual. We all had to agree with Paul Painter as he sang "You Got a Friend" before he introduced his own composition of the East Budleigh Song written especially for the occasion. Led by the children from Drake's School, the whole audience sang with gusto, not once but twice, of East Budleigh famous sons Raleigh and Conant and the village landmarks:

We have scarecrows a Maypole and a phone mast that's new,  
A church and a shop so there's plenty to do.

There are some who were born where they still live today  
Some come for the week then don't go away.,  
Because here feels like home and it's easy to see,  
That here in East Budleigh's where we want to be.

Though we roam far and wide it can't be denied  
We think of our village with love and with pride  
So let's sing it out loud and let's sing it out strong,  
For we know that there's only one East Budleigh song.

We all agreed! And what a splendid evening! A great village event and fantastic team work by the Friends of All Saints, our saints in orange, our enormous thanks. As a jubilant audience filed out, we could hear plans being hatched for next year's performance! What will YOU do?