

# GODALMING BAND NEWSLETTER

November 2008

## Band Christmas Engagements

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November –  
Switching on of the Christmas Lights in  
Godalming 6.30 – 8.00 pm**

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December –  
Rotary Concert at Cranleigh Village Hall –  
7.00pm**

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December –  
Carols at Secretts – am [time to be confirmed]**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December –  
Youth Band Engagement at Elmbridge Village,  
Cranleigh**

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December –  
Godalming Band /Youth Band Christmas  
Concert at the United Church,  
Bridge Street , Godalming – 7.00pm**

Tickets for the Christmas Concert are available from David Daniels Tel.01483 536016 or Record Corner, Godalming or from Band Members – Price £5 adults and £3 children.

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December –  
Outside Waitrose – Carols with the Youth  
Band followed by the Senior Band. (5.30 -  
8.30pm)**

## Chairman's Corner

Hi Everyone. Welcome to our final newsletter for 2008. With the Christmas season approaching it is a moment to look back at the events of our busy summer and autumn seasons.

Summer saw the band participating in a varied and exciting series of events.

Our Godalming bandstand season of three concerts, all blessed with bright sunshine and a large crowds of listeners, included a very successful 'Songs of Praise' event.

In July we were privileged to be invited to provide the music for the 'Royal Occasion' at Puttenham Golf Club. *More on this event later.*

September saw a successful end to the bandstand season, followed by a very enjoyable and successful Sunday evening at the Addlestone 'Challenging Brass' contest.

Our efforts at fundraising for the 'bandstand roof' continued apace with both bands playing and tin rattling outside of Waitrose. Then in October the senior band provided the prior to dinner entertainment for the fundraising 'Bandstand black tie ball and dinner' at Priorsfield School.

This years Remembrance Day Parade went very well with a large band turning out for the event. Our playing and marching was greatly enhanced by the percussionists Lorraine and Tom.

Now our thoughts turn to the busy Christmas season. *Details of both bands engagements are shown opposite.* However don't forget to book our Christmas concert into your diaries – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December at the United Church.

My thanks to everyone involved in both of our bands for all of the hard work and commitment that is put in to ensure that the bands continue to grow in numbers and musical achievement.

*Ray Pont*

### *The Godalming Band win by a smile*

Not all brass band contests are a serious affair! The annual Challenging Brass contest, held in the Addlestone Community Centre on a Sunday evening in September, is an event specifically designed to allow the competing bands to choose a repertoire that they believe to be highly entertaining for the audience.

This year, four local bands competed in this light-hearted contest. The bands were Godalming Band, Cobham Brass Band, Staines Lammas Band and Mole Valley Silver Band. Each band was given a thirty minute slot in which to perform a set test march and a handful of pieces of their choice.

The Godalming Band is enjoying a recent run of good performances, having won their section in the Southern Counties Amateur Band Contest in Hove for the second consecutive April, so the band was in high spirits as they took the stage near the end of the evening.

The test march was the Wellington March by Wilhelm Zehle. The band followed this up with an interesting and eclectic mix of pieces.

They started with Derek Bourgeois's Serenade, a fun piece that he wrote for his own wedding that alternates between a mix of 11/8 and 13/8 metres.

Next up was an unusual performance of The Cats Duet (Duetto Buffo Di Due Gatti) by Rossini (arranged for brass band by Howard Snell) in which the competing solo parts were sung by two vocalists as Rossini had originally intended. Our vocalists were Zoe Turner and Yvette Cummings, and they did a great job.

A fantastic arrangement by William Himes of the traditional Amazing Grace was next on the programme, with nine separate cornet parts used to create the sound of the bagpipes' drone.

Next up was Hogarth's Hoedown, a jaunty piece written by Elgar Howarth and recorded by the Grimethorpe Colliery Band, a piece described by the adjudicator, Major Calum Gray, as having "lots of corners, safely negotiated" by the band.

The finale was the Trojan March by Hector Berlioz, from his Les Troyens opera, a resounding and triumphant piece to conclude the performance.

The Godalming Band was very pleased to hear that they had won the contest as well as taking the prize for best solo performance, awarded to the two "cats". Major Gray summarized the winning performers with three words - "a smiley band". The band had clearly enjoyed performing their pieces for the audience's enjoyment, and that is what this annual contest is really all about.

*Dave Petch*

### *A Royal Occasion*

Our band was privileged to be invited by Puttenham Golf Club to provide the music for their special celebration day in Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July. This event was to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a visit by Queen Victoria who reviewed some 20,000 troops from the top of a hill on Puttenham Heath [now the site of the golf course]. Once again we were blessed with good weather on a day which we will all remember for a long time.

