

## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES**

### **Derek Wilson MBE – President & Conductor Emeritus**

Derek started learning a musical instrument, the tenor horn, at the age of 10 years with a local brass band in his home town of South Shield, County Durham. At the age of 20 he joined the Royal Air Force School of Music where he learnt the French horn and music theory. On completion of the one year course he joined the No.1 RAF Regional Band where he spent four years before leaving to join the RAF Band in Germany as Principal Horn. Three years later he returned to RAF Uxbridge HQ Music Services joining the RAF Central Band in 1960 where he remained until retirement in 1982. Derek also spent seven years at Amersham Music Centre from 1970 teaching brass instruments and forming a junior and senior wind band as conductor. Over the years Derek has played in an opera orchestra in Ealing and for many shows and concerts in Middlesex and South Bucks as well as teaching in a number of South Bucks schools. In 1977, together with two parents of his pupils, he founded the Chalfont Wind Bands and his hope is that CWB will continue to entertain and support charities for many years to come. In 2007 he received an MBE for services to music and has recently been awarded the title of 'Conductor Emeritus' of CWB.

### **Cliff Rowley BMus (Hons) – Director of Music**

Cliff started learning the piano at 7yrs old and started to compose music when he was 8yrs old – and he has not stopped since. Music is not just his career, but also his hobby! He started to play the flute, violin and trumpet at the age of 10yrs as music was in his blood. After gaining his A Level music and taking Grade Eight on the flute, trumpet and piano, Cliff ventured into the RAF Music Services at the age of 18 in 1977. After one year of initial training he was posted to the RAF Germany Band in 1978. He served with the band for three years as a flautist with the main military band, and piano with the dance band. During this period he extensively toured Europe playing music. In 1981, he returned to the UK and served with the RAF Central Band based at Uxbridge until he left in 2000. Again he played the flute with the main military band, but also became a member of, and pianist for the RAF Squadronaires which had reformed, and also the leader of the 5 piece Band, which was a small versatile band comprising of trumpet, saxophone, piano, bass & drums. The 5 piece was primarily a small jazz band, but also provided music for dancing and even state occasions for the Royal Family. Cliff arranged all the music for the band and became 'hooked' on producing music for every type of combination of instruments. Having been gifted with perfect pitch – that is being able to hear and know what notes are being played by any instrument, the art of arranging came easy. Many of the arrangements for the Chalfont Wind Band are by Cliff and all he does is listen to a CD and write the music down! Whilst serving with the RAF Central Band, he was not only employed as a musician, but in time of war was trained as a medic. Cliff, along with the rest of the band was called to service during the first Gulf War Conflict, Operation Desert Storm in 1990. He served at Al Jubayl in Saudi Arabia along with his comrades at a field hospital. Cliff was awarded three medals for his part in the conflict. Today Cliff is the Head of Music at Brockhurst and Marlston House School, Newbury. He recently finished a degree in Humanities and Music and spends his spare time (when he has any) still writing music. He recently wrote a musical 'Casper, the Friendly Ghost' which was performed earlier this year. He has also composed musical works for young choirs which are soon to be published. He strongly believes music should be fun for people of all ages. Sadly, this is his last concert with the Chalfont Wind Band, as he is soon starting a Concert Orchestra for the local community where he works in Newbury.

### **Dwight Pile-Gray BMus (Hons) ATCL – Assistant Director of Music**

Dwight began playing the French Horn at age 12, passing his grade 8 within five years. He went on to study for a performance degree at the Trinity college of Music, where he received tuition from some of the country's finest horn tutors and also studied conducting. During this time Dwight was engaged to play with a professional orchestra in Germany and played with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House. He also played with a number of Opera companies at home and abroad. Whilst at college Dwight was a member of numerous ensembles including a brass quintet, a woodwind quintet and a horn, violin and piano trio. On completion of his degree, he joined the Corps of Army Music in 2005 and, after graduating from the Royal Military School of Music, took up his post with the Band of the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers whilst pursuing a varied freelance career. Dwight is currently studying for a further diploma in horn performance. He took up his role as Assistant Music Director of the Chalfont Concert Wind Band in October 2010.

## FOLLOW THE BAND

Thursday 16 December 2010	Carols in the Churchyard Chalfont St Peter Parish Church 19.30 – 20.30
Saturday 18 December 2010	Carols for Charity Chalfont St Peter (outside Budgens) In aid of National Society for Epilepsy 10.30 – 12.30
Friday 24 December 2010	Carols for Charity The Observatory, Slough In aid of Thames Valley Hospice 10.30 – 12.30
Saturday 9 April 2011	Spring Concert Drake Hall, Amersham Community Centre
Saturday 18 June 2011	St Mary's Church Fête St Mary's Church, Amersham



# Chalfont Concert Wind Band

Some vacancies for new members in both Bands



### Rehearsals on **Monday** evenings

'A' band – 7.45pm to 9.45pm  
(minimum requirement: Grade 5)

'B' band – 6.30pm to 7.30pm  
(for those starting to discover music and for those  
returning to it after a break)



#### Contact:

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#### Rehearsal location:

Robertswood County Combined School,  
Denham Lane, Chalfont St Peter,  
Bucks. SL9 OEW



[www.chalfontwindband.co.uk](http://www.chalfontwindband.co.uk)