



THE TRUMPETER

www.totnesband.co.uk

September 2002

TOTNES BAND

Latest News

The band is taking part in a "Gala Charity Concert" in aid of "The Salvation Army Work for street children of Riga, Latvia". On Sat 5th October. Avenue Methodist Church. Newton Abbot. 7pm. Tickets on the door.

The S.A. have 5 social work institutions. In March 2002 the newest of these institutions was opened in the form of a children's day centre in Central Riga.

Located just outside central Riga, the centre is open 5 days a week from 14:30 to 19:30 and caters for children aged 6-15, and has space for up to 20 children.

Each day when the children arrive they are provided with a nutritious meal and are able to use the full range of the facilities available for them.

This has been organised by one of the band members John Hales.

There will be performances by Soprano Nicola Mortlock, and Pianoforte Hannah Griffiths.

Hannah studied cornet under Howard Snell and is now a Music teacher. She currently plays soprano cornet for Torbay Brass. She is also an accomplished pianist.

Nicola sings soprano with the International Staff Songsters.

The compare for the evening is Colonel Trevor Tribble who is the retired Divisional Commander.

The concert is on Sat 5th October at 7pm in the Avenue Methodist Church, Newton Abbot.

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The band will be playing for the Royal British Legion in Brixham on Wed 6th Nov at their Remembrance service. 7.30pm.

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The band is taking part in a Xmas concert at Dartington Hall on Sun 15th at 4.30pm. There will be various artists involved as well as community carol singing.

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The band is also hoping to join with the Allegro Singers in December, for a Xmas

concert. Date to fixed.

Player Profile

This is the first of what I hope will eventually lead to each member of the band giving a brief history of their banding career.

A brief history of Sarah & Graham's Banding life.

Graham started his banding life some 28 years ago with a local village band Carharrack & St Day under the direction of Clifford Bolitho.

The first instrument I learned, like many, was the cornet but rapidly moved on to the euphonium. Like many a band in those days contesting was an important part of band life, Carharrack were in the upper levels of the second section (in the days of 1st 2nd, 3rd and 4th sections). The protocol then was to be proficient in the junior band before joining the senior band. It was very exciting as a new member to join the band on contest days as a supporter, going to sit behind the curtains on stage whilst the band played. Eventually I made it into the senior band (along with my brother) and all was well. The first contest I went to was Paignton playing the test piece "Simon called Peter" whenever I hear that piece now it brings back memories. Within months the band went through turmoil brought on by the success of the band on the contest stage, and the lack of commitment by some to move the band into the first section. This resulted in the resignation of Clifford Bolitho who left and took several players with him; this resulted in a new band being formed Illogan Sparnon Silver. I was one of the players who followed along with my brother and several others. Within months a full band was equipped with instruments, uniforms, music etc. At this time I decided that playing the euphonium was not for me, so (like an idiot) I decided to play Bb bass an instrument I still play today.

I continued playing for Illogan for some years enjoying many a contest win until I was enticed to join Camborne. I played for

Camborne for a short period of time mainly due to a change in my job, in those days lack of one/two practices would have meant someone else sitting in your seat; rather than facing an embarrassing situation I left. This move took me to Redruth for a while, but then back to Illogan.

In 1985 my job took me to Barnstaple, North Devon and not knowing anyone in the surrounding area I looked for a band and joined Bideford town, who then were a 2nd section band, under the direction of Maurice Arnold. The band secretary turned out to be another cornishman, Cyril Pascoe, originally from St Keverne, and a great friendship was formed.

I continued with Bideford for four years playing, committee member and chairman. In 1989 I retired from the world of brass bands to play golf early 1995. I was in Barnstaple for a day trip (I had since been moved back to Redruth for further promotion within my job) when I met a member of Bideford town who informed me they had "qualified for the national finals 4th section in London and were desperate for somebody to take charge of the young bass section "why look at me" I thought? After many pleading phone calls, and a call from Cyril Pascoe I decided to help. This entailed a round trip of 192 miles after work twice a week for practice. The contest arrived and we left on the Friday before arriving at our hotel late that night, several ales were consumed before bed. The contest day arrived and the band played well although we were not in the prizes. Oh dear, we had played by 11.30am and the bus won't be leaving until 5.00pm what shall I do? Is that a pub I spy (the greyhound in Wembley) so some of us made our way there. One such person who followed was the repiano player, a one Sarah Challacombe, a good time was had by all. After this contest I hung my mouthpiece up again until 1996 when my job meant a move to Exeter for further promotion; I joined Bideford again at the same time as my personal life took an unexpected turn for the worse. The family home was sold and I moved in with a repiano player yes you've got it Sarah Challacombe, in her property in Barnstaple. In January 1998 Sarah and I moved to Exeter, continuing to play with Bideford until we moved to Lypstone South West Telecoms under the direction of Charles Fleming.

We played for Lypstone for 12 months enjoying a great contest winning period, 10 contests 10 firsts including the 4th section national finals.

We left Lypstone after an untimely clash of personalities and hung up our mouthpieces, we were

enjoying our "retirement" until we had a phone call from "Derek Roberts, bandmaster of Totnes band" inviting us to come along for a blow, we did, realised what we had missed and started playing again. The friendship and welcome offered to us at Totnes has been one of the best in our banding life. In September 2001 Sarah and I got married, and one of Sarah's lifelong ambitions was fulfilled, to marry a musician (not sure why she chose me after all I'm a bass player) and to have a brass band playing at her wedding.

Sarah's banding life started with Barum Silver band, and with this band was fortunate to travel to Berlin and see the famous wall. Sarah left Barum to join Bideford town where she played a variety of instruments, cornet (which she still plays today) flugel and tenor horn.

Elizabethan Stall

Doreen has just finished the summer season of Tuesday stalls. This year has been incredibly successful. She has raised just over £800 for band funds. Well done Doreen. We thank you for your dedication and I am sure the money will be spent wisely.

Diary

October

Sat 5th Charity Concert. Avenue Methodist Church
Newton Abbot. 7pm

November

Wed 6th Remembrance Service. Brixham. 7.30pm
Sun 10th Remembrance parade. Totnes. 10.30am

December

Sat 7th Poole Contest.
Sun 15th Xmas concert. Dartington Great Hall. 4pm