



Brass Roots

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Easter Term 2008

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FoCUBB Events:

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Summer Party at Camerbutt
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FoCUBB Pub Crawl

Editorial by Di Brady

“We need to get a roots out before the ‘first years’ leave!” John Garbutt said to me the other day when I was elected by him and JC to be the new editor. The ‘first years’, aka ‘the exclusives’, (see facebook and ‘CUBB exclusives’ hoodies) are in fact now in their 3rd year, and indeed most of them, probably with the exception of Noose (she needs a whole other edition), will be leaving the band once their finals are over. We realised that there hasn’t been a roots since they joined, (see computer tips for explanation) and actually...I think the last roots was the one where I wrote an article about being a scared 1st year on the Liverpool tour of 2004. I’m now a 5th year ladies and gents...well, actually, I’m not technically a member of the University anymore since I joined the scary world of work in September. While some of us (Houghton) manage to stick around for 8 years for Part IIIs, MPhils, PhDs, life-saving operations, 3 leaving parties, etc, I go that extra 45 miles to drive down from Peterborough every Thursday just to experience the pleasure that only a CUBB rehearsal can bring. Having been secretary, and MD during my time as a student, I feel I am in a fairly good position to get you up to date on what has happened in CUBB over the past few years, and I hope you enjoy this very special ‘catch-up’ edition of...

Brass Roots

Computer Tips by John Garbutt

You may well all remember when you were told: “Make regular backups!” Well FoCUBB certainly will. This is the third or fourth official issue of Roots to be written since the last (Volume 6 Issue 1) was published! There are certain rumors that Ben Russell helped compile a fine issue of Roots back late 2006, but sadly a hard disk failure robbed this issue from the world.

In a related incident in 2007 a young editor, code named “Angst”, left her Laptop to sun bathe on a window ledge. Unfortunately, even with Cambridge being one of the driest places in the country, the laptop was viciously attacked by some freak sideways rain that came in the window and ruined the laptop. No really, it’s true.

So, when you start thinking, where have all those previous issues of roots been, don’t blame me and Pete Massey for saying we would do it, then deciding we were doing too much and so making Ben do it; when it is really the fault of dodgy (non-waterproof) computer equipment that poor Cambridge students are forced to use on a daily basis.

21st Birthday Scheme by John Garbutt

Due to the highly successful (read expensive) tour, the band has slightly overspent. The bus alone for tour cost over £2000! The band also, in its wisdom bought two cornets, in the sure hope that tour wouldn’t lose that much money. Ah well.

So as FoCUBB we feel we should get the band a 21st birthday present of a cornet. We have found a local band (called CUBB) that is happy to sell us a cornet they have recently bought for around £400. We can then give this as a 21st year birthday present to the band we support - CUBB.



Dutch Invasion by Steve Houghton



Back in May '05 the MV Valuas Band from Venlo in Holland came to Cambridge for a weekend of fun and to help celebrate CUBB's 18th birthday. MV Valuas brought not only a brass band but also a 16-piece percussion ensemble and all their families. All in all 72 people, a double decker coach and an enormous trailer full of instruments! Quickly the Dutch occupied the Cambridge YHA and then moved on to take control of Saffron Waldon YHA before setting about the rest of Cambridge.

The first night was spent (as is often the way on band tours!) with a rehearsal, then a formal at Homerton and a few drinks. This prepared them for the following day of multi-lingual tours of the City, punting trips run by CUBB members, and a fairly hefty lunch at Wetherspoons, followed by an argument with the manager about the amount of food provided. They had a point. There wasn't enough for 72 people. Nevertheless, they were fuelled sufficiently to play a joint concert with CUBB in St Giles Church that evening.

As quickly as they had arrived MV Valuas returned to Holland but not before playing at Duxford Airshow with Waterbeach Brass. What a weekend, and how do we know the conductor enjoyed it? He composed the first ever specially-written piece for CUBB which he called 'CUBB March?!' A piece that uses every note possible from 'Cambridge University Brass Band' in the 'questionable' march section (hence, ?!) it portrays the events of the weekend through music, ranging from extracts of 'Ticket to Ride' and 'Sabre Dance' to the Duxford aeroplane sounds on the trombone part. It's a keeper!

