

And the band played on

REVIEW

OLD Town in Swindon and the traffic is at a standstill again. Is the road being dug up or has there been an accident?

Well neither actually. The cause of the hold-up is the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust's music evening given by the Swindon Concert Band at Christ Church. And even with three car park attendants on duty and the use of the Lloyds Bank car park, the traffic was backed up all the way down the hill.

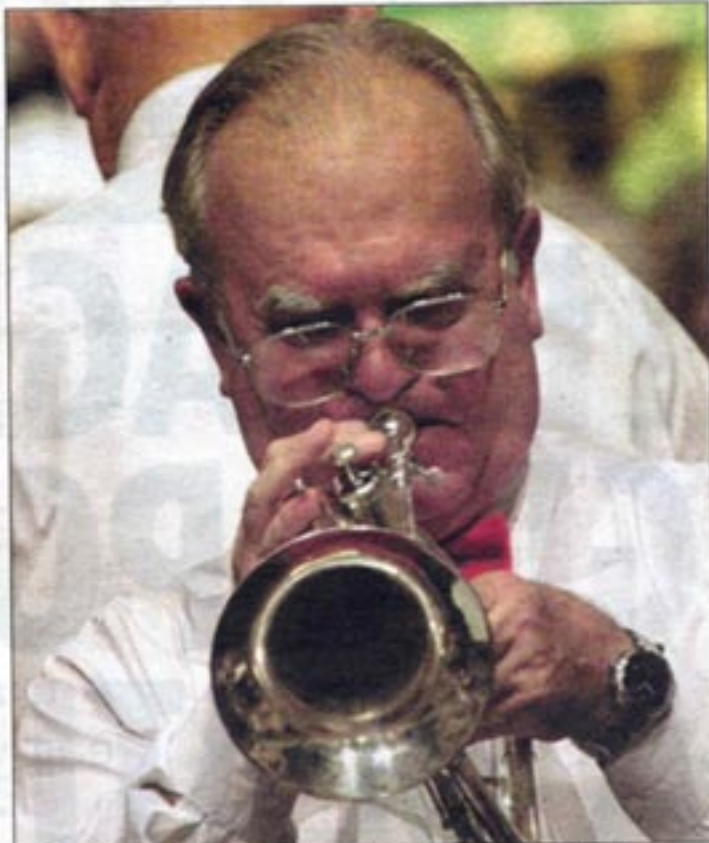
But once inside, all was calm and serene.

The first half was a real cross section of music covering such tunes as Fiddler On The Roof to The Way We Were, and finished with Thames Journey, a piece especially written by Nigel Hess to commemorate the path of the River Thames from its source near Cirencester to London.

The 30-minute interval turned out to be a victory of patience over volume with 250 people all queueing for tea and coffee at once.

The ladies doing the drinks managed to serve everyone in just 20 minutes which was one customer every five seconds, such a task was only surpassed by the feeding of the five thousand.

The second half started with Mary Ratcliffe reading her poem Salutations writ-



BOOST FOR CANAL Swindon Concert Band get stuck in

ten to commemorate Isambard Kingdom Brunel and his relationship with Swindon.

The band then got stuck into eight more tunes including items from Gershwin and Glenn Miller.

By this time the music was running very late but the musical director Mike Lock cheerfully announced that if the audience wanted to stay then the band would continue to play.

The final piece was a compilation of very well known tunes and Mike got a very young lady from out of the audience to conduct the band which she did admirably.

Anyone who could not make it this time will have the opportunity to see the band again when they play their Christmas concert at Wootton Bassett Memorial Hall on December 9.

— Roy Cartwright