

# THE GIRLS IN PINK

Invitations since 2006 have been flooding in with Boobs and Brass making concert appearances at the Lighthouse Theatre, Kettering, sharing the stage in 2009 with Brighthouse and Rastrick Band. The same year at the All England Masters Competition at Cambridge, when the band were invited to perform in concert. There was an appearance at the Dragon Boat Races in Northampton and in 2010 at Bullins Skegness Mineworkers Open Brass Band Festival, which included "Boob Blow" when a record number of 370 females assembled to play together in aid of the band's chosen charity.

There were special guest appearances on the Saturday evening's concert by some well known female names including Michelle Ibbotson (soprano cornet), Sheona White (tenor horn), Kirsty Abbotts (cornet), Katrina Marzella (baritone) and Simone Rebello (xylophone).

During the Skegness weekend, Maggie and Jane presented a cheque for £15,530 to a representative of the Breast Cancer Campaign.



So how is the money used. Margaret explains:- "The majority of the money we raise is donated to "Breast Cancer Campaign – Researching the Cure". "When you donate over £1,000, you are given the opportunity to choose how the money is spent".

"The two research projects have been funded totally by Boobs and Brass". "Whenever we perform, we have a stand displaying information, leaflets etc. for the charity. They are very supportive of what we do and provide us with pins, which we are able to give to anyone who makes a donation". In May, 2009, representatives from Boobs and Brass were invited to the annual reception given by Breast Cancer Campaign at the House of Lords during which they received an "Outstanding Achievement"

award for their fundraising of over £18,000 in two years for the charity.

This year Jane and Margaret were invited to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace for their achievements and at the time of writing this article, Boobs and Brass had donated £54,000 to charity.

## "WHATEVER IT TAKES"

One project which for many members became the highlight of 2009 was the recording of the CD "Whatever it Takes", featuring John Lee, former flugel horn soloist with Brighthouse and Rastrick. It had always been John's intention to record a CD and when he invited Boobs and Brass to accompany him, the girls had no hesitation in accepting. Funding the recording himself, with the help of some generous donations, John invited Richard Evans and Derek Renshaw to share the duties of musical director. Also there is a cameo guest appearance from trombonist Carol Jarvis. On release early sales achieved the outstanding total of £8,500, raising the profile of both band and their chosen charity.

It's been an outstanding four years for Boobs and Brass, but what of the future?

This is what the band's founders Margaret and Jane had to say:- "All these girls love music and brass bands and play for the pleasure of it at their own cost". "So for as long as they are prepared to continue and whilst we are still being asked to perform, we will carry on organising Boobs and Brass". "Hopefully the funds donated may help to make at least one person's life more tolerable and enable the researchers to take another step towards finding a cure".



**PHOTOGRAPHS:** From Top Left to Right Bandstand Buxton Geoffrey Whitham and the girls Founders Margaret Betts and Jane Nichols.

Whit Friday: Greenacres 2008

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