

BIOGRAPHY, JAN SMITH

Jan smith was born in Buckinghamshire and some people say 'music' was in her blood. By the age of 5, Friday night had become music night in Jan's family home with a visiting piano tutor; Mr. Pope 'every Friday' without fail. One of Jan's early memories was playing hide-n-seek with Mr. Pope, a game she rarely won, as the first place Mr. Pope looked, was under the piano stall! At the age of 7, Jan had been enrolled into the newly formed Bletchley Silver Band, along with her two older Sisters and proudly carried home a new tenor horn which was almost as big as she was, but significantly smaller than the euphonium her sister chose!

By the age of 13, Jan had moved from playing the tenor horn to playing the Bb cornet - an instrument Jan chose to carve a career with in later life. Before joining HM Forces as a musician in the early 80' s, Jan had played with the Woburn Sands Silver Band and finished her teenage years as solo cornet with the Bedford Town Band with Conductor Terry Hext, who at the time were the 'local' championship band.

Jan enjoyed a number of years in the Staff Band of the Women's Royal Army Corp (Solo Cornet) and on leaving, again on Solo Cornet, with the TA Band of the Royal Army Medical Corp, Chelsea. A peripatetic brass teacher in the late 80' s in Surrey placed Jan 'in the right place at the right time' when she was invited to play Principle Trumpet with the Guildford Philharmonic Orchestra.

In the late 90' s, Jan joined the world famous GUS Brass Band based in Northamptonshire. During her 15 years with the GUS Band, she considered herself lucky as she experienced the delights of winning the Midland Championships on many occasion, winning the Butlins Mineworkers Open National Brass Band Championships, winning the French Open Brass Band Championships and participating in the British Open Brass Band Championships, All England Masters Brass Band Championships and the National Brass Band Championship of Great Britain, held annually at the Royal Albert Hall.

Now living in Buckingham, Jan is delighted to be your Compere this evening and would like to thank Margaret Betts from Boobs & Brass for the invite and wishes both bands; Bradwell Silver Band and Boobs & Brass all the very best for a successful evening of music.

Jan Smith

