



Welcome to our Spring 2009 newsletter. Following the band AGM earlier in the year we now have a new Public Relations officer in the form of Nikki Glennon-Bird and I will be assisting her on the technical side on both the newsletter and the band website. We take over from Christine Simpson who has been PRO for several years and we have to admit we have a hard act to follow. Paul Mower.

Can't believe it is May already and the 2009 Banding season has already begun for us. First performance was at the Long Shop Museum Leiston for their grand opening for 2009 on April 4<sup>th</sup>.

A new program of music was well received and recorded by a friend of the band – watch this space as we are hoping to produce a CD to be on sale later in the year.

The St. Georges Day parade was the first march of the season (always to hardest for those of us who have not partaken in much physical activity over the winter months)! With it being “sunny in Sax” we got the cobwebs well and truly blown out on April 26<sup>th</sup> and led the parade to church where we learned all about “St. George and the scary shark”.

Our summer program is well under rehearsal and is including lots of new (to many of us) pieces. Sue is keeping us on our toes and we continue to rise to her challenges! See gig list and our website for full details of where we are this summer.

With a new committee on board we have a hard act to follow.

Enormous thanks must go out to Christine and Laurie for all their support and commitment shown over the years and we look forward to seeing you blowing again soon. Thanks also to Tim who has given us several years as our chairperson and continues to “bang our drum” both on & off parade!

How many of you saw the old Photo in the East Anglian on Monday may 4<sup>th</sup> 2009 of Leiston Band in March 1966? We have successfully identified several of the members with their full heads of hair and have responded. NGB.

### BREAKING NEWS

SUE DOY (wife of our very own Dutta) has officially been named as Southwold's town mayor for the coming year. She is to be assisted by the out-going mayor Teresa Baggott (Sue & Duttas daughter).

Our congratulations to Sue and our very best wishes to Dutta. We hope to see you both very soon. NGB.

### A double celebration of being 50 YEARS YOUNG!

A great night was had by all at the celebration of CAROLYN & RICHARD'S 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday's (surely this can't be true!). The party was held on Saturday March 14th at the Stafford Riverside centre & commenced with us all enjoying a fine performance of show & popular music by the Training Band under the baton of Philip.

A very tasty buffet followed & was enjoyed by all, as was the rock band who got us all rocking (some only in their seats!) for the rest of the evening. What a surprise we all got to see the appearance of RICHARD as guest guitarist- ROCK ON DICK! A great night all round. Thanks



### ELGAR HOWARTH WORKSHOP

Many of us visited the Elgar Howarth workshop day held by Wrentham band at Kessingland on Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup>. Ellie, Harriet and Olivia performed extremely well and really did make us proud. Through us observing and performing as a massed band, we all were privileged to a real professional's advice and given advice to develop our musical skills further. This is the second time we have been involved and hope it has now become an annual event. Thanks to Wrentham Band.



### Exam success

Well done to Olivia and Harriet Kersey on passing their Grade 5 and 6 respectively on cornet and trombone!

### 2009 Band Committee

Musical Director	Sue Taylor
Chairman	Richard Wilding
Vice Chairman	Paul Mower
Secteryary	Jacci Plant
Treasurer	Richard Laws-Smith
Band Sergeant	John Glennon
Public Relations Officer	Nikki Glennon-Bird
Property Officer	Philip Glennon
Senior Representative	Brenda Alexander

Following Roger's competition to find collective nouns relating to brass bands, Emily (Bird) age 13, has been inspired and written this poem. Thanks Em.

***Boom goes the BASS,  
as the CORNETS race,  
the TROMBONES are doing their thing,  
as the CYMBAL goes ping.  
The EUPHONIUM'S notes are high,  
And the DRUM sticks fly,  
The spectacles are going on,  
and the band plays pom pom pom.***



## Band Sergeant notes

### Atten....sion

*Just a few reminders for everyone at practice.*

Please try and tell someone if you are unable to make a practice. As you know, it is very difficult for Sue to structure practice without certain players being there. Let us know in advance where possible. Details below.