A very full band of members and friends was seated on top of the hill and played to entertain the large crowd and special guest as they gathered to await the arrival of the guest of honor, HRH Prince Edward the Earl of Wessex. The regimental band of the Ghurka Brigade marched up the steep hill from the clubhouse playing and looking incredibly smart. Prince Edward arrived with his guard of honor – a local musket group dressed in authentic early Victorian uniforms. [I'm not sure how their leader made it to the top of the hill – but that's another story].

There then followed the formal opening and blessing of the new flagpole with a short drumhead service by the Ghurkas. Our band then played its solo piece – ‘A salute to Sullivan’ and accompanied the children from the Puttenham and Wanborough School for their maypole and country dancing. The children looked fantastic in their Victorian clothes specially made for this event. After unveiling a commemorative plaque Prince Edward mingled and talked with the guests and crowd. This included him coming specifically to thank the band. Our young percussionist, Tom, was singled out for a word from the Prince because he was the only band member not sitting under the covered gazebo. I hope he remembers this in years to come. After spending time with the school children the Prince, with his escort returned to the clubhouse for tea and further entertainment by another military musical group.

For our part the formal section of the day was now over and we were all able to enjoy tea and cake whilst watching a fine aerobatic display. This was followed by a brilliant formal marching and knife handling display by the Ghurka Regimental Band. It was truly an afternoon to be remembered and one of which our band can be proud to have been a part of.

May 2008 saw the end of Godalming Bands’ 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. The history of the current band started with a royal celebration for the coronation of King George V1 and Queen Elizabeth and although this event took place in July, I think we could say that it ended with another royal occasion.

It has been suggested that perhaps we should now be known as the ‘Royal Godalming Band’!!!!

### **Remembrance Day**

How fortunate can one be!! Between days of high winds and heavy rain, the morning of Remembrance Sunday was sunny and still. A really good crowd turned out to watch the large parade as it marched through the town to the war

memorial to honor the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WW1. This year our band excelled itself with 25 bandsmen marching and another 4 joining for the services. I have received many complementary comments about the playing of the band. No doubt we were not only inspired by the new marches that we played but also by our percussionists, Lorraine [guest bass drum – ex Godalming Goldstars] and Tom [on his first parade].

My thanks to everyone who turned out for this event.

*Ray Pont*

### **News from Down-under**

Our Treasurer and Eb Bass player, Andrew Edwards, is currently in Brisbane, Australia, working on an engineering project. He has joined up with a local brass band ‘Yellow Cabs Bayside Brass’ [they have a web site] and been enjoying brass music the Aussie way. This has included participating in a recent contest which in addition to playing included marching. [*Godalming Band hope they don’t introduce this element into English contests*].

It seems that not only has the local band been impressed by our ‘Pommy’s’ playing [horn / bass], but that the Aussie company has been impressed with his technical skills at work and have offered him long term employment. Andy will be home for 2/3 months at Christmas or early in the New Year when we will be able to say a proper farewell. [*After we have negotiated a suitable transfer fee for our star bass player!!*]

### **National Brass Finals**

On 11<sup>th</sup> October several members of the senior band went to the National Brass Finals at the Royal Albert Hall. We were joined by David Pitt and Liz Lancaster, two former members of Godalming Band.

Everyone enjoyed the feast of music provided throughout the day from 20 of the best bands in

the country. The day was crowned by a superb performance by Black Dyke Mills Band who were rightly crowned champions for 2008. Our thanks to Lofty for organizing this great day out.

### **Band Skittle Evening**

On Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November about 50 band members, families and friends from both bands gathered at the Broadwater Community Centre for a social evening. Old fashioned skittles was on the menu.

A really fun evening was enjoyed by all who attended. Everyone from 8 to 80 tried their luck, firstly in teams and then after a fine fish and chip supper, individually at a game of killer. This is a game where you only have one ball and have to knock down at least one skittle to survive. There was plenty of family and team support and laughter as each person tried their luck. The winners on the evening were Phil Kingsbury [Band], Mathew Tait [Youth band], Sandra Every [Guests] and Clem Pickering [Juniors]

Our sincere thanks to Ann and John Heward for organizing the event and getting such great fish and chips. It was a real success and enabled all sections of our banding family to get together. Our thanks also to Dave Sargeant and his team of helpers for getting and setting up the skittle alley and running the games on the evening.

### **A New Arrival**

The Band was pleased to congratulate Emma (1<sup>st</sup> Tenor Horn) and Simon Scholler on the birth of their first child - a baby daughter Rosie Elizabeth - at the end of August. Our very best wishes to you both.

We hope that Mum will be able to find some time with all of her new commitments to come back for a blow some time in the not too distant future.

