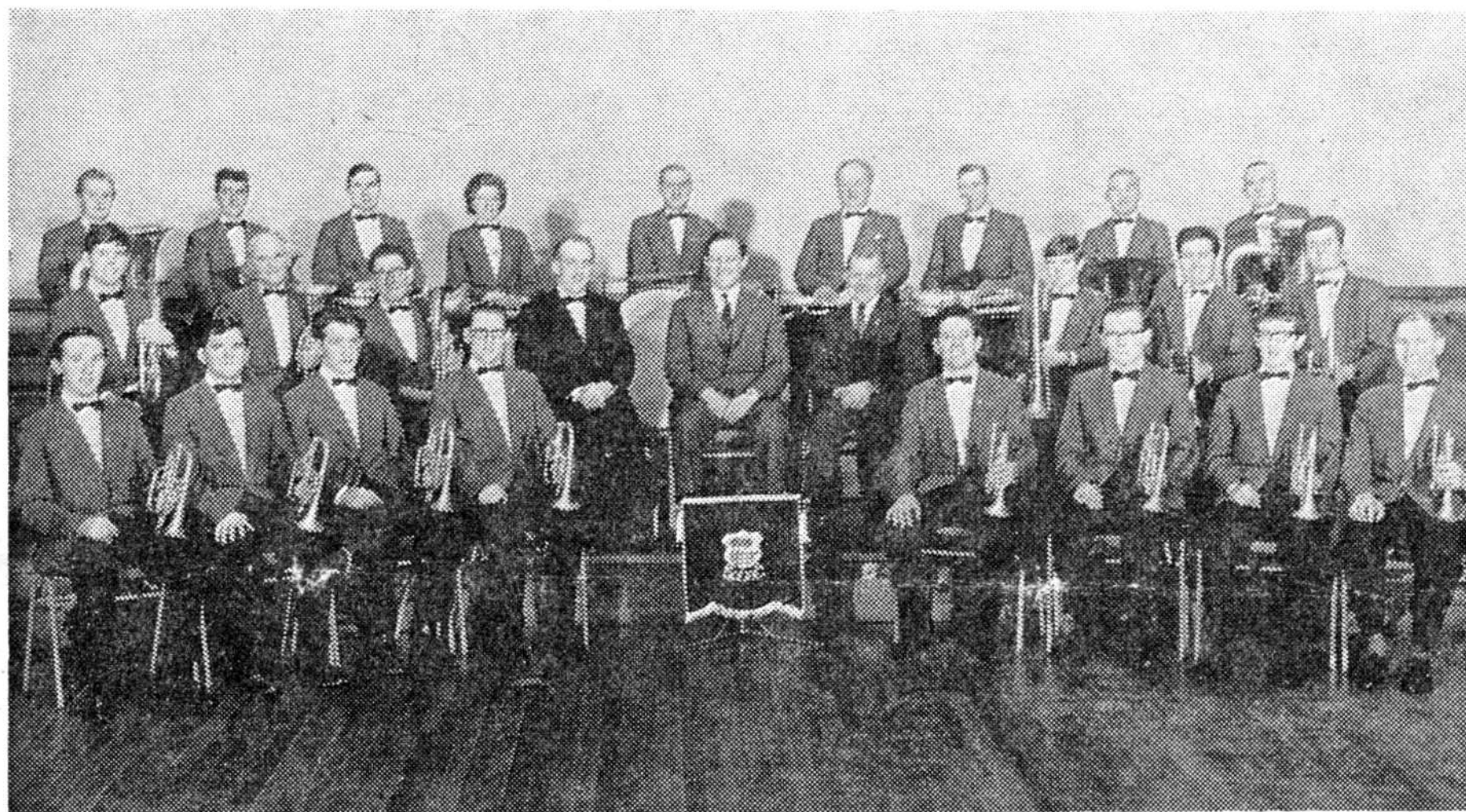


THE CITY OF OXFORD SILVER BAND



President: Dr. Bernard Rose, M.A., D.Mus., F.R.C.O. Musical Director: Mr. C. E. Challis. Bandmaster: H. Williams.
Members: D. Martin, A. Giles, C. R. Calver, K. Membury, F. Wolff, P. Daniels, B. McTear, T. Ferriman, J. Edmunds,
R. Giles, J. Burnard, K. Habberfield, R. Sansom, T. Winthorpe, C. E. Calver, B. Hooton, M. Roberts, F. Hicks, W.
Rutter, P. Sprules, J. Hine, S. Alder, E. Davies.

Like so many other bands, the City of Oxford Silver Band owes its origin to a few enthusiastic members of one family and some of their friends. In this case it was the Taylor Family of Headington—Bandmaster A. J. Taylor, John, Dan and Fred—who in 1887 got together with eight other men to play at village feasts in the Oxford area. In this way the Headington Brass Band came into being and nothing startling happened until 1913 when the first set of instruments were bought.

The Band changed its name to Headington Subscription Band and later to Headington Temperance Band, while Mr. Taylor was succeeded by Mr. W. W. Bowen and the latter by Mr. W. Miller. More youngsters were trained, the Band began to flourish and was able to buy some more instruments, professional coaches were engaged and

once again the Band's name changed, this time to Headington Silver Band.

Apart from the contest work, the Band was also active on the concert platform, the years 1922 and 1923 in particular proving a stark contrast to the poor support locally of Band concerts during recent years. Concerts in the early 1920's were very popular and often hundreds were turned away because the hall was packed.

Success continued to be the band's reward for hard work. In 1924 contests were attended in Swindon, Silchester, Aldbourne, Henley, Fairford, Oxford and Crystal Palace, prizes were brought home from all but the last mentioned.

However, disaster was around the corner. A few weeks after the Crystal Palace contest the band suffered a severe setback when the Morris

Motors Band was formed. Three solo-cornets, flugel, solo-horn, solo-euphonium and two BBb basses—the cream of the Headington Band—left to form the nucleus of the new band. But Mr. Miller was still in charge and more youngsters were trained and 1927 saw the band contesting again at Hanwell, Egham, Oxford and Fairford where three prizes were gained, successes which were repeated at the same events a year later.

In 1928 Mr. W. D. Uzzell became Bandmaster and in 1930 a new set of instruments was bought, which are still in use at the present time. Belle Vue contests attracted the Band's attention and, giving probably its finest performance in its career so far, second place was gained out of twenty entries.

During the war years, from 1939, no banding was possible, but in 1946 the band was

re-formed under Mr. J. Alder, unfortunately interest began to wane seriously after a year or two. Mr. Alder had to leave the band because of illness in 1949. After some changes Mr. C. E. Challis took over. He began training youngsters. Although spirits were very low, towards the end of 1955 everything began suddenly to click into place and such remarkable progress was made that in 1957 the band ventured abroad for the first time, giving four concerts, of which the one in Oosterbeek, near Arnhem, Holland, was undoubtedly the band's finest. Since then the band has gone from strength to strength as more youngsters were trained by Mr. Challis.

1961 the band visited Belgium, Luxembourg and Western Germany.

1963 Tour of Holland, eight concerts were given and the

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