

# The Berkshire Shadows Club



## Next Club Meeting on Tuesday 26th January

**The snow got us!** All the preparation in the world for a grand ol' Christmas bash and we had to cancel it due to the awful weather and treacherous conditions.

### Mike and Sue step back from the sharp end

Due to work commitments, Mike and Sue have decided to step back from the organisation and running of the club. Cindy, Eric and I would like to thank them both for helping us get started, the work they've put in to date and, of course, for that



wonderful lemon drizzle cake! Stepping in to help us for future meetings will be Graham Hyde, who will take over the treasury job and has also volunteered to help Cindy, Eric and I carry the gear up to the hall and set it up. We're none of us getting any younger and this help is gratefully accepted. The old adage "many hands make light work" was never more apt than in this circumstance. We've also had a generous offer from Pete and Jackie Gillies to help when they can. Wonderful stuff. Without your help folks, the club wouldn't be able to continue. It's just too much work for the three of us on our own.



### Backing tracks vs Band play

At some of the other clubs we visit, it seems as though backing tracks are becoming more and more used, rather than the other way around. Those of us who play guitar in a "live" situation know there is nothing quite like playing your piece while standing up with the band. It's a lot better than standing up alone playing to a backing track and for the band members it certainly makes getting all that gear up to the hall worthwhile. Those of us running the club would certainly not like to see our club following those other clubs into backing track territory. My suggestion would be that the only time a backing track is used is when the band doesn't know the number you want to play.

With that in mind, it would be great to see more drummers pitching up to play at our meetings. We already have at least three bass and rhythm guitarists who come up and have a go and this is a great way to add variety and give the existing band members a chance to socialise during the course of the evening.

If you're reading this and you're a drummer, please practice up some Shadows and Cliff material and pop





along to the meetings. Our rule at Berkshire is that anyone who wants to play in the back line can do so, as long as they are proficient on the instrument they play, so please ensure you are able to compliment the existing back line if you come up to play. The back line is there to back the guitarists, and they are expecting us to be able to play the numbers they're doing.

### **Venue thoughts**

Although our venue has a great hall and lots of parking, it has been suggested by a couple of members that we look for an even better venue in 2010. My preference would be to find a social club somewhere, where there is a live bar during the evening and more "atmosphere". We would sincerely welcome your thoughts on this. Please won't you drop me an Email or, even better, use the Berkshire Shadows Club forum, ([www.berks-sc.org](http://www.berks-sc.org)) to give us your feedback. It would be great to know what you think of the existing venue, whether your opinion is that we should stay there, or whether we should actively begin looking for somewhere where there are more services available (and perhaps a bigger hall). Your participation would be gratefully received - it's your club, after all!

### **Sunday sessions**

Due to the popularity of our Berkshire Club, we really do want to continue with the Sunday meetings but the current venue is not particularly good for this. Their available times for a Sunday don't gel with what we'd like to see and we usually end the afternoon with very few people in the hall because of timing and a clash with Sunday dinner. If you know of a venue we could use - somewhere with a pub, lots of comfy

seating and preferably a stage of some description, please won't you investigate it and let us know?

### **Dates for 2010**

Dates of upcoming meetings this year are:

23rd February 2010

23rd March 2010

27th April 2010

25th May 2010

Our normal start time is 19:30 but we're normally ready from around 19:00, so if you can get there early, let's do it!

### **The Procedure**

The club is easy to find, off Junction 5 on the M4. There is a ton of parking available and the lift takes you to the first floor, where the hall awaits you. Don't forget to sign in with Cindy, Jackie and Rhonda when you arrive so we can keep you updated as to club news etc. Please check your Email address on the form when you arrive and change it if it's no longer valid. Don't forget the toll charge - £5 for players and £2 for 'listeners'. The money goes to pay for the hall and for the food, tea, coffee and cakes we consume at every meeting.

Can't wait to play for you all again - see you there this coming Tuesday 26th January!

**Chris Kenward**

*'The Drummer'*



**Contacts - For more information please contact us by Email  
at [apache@berks-sc.org](mailto:apache@berks-sc.org) or 07802 696540.**

**The Langley Village Club, 26 - 28 Cheviot Road, Langley, Berkshire SL3 8LA  
For SatNav users the exact location is: N 51.494580 W 0.542670**