<http://www.mvvaluas.nl/> and <http://www.janssenmusic.nl/index1EN.htm>

Since June 2005 by Di Brady

A review of major CUBB events over the past few years...

2006 CUBB Annual Concert - Wesley Methodist Church

Good audience. Band CD recorded and produced. (Email John Garbutt if you would like a copy). Di makes possibly the worst decision of her life and chooses to perform an under-rehearsed 'CUBB March?!' as an encore. Angus makes the most of a bad situation and plays the aeroplane trombone part louder than an actual aeroplane.

2006 Tour - Mid and West Wales

A place called 'Llwyngwrlil.' Organised by chairman, Neil Bennett (PhD Pathology, Darwin). Band flu takes half the band down but Steve Hardiman is the only one to really suffer on tour, hence 'Hardiman's Hangover' is born. A great hostel. Moments to remember: Ben Russell (principal) forgetting his cornet for the biggest concert of tour, an all-night game of pictionary and Rob Richards' interpretation of the song 'I WOULD (or WOOD) DO anything for LOVE but I won't DO that,' John Garbutt using a whisk to make mashed potato, Becky Collis breaking Ben's toe in tour football. Quote of tour: "Goff Richards? Who's Goff Richards?" - Rosey Wykes.



2006 Annual Dinner - Churchill

Organised by Jenny Peters and Neil Bennett. Awards including: Steve Hardiman for his 'hangover', Di Brady for the 'CUBB March?!' encore, John Shaw for inventing the AIDS game, the 'tour cheese-on-toast crew' for making so much cheese-on-toast. Lifetime achievement: Steve Houghton.

2006 Somersham Concert

CUBB has also made links with Somersham Brass Band. A grand concert took place in St Ives Church in October 2006 with brass band celebrity David Read as compère. Unfortunately, when Somersham came to Cambridge in 2007, City of Cambridge (now championship section) Brass Band had a concert in the church next door and unsurprisingly the concert wasn't as profitable as it perhaps could have been, although they lost a lot more money than we did.

2007 Tour - South Wales

Cardiff and Swansea. A highly organised occasion, led by Ruth Coleman (Material Science, Queens) and Charlotte Pursey (Law, Trinity Hall). Top class concerts. Moments to remember: Charlotte and Rebecca Riehl's drinking game, Dschinghis Khan's 'Moskau', karaoke, joint concert with Pontypridd Male Voice Choir, the entire band getting ID'd, the animal game and JC's dead squirrel, Rob falling off his chair at 4.23.

2007 Annual Dinner - Selwyn

Organised by JC. Awards including: Becky Howe for going to use a cash point while we were playing the Flower Duet at the Millennium Centre on tour, Catherine Sutherland for being probably the band's first, best and only groupie, Neil Bennett for perhaps the biggest over-reaction to getting ID'd - spending a good 45 minutes telling everybody within earshot how he was going to firebomb the place, until the choir calmed him down with a spontaneous sing along. Lifetime achievement: Rob Richards

2008 CUBB Annual Concert - Wesley Methodist Church

Involving police chase after Ruth's purse gets stolen from the church before the concert. Andrew Cooper and Ben Russell are the heroes of the hour, catching the thief just before the concert starts. Andrew manages to get through his 'Memory' solo on sop, which usually makes him black out - the ripped shirt really adding to the performance. Ben is taken to the pub for a stiff drink before he takes his solo in the 2nd half of the concert. I'll say!



2008 Tour - Berwick

Organised by Neil again. The most expensive tour in band history. Great hostel. All concerts fall through, except the primary school and a gig in a shopping centre. (See picture) Moments to remember: A communication error causes the shopping centre manager to make us sit outside in freezing (Edinburgh) temperatures as she thought there would only be "half a dozen" of us. NEIL?? Angus strips. No toilet or DVD player on the coach.

