

# Chopin and Jenny help week off to dream start

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**MALVERN Civic Week got off to a flying start on Saturday, when a packed audience at Christ Church, Avenue Road, enjoyed the world premiere of *The Dream of Chopin*.**

The concert, featuring renowned American pianist Daniel Blumenthal, Malvern-born mezzo-soprano Jennifer Simpson and narrator Cecilia Jorgensen, told the story of singer Jenny Lind and her secret love affair with the composer Chopin.

The gala concert was staged by Icons of Europe in collaboration with Malvern Civic Society as an important step in reviving the legacy of the Swedish Nightingale, who was buried in Malvern 125 years ago.

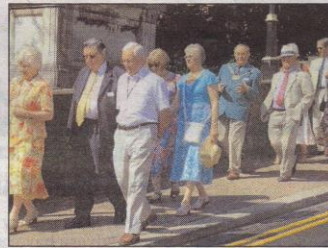
The concert concluded with a standing ovation, and civic society chairman Roger Sutton said: "It's being talked about as the best concert in Malvern for a long time, which could inspire the whole community in many different ways."

Earlier in the day, the civic week was officially launched with a ceremony at Belle Vue Terrace, after which the winners of the literary competition were given their prizes.

The winners of the senior competition were: first, Jenny Ayling, Hanley Castle School; second, Amelia Hockenhill, The Elms School; third, Lleyton James, Malvern College. The winners of the junior



**LITERARY AWARD:** Jenny Ayling, from Hanley Castle High School, collects here award as winner of the senior category.



**TOYEZ:** Town crier Gillian Baines heralds the start of Civic Week, which attracted scores of people, including MP Harriett Baskin.

competition were: first, Amy Farrer, St James Primary School; second, Jake Walker, St James Primary School; joint third, Amber Rodway and Jasmine Cole, Malvern

Parish Primary School. Events continued during the week with Jenny Lind in Malvern, a talk by US historian Arthur Candenuist, Anthony Collis's digital

presentation on the sporting Foster family of Malvern and the Everest Anniversary Lecture by Dr Michael Gill, who has extensive experience of climbing in the Himalayas.

The week continues the civic society concert tonight (Friday) at Christ Church and events tomorrow, including open day at the Massey Hall, Belle Vue Terrace.

Callow End WI. We are looking forward to our own tea party and a visit to Wilton Castle, both later this month.

Our speaker for the evening was Dr Graham Shephard who told many amusing stories of his time in general practice in the 1950s and 60s. This was an era when there

was no appointments system, few concerns over health and safety and political correctness had not been invented.

At this time the surgery was in the doctor's house, with the dining room serving as his waiting room. If the best way to get a

patient to hospital during flooding was to accept a lift in a rowing boat, to be met by the ambulance at a convenient point downstream, so be it.

Delivering a baby in a caravan when the gas cylinder ran out also called for an ambulance in a hurry.

It was an altogether most enjoyable talk.

Elisabeth Dempsey thanked Dr Shephard very sincerely on behalf of us all.

The competition for something square was won by Coral Male with her Rubik Cube.

Next month, at 7.30pm on

Tuesday, August 13, at Village Hall Mrs Jo Smith will be talking about the history of the pudding. Visitors are always welcome.

For more information about our activities, contact secretary on 01684 592 JANET CLEMAS

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