

GODALMING BAND NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER, 2012

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Hi Everyone,

As you read this our very busy year is almost over. The Jubilee and our 75th anniversary celebrations mark it as possibly our most remarkable summer ever.

The Band is indebted to everyone for their support and hard work that made this year such a success. Band treasurer Alan Steele played a pivotal role mustering financial support for our anniversary events from a number of sources (listed below). For his efforts, a special thanks.

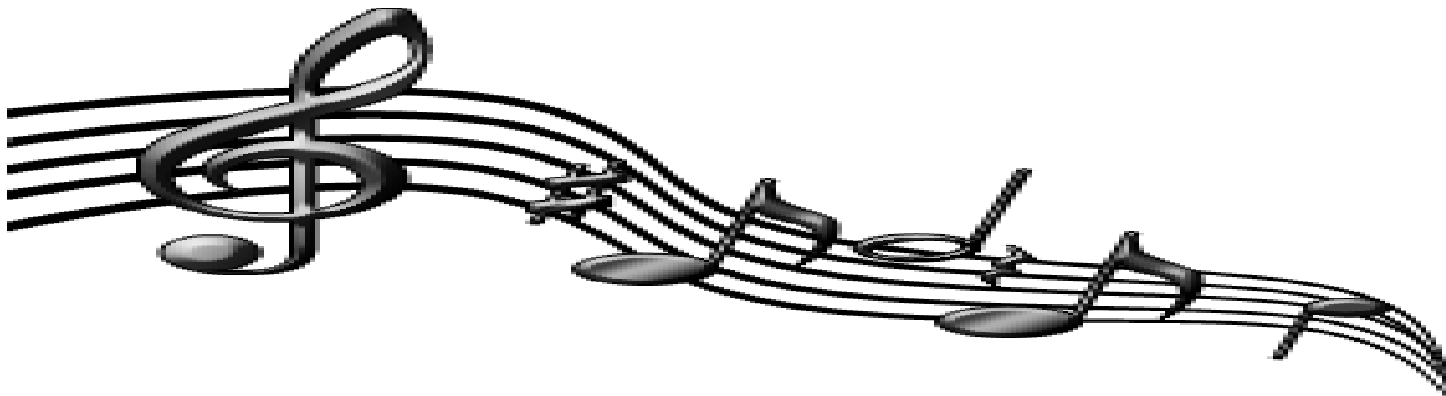
In addition to these major events the band also undertook its normal run of summer engagements including two new venues - Shamley Green Fete and

Wonersh United Church Songs of Praise.

Both the Senior Band and the Youth Band will be very busy over the Christmas season, as our engagement calendar shows. We will bring the spirit of Christmas to many people in our area, including visits to some people who are less fortunate than us.

As Christmas draws near may I wish you and your families a very happy, peaceful and enjoyable festive season.

Ray Pont, Band Chairman



BAND STALWARTS CALL IT A DAY

This September Ron and Ivy Gray have reluctantly decided to stand down from playing with the Band. After so many years, this was not an easy decision. Ron learned to play the cornet during his RAF service and joined us in 1954. Thus began his 58 years with the Band. During this time Ron played solo cornet, flugel horn, baritone and Eb bass. Aside from playing he has also served as treasurer, secretary, band manager and librarian. His commitment ran deep.

Ivy and Ron met when the Band played in a joint concert with Westborough Ladies Choir for whom Ivy was a vocal soloist. The Band's then musical director, Wilf Garrett, conducted both the Band and the choir. Early in their married life Ivy decided to learn the trombone, either out of love or desperation. She joined the Band in 1972, and helped Ron with training young players, who formed our first

Youth Band. Ivy has undertaken many secretarial and other tasks for the Band and was actively involved with the Band Supporters Group in its early days.

Their last playing engagement was on a sunny Sunday September evening before a large crowd for our Jubilee Year 'Last Night of the Proms' at Godalming Bandstand, an appropriate occasion on which to bow out. Ron and Ivy are not retiring completely, however. They have volunteered to carry on as our Band librarians, as well as continue administrative work with scaba, our area band association.

Godalming Band owes these two stalwart members a great deal for all of their years of devoted service. All of us will want to say a sincere thank you to them both and wish them many more enjoyable and healthy years together.



YOUTH BAND

The Youth Band has had an impressive year, as membership remains strong and support from parents and friends sturdy. A CD recording in September was a first for the Band. In October, many Band members attended the national Championship Section contest at Royal Albert Hall, in what is becoming a tradition. The Youth Band was busy with engagements during the summer, and put in a fine performance at the 75th anniversary barbeque in July.

During the Christmas season the Band will be playing at the Pepperpot on 8

December, from 10.50 to 11:20 as part of Town Day, at the annual Christmas concert on the 15th at Godalming United Church along with the Senior Band, and at Godalming Waitrose on the 20th in the early evening. On the 25th of November the Band played for Elmbridge Retirement Village.

Many congratulations are due to David Loftus who was awarded an MBE this spring. Godalming is very lucky to have such a dedicated and able Youth Band MD, and his award is richly merited.

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE WEEKEND

Four days of local celebrations marked the Queen's Jubilee in Godalming. On Saturday 2nd June festivities opened with the Carnival Parade and Town Show.

'Picnic in the Park' followed on Sunday with various events and different bandstand concerts.

The special Jubilee 'Songs of Praise' scheduled for the bandstand had to move into the parish church due to rain. An undaunted audience crowded inside to sing heartily and enjoy the music of the Senior Band, Godalming Gospel Choir, and the Minor Chord Singing Group.