2008 April Fool

Andrew Cooper (chairman) plays an April Fools joke on the entire band, leading most to believe that we have lost Lee Hall as a rehearsal room because the tour beer stored under the stage is a major fire risk. Shock consumes most of us as we plan how to get the hall back, and where we

will rehearse if we have lost Lee Hall. Joanna Cambray-Young (PhD, veterinary science), a member of Wolfson, actually questions the college over their decision. You can't say it didn't fool us Andrew!

2008 Annual Dinner - Trinity Hall

Organised by Rebecca Riehl (aka Moose Loose Moose). Hazel Rogers decides to borrow a college placemat as a souvenir but gets caught out when Trinity Hall realise there is one missing. For the record Hazel is very ashamed and feels she has finally earned the 'Hazel Rogers Award for Inappropriate Behaviour.' Awards include: Rob for his ever-magical witty comments, especially "I've just been for a piss in the ladies' out the back there - I left the seat up on purpose. I really hate women", Di and Ben for their dramatic interpretation of 'Labour and Love' and Andrew Cooper, for almost passing out every time he played 'Memory.' Lifetime achievement: Ben Russell and Becky Collis.

Tales from the Dark (blue) Side by Christopher Ashford

A year in the life of OUBB 2006-2007

As most of the current band knows, I left the delights of CUBB's fair city to return to my home town of Oxford whilst I spend one year at the university training to become a science teacher. Within my first week at Oxford I was e-mailed by a chap claiming to be the President of the then newly-formed Oxford Brass Band. He knew me as a Bb Bass player who had played in and been a Chairman of CUBB. He was terribly apologetic that the band did not own any instruments but would still like to me come to their first rehearsal and he might be able to borrow a bass in the future. I replied with great gusto saying I'd been learning the trombone (having bought Neil Bennett's old instrument a couple of months before) and would be happy to have a go at playing it in their ensemble. A week later I found myself sat in the principal trombone chair at their first rehearsal of term:

On a dark September Sunday evening I arrived at the music faculty, rang the doorbell and was introduced to the group. It was a motley crew: Their president a highly enthusiastic Yorkshireman playing principal cornet, a selection of trumpets claiming to be a back row, a solitary "tuba" player, one horn, a Euph and me. Their conductor was an ever-cheerful Irishman who arrived a little late in a three-piece suit, a gown and a red face having run from choir formal. The first half of the rehearsal was what is best described as a freshers' squash where beer (alas, only lager) and nibbles were provided and mingling was encouraged. We then got down to the serious business of knocking out a few tunes.

It wasn't long into term before I was demoted to second trombone. I was pleasantly surprised by how quickly the band was growing. By the end of Michaelmas the band was given permission to use the University's Name and adopted the name OUBB. For the uneducated in the way students at this Middle-England Polytechnic enunciate OU, the band's abbreviation is pronounced owwb, not oob. I became a valued member of their committee - I had an advisory role, mainly about what positions CUBB had in their committee and how the band works. At the time, I didn't realise what this would lead to - the varsity concert was approaching! Meanwhile, my first return to Cambridge was the annual Fireworks Pubcrawl. From what I remember of the evening (which isn't a lot); it did actually include some fireworks this year. I came to realise, unbelievably, how much more sociable Cambridge were. Later that term, after OUBB's first gig, I did venture on an OUBB social event. It was good fun, even if we did end up in a nightclub colloquially known as "Filth"... Our first gig was a laugh. The Oxford Christmas Parade consisted of the band joining the local Brass Band Association to march with the Lord Mayor around the city as he switched on the Christmas lights. I had never marched with a trombone, and only once on Bass and the thought of being on the front row was a little daunting. The band soon got into the swing of things and we found ourselves getting hold of some Salvation Army Carol Books and e-mail MCRs for carolling gigs. We did only one, but that number will hopefully grow as the band's name becomes known.

