

The Grange Band

The word grange comes from part of the Sir Anthony Deane School (now Harwich School). A mixed range of people formed the band that rehearsed in the school dining room and performed at the old pavilion on the seafront which has now been demolished. The bandmaster was a Royal or Nat Wringe; he was a popular fellow who owned a shop in Harwich.

The band was composed of three teachers, one Irwin Searle who attended Leeds University and played with the Yorkshire Copper Works Band (later renamed The Imperial Metals and Imperial Band who became national champions). It was with Irwin that Jack Quaintance played every Wednesday among an ex army group at a chapel in Colchester. Then there was John Bawden he was from Cornwall and played within the Perthleven Band which his father conducted. Thirdly there was myself, it was only when I brought myself a business and moved that the band realised where the wrong notes had been coming from. I myself came to Dovercourt in 1958 to teach as head of history at the Chafford School at Michaelstower Hall.

Going back to the band there were also two old sweats, Bill Jage and Alf Simpson (uncle of Ben Simpson who plays at both Boxted and the British Legion Band) ex-regular soldiers who had both formally played in army bands. They are both now deceased. Also in the band were three Salvationists.

3 royal marine bandsmen came from the HMS Ganges at Shotley. One of which was Tony Page who married a local girl and on the death of Royal Wringe became bandmaster. He later became conductor of Boxted band and died much too young last year.

Les Henneker also played in the band and did much in the way of teaching youngsters an instrument.

A mention must be made to Clive Easter, an S.A.D schoolboy who now plays in Boxted band and works in Dovercourt. He played for 8 years as a regular soldier in the East Anglian Regimental Band.

This was just a rough outline to the story of Grange Band.