

## Village Business

# Blowing My Own Trumpet!

I can't say I know very much about trumpets but I do know a bit about pianos and have spent much of the last twenty years helping lots of Wychwood readers to 'know a bit about pianos' as well. In fact more than two hundred people from the villages have studied with me since we, my piano and I - rolled through the door of *Roseneath* in 1988.



### Serendipity

I had no ambition to become a musician or a music teacher. As a child I wasn't terribly keen on learning the piano. In order to get to my lesson each week, I had to walk past a particularly ferocious, malevolent dog! However, those were the days when PE and games were prominent in every school timetable and I rapidly learnt that a piano lesson was always a reliable excuse! The games department conceded defeat and here I am now!

Much of the success of the **Roseneath School of Music** is due to the fact that I wasn't a musical prodigy and that I had to engage in a great deal of self-education, much of it in my own time, two children permitting! Every pupil of the Roseneath School of Music is taken through a clearly constructed course of tuition, modified to individual needs and pace of learning. Even the youngest student can engage in a programme of attractive pieces and

begin upon a course of written tasks.

Most pupils start around the age of six and there is no upper age limit. In the mornings several adults come to my home for their lessons and once the school day is over I teach children and adults at Burford School and the Tiddy Hall, Ascott and also travel to Enstone and Idbury. On Tuesdays and Thursdays I am based at home in Witney.

### Recognising Musical Talent

Roseneath pupils will be staging their **Annual Concert on June 16<sup>th</sup>** in the **Tiddy Hall at 7:30pm**; please come! This is a highly polished event. Apart from piano music from the children, parents and friends present poetry, songs and play other instruments. Prizes are awarded at the end of the evenings. During the year the children compete to be awarded the title of *Young Musician of the Year*. In addition, 2006 was the inaugural year for the Lavelle Cup, presented by Dorothy Lavelle for scales and technical requirements

A few years ago, I was in the fortunate position of being able to present the Wychwood Trophy to the Chipping Norton Music Festival. This is awarded annually to the best pianist from the local primary School at a level at or below Grade 5

### Pauline Carter

*See page 59 to read about Pauline's Concertante Society, set up to give a helping hand to music students.*