And so, after Christmas, in Hilary Term (what a silly name), came the first annual (we hope) Varsity Concert. Due to Oxford not having any percussion, music stands, reputation or means of distributing publicity (or indeed a uniform at the time), it was decided to host the concert in Cambridge. This meant that my main effort in the whole adventure was liaising between the bands and finding accommodation for everyone. With the help of Andrew Cooper we successfully managed to get the entire Oxford band who needed it a space on the Cambridge band's floors. A big thank you to everyone who helped with that. The evening was a great success for both bands. I drove across the country with the larger instruments whilst the rest of OUBB took the uncomfortable and long (but cheap!) journey on the X5 long distance coach. We had a quick rehearsal of the joint pieces and then waited for the concert to begin. It was a fab experience for me as (with the exception of a few of the CUBB freshers) I knew absolutely everyone in both bands. I imagine I had a big smile on my face all evening! The



concert was a success. Everyone played very well and I think both bands were impressed with one another. The joint pieces (the climax of which was Instant Concert) sounded terrific and Oxford's rendition of "Don't Stop Me Now" by Queen went down very well. The evening had a very pleasant atmosphere. Of course both bands wanted to sound better than the other, but the spirit was very much one of friendship and of building bridges than competition. A curry for 50 people followed - I'm not sure the Ghandi knew what had hit it! Then it was everyone off to the pub to do some varsity bonding. This is where the competition started. I think the President and Social Secretary of OUBB won the Who's Loudest and Drunkest competition, whereas Cambridge managed civilised, quiet sociable pint with friends better!

Rather disappointingly, rehearsals for OUBB rather fizzled out after the Varsity. However, in 3rd week of Trinity Term we played to a sell-out 100-seat Oxford Conservative Club venue. The evening was very cabaret - with our compère encouraging audience participation and the band choreographing a routine to the German drinking song "In München steht ein Hofbräuhaus". It reminded me of the Darwin Oktoberfest during my Cambridge days...

I did manage to make it down to Wales in March and to Cambridge in April to join CUBB again on the annual tour and dinner. I expect there will be another article describing those events, but I do oddly feel like I've bonded more with the Cambridge band than the Oxford band this year. As I write this, on a warm June Sunday evening looking over the gardens of New College, I find myself reflecting on the year. An OUBB rehearsal would normally be taking place this evening but they have stopped for the exam period. I don't know of any gigs or garden parties coming up, so it is possible that my time with OUBB is over. Thinking on my year with them, I've had some good times, and they have certainly quenched my thirst for the occasional brass band tune, but each time I meet with the gang from CUBB I am reminded of how much more fun we had. I can't wait for the next CUBB gathering. You will be pleased to know that I shall be a returning from the Dark Side next year. If you haven't heard yet, I have a job in Cambridge next year you can certainly expect to find me back in the ranks of CUBB somewhere.

May 2008

As you have read and may know, I did return to Cambridge and have been playing second trombone in CUBB this year again. No doubt the year has been described elsewhere in this fine Brass Roots edition so I shalln't repeat it. Suffice it to say that the links between OUBB and CUBB seem as strong as ever. We did another varsity concert

(this time in Oxford) on the 1st March which you may have read about in the British Bandsman. Both bands played exceptionally well and the sell-out audience seemed very appreciative.

The bands also joined forces to compete in the Whit Friday Marches in Tameside and Saddleworth. It has been an ambition of mine to go on the marches and it was only possible this year as it fell quite early this year and did not clash with exams. Despite the fact the band had never rehearsed our pieces together ("Don't stop me now" and "Celebration") we played rather well and achieved 32nd place out of around 50. It was a long day but I think all members enjoyed it despite there being no toilet on the coach!

Weddings and Babies by Di Brady

On a tactically chosen date (07/07/07) Rob Richards finally made an honest woman of his 'good lady' Isobel. Sadly for us, Rob has now moved to Milton Keynes but is still a familiar face with his regular visits back to Cambridge. Congratulations Rob and Isobel.

He was only in the band for a year or so, (long enough to challenge me about the tempo of Fingal's Cave!) but Tom Pullman was another to tie the knot over the Easter holiday this year, and rumour has it he may be returning to Cambridge. We look forward to seeing you again Tom!

