



newsletter

September 2008

Band News

This newsletter comes to you at a time when the band is taking its summer break from both rehearsals and performances. Nonetheless we are working busily behind the scenes to prepare our upcoming series of concerts and events, details of which are included in this newsletter but firstly we'd like to share with you news from the past year and what we've been up to.

2007-8 was another busy year for the band although it feels suitable to make the analogy to buses coming along at once. A particular highlight of the year was our return to St Botolph's Church in Colchester where we were able to welcome guests the Tendring Music School Concert Band to join us. Additionally it was a particular privilege to also welcome soloist Jonathan Radford from Chetham's School of Music in Manchester to give a rare UK performance of Holcombe's Rhapsody for Alto Saxophone. We wish him continued success for the future.

As a contact of the band you will be aware that many of our events are to raise funds for worthy causes either ones that we have chosen to support ourselves or those chosen by the organisers of the event at which we are performing. We are particularly proud this year to have supported two local charities: Stepping Stones Nursery and Colchester Youth Enquiry Service (Y.E.S.) to whom we were able to donate in excess of £800 thanks to the increasing size of our recent audiences.

Over the past few years the band has grown in both quality and quantity and has attracted excellent musicians on a regular basis. It is now better resourced than it has ever been with over 40 members. Our newest recruits are a trio of clarinets who signed up in April. Welcome Amanda Saywell, Colleen Williams and Richard Mitchell.

Busy lives and changes of circumstances sometimes mean that members have to leave though invariably resignations are accompanied by expressions of regret as leaving is often a wrench. This year four established members have left though all have asked to go on the 'Deps' list and are more than willing to step in if a gap needs filling at a performance. So rather than goodbye, it's au revoir to Ruth Cross, Alto Sax (joined December 2001), Jane Tomlinson, Tuba (September 2003), Nina Selwood, Flute (June 2005), and Geraldine Phillips, Flute (May 2007). Our congratulations also go to Jane on the birth of Madeleine in May.

2008-9 Concert Season

Prom Concert
West Mersea MICA

Friday 10th October 2008 at 8:00pm (time tbc)

Tickets available from MICA centre

Prom Concert
Rowhedge Village Hall

Saturday 8th November 2008 at 7:30pm

Retiring collection, no tickets required

Concert
All Saints Church, Maldon

Saturday 22nd November 2008 at 7:30pm

Ticket details to follow

Christmas concert
Rowhedge

Tuesday 16th December 2008 at 7:30pm

Retiring collection for charity

Concert
Fingringhoe Church

Saturday 24th January 2009 at 7:30pm

Ticket details to follow

Harwich Festival Concert
Harwich

Monday 6th July 2009 at 7:30pm

Further details to follow

We will soon begin planning our Christmas Concert and welcome any suggestions from friends of the band for charities in need of support. Please contact the Chairman of the band, Simon Bowles 01206 574344.

Don't Forget Our Website

The website includes information on concert dates, news, membership and more and is updated regularly throughout the concert season.

www.essexconcertband.org.uk

Are you planning a fundraising concert or perhaps an open air event?

The Essex Concert Band is available for hire.

Our standard fee is £250 per booking.