



Hathern Band

Newsletter

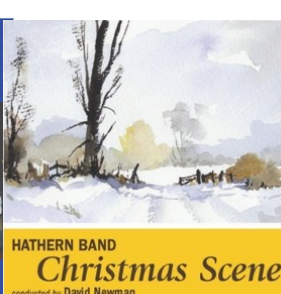
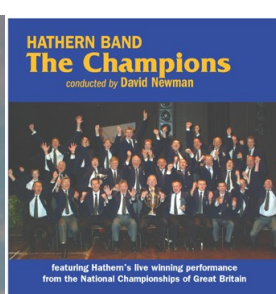
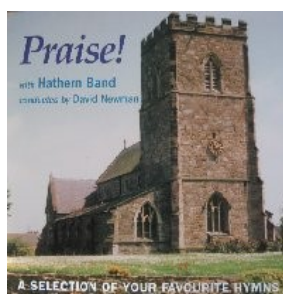
Autumn 2015

Welcome to our second newsletter for Patrons and Friends of Hathern Band. We started our Friends organisation in the summer and we have had many people sign up at Hathern Band or Concert Brass concerts. If you have friends who might like to be "Friends" please let us know.

Thank you all, and we hope the newsletter is interesting and informative. Do let us have any feedback and your ideas for future articles.

Christmas is Coming

Stuck for that perfect Christmas present this year? Worry no more. We have a number of CDs for sale including our latest recording Pasture Lane and our popular Christmas Scene. This features many carols which Hathern residents will hear when the band takes to the streets on Sunday 13th December

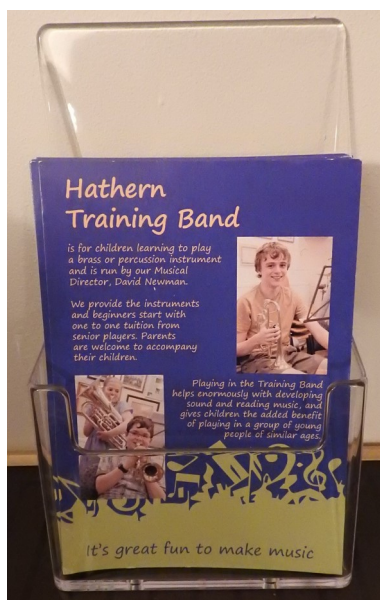


Contacts

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Training Band

In our last newsletter we reported that we were producing A6 cards to publicise the Training Band. Well those cards are now out in eleven local schools and already we have recruited new members. Training Band now has a uniform with players wearing smart black polo shirts

If you have any contacts in schools who might take publicity material, or promote the training band, please let us know.

Several of our youngsters took part in the Leicestershire Brass Band Association's Autumn Member Contest. Results were:

2nd Prize Jack Browne – 11/12 year age group

3rd Prize Rian Grindley – 11/12 year age group
(Rian and Jack also got 5th in the Under 18 years Duets)

3rd Prize Stephen Guerin – 16 to 18 year Slow Melody & 2nd Prize in the Sight-Reading

3rd Prize Amadea Tristante – 15 years and under Sight-Reading

Well done to Oliver Simpson who played a Solo for the first time in the 10 years and under. Well done to the Hymn Tune Quartet – Amadea, Rian, Jack & Oliver – no prize but played really well



Have You Paid?

As you know we rely on subscriptions from members and Patron's Fees

There are a large number of Band members' subscriptions and Patrons' fees outstanding for 2015.

Could you please check to see if you have paid?

We welcome and encourage payment by standing order or direct debit

Flugelhorn

Most people who aren't familiar with brass bands would recognise instruments such as cornet or trombone. However the flugelhorn is not so well known and the first time many would have heard of it was when Tara Fitzgerald "played" one in *Brassed Off*. The instrument is built in the same B \flat pitch as the cornet, and but has a wider conical bore which gives it what is described as a more mellow and dark sound. Traditionally, there is one flugelhorn in a brass band. Lesley Bentley played the flugel in the band for many years but now Dru Sparks has taken over.

