



Flautist: Debbie Tasker takes her music seriously.

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Family duo keep in tune with the band

by KATE JAMES

PERFORMING in a concert two days before giving birth might be considered beyond the call of duty.

And searching factories high and low for band uniform buttons is more than generally required of your average band member.

But mother and daughter team Barbara Jones and Debbie Tasker take the Manningham Concert Band seriously - very seriously.

Between them they have given 32 years of service to the community band.

Mrs Tasker joined 17 years ago as a schoolgirl flautist who needed a challenge.

She has been a regular since, and even marriage and two children haven't slowed her down.

"I only took six weeks off when I had the little ones," she said.

"But I would have to come home on the dot when we finished and feed the baby ... some people get married and leave, but I didn't want to do that.

"I've stuck with it, and I really enjoy it."

Her mother, Mrs Jones, a former piano teacher, joined the band committee in 1986 after attending the annual general meeting with her daughter.

You won't see her on stage, but Mrs Jones's behind-the-scenes jobs have included keeping 46 music folders up to date, ticket collecting, program selling, ushering and even "trekking to factories looking for the right buttons for the uniforms".

Made up of community members from school age to retirees, the Manningham Concert Band plays at

about 20 events a year, including charity and private events, citizenship ceremonies and Christmas services.

Mrs Tasker said she enjoyed the variety of music rehearsed and performed by the band.

"I've been in the band longer than most people and they have to stop me from being bored," she said.

She said the band's coming concert, *2001 - A Musical Odyssey*, had been fun to prepare because it involved a range of styles, as well as unusual touches such as chanting between bursts of music.

A screen will show projected images to suit the music when the concert is performed on Saturday, August 4, at Salvation Army Citadel in Taunton St, Doncaster East.

For details about the band or concert phone Elizabeth Vaughan on 9878 6592.