In latest news, one of our solo trombones Charlotte Ledden (4th year engineer, Magdalene) is getting married to Matt Ives this summer in Magdalene College. Matt is Captain of the boat club - nice work Charlotte. Don't worry; our arch of trombones will beat their oars any day! She will then be moving to Manchester where she informs me it rains permanently, so she had better come back for all the FoCUBB events. She has been chairman and secretary of CUBB, as well as being secretary of FoCUBB this year. Charlotte, you will be missed.

Probably one of the only acceptable reasons to leave CUBB: to move house and have a baby. Congratulations to our Michaelmas 2008 Musical Director, Dave Amann (or Amannamanamanaman) and his Mrs on the birth of Luke in January 2008.

Although he had his 1st birthday in March, it's never too late to celebrate the arrival of Thomas Bushby in my opinion. With Paul and Liz as parents, he'll no doubt beat us all in the pub quiz before his 5th birthday, even if they do live all the way up in Newcastle now.

"As well as the band there is one special lady playing horn with us tonight, because she's due to have a baby in two weeks time. As long as the baby can just hold on until the end of the concert, we'll be fine!" [Audience laughs]. Taken from the Waterbeach MD's script at their 30th Anniversary concert with Fodens on 24th May 08. Well, obviously baby Charlotte Houghton took this as a challenge and decided to come along the very next day. She's either going to have very good taste in music, or she just didn't appreciate James Utting telling her what to do. Congratulations to Andy and Heather.

I have heard rumours of other band weddings/babies but I don't want to broadcast things without knowing the facts...although I am a gossip columnist! Hmm. If you have any news for me to get excited about and publish in the next roots, please email me on dianabrady@gmail.com. One question I have is: how many band babies are there now?

FoCUBB Notices

FoCUBB All-Stars

An idea is currently being hatched regarding a FoCUBB band entering the Whit Friday Marches next year. Contact John Garbutt if you are interested.

Wolfson June Event

On 20th June 2008, most of the current CUBB members will be attending the Wolfson June Event, as has become tradition over the past few years. The theme is 'Viva Las Vegas' and crucially, there *will* be bumper cars. It would be great to have FoCUBB members there as well. See <http://www.wolfsonjuneevent.co.uk/> for details. Tickets are priced at £40 and of course we can collect tickets for you before the event if necessary.

CUBB 21st Birthday BBQ at Camerbutt

As JC couldn't make the last FoCUBB reunion, and being this year's FoCUBB chair, he (and John Garbutt, 2008-9 chairman) have decided to invite us all to their house for a summer party to celebrate the band's 21st birthday on 12th May this year. This will be on Saturday 9th August 2008. Being the host with the most...beer in his garage, this will no doubt be a highly enjoyable event. If you are interested, contact JC on, and they will send more details nearer the time. Hope to see you there!

FoCUBB Pub Crawl

It is traditional to meet up for a few drinks in some stunning Cambridge pubs, so we shall do that again at the start of the next academic year! As ever, you will get to meet some familiar faces, along with a few brave freshers. This year it is on Saturday 25th October (a bit earlier than fireworks night due to CUBB having a concert on all the other weekends around then). Hope to see loads of you!

Electronic Brass Roots

In a bid to get Roots out every term from now on, and at the same time not bankrupt FoCUBB, we are looking into producing an electronic copy of Roots. So, if you are on our FoCUBB e-mail list, you will receive them, if you are not on the list, then get your self on there by contacting John Garbutt. If you are not on the e-mail list, and you don't join it now, we will try and post you the issues you have missed at the end of each Academic year.

That's all for now

Well that's the special 'catch-up' edition for you folks. In the next issue, we should be back to having articles from current and past band members, and hopefully we will be back to producing one issue of Brass Roots per term! If you would like to write an article, please email to me on dianabrady@gmail.com. It can be anything at all as long as it's band related of course.

We look forward to hearing from you/seeing you soon. Here are those key email address again:

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John Garbutt (FoCUBB Chair): john@johngarbutt.com

JC (FoCUBB Chair Emeritus): jic23@cam.ac.uk

Thanks for reading...

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