Incidentally, mentioning *Brassed Off*, you may know that the band joined forces with the Festival Players in their production of *Brassed Off* back in 2010 and again in 2013. In that production Lesley played *Concerto de Aranjuez* on the flugelhorn behind a curtain. Well, members of the band have been "Brassed Off" again. The play has been performed at the Derby Theatre during September and October with Derwent Brass providing the "band". Because of the large number of performances, we were asked to help out, so Lesley, David, Graham Rix and Simon Baum have been moonlighting as members of the Grimley Colliery Band!



Dru Sparks, who has progressed from Training to Main Band performing *Ashokan Farewell*



Interview with Musical Director David Newman

How did your musical career start?

I was five years old when I first learnt to play cornet at Ratby Band, and my brother Geoff started two years after. I was mad on it from the word go! My dad ferried us around and became band secretary. He was asked if he'd like to learn to play so Dad started on the trombone the age of forty! He came to play at Hathern after I became conductor. We had a new conductor at Ratby and he broadened my outlook by getting me to play with other bands. I played soprano cornet with the National Youth Brass Band and had the opportunity to go to music college, but at 17 I wanted money in my pocket so I joined Barclays Bank. I was invited by the legendary Harry Mortimer to play for the City of Coventry Band. In football terms it was like going from Port Vale to Manchester United. I was with them for five years but the touring was difficult, and I returned to Ratby.

How did you become conductor of Hathern Band?

I started conducting the junior band at Ratby and got the taste for it. Conductors call it "stick itch". In 1979 I was just on the point of auditioning as conductor for another band when Lesley Bentley, who also worked at Barclays, invited me to audition for Hathern. I was successful but my first act was to get them relegated! This turned out to be a blessing because the band found its level and it was a foundation to build from. There was an amusing incident when I joined. I asked some of the guys if they went for a drink after practice and they said they didn't. I found this very odd as I never knew a band where some members didn't go to the pub after a session. The band practised in Shepshed then, so one evening I followed them and surprised them in the Blue Ball. There was complete silence! It turned out that the previous conductor would continue his practice session in the pub. So to avoid more rollickings, they didn't drink with him. I had to assure them that wasn't my style and I was safe to have a drink with!



How do you approach a new piece of music?

A conductor has to know a piece better than the band so I have to do a lot of work going through the score. If there is a recording, this is a big help. Although I can pick up a lot from one hearing, I have to work down through the parts to identify where the problems are going to be and consider how they should be tackled. Then I have to think about what I have to do when conducting the complicated bits. You have to understand why the composer wanted the piece played in a certain way. It's like studying a piece of literature. I encourage players to study their parts without playing, to learn and get the rhythm in their head. I am a great believer in musicians understanding everything on the score, not leaving expression and direction just to the conductor. That's why we teach our youngsters musicianship, not just playing the right notes.

What achievements are you particularly proud of?

I'm of course extremely proud of all our players and what they and the band have achieved — five times in the national finals, winning the second section in 2004. A particular highlight for me was conducting the band at the Royal Albert Hall in 1984. It's really gratifying to see players that you taught as small children progressing to be accomplished musicians in our band and beyond. Players like James Fletcher, son of Brian our treasurer, who learnt to play tenor horn at Hathern and now plays for the Brassed Off band — Grimethorpe, one of the country's top bands. Richard Sandham began at Hathern, played with the Central Band of the RAF and now is pursuing his musical career in Sydney. Richard wrote the piece Pasture Lane for us which is featured on our latest CD.

And the future?

Since I came to Hathern, it's generally been steady progression to the band being an excellent first section band, which reaches the championship section from time to time. That's pretty good for what is basically a village band and I think that's right for us. If we went all out to be a top championship band, we would lose our character and we would have to become more ruthless. Our youngsters are the future and we will encourage them to have fun learning their instruments and musicianship to ensure that the band will continue to be a success for many years to come.

Patrons

Hathern Band is a non-sponsored organisation and relies on the continued support of its patrons. Every year the band says thank you by giving patrons their own concert in Hathern. It costs a minimum of £25 per annum to be a patron.

If you're not already a patron, could you consider supporting us in this way?

