

Waltham St. Lawrence Silver Band

Chairman's Report 2017

I would like to thank the Parish council for inviting me to this meeting, unfortunately due to my work commitments I cannot attend this year.

Please find below highlights of my Chairman's report covering 2017.

It has been a very difficult year for the band. There have been several highs but also some very deep lows.

We have gained six new members but we have also lost six members, through relocation and ill health.

In May, we lost Howard Lunn, who had been a member of the band for 24 years, a close personal friend of mine and also to many in the band. The band and I consider ourselves extremely lucky that we were able to play for him at The Duchess of Kent Hospice in Reading shortly before his passing. I know he, his family and the other patients thoroughly enjoyed the event even though there wasn't a dry eye anywhere by the time we had finished.

In April we played a memorial concert in the Alexandra Gardens, Windsor, for Paul Singleton who was also a band member for over 20 years. The event, organised by his widow, Alison Singleton, raised over £6,000 for the Thames Valley Hospice.

In May we held our annual senior citizen's party. The band played whilst our guests enjoyed a wonderful afternoon tea. Entertainment was also provided by singer Lea Lyle and her band with special guest star, our band president, Wendy Craig!

June was a very busy time for the band, engagements on the Henley band stand, the Parish fete, The Guards Association garden party, a concert at St. Luke's church in Maidenhead and a wonderful trip to Germany!

Our trip to visit our twin band, the Musikverein Friesheim, was one of the highlights of the year for the band. I am confident in saying it was one of the best trips we have had for years. We had fabulous weather, great hospitality, played good music and the memories of us all getting stuck in and giving as good as we got on the karaoke stage will live long in band folklore!!!

The Musikverein Friesheim will be returning to visit us in 2019 and we have already started planning for it.

Other engagements played through the summer include: Cookham Riverside Residential Home, White Waltham Air Field Members Day, Little Wick Green Show, Hurst Horticultural Show, Woodley Precinct.

In October we said goodbye to our previous conductor, Jim Pullen. I wish to extend him a big thank you for helping the band through very low and difficult times in the early part of the year.

In November we played at our usual three Remembrance Day locations, all of which were gratefully received. The band is exploring the possibility of marching in Remembrance Day parades in Waltham and Bray in 2018..... providing we have a band big enough and physically capable of doing so.

The street carolling routes in December were, again, significantly reduced to accommodate the age and health of the band. We played at the Hurst tree night, Maidenhead Rotary Dinner, Old Windsor Christmas market and a Private Party in Winkfield.

We also played a successful Christmas concert for Holyport Royal British Legion.

We ended the year with our annual Carols 'round the Pound event, which saw the village and band join together, playing and singing traditional carols. The weather was kind to us this year and we had a good audience. I would like to thank Angela Townsend, Nick Buffault, Margaret Saunders, and Isabelle Crawley-Boevey for their help collecting and in the kitchen. Also a special thanks to John Townsend for adding his own special brand of Ho!Ho!Ho! to the proceedings. (!)

Looking forward to the rest of 2018.....

We now have a new conductor, Steve Block, who took up the baton on 3rd January, and we look forward to working with him. We are currently organising his debut concert with us on the 5th May. Unfortunately we could not secure a suitable date in the Waltham St. Lawrence Church so we are using the Loddon Hall, Twyford. We have invited the Reading Barberettes as a support act, and they have a large following which should hopefully help fill the venue.

We have tentative plans for an autumn concert which we would like to have in a home venue.

Thanks for listening,

Best wishes,

Jane Lynn
Chairman,
Waltham St. Lawrence Silver Band.