



HARMONY

The Official Newsletter of the Oxfordshire and District Brass Band Association

Autumn 2009

THE START OF A NEW ERA

2009 has heralded the start of a new and very exciting chapter in the history of the Oxfordshire and District Brass Band Association, and indeed for all bands in the local area.

For the first time in many years, the Association has a full committee, and already new life is being breathed into the Association.

In May, we held our annual Brass Festival, and many positive comments were received about how much the competitors had enjoyed the event, and how well it was run.

Plans are well advanced for the Entertainment Contest, which will be held on October 11 at Burford School, and 15 bands have entered. We have been lucky enough to obtain sponsorship for the event from Virtuosi Instruments, and we are currently working hard to obtain further sponsorship.

In early 2010, we will be holding a workshop led by Brett Baker of Black Dyke Band, and we are also planning a number of social events for all local bands. Watch this space for details.

Finally, don't forget to visit our recently revamped and re-launched website, which can be found at <http://www.odbba.org>.



Impressive array of trophies ready to be presented at the ODBBA Brass Festival. See page 5 for details.

Meet The New ODBBA Committee...



Tony Redshaw

Tony Redshaw (Chairman):

"Having started out as a Bugler in the Boy's Brigade around 1960, I still enjoy playing and belong to Witney Town Band. My Grandfather played trombone semi-professionally in the 1930s and it wasn't long after I started to play brass that he encouraged me to pick up the trombone and I am still playing trombone today. As many bands in the area are short of players I am often asked to play for other bands and enjoy helping out.

As the Chairman of the Association I am wholly committed to the cause and would welcome feedback from any band member in the area. We exist to support you and would hope that we can make a difference to your Band and banding overall."



David Roberts

David Roberts (Secretary):

David grew up in North Wales, and started playing tenor horn at the age of 8 years old, under the tuition of Merfyn Hughes (a former member of Yarnton Band and Morris Motors), and then Sandy Blair (formerly of Black Dyke Band). David spent 9 years as Musical Director of the Pangbourne and District Silver Band (making him the longest-standing MD in the band's history), and has been a member of Sandhurst Silver Band since 2001. He is currently on a sabbatical from playing, which gives him more time to focus on ODBBA! In addition to being Association secretary, he is also the web-master and newsletter editor.

Lynne Whitley (Treasurer):

"Currently playing with Bletchington Band where I've been for 2 and a half years, I began my banding life with Yarnton Band when I was about 11. My parents had been given a piano for me, and as they couldn't read music they said "Go and see George Tutte, he'll teach you to read music". Sure enough he did teach me to read music but I never learnt to play the piano!! I spent many happy years with Yarnton Band, and after leaving the band still regularly saw George and his wife Doreen until they moved from the village, and am still in contact with some of the players from my early days in Yarnton. Since Yarnton Band, I've had a few breaks but keep going back to banding, and have played with Chipping Norton, Kennington, Stonesfield and Jubilee Brass before Bletchington. Probably my most memorable event in my banding career was playing with Stonesfield Band at the 3rd section finals in the Royal Albert Hall in 2000. I'm obviously easily persuaded as this is my 3rd stint on the ODBBA committee."

No Photo Available

David Martin (Property Master):

David has been a very hard-working member of the ODBBA committee for many years, and is currently serving as property master and curator of the ODBBA archives. For many years he single-handedly ran the Brass Festival, and is always on hand to give the benefit of his experience to the committee about this event. He is also very well-known as a former editor of this newsletter.

No Photo Available

Cliff Sadler:

Cliff is a euphonium player who is also conductor of Jubilee Brass (Oxford) Band. He recently led Jubilee Brass to a very commendable 3rd place at the London & Southern Counties Regional contest in Stevenage, narrowly missing out on a chance to represent the area at the National Finals.

No Photo Available

Nigel Hall:



Nigel's musical education began at the age of eleven with piano lessons followed two years later by the Euphonium. Nigel joined Brackley & District Band soon after and remained a member for four years before leaving to join Yarnton Band.

