

**THE**



**BUGLE**

**ST. MICHAEL'S**



**BRASS BAND**

**AUTUMN 2016**

**NEWSLETTER**

### **A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**

We are delighted that **THE BOLTONES** will join us for a **CONCERT** on 12 NOV 7.30pm at Alkington Community Centre, Hardfield Road M24 1PQ. Tickets are £5 from band members – free for **FRIENDS** of the Band. We hope you will join us for a great evening.

### **THE BOLTONES**



Members and Friends will remember that we have been supporting Bolton music group **CREATE BOLTONES**. This music group was developed for young people who may not get the opportunity otherwise, to learn an instrument or play in a band or



perform to an audience. These photos were taken at a recent concert by the Boltones entitled 'Brass Explosion'.



#### **What is a Friend of St. Michael's Band?**

Our Friends are supporters of the band who give us so much encouragement and support for so little in return.

#### **How can I become a Friend?**

Please see Pat Barr, Pat Ridgway or Eddie/Judith Malone

#### **How much does it cost?**

There is no fixed "charge" to become a member of our Friends – but we would be grateful for any donation you care to make towards our running expenses. We suggest £10 per year. In return, we will keep you updated on the Band's activities. Our rehearsals are open for Friends to come and listen.

## THE CREMATION OF A TABLECLOTH

Our living room table was a tribute to the fine workmanship of the Victorian age. It had a thick table top on 4 sturdy legs turned into varying sizes of rings and grooves like a Grand Piano's legs, a large wooden screw when turned, extended the table by placing a spare board in the middle. It saw multiple uses: mother kneaded and rolled her Saturday bread on it; a thick blanket turned it into an ironing board; all our homework was done on it.



It was covered with an oilcloth-type of tablecloth for everyday use (there wasn't any plastic in those days), a pristine white tablecloth for visitors and when the table was not in use, it had a very fine dark green chenille cloth, complete with a long fringe all around it and a bowl or vase in the middle.

Getting near to bonfire night, my 2 brothers had been spending their pocket money on sparklers and were told they could only light them outside. Well how many boys of 7 and 9 years old do as they are told? And they were no exception!

Sparklers when lit only look nice when it's dark and you couldn't get much darker than under the table with its dark cloth and fringe hanging down all around it.

Mum, hearing the shouts of the boys, ran out of the scullery and was confronted by the table in the middle of a sea of flames - a real inferno!! The sparklers had set fire to the fringe and the boys were trapped under it. Off came the cloth in a hurry - with the vase going flying - and the cloth was dumped in the sink with the tap full on.

The boys had their pocket money stopped and were henceforth forbidden from having any form of fireworks inside the house forever.

I can't remember if we ever got another tablecloth with a fringe on after that and certainly we did not have one that came down so far that mum could not spot us when we were hiding under it. As for the remains of the cremated tablecloth, this was dumped in the bin along with any leftover sparklers!

Grace Barnett MBE

