Nominee: David Perfect

Group Name: Merton Concert Band

We are a small, friendly group of around 30 players based in Morden, Surrey.

Originally formed in 1981 the band was the brainchild of a former Mayor of London Borough of Merton. The band had strong links with the famous Mantovani Orchestra through its star trumpeter Stan Newsome who was the founder conductor of the band. His motto is still maintained today that, “the audience should be entertained, not educated.”

Our repertoire includes show music, jazz, big band, classical arrangements, marches and easy listening/pop music and we regularly perform at local events and Westminster Abbey College Gardens.

I would like to nominate David Perfect for his contribution to our concert band. David stepped in as Chairman halfway through 2023 and remains in this role to date. He is a driving force in getting things done, steering our Committee to agree a logo, update our website and source band equipment. He is always willing to help, whatever the request; if you want something done, he’s the person to ask.

David is losing his sight. Throughout 2024 David religiously took home his music every week, practising for hours every day so that he would be able to play the music at the following rehearsal – a real testament to his determination to do a good job and be part of our group. Sadly he had to retire from playing the tuba in December as he could no longer see adequately, even with hours of practice. This was particularly painful for him as he loves to play and sad for the band, who miss both his invaluable playing and humorous presence in rehearsals. David continues to be a dedicated Chairman despite stepping back from our rehearsals, and we would like to recognise him for his ongoing dedication to Merton Concert Band.