After two years Nigel's interests took him away from bands but he rejoined Brackley & District Band in 1995. This in turn rekindled his interest in composing and arranging. Nigel also turned to conducting, taking the helm at Chipping Norton Silver, Chalgrove, Avonbank (Evesham), Amersham Band, Malvern Hills District Band, Pangbourne & District Band and currently conducts Bletchington Silver Band. In February 2001 Nigel decided to publish his own music and set up MMI Music (MMI is 2001 in Roman numerals!).

During his brass banding career Nigel has played and conducted at most levels and in 2005 decided to use that experience and added contest adjudication to his list of achievements and this is something that he wishes to continue in the future. He is also a member of the National Association of Brass Band Conductors.

Nikki Jones:



Nikki Jones

"I started off my brass banding career at the age of 8 with the Kettering Salvation Army. During my youth I also played for the Northamptonshire County Youth Brass Band under the instruction of John Berryman. During this time I participated in several performances at the Royal Albert Hall including the Schools Proms. I then headed off to University and concentrated on my career in Science (ok, it was mostly drink fuelled!) and so wavered in my dedication to playing the cornet. After a 3 year stint in Wyoming, U.S.A (true cowboy country) I returned to the good old U.K. and joined Abbey Brass. This is where I met my husband, local euphonium player Alan Jones, and began to produce tiny brass players of the future! I currently play for, and sometimes conduct, Witney Town Band. I also re-established the Witney Town Junior band, where I am M.D., and teach brass throughout Oxfordshire."

Martin Taylor:



Martin Taylor

Martin is a long-standing member of Wantage Band, where he plays Bass. He is a well-known member of the ODBBA committee, having been Chairman for several years. He currently lives in Faringdon with his wife Sue, who is herself a former member of the ODBBA committee.

Ken Membury (L&SCR Representative):

No Photo Available

Ken is the head of a family banding dynasty in the Oxford area, and was the founder of Jubilee Brass (Oxford) Band. He is a former chairman of ODBBA, and brings a wealth of experience to the committee. He also represents ODBBA at the London & Southern Counties Regional committee.

John Underwood (L&SCR Representative):

No Photo Available

John plays Bb Bass for Kidlington Concert Brass, under the baton of his wife Catherine. He represents ODBBA at the London and Southern Counties Regional contest at Stevenage, where he can usually be found acting as steward to, and providing general help for, the competing bands. John is also webmaster for the L&SCR.

Entertainment Contest 2009

Plans are now well advanced for the 2009 Entertainment Contest on October 11th. It will be taking place in Burford School, which is a fabulous venue.

There will be three sections, an Open Section for bands in Championship, 1st and 2nd sections; Section A for 3rd and 4th Section bands; and a Youth/Unregistered section. Bands will be asked to perform an entertaining programme of music of no more than 20 minutes in length.

We have been very fortunate to receive substantial sponsorship from Virtuosi Instruments, which means that for the first time ever we are able to offer big prize money at this contest. ODBBA is also currently working on obtaining further sponsorship for this event. We have already received a number of bookings for trade stands, so there will be plenty to see and do, even away from the contest arena.

Full details can be downloaded from the ODBBA website, or by contacting Nigel Hall on 01280 700000 / 07803 511266 or by email: nigel@mmi-music.co.uk.

What does ODBBA actually do?

We sometimes get asked about what the Association does for local bands. In the recent past, while the Association has been fighting for survival in the face of apparent disinterest from local bands, this has been a tricky question to answer. We realised that we weren't giving full value for money to our members, so we have abolished the affiliation fee while we rebuild the Association.

Our contests are well known in the area – our Brass Festival has been going for over 60 years, and our Entertainment Contest and Winter Contest have also been proven popular whenever we have held them.

There's more to the Association than just our contests though. We represent local bands at the London and Southern Counties Regional Contest at Stevenage, helping to ensure the smooth-running of that event.