'Sports for all day' and the 'Town fun run and races' were on the agenda Monday, 4 June. Our Youth Band, to much acclaim, provided the musical entertainment for the large crowds that gathered at the Pepperpot before the races started. Throughout the afternoon and early evening various groups

provided a wide variety of musical entertainment on Burys Field and bandstand. Later that evening the Senior Band provided the music building up to the arrival of the torchlight procession and lighting of the Jubilee Beacon. This was followed by a grand Jubilee firework display with the Band providing specially arranged music to accompany the fireworks. This was a fitting climax to a truly spectacular and wonderful day of celebrations witnessed by 6000 people.

Disappointingly Tuesday's special musical events again had to be move to the Parish Church because of rain, but this did not dampen the spirit of the audiences or various local music groups who participated in this feast of local talent.

This was a truly memorable celebration of a very special event in our country's history. Ray Pont

SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

Despite the weather's best efforts, Godalming Band's anniversary weekend was a resounding success. The visiting bands from Joigny, France, and Mayen, Germany arrived close to their scheduled times on Friday evening, 13 July. The next morning, the bands played on Godalming High Street. One strong shower interrupted play and chased the bands and the audiences off temporarily, although the sun popped out again long enough for the bands to finish their performances. In the evening a well-attended joint concert was staged at Ben Travers Theatre on the grounds of Charterhouse School. The distinctive styles of the bands made for an exciting and entertaining event, and from their response the audience immensely enjoyed the show.

Sunday was a wonderful surprise. The sun shone strongly all day, bringing people out in droves for the afternoon concert at Godalming Bandstand. Prior to the concert the bands marched up the High Street, displaying their unique musical styles once again. This had to be one of the best attended of the Music in the Park concerts, and the enthusiasm of the audience was gratifying to all the bands. Godalming Band is extremely grateful for the wide support of the community as well as Councillor Steve Cosser and Surrey County Council, Godalming Town Council, GOLO, Godalming Round Table, The United Church of Godalming and other individuals, many of whom provided crucial financial backing for the weekend of music.

GALA ROTARY CONCERT

Godalming Band and the Waverley Festival Choir along with an array of special guests presented the annual Mayor of Waverley's Gala Concert at Charterhouse Great Hall on Sunday, 21 October. Tony Gordon-Smith, Waverley Mayor this year, is a great friend of the Band, and we were

delighted to play a part in this worthy event. Penelope Keith graciously took time from her very busy schedule to narrate "Into the Ark", a playful musical rendering of the biblical story. A splendid trumpet trio, Tom Rainer, Will Spencer, and Steve Dawes, dazzled the audience with their

renditions of “Buglers’ Holiday” and “Trumpets Wild”, accompanied by the Band. After the interval the Band premiered Patrick Rivers’s “Celebration”. Patrick is a distinguished composer and supporter of the Band. His work with us is deeply appreciated.

Waverley Festival Choir also featured in several pieces, including Sibelius’s “Finlandia”, as well as “Blest Pair of Sirens”, and “I Was Glad”, two works by Sir CHH Parry. In the penultimate

musical selection, Pipe Major Roger Huth played the stirring “Highland Cathedral”, accompanied by the Band. The evening ended with David Wright’s arrangement of Godalming Jubilee Fireworks Music, featured as accompaniment to the fireworks display in early June. The concert raised funds for two charities, The Rotary Club of Godalming and The Princess of Wales’s Royal Regiment Benevolent Fund.

BAND MEMBERSHIP

The Band has recently acquired two new players, Dave Tinker, on Eb bass, formerly with Wantage, and Sam Honeysett, currently on baritone. Russell Burton has also returned on bass trombone. Russ will be with us as often as possible, although sailing

may distract him in the summer. Linda Wagner, our soprano cornet player, is taking a rest from banding because of family health problems. We will be thinking of Linda and her family at this difficult time and look forward to her return soon.



CHRISTMAS SEASON ENGAGEMENTS

Wednesday, 5 December Carols, Godalming Masonic Lodge 8:30pm

Saturday, 8 December Carols, Godalming High Street 10:30am – 1:00pm

Saturday, 8 December Carols, The Pepperpot (Youth Band) 10:50am-11:20am

Tuesday, 11 December Busbridge WI Christmas Dinner 8:30pm

Wednesday, 12 December Meath Home, Godalming 4pm

Thursday, 13 December Windlesham Golf Club, 7:45pm

Saturday, 15 December Christmas concert, Godalming United Church 7pm
(Senior and Youth Bands)

Sunday, 16 December Carols, Valewood House 3-3:45pm

Thursday, 20 December Carols, Godalming Waitrose 5-8pm

(Senior and Youth Bands)

Friday, 21 December Carols, Wonersh 7:30pm

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Our annual Christmas Concert will take place on Saturday 15th December at the United Church, Bridge Road, Godalming, starting at 7.00pm. Please join us for this seasonal musical celebration, which will feature both the

Senior and Youth Bands. Tickets cost £6 for adults and £3 for children sixteen and under, and are available at Record Corner, from David Daniels on 01483 536016, or from Band members.



The Band playing at Godalming War Memorial, 11 November, 2012

Remembrance Day fell on Sunday 11th November this year. The weather was warm and sunny, which bolstered the turnout on the High Street, at the War

Memorial and at the parish church memorial service. Pictured above is the Band in playing order.

100 HUNDRED CLUB DRAW WINNERS: MAY THROUGH NOVEMBER

May	Linda Wagner and Ray Pont
June	John Heward and Wendy Ball
July	Julie Rowling and Phil Kingsbury
August	Emma Scholar and Ray Pont
September	Cathy Gordon Smith and John Waugh
October	Fred Gardner and James Alcroft
November	

It's never too late to take a flyer on the 100 Club draw – just one pound per month and an excellent chance of winning. Just ask Ray Pont. Contact Ann Heward for details.

