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'The Grandisson Lady' of Exeter

HOW many people who annually enjoy the Grandisson service in Exeter Cathedral are aware of the history behind the occasion?

A lady born in Switzerland but now living in Whimple has made it her business to find out.

In the past few years she has become such an authority on the subject that she is often called "the Grandisson Lady".

Mrs Edith Grout moved to Devon in 1963 with her English husband to run the Gypsy Hill Hotel near Exeter and eventually moved to Whimple.

On her arrival in Devon she spent a great deal of time exploring Exeter and soon discovered that some of the place names in

the city were identical to those she had left behind in Switzerland.

The Cathedral provided her with the connection she sought. For it was there she came upon the name of Bishop Grandisson, the seventh Bishop of Exeter whose family seat lay on the shores of Lake Neuchâtel in her homeland.

Sir Otho Grandisson spent much of his life in the English Court and took part in the eighth crusade, in which he saved the life of Edward I by sucking poison from an arrow wound.

Following his noble act, he became the king's adviser and confidante.

Sir Otho's nephew, John de

Grandisson, became the Bishop of Exeter, a post he held for 42 years, during which time he completed the building of the cathedral and built the church at Ottery St. Mary.

Mrs Grout provides the link between Grandson Castle, the family home of the Grandisson family until 1929, and Devon.

Her fascination that her new home should be so closely connected with her homeland led to two years research in the Cathedral library, where she was dubbed "the Grandisson Lady".

She wrote articles which were seen by the curator at Grandson Castle, who invited her to be the guest speaker at the launch of an appeal to save the castle from being bought by Arabs.

The appeal was launched with a cheque from Mrs Grout in 1980, and last August she heard that it was saved.

Since then, she has continued to give talks in East Devon and she has aroused so much local interest that she has been asked to organise a trip to Castle Grandson in 1985.

Courtesy the Western Times

What's On . . .

Charles Dutoit will conduct a concert with Martha Argerich as piano soloist on Sunday, April 15 at 7.30 in the Barbican Centre. Programme: Ravel-Rhapsodie Espagnol. Prokofiev - Piano Concerto No 3. Berlioz - Symphonie Fantastique.

Les Marionnettes de Genève have been invited to take part in the second International Festival of Animation in Theatre, 1984, at the Palace Theatre, 17 Dukes Road, London WC1 on Tuesday April 24, 2.30, Wednesday April 25, 2.30, Thursday April 26, 2.30, Friday April 27, 2.30, and Saturday April 28, at 11am and 2.30pm. Programme: Pamplemousse le Tigre (Little Tigre Grapefruit). Tickets: £2.75 (adults). Box Office: 01-387 0031. Information: 01-228 8863.

Pierre Koralnik: during May, the French Institute will be looking in retrospect at this film personality. There will be two

performances once a week and four of his films will be shown. On Wednesday, May 2 at 6.30 he will be present with Madame Ludmilla Tcérina, the leading actress in the film "Salomé". This will be followed by a short talk by Mr Koralnik. For further information ring the French Institute 01-589 6211.

Lionel Rogg: one of Switzerland's leading organists, will give a concert on Wednesday June 20 from 6pm until 7.15 at St. Michael's Church, Cornhill, London EC3 (close to Bank and Monument tube stations). The recital will include organ music by J.S. Bach and other composers. The event is a special one to celebrate the tercentenary of the famous St Michael's organ which was originally built by Renatus Harris in 1684 and is well known through frequent recordings and broadcasts. Mr Rogg has been invited to honour this celebration with his performance.

Pop on parade in Montreux

THE Swiss and British Broadcasting Corporations are to co-produce a star-studded pop festival - 'Europarade' - in Montreux in May.

'Europarade' is being staged on the occasion of the 1984 Golden Rose of Montreux international television contest for light entertainment.

Some two dozen top entertainers have announced their participation, although the programme is subject to change.

The pop parade line-up currently includes Status Quo, Adam and the Ants, Cliff Richard, Bonnie Tyler, Shakin' Stevens, Nena, Slade and Spandau Ballet.

'Europarade' will be recorded in public on May 10, 11, 12 and 13 at a specially created TV studio at the Montreux Pavilion. Some sessions will also be recorded on location in the lakeside resort.

The edited 90-minute show will be made available to television organisations worldwide in English, French, German, Italian and international versions.

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