In the last couple of years, we have organised a massed band that has marched through Oxford City

ODBBA Website Launched

The Association website has recently been refreshed and relaunched. It is still a work in progress, but there are already some features that we hope you will find useful.

Not only can you catch up on all the latest ODBBA news, you can also see what events and concerts are going on in the local area, and contact local bands. We want our website to be a hub of brass bands in the Oxfordshire area, so if you have any concerts or events that you would like to promote, please let us know. We'd also love to hear your band news so that we can help to publicise your organisation.

Future plans for the site include setting up a deputies database, and a web discussion forum. If you have any other ideas about what you would like to see on the site, then please let us know.

Why not come and visit the site at <http://www.odbba.org> and let us know what you think? If your band has a website, we'd love a reciprocal link!

Centre. This really helped to raise the profile of local bands. We also helped to organise (with Kidlington Concert Band) a massed band concert at Blenheim Palace which proved very successful.

In the future, we want to act as a focal point for local bands. We want to help promote your band, and to ensure that you go from strength to strength. To that aim, we have plans to hold workshops over the next few months that will help your players get the most out of their music making.

There are also plans afoot to develop the Association website to include a discussion forum so that members of local bands can easily talk to each other, and to set up a database of deputy players.

Ultimately, the Association is run by members of local bands, for local bands. It's up to you to let us know what you want from us, and to support us as we try to implement your ideas. Please contact us with your suggestions, we'd love to hear them!

Brass Festival 2009 – Full Results

The 62nd ODBBA Brass Festival was held on May 10th 2009 at Sandhills School. The adjudicators were Mr Steve Pritchard-Jones, and Mr. Dougall Prophett. The official accompanist was Mr David Taylor.

Section A: UNDER 11 SLOW MELODY SOLOS

1st - Adam Allport (Cornet, Yarnton Band)
2nd - Jordan Bonner (Baritone, Shipston Band)
3rd - Ewan Parsons (Cornet, Shipston Band)

Section B: 9-11 SLOW MELODY SOLOS

1st - Aimee Bonner (Cornet, Shipston Band)
2nd - Izzy Bourne (Cornet, Shipston Band)
3rd - Georgia-Louise French (Cornet, Witney Band)

Section C: 12-14 SLOW MELODY SOLOS

1st - Ben Stratford (Baritone, Forest of Dean)
2nd - Harriet Macrae (Cornet, Shipston Band)
3rd - Callum Townsley (Cornet, Witney Band)

Section D: 15-18 SLOW MELODY SOLOS

1st - Josh Bonner (Trombone, Shipston Band)
2nd - Leo Roberts (Cornet, Shipston Band)
3rd - Gareth Paterson (Euphonium, Wantage Band)

Section E: UNDER 19 JUNIOR SOLO CHAMPIONSHIPS

1st - Ben Stratford (Baritone, Forest of Dean)
2nd - Harriet Macrae (Cornet, Shipston Band)
3rd - Aimee Bonner (Cornet, Shipston Band)

Section L: 19+ ADULT IMPROVERS SLOW MELODY SOLOS

1st - Hillary Hill (Rushden Band)

Section M: 19+ ADULT SLOW MELODY SOLOS

1st - Alex Macrae (Baritone, Shipston Band)
2nd - Neil Watson (Euphonium, Kidlington)

Section N: 19+ SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP SOLOS

1st - Neil Watson (Euphonium, Kidlington)

Section P: JUNIOR PERCUSSION

1st - Francesca Lombardelli (Shipston Band)
2nd - Libby Exley (Witney Band)

Section S: OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP SOLOS

1st - Ben Stratford (Baritone, Forest of Dean)
2nd - Leo Roberts (Cornet, Shipston Band)

Thanks are due to everybody who made the day a success, particularly the ladies who organised the refreshment room, and to all the hall stewards. A special vote of thanks goes to the school's Site Manager, Mr. Mick Philpott, without whom the day would not be possible.

