



● He is also one of the leading lights of the village orchestra.

THERE can't be many buildings which are used simultaneously as a music room and a motorbike workshop. But that's the strange fate which befell the old surgery in Pulham Market recently.

Pulham's retired doctor, Pat Rawlence owns the building and explained how it came about.

"When the surgery moved to another location the old surgery came to me. My twin passions are music and British motorbikes, of which I have four, so I converted the surgery into somewhere where I could practise music and look after my motorbikes."

His passion for music led him to becoming one of the leading lights of the village orchestra, set up in 1983 by music teacher Mary Baker. "Miss Baker is a highly respected teacher who had lived in the area and then moved back recently. When we heard that she

had moved back we asked her if she would help us set up the orchestra. We were very lucky to have someone like her to help us."

The orchestra has gone from strength to strength, with a recent concert drawing over 100 people.

Dr Rawlence believes that the success of the orchestra is due in part to the fact that there are no others like it. "It is very much a feature of the village and there are not really any other villages in the area which have their own orchestra. Some of the members of the orchestra come from as far as Wymondham."

As interest grows in the orchestra, so they are getting better with every performance. "There is no doubt about it — it is obvious every time we practise that we are really improving," said Dr Rawlence. Provided they can hear themselves over the noise of the motorbikes, of course.



● Dr Pat Rawlence: a keen collector of British motorcycles