*[We will remember save a tenor horn for Rosie].*

### **Youth Band Bequest**

Earlier in the year the band received a very generous donation of £600 from Mr and Mrs Thwaites of Liss. This bequest was made by the family and friends in the memory of the late Mr. Jim Burt. [Mrs Thwaites father] Jim was musician of some talent and a life time bandsman, having played cornet and euphonium. He began his banding career at the Salvation Army in Catford and played for various brass bands in the region, including the Charles Church and Epsom and Ewell bands. His playing days ended with the well known Genet Band. In his latter years Jim had lived locally and before his death he had requested that a bequest be made to a local band. His family decided that Godalming Band should be the recipient of this bequest. Following discussions with the family it was agreed that the monies should be used towards the purchase of an instrument for the youth band, a cause which the family thought would have truly met with Jim's wishes.

The instruments purchased will be displayed at our Christmas Concert and be presented to the Youth Band by Mrs. Thwaites – Jim's daughter.

We wish to convey our most grateful thanks to the family and friends of Jim Burt for this most generous gift.

*Ray Pont*

### **Youth Band**

The Youth Band is rehearsing as usual on Monday evenings at the Band room before the Senior Band Practice. There are at present 10 cornet players, 1 flugel horn, 2 euphoniums, 1 Eb Bass, 5 horns, 2 baritones, 3 trombones and 1 Percussion including some beginners on various instruments.

The Youth Band has been invited again to give a concert at Cranleigh's Elmbridge Retirement Village this year on 14<sup>th</sup> December which gives

them the opportunity of performing together as well as providing solos and duets giving variety to their programme.

Sadly Miles, Solo Trombone, is having to absent himself from the Band to concentrate on his A level studies and will be sorely missed from both the Youth Band and the Senior Band as he is a good player and adds strength to the lower line.

Thanks are expressed to Andy, Michelle, James, Phil and Dave Daniels and all others who help in any way with the Youth Band administration or supporting the less capable players.

The Youth Band will be playing outside Waitrose early evening on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December and of course, joining with the Senior Band for the Band Christmas Concert on 20<sup>th</sup> December.

The Christmas Band concert on 20<sup>th</sup> December will be once again at the United Church with the usual mix of popular music from both the Senior and Youth Bands and ending with Christmas Music to get us all into the mood for the Festive Season. Come and join us for this very popular event. (See details at top of this newsletter).

*David Loftus*

### **Learning to play**

Don't forget that David Loftus and his team are happy to provide initial lessons and training for young people on Saturday mornings. If you have or know of a youngster who would be interested in learning to play a brass instrument and being given a start on their interest in music we are there to help and can provide an instrument for them to have a go.

### **100 Club Draw Winners 2008**

January            99 David Petch  
                         88 Val Gardner

February          41 Wendy Ball  
                         1 David Sargeant  
March              23 John Waugh  
                         85 Peter Bryant  
April                35 John White  
                         10 Dorothy Robins  
May                 40 Linda Wagner  
                         37 Tony Gordon- Smith  
June                68 John Heward  
                         80 Gail Renaud  
July                 15 Cathy Gordon-Smith  
                         13 Zoe Bryant  
August             91 Greta Edgington  
                         23 John Waugh  
Sept                92 Mr R Gosden  
                         1 Dave Sargeant  
October            99 David Petch  
                         9 David Loftus  
November        82 Ellen Sargeant  
                         56 Julie Rowling  
December – to be drawn at Christmas Concert

This year we had 53 players and raised £318 for the band.

### **Godalming Band Supporters**

Why not support Godalming Band by becoming a Patron – subscription £10 per annum which means that you can reserve the best seats at our concerts and receive our news letter twice a year either by e-mail or in the post.

Other ways of supporting the band are by helping provide refreshments, selling programmes, tickets or stewarding at concerts or joining our 100 Club for a cost of £1 permonth per square, ie £12 per year. The money taken is divided in half to provide prizes and half to band funds.

Last year the Patrons' Scheme raised £405 for the band.

For more information contact Ann Heward on 01483 420360 or by e-mail [annaheward@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:annaheward@yahoo.co.uk).

**Planning for 2009**

This is well under way and our engagements diary for next year is already filling up.

If you would like one of our bands to play at your event please contact our secretary Wendy Ball [tel 01483 502225]

Here are some early dates for your 2009 diary.

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2009

*Spring Concert - United Church, Godalming – Godalming Band and St. Hilary's School Choir and Musical groups*

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2009

*Godalming Bandstand - Formal Civic celebration of the new roof to the bandstand on the Burys*

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2009

*Spring Concert - United Church, Godalming – Godalming Band and St. Hilary's School Choir and Musical groups*

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2009

*Christmas Concert at Charterhouse Chapel – Godalming Band and Godalming Choral Society*

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Thank you for your continued support and interest in our bands.

If you want to keep up to date with our activities and see photographs from some of our engagements and visits abroad just visit our web site at [www.godalmingband.org.uk/](http://www.godalmingband.org.uk/)

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**Godalming Band and Youth Band  
wish you all a Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year.**