Section F: UNDER 11 Duets

1st - Benjamin Thompson & Tom Fox (Shipston Band)
2nd - Ewan Parsons & Stephen Nicholls (Shipston Band)
3rd - Nathaniel Warwicker & Matt Hill (Rushden Band)

Section G: 11-14 DUETS

1st - Harriet Macrae & Aimee Bonner (Shipston Band)
2nd - Georgia-Louise French & Kate Marshall (Witney Band)
3rd - Charlotte Creed & Daniel Cox (Shipston Band)

Section H: 15-18 DUETS

1st - Leo Roberts & Aimee Bonner (Shipston Band)

Section I: JUNIOR UNDER 14 HYMN TUNE QUARTETS

1st - Yarnton Band
2nd - Witney Town Red
3rd - Shipston Yellow

Section J: JUNIOR UNDER 19 QUARTETS

1st - Shipston Purple
2nd - Yarnton Band
3rd - Shipston Orange

Section K: JUNIOR UNDER 19 ENSEMBLES

1st - Shipston Q
2nd - Shipston P
3rd - Witney Town Juniors

Section O: 19+ SENIOR DUETS

1st - Dawn French & Nikki Jones (Witney Band)
2nd - Alex Macrae & David Birch (Shipston Band)
3rd - Craig Pinder & John Campbell (City of Oxford Band)

Section Q: SENIOR QUARTETS

1st - Witney Town
2nd - Yarnton Band
3rd - Shipston Band

Section R: OPEN ENSEMBLES

1st - Shipston Band
2nd - City of Oxford Band
3rd - Hook Norton Training Band

YOUNGEST COMPETITOR:

Jordan Bonner (Age 7, Shipston Band)

BEST CORNET PLAYER 11 & UNDER:

Aimee Bonner (Age 11, Shipston Band)

BEST BOY UNDER 15:

Ben Stratford (Age 14, Forest of Dean)

BEST GIRL UNDER 15:

Harriet Macrae (Age 12, Shipston Band)

BAND OR GROUP WITH MOST PLAYING ENTRIES:

Shipston Band

East Woodhay Silver Band celebrates 125 years

East Woodhay Silver Band held a successful and toe-tapping concert on 16th May 2009 as part of their celebrations for their 125th anniversary year.

Approximately 80 people attended the concert at St Martin's Church, East Woodhay. Tim Crouter conducted as the band played pieces such as *Eye Of The Tiger* and *Somewhere Out There*, as well as solos by Konrad Firth, Principal Euphonium (*Softly As I Leave You*); Rosemary Gittins, Tenor Horn (*Over The Rainbow*); Dave Powell, Principal Cornet (*I'd Rather Have Jesus*) and a feature from the Trombone section: Mick Limpus, Claire Borer, Ann Southwell, Angela Turton and Jim Harkness (*Trombola*).

East Woodhay 'B' Band also played a selection from the musical *Grease*, *Chopin's Dream* and the *Northern Festival March*.

The 'B' Band is a training band for those who are still learning as well as those who wish to improve their playing, of all ages. The 'B' Band practices on a Tuesday night and new members are always welcome. If you already have some experience playing a brass instrument and would like to join the 'B' Band, please contact Alan Powell on 07899 907821.

Tim Crouter has also just started a beginner group on Saturday mornings for those wishing to learn how to play a brass instrument. Anyone who wishes to join should contact Tim on 01488 680674 or timcrouter@aol.com.

The concert raised a total of £250 (after expenses) through entrance fees and programmes, which will be used towards funding the band's ongoing success in the future.



East Woodhay Silver Band, with members of the East Woodhay B Band

Band Feature – Pangbourne & District Silver Band

In each issue of *Harmony*, we'd like to feature a local band. Please contact the editor if you would like to have your band featured in the next issue!