It is good to talk, but sometimes during practice it can be very annoying to others in the band when trying to concentrate on a piece being practiced. A more disciplined approach is desirable.

Please can everyone pack up their own stand after practice, and after gigs along with their banner. It is noticeable that some band members do neither of these things! .....JG

Contact details:-

Band Sergeant: John  
01502 675455 07885 582986

Chairman: Richard  
01986 798898 07717 776620

Vice Chairman: Paul  
01728 830953 07879 683217

## BRASS BAND JOKES

Q: How do you make a B flat bass player get a good vibrato?

A: Put the word "solo" above a semibreve

Q: What's the range of a baritone?

A: About 50 feet with a good throwing arm

Q: How do you know when a drummer is knocking at your door?

A: The knock always speeds up.

Q: What's the difference between a soprano cornet and a mouse?

A: You can't hear a mouse squeak over the entire band!



## Recruitment

We are currently recruiting new members to many sections of the Main and Training Bands. Are you a player or do you want to learn to play? It is not necessary to have your own musical instrument - you don't even have to know how to play - we are beginner friendly.

For more information please contact any member of the band or come along to a rehearsal (details at the foot of the page)

## Bill's Muses.

My quote for this edition comes from memory; it is taken from Phil Chalk conductor of Fairey Band and comes from his introduction to a piece specially written for their 1<sup>st</sup>. trombone player Lisa Sarasini. Phil said to the audience "You have got to change your mind set when listening to this piece, you are about to hear sounds and rhythms you are not used to hearing. If we don't try to do this then music cannot advance."

Incidentally the playing was out of this world and the audience (a sellout) really did appreciate the piece. The music written by Gavin Higgins was inspired by a banned 1930's film, Freaks. The film at the time had controversial morality issues and starred real life side show freaks. The playing was musically acrobatic and Lisa performed it so brilliantly.

Carolyn and Richards 50<sup>th</sup> gave our training band the opportunity to show off their skills it really was appreciated and Phillip you must feel proud to be involved and achieving such knit together sounds and music. Of course if you arrive early at practice you can hear this twice a week.

We live opposite the Leiston Middle School, 20 years ago you could hear music emanating from the classrooms every day, instrumental or choir it was sweet, sadly for many years now it has been eerily quiet. Perhaps that won't be for much longer. Recently arriving home from Saxmundham there were the beaming faces of Robert and Roger carting their instruments and stands into the school, part of a group arriving to perform and hopefully whet the appetite of some more recruits to our training band. We owe a big thank you to these evangelists if we don't get young people interested in our kind of music and sounds then the future for banding will be bleak.

## NAME THE BANDSPERSON

A certain member of the band (past or present) passed me a brown envelope recently. I had hoped it would have contained some money as a sweetener to stop me telling the bandmaster every time he was playing too loud. But alas no, all it contained was this picture of a surprisingly handsome young chap. WHO IS IT? Answer next time.



## New summer shirts

With the prediction of a very hot summer, here's hoping...must be as we're not going to "Sunny Hunny" (thunder & lightning, wet Hunstanton to us), the band is purchasing some white shirts which will carry our name of the RBL Leiston Band.

Much welcomed these will keep us looking as smart as ever and in a uniform turnout when the heat is on – we'll be cool.....man!

## Aldeburgh Carnival

Is anyone interested in entering a Leiston Band float in this year's carnival procession? If you are and have any wacky or sensible ideas about what we could do or if you can help, please talk to Nikki, John or another committee member. It will require a level of commitment but could prove to be a lot of fun.

## BRASS NOTES quarterly newsletter

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## Rehearsals Mondays and Thursdays

Main Band: 8.15pm  
Training Band 7.00pm  
The Ex-Service Club  
Victory Road, Leiston, IP16 4DQ