

SSO

Chairs report September 2020

We were so close to a cautious return to small orchestra rehearsals. The plan was to start sessions of six players maximum and record performances of Christmas music to be used for a virtual concert at the end of the year. We had all the risk assessments in place ,all the music organised, obviously all the players keen to come together again — but then came the Sunderland lockdown. Everything on hold again and the frustration continues.

The positive is that the preparation work is not wasted and we are still poised to start making music together in a safe environment the minute the lockdown is relaxed.

All members are welcome to join in the weekly tea break Zoom meetings on Wednesday evenings at 8.30pm . It's a very informal gathering and over the time that the orchestra has not been able to meet to rehearse and perform the tea break has become an important opportunity to socialise ,chat and plan for the future . It's a load of fun so try and take part if you can.

Sadly I have to report the sudden death of John Shipley, a longtime friend and supporter of the SSO. John helped in organising the concerts over many years at West Park Church and was made an honorary patron in 2011. The concert ticket desk will not be the same without him.

Ged McCormack