



# newsletter

September 2009

## Band News

As always our year has had busy and quiet times. A personal highlight for me was our return to St Botolph's Church in Colchester in June. A lovely venue, it was a great pleasure for me to perform the finale from Philip Sparke's *Clarinet Concerto* following my move from principal clarinet to the lower brass section at the start of the 2008-9 season.

Our season finale was a trip to Oulton Broad in Suffolk, where we performed on the bandstand in St Nicholas Everett Park. Not the best of summer days but with true British spirit we still sat with our picnic before returning home. And as you can see from the picture below, we have some very loyal supporters! Although perhaps it helped that we'd locked the bus so they couldn't escape!



The band took a break in August, beginning rehearsals again on 1 September and we wasted no time in getting back to the job in hand – performing. On Saturday 12 September we performed a 'Last Night of the Proms' at All Saint's Church in Maldon, coinciding with the BBC finale event.

*by Amanda Arthur*

## Membership News

Over the last year the composition of the band has felt stable due to the fact that virtually every desk has been covered and we have only had to call on deputies to stand in at concerts on rare occasions. Even so, a number of players have joined and others have left.

We have been pleased to welcome Robert Dack (clarinet), and sisters Alice Ruffell (bass clarinet) and Katie Ruffell (alto sax). It has also been a pleasure to see a couple of members return to the fold, Michael Barnes, (horn, joined Oct 2007) following a sabbatical year for A levels and Robert Chant (clarinets and saxophones) who originally joined as a young lad with a sensible haircut in October 1998 and has returned to the area after several years away.

Leavers have been Sarah Ager (clarinet, joined July 2004) and Rebecca McAndrew (clarinet, April 2004), both teachers who found there were not enough hours in the day to do everything; Catherine Fitzgerald (clarinet, September 2008), our Australian vet who moved to a new job in Surrey; and Ellie Cole (trumpet, May 2007) who drops in occasionally inbetween travels.

Finally, congratulations to Catherine Wood (flute) nee Sales, who married Michael in May.

*by Graham White*

## Meet a Member

The feature will return in the next edition.

## 2009-10 Concert Season

Saturday 7th November 2009 at 7:30pm  
Prom Concert, Rowhedge

Tuesday 15th December 2009 at 7:30pm  
Christmas Charity Concert, Rowhedge

Saturday 8th May 2010 (time tbc)  
Wickham Bishops

Saturday 12th June 2010 at 7:30pm  
Summer Concert, St Botolph's Church, Colchester

Saturday 26th June 2010 at 7.30pm  
Tiptree – tbc

Monday 5th July 2010 at 7:30pm  
Harwich Festival

## Fundraising News

Many of the events at which we are invited to perform are held in aid of local organisations. Additionally we also hold our Christmas and summer concerts to raise funds for organisations chosen by members of the band. During 2008/9 our charities were Age Concern Colchester and the Mayor's Charities for whom we raised £350 and £250 respectively.

Our chosen charity for our Christmas concert this year is Sea Change: a project based in Maldon that uses traditional sailing vessels to offer activity-based learning to young people and adults. Further information on the project can be found on their website ([www.seachangeprojects.co.uk](http://www.seachangeprojects.co.uk)).



If you no longer wish to receive updates and newsletters from Essex Concert Band please contact me to cancel your registration. Amanda Arthur, 01206 364607; [amandaisom@hotmail.com](mailto:amandaisom@hotmail.com) (stating Essex Concert Band in the subject line); or 45 Hazell Avenue, Colchester, CO2 9DS.