



## Allo, Allo! Parlez Vous Musique?

11 May 2009

Musicians from Test Valley Brass Youth Band added continental flavour to their rehearsal this week by adopting French fancy dress. And why were they sporting all the Gallic stereotypes – baguettes and berets, onions and garlic, hooped shirts and twirly moustaches? Because they are preparing to welcome musicians from Andover's twin town, Redon, with whom they will perform a joint concert at John Hanson School on the evening of Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May. The concert will be aptly titled *The French Connection*.

The Andover-based band visited Redon a year ago and performed jointly with young brass players from the Redon Conservatoire – a local music school. Now it's Test Valley's turn to play host and for Hampshire brass aficionados to hear the bands play together.

Musical Director Steve Large said:

"When we took the band to France last year we were given a very friendly welcome and played before highly appreciative audiences. It was exhilarating to learn from each other's different musical traditions and yet to find that we could join in with parts of each other's repertoires. Playing improvised pieces beside a beautiful mediaeval harbour in Auray was a highlight that many of our young people will never forget."

"We're now looking forward to showing our visitors a little bit of England, and establishing some new musical memories for young people from both sides of the Channel. We're grateful for the support of the Mayor, who will host a welcome event and to the Town Twinning Association who have been very supportive of this new 'Ensemble Cordiale'."

*The French Connection* concert is at 7pm on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at John Hanson Community School. Tickets are £6 for adults with concessions for children and special family tickets for £18. Why not join them for an evening of Musique Francais?

**You can pre-book your tickets by telephone on 01264 324056.**

2009 has already been a successful year for Test Valley Brass. In March a band made up of adult and youth players achieved third place in the regional finals and thus qualified for the national championships in Harrogate, in September. The bands are always looking for keen new players, young or old to join them at weekly rehearsals (Mon 8.00pm adults, Thu 6.30pm youth) at John Hanson School.

### Players in picture:

Back row:  
Tom Capper,  
Sophie Rutherford,  
Matt Wilkins

Front row:  
Adam Large,  
Jessica Walukiewicz

