



# THE TRUMPETER

www.totnesband.co.uk

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# TOTNES BAND

## Latest News

The last six months have been like a roller coaster ride for the Totnes Band with good fortune and bad luck following each other.

2002 had started on a high with the appointment of Sid Davis as the new Musical Director and everyone was looking forward working together to consolidate the bands progress. It was not long before the proposed firemens strike halted this, as Sid was quickly posted away for training in the event of any shortfall in cover. He is still away as the strike has yet to be resolved, with world events taking precedence.

The war in Iraq came very close to home as several past members of the band were in the forces. However, luckily it was soon resolved and our members were spared having to go to Iraq.

Since Sid went away Clive and Simon have worked together to keep the band going.

It was not possible to enter the South West Brass Band contest at Torquay last November but every effort was made to enter the West of England Regional finals in March, again held in Torquay. It was not a good result for the band, but they comforted themselves with the fact that they managed to get a band together to compete.

Several players were unable to attend for various reasons, one of which was the bands chairman, Martyn Ryan. He has had a serious operation on his spine, which has kept him out of action for some time. He is well on the way to recovery and hopes to be back with the band soon.

Last year was good financially thanks to many engagements and a successful Christmas period. Also, a very grateful thanks has been extended to Doreen Lear, who with her friend Daphne, manned an Elizabethan stall in the Civic Hall forecourt throughout the summer. As a result over £900 was raised for the band funds. This was no mean feat, as very often Tuesdays seemed to be quite wet which didnt deter Doreen one

bit. Clive was quick to spend some money on a new percussion set, as the old one was over 20 years old.

It is unbelievable but this years Elizabethan season starts the first Tuesday in May and Doreen is rearing to go again and says she enjoys it all very much. Dont forget that any contributions for the stall are most welcome, so its a good way to recycle those unwanted presents or items you are fed up with looking at.

Another set back for the band was the huge increase in the boat hire for the Annual Musical Cruise. It was with regret that a decision was made that this was not sustainable, so, after over 20 years, the musical cruise will not take place.

In its place a trip is being organised to take a coach to Padstow, Cornwall, on Sunday 25th May with the view of having a good day out and collecting money for the funds in Padstow.

## Join us at Padstow

Sunday May 25th sees the start of what may become a new tradition. Thwarted by rising prices the Band has abandoned the river and the annual boat trip to Dartmouth and is taking to the road instead.

We are playing two Whitsun concerts in the beautiful North Cornwall coastal resort of Padstow. In order to make the venture a success we now need your support – a coach full of boat-trip regulars prepared to join us on a special day out. Not only will you be treated to a day in a glorious location and two atmospheric concerts by the harbour-side but we can also promise a change in music (no more Anchors Aweigh but a few renditions of the Padstow Lifeboat and the Floral Dance). You will even be spared the late-evening attempts to play on the boat home (although entertainment on the return coach trip remain open to offers).

Come and join us. We leave Totnes at

12pm returning at approx. 10pm. Tickets from any band member, or ring Phil on 01803 863625 Price £5.

## Player Profile

Joyce & John Lewis

John and I met as teenagers in Hungerford Youth Band, back home in Berkshire. Band, for once, was not really a high priority for either of us. John, an apprentice silversmith, had just moved from being County Colts Captain straight into the Newbury first team, so he was always playing rugby, whilst I had just taken my A levels a year early and was studying for Oxbridge. However, somehow or other we managed to get our priorities right. John was soon driving his spitfire up to London to train with the Harlequins, I won a scholarship to Lady Margaret Hall and we were married the year I graduated, with the Yarnton Band playing at our sun-filled wedding.

My first academic job was at UWIST in Cardiff & once we had a house in the South Wales Valleys we were soon driving over Caerphilly Mountain to play for Tongwynlais (Temperance by name but not by nature). A combination of band, rugby and a surname like Lewis meant we managed to live an undercover existence, with few people realising we were English. So much so that by the time of the miners' strike we were turning out for an ex-colliery band and John, now a teacher, was playing rugby alongside the miners whilst I stood on the touchline with the banished pit deputies.

In 1986 I became Devon Research Fellow at the University of Exeter and we joined Totnes Band at the end of that year. It seemed just a passing fling at first because Edward, our son, was born in 1988, followed by Eleanor in 1991 and there was no room for Band alongside small children and work. However, I have a photo of John in band uniform holding five month old Edward and "just helping out" and by the time Ellie was toddling I was "helping out" too (if that is what you could ever call our playing contribution) and we have been somewhere around ever since, with both children now learning brass instruments. (It is a good job we don't have close neighbours, especially with the emphasis their teacher places on a "big sound").

Between us we have played for eight bands, all but two in common. It has been a great way of finding a friendly welcome in new towns and

becoming a part of a community. I will never forget playing carols in Ramsbury on Christmas morning (we always started at 6 o'clock), with the rising sun turning the snow-covered downs pink and revealing the deer grazing nearby. (We were paid handsomely not to play at the racing stables and frighten the horses - a sort of genteel extortion racket). Nor could I forget summer camp meetings when seats in sloping orchards slid gently down hill and percussion was provided by early fruit falling on instruments. We contested regularly in Gwaen Cae Gurwen (North of Swansea) where bits of the ceiling in the vast Miners' Institute regularly joined the contesting bands on stage. We even played a concert in a working men's club (home of How Green was my Valley) where every piece was clocked by the committee on a stop watch to ensure that we played not a two-hour concert but two hours' worth of music! Band - hardly a hobby, more a way of life.

## Diary

### May

Sun 25th Padstow Trip/concert

### June

Sun 22nd Maltsters Arms. Tuckenhay. 12.30 - 3.30pm

Sat 28th Broadhempston Fete. (Small parade). 1.30pm.

### July

Sun 6th Galmpton Gooseberry pie Fayre.

Sun 13th Kingsbridge Bandstand 3pm.

### August

Sun 10th Newton Abbot Bandstand.

Tue 12th Floral Dance 7pm

Thu 14th Dawlish Carnival 7pm

Sat 16th Totnes Carnival 6pm

Wed 20th Cheese & Wine, Totnes Hospital. 7.30pm

Wed 27th Dartmouth Regatta. Parade/Concert