Concert Brass at the Shows

Concert Brass played at the Hathern Horticultural Society's 27th Show on 31st August. Although this society's show has been going since 1989, the Band has played at Hathern Flower and Horticultural Shows since at least 1871. It was one of those grey days when you couldn't be sure whether it would stay fine or pour. The rain laid off long enough to allow everyone to admire the produce, visit the stalls and enjoy the band's first session, but then it started to drizzle. Was it because Singing in the Rain was on the programme? Joe on percussion improvised an umbrella then resorted to borrowing a gazebo to protect the instruments. The band soldiered on but as things got soggier, Andrea had to admit defeat.



In contrast to the concert in Hathern, things were much brighter at the Sutton Bonington Show on 6th September. Concert Brass were under cover, the gazebo providing protection from the sun rather than the rain this time. They were playing next to the refreshments area, which meant that visitors could listen to the music while enjoying cake and a cuppa. Unfortunately, either the food or the strains of the band proved irresistible to an air force of wasps. Great entertainment from Concert Brass, particularly Andrea's brilliant YMCA dance

200 Club

The band have now been running a 200 Club for nearly five years! Its income helps to supplement band funds and gives participants the opportunity to win prize money in return. Numbers cost £1 each and a monthly draw takes place with up to six cash prizes to be won! Half the money raised goes directly to the band and the other half is split into prizes. Payments can be made via cheque (yearly or half yearly) or preferably standing order.

If you are interested in joining the club or would like some more information please contact us or speak to a band member at one of our concerts.



Women's Institute Concert

September 18th 2015

This year's Women's Institute concert at Charnwood College was extra special as 2015 marks their centenary and the concert began appropriately with Jerusalem. The Band then provided a lively programme to suit all tastes which showcased some solo performers - Graham Rix (euphonium) Grandfather's Clock, Simon Baum (trombone) Londonderry Air, Joe Southgate (xylophone) Memories of Circus Renz and Dru Sparks (flugelhorn) Ashokan Farewell. Other numbers included Fanfare and Flourishes, 76 trombones (only 73 short), Buglers' Holiday, James Bond Themes, Happy and Bach's Arioso.

It has long been a source of frustration that when the Band ends a first half performance, they find that they're at the back of the queue at the bar. The problem was addressed in this concert by ending the half with Haydn's Farewell Symphony during which players left the stage one by one until only two cornets remained to complete the piece. After the break the Band reversed the process as members returned in similar fashion to play Show Me the Way to Go Home.

When the WI was formed, one of its main aims was to encourage women to become more involved in producing food during the First World War and this provided us with another centenary. A hundred years ago almost to the day the Battle of Loos was fought on the Western Front which resulted in over 50000 British casualties. The Band paid tribute by performing In Flanders Field.

1915 was also the year of Frank Sinatra's birth and twenty years later Elvis Presley was born. Hearing that Elvis would have been 80 this year made me feel somewhat old! The band celebrated these influential singers by playing New York, New York and American Trilogy, which Elvis ended his concerts with in the 1970s.

Many members of Hathern WI were in the audience and Janet Kirk, Chairman of the Leicestershire and Rutland Federation of Women's Institutes gave a vote of thanks to the Band.

Patrons' Evening

September 20th 2015

Hathern Band depends on the support of its Patrons and the annual thank you to them in the form of their own concert took place at Hathern Community Centre. The evening began with most welcome food and drink laid out on individual tables which provided an opportunity for Patrons to get to know each other in a relaxed and convivial atmosphere. The Band repeated several of the pieces they played at the WI Concert but treated us to two which David Newman described as "work in progress" – What Would I Do Without My Music, arranged by Sam Garton (First Horn) and A Galaxy Far Far Away arranged by Joe Southgate (Principal Percussion)

Some Band members were absent – Susan Robinson and Geoff Fletcher were on holiday. Tom Dyer-Hill was off to university – Concert Brass Musical Director Andrea Allen took his place on second trombone. Graham Rix was also missing – he had developed a tooth abscess which required emergency treatment so David's brother Geoff stood in on principal euphonium. Will Graham live this down?

Pharrell Williams' catchy number Happy has become a favourite with both the main Band and Concert Brass. There was a twist with this performance as David persuaded four likely lads to come up and clap the beat under Stephanie Harpham's supervision. They were good sports and will ever be remembered as the Happy Clappy Four.



Sam with her trophy

The Patrons' Evening is also the opportunity to present Band awards. The Joanne Wood Memorial Trophy – the Players' Player Award – went to Graham Rix who received the trophy at