There has been a band in the village of Pangbourne in Berkshire since 1893, when a fife and drum band used to meet in a shed behind the water mill. This was dispersed during the 1914-18 war and it is thought that the first performance afterwards was at the Armistice celebrations in 1919. In the inter-war years, the Band had a very successful period, with Saturday evening concerts in the village square. Successes in district competitions gained it the name Pangbourne Silver Prize band. During World War II, the band ceased to play and instruments were put into storage. Although the Rector of Pangbourne was advocating the Band's revival in 1948, it was not until 1961 that it was restarted, through local youngsters being taught to play in the homes of surviving older bandsmen. The new band's first formal engagement was carol playing at Christmas 1963, when £8 was collected. This was used to open the Band's first bank account, after an inaugural meeting in February 1964 at the Working Men's Club.

Under the guidance of Henry Fuller and former Bandsman James Tappern (who had been recorded by the BBC playing Tutankhamun's silver trumpet), the Band quickly became established, winning the Webber Cup at the Oxford and District Brass Band Association and a place in the National Brass Band Championships in London. It has had two spells in the 3rd Section, the last being in 1998-2000 and in the last year it has re-commenced contesting in the 4th Section.

The Band celebrated its 25th Anniversary with a Concert, conducted by Nigel Horne, and a social evening on 19 September 1987 at which five original players were present. Its 40th Anniversary was celebrated at a gala concert given by 49 present and past players on 5 October 2002, conducted by David Roberts and featuring the late Don Lusher as guest trombonist.

The Band has made several concert tours overseas, the most recent being to Bitz (Germany), Handel (Netherlands), the Mosel Valley, Salzburg and Wernigerode (Saxony). It is currently intending to visit northern France in 2010.

Under its present Musical Director, Stewart Lewins, the Band has restarted its junior section, The Pangbourne Youth Band, which has currently 9 children in training. This meets on Wednesday evenings in Term time at 6.30 pm in Pangbourne Village Hall. For a fee of £1 per session, beginners can have the use of a new or good quality instrument and tuition from our MD and experienced senior bandsmen. The main Band meets from 8-10 pm afterwards. Visit our website on <http://www.pangbourneband.org.uk> or phone the General Secretary Edmund Pike on 0118 9724249. The Band is Registered Charity no. 1073913.



Pangbourne & District Silver Band, shortly before playing at the Phoenix Brass Festival in May 2009.

Raising money for ODBBA

Although ODBBA are not currently charging a membership fee, we still need to raise funds in order to survive and to run our events.

You can help us to raise funding, at no cost to yourselves and without any effort simply by using your computer and searching the web!

When you search with *easysearch*, you'll raise funds for us with every search you make. Make just 10 searches a day with *easysearch* instead of Google or any other search engine and you could raise around £20 a year - or more - for us. It's that easy!

What's more, *easysearch* combines the strengths of several search engines together - Yahoo!, MSN, Ask.com and many more - making it a 'super' search engine! *Easysearch* tracks down the most relevant and accurate results from across the Web, which means you'll find what you are looking for quickly and easily every time - in one 'easy' search.

Please set our unique *easysearch* page - <http://odbba.easysearch.org.uk> - as your homepage and use it every time you search the Web.

You can also raise funds for us every time you shop online. *easyfundraising* is a shopping directory listing some of your favourite online stores including Argos, Next, Amazon, Debenhams, John Lewis, Toys R Us, HMV and over 600 other top name stores. Whenever you shop with any one of them using the links provided on the *easyfundraising* site, you'll generate a free donation for us of up to 15% of the purchase price every time! It really is that simple!

It doesn't cost a penny more to shop and raise funds in this way. In fact you can even SAVE MONEY as many retailers give exclusive discounts, special offers and even 'e-vouchers' when you shop through the *easyfundraising* site.

All you need to do is register for free at <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/odbba> and use *easyfundraising* every time you shop online.

Thank you for helping us to keep going!

Busy times at Wantage...

As you would expect from a band that has several ensembles within its organisation, it has been a busy few months at Wantage.

47 players and supporters had a great weekend in Blackpool, when the championship section Wantage 'A' Band (conducted by Phil Bailey) took part in the Senior Trophy Contest for the first time.

Unfortunately, the band's performance on the day wasn't quite up to the standard they had hoped – however they still came 8th out of the 20 bands, beating many highly ranked bands, including Northop Silver Band who are world-ranked number 32 and who are in the National Finals this year. The Band have already received and accepted an invitation to compete again next year.

Meanwhile, Wantage 'B' Band are looking forward to their appearance at the National Finals in Harrogate in September. This comes shortly after

the band came a very creditable 4th place in the 4th section at Weston-Super-Mare. Everybody at ODBBA wishes Wantage 'B' Band the best of luck on their trip north.

The efforts of the entire Wantage Band organisation are currently focused on creating a permanent home for themselves. For many years the Wantage Band has been homeless, leading a nomadic existence with instruments, percussion, music stored in many and varied huts, sheds, halls, rooms in houses – and in the Band's large blue Transit van.

Practising in around 10 different venues has been confusing and difficult – a home is desperately needed. Hopefully this will soon be resolved: the Band have been given a nice plot of land for a minimal rent in a corner of Tugwell Field, near the Lord Nelson pub. The County are now busy putting in the approach road, and it is hoped that work will commence on the hall in the Spring.

ODBBA needs your help....

Any voluntarily-run organisation needs volunteers, and ODBBA is no exception. On October 11, ODBBA will be running its Entertainment Contest. We have received entries from 15 bands from all over the country, and we desperately require help from people to help things go smoothly on the day.

If you are able to give up some time (even just an hour or two) to help to steward on the day we would love to hear from you. Nothing too demanding will be asked of you – we just need help making sure that all the entering bands are in the right place at the right time! If you can help, please contact Nigel Hall on 01280 700000 or 07803 511266. You can also email Nigel on nigel@mimi-music.co.uk.

We also need a venue in which to hold the Association AGM in November. If you are willing to let us use your bandroom for a couple of hours at a mutually convenient time, please let David Roberts (ODDBA Secretary) know. You can contact David on david@aldrickham-music.co.uk, or 0118 956 1330. We'll be happy to cover any expenses incurred for electricity, heating etc.

Finally, a reminder that ODBBA is run by members of local bands, for local bands. We would love to hear any ideas that you have that you would like to see ODBBA carry out in the future. Please contact any member of the committee with your suggestions.

How to contact ODBBA...

To contact ODBBA, please use any of the following details:

Tony Redshaw (Chairman):

01865 434678 (home) or 0776 873 8997 (mobile).
Email: alr.g6dve@ntlworld.com

Lynne Whitley (Treasurer):

01865 460179 (home)
Email: lynne.whitley@ntlworld.com

David Roberts (Secretary / Webmaster):

0118 956 1330 (home) or 0776 997 4035 (mobile)
Email: david@aldrickham-music.co.uk

Nigel Hall (Contests):

01280 700000 (home) or 07803 511266 (mobile)
Email: nigel@mimi-music.co.uk

Alternatively, any member of the committee will be delighted to talk to you and pass on your ideas. Also, don't forget to visit <http://www.oddba.org> for all the latest news and information.

Note from the Editor...

We'd like to print this newsletter four times per year. However, we need your news to put in it! Please contact the Editor (david@aldrickham-music.co.uk) with the news from your band, together with photos and anything else of interest. Please submit any articles etc by **November 30th 2009**.

