



# Wilton and District Band



## Newsletter: Summer 2015



As we find ourselves well into the summer, it's time to update you on all things Wilton & District Band.

### Anniversary update

I'm pleased to say that our 50th anniversary celebrations are in full swing and have been a fantastic success so far. The highlight has to be our Anniversary concert, held on the 4th of July at the Michael Herbert Hall. There was quite an atmosphere, with a hall full of old friends and new, along with a scattering of nostalgic photographs and band memorabilia. The band was on sparkling form, performing a varied programme with several musical styles reflecting the past 50 years. We were honoured to welcome Derek Broadbent, who made the trip down to conduct 'A Wilton Theme and Tocatta', a piece he composed specially for the occasion. It was also a joy to see Dennis Chalk pick up the baton once again to conduct a rousing version of 'Chalk Valley'. We also looked into the future, with an excellent performance from the constantly improving training band. The band certainly enjoyed the evening, along with the audience who showed their appreciation with a standing ovation. After the concert, the celebrations continued with players and supporters from the past 50 years combining to share and relive those fantastic memories created, over a glass (or bottle) of wine and a fabulous buffet. In fact, some celebrations went beyond even that; just ask Rachael our wonderful Flugel player if she enjoyed her night.



### Fund Raising

The band has also been busy fund raising over the past few months. This started with a legendary Jon Chalk quiz. It certainly lived up to all of the hype on social media, with an eclectic mix of questions and prizes not for the faint-hearted. Congratulations to our Principal Cornet, Juliet, and her team for a score even the most hardy pub quiz veteran would be proud of. Thank you Jon for a classic night.

In addition, the band arranged a sponsored blow outside of Tesco in Salisbury. 4 hours of continuous music was made, with the senior band and junior band combining forces in a highly successful event. Thank you to everyone who played on the day and to all of our sponsors.

### Summer

As the sun shines for longer, the fete season springs into action. So far, we have played at Farley fete, which was a first for the band. The music was well received by the crowd with perhaps a record sized band that has played at a fete for many years - could have been something to do with the promise of a BBQ at Jon and Sharon's afterwards! The BBQ rounded the day off perfectly (the pork was a particular highlight) and a good amount of beer was consumed.

In addition we played at Nunton fete, which is a regular event for the band, and we were almost as popular as the famous 'Bobby the Clown'.

Another new event for the band this year was a concert in Broad Chalke Village Hall. An evening of good music from both the senior band and the training band went down well with the packed hall. We hope to make this an annual event!

### 100 club

To help raise funds for the band and to have a chance at winning some cash yourself, join our 100 club! The cost is just £1 a month, per member - that's just £12 a year. There's a prize draw every month with 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th prizes. The more people that enter, the higher the prize fund so please do join! Speak to a band member for more details, or email Mel Murphy on [melmurphy.wdb@gmail.com](mailto:melmurphy.wdb@gmail.com)



### A Fond Farewell

Our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary concert marked Jon Chalk's final event with the band. Jon has retired from playing after being in the band for its full 50 years of existence. Thank you Jon for all of your hard work over the years. We will certainly miss you as a player and also as a friend. The banter will not quite be the same – I mean who else will dress up as a snowman impersonating a reindeer on Christmas Eve?!



### Looking forward

On 12th September at 7.30pm, the band is holding a concert with music from the Films and Shows. This promises to be an enjoyable event with some of your favourite music. Please come along to the Michael Herbert Hall and show your support.

We have a couple more player profiles for you to enjoy, this time featuring two gents from our Horn section:

### Andy Bell

**When did you start playing?** When I was 8 years old.



**Other bands played/playing for?** Over the years have played for Towcester Studio Band (under Musical Director William Scholes, then Martyn Brabbins), Redbridge Concert (Bill Palmer), Woodfalls Concert Brass (Ron Bligh) and now only play with Wilton & District.

**Instruments played previously?** Tenor Horn (brief period on Eb Bass at Woodfalls).

**Position you currently play?** 1<sup>st</sup> Horn.

**Who were/are your banding inspirations?** Has to be the Bell family players - Towcester Studio was packed with Bells: my dad, uncles, cousins and other more distant relations, with my Grandfather being a founder member.

**Best banding moments, to-date?** Standing ovation at a contest at the De Montford Hall, Leicester, having played Berlioz's Le Corsaire (with Towcester Studio ca. 1980) and playing in the National Finals 2012 and 2013 with Wilton.

**Most embarrassing banding moment, to-date?** Plenty, but the one that stands out is being stopped by passport control on the way to Germany on Tour with Towcester Studio, having not signed my shiny new passport!

**Favourite piece?** Sinfonietta The Wayfarer, Eric Ball, closely followed by Resurgam by the same.

**Least favourite piece?** Mary's Boy Child (it goes on forever!).

**Banding aspirations?** To get into the Second Section with Colin and Wilton!

**Dave Topp**

**When did you start playing?** At the tender age of 7

**Other bands played for?** Just Wilton!

**Instruments played previously?** Played cornet for over 40 years, covering all cornet parts -including soprano! For over 25 years, I had the privilege of being the band's Principal Cornet.

**Position you currently play?** Solo Horn (from January 2015)

**Who were/are your banding inspirations?** Dennis Chalk for suggesting I try the cornet one time when he was cutting my hair and for setting me off on my musical journey.

**Best banding moment, to-date?** There have been many ,many great times over the years. The band tours have always been a highlight, in particular the tour of America in 1985, and playing on the steps of the US Capital building in Washington and at the UN building and Shea stadium in New York. More recently, qualifying for and taking part in the National Finals in 2012 and 2013.

**Most embarrassing banding moment, to-date?** Again, there have been a few, particularly on the band tours, but what goes on tour, stays on tour! (*Did someone mention a wardrobe?! -Ed.*)

**Favourite piece?** Vita Aeterna Variations by Alexander Comitas, which I had the pleasure of listening to 17, times at last years British Open Championship. From a playing point of view this year's Torquay test piece, Evolution by Philip Sparke was one of the best test pieces I have played. I also like music by Goff Richards, especially Golden Lady.

**Least favourite piece?** Paloma Blanca and Dixieland Stomp

**Banding aspirations?** To be Regional Champions and gain promotion to the second section with WDYB.

If you wish to receive regular updates, including this Newsletter, please drop a note to the address below.

Website: <http://www.wdyb.co.uk/>

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/wiltonanddistrict](http://www.facebook.com/wiltonanddistrict)

Twitter: @WiltonDBand

Queries, info to: [samtopp@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:samtopp@hotmail.co.uk)



**Wilton and District Band**