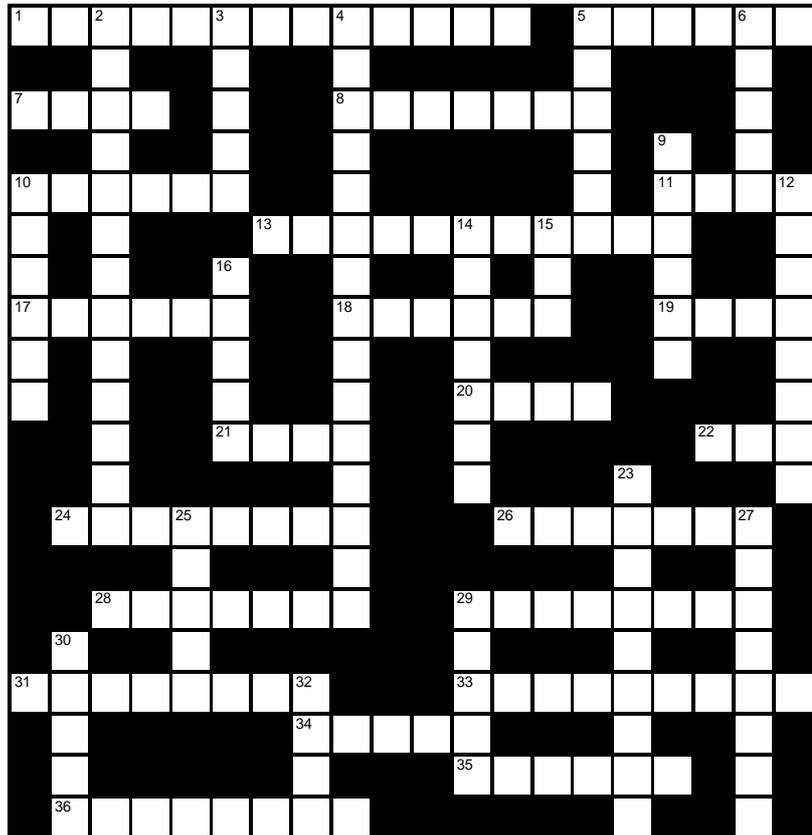
Prize Crossword #1

Compiled by Crotchet

Win a piece of music for your band. Send your completed puzzle to David Roberts, 1 Sherwood House, Rembrandt Way, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 6QY by **1st November 2009**. The winner will be the first correct entry to be drawn out of the hat. Remember to include your name, address, phone number and name of your band. The winner will be announced in the next issue.

Across

- 1** Man O' Brass? (5,8)
- 5** Mobile communications in Oxford? (6)
- 7** Composer of the Well-Tempered Clavier. (4)
- 8** The ----- of time. (7)
- 10** Eighth-note. (6)
- 11** Period of silence in a piece of music. (4)
- 13** 1985 Granada Band of the Year. (11)
- 17** First name of an enigmatic composer. (6)
- 18** It radiated light with a big smile? (6)
- 19** Street in Oxford upon which the QI Building was located. (4)
- 20** And so be it? (4)
- 21** The round, flared opening of a wind instrument. (4)
- 22** First degree of the solfège scale. (3)
- 24** Modern version of the sackbut. (8)
- 26** Final resting place of Agatha Christie. (7)
- 28** The first Bishop of Dorchester-on-Thames. (7)
- 29** Light and delicate. (8)
- 31** The main research library of the University of Oxford. (8)
- 33** Popular Indian bakery product. (4,5)
- 34** A significant occurrence. (5)
- 35** Christminster in Thomas Hardy's Wessex (6)
- 36** Former county town of Berkshire. (8)



Down

- 2** Composer of Lohengrin. (7,6)
- 3** A captain's superior. (5)
- 4** Test piece by Peter Yorke. (3,12)
- 5** Roman Emperor. (6)
- 6** Half of a piece of music by Edward Gregson? (5)
- 9** Very fast. (6)
- 10** Oxford College. (6)
- 12** The time to sing Love's Old Sweet Song? (8)
- 14** Kettledrums. (7)
- 15** --- Comrades. (3)
- 16** At one's pleasure. (2-3)
- 23** Village and civil parish within the Ribble Valley. (9)
- 25** Well-known fictional detective. (5)
- 27** Volunteer cavalry force. (8)
- 29** Very slow. (5)
- 30** Surname of "The March King". (5)
- 32** Finnish for genius, and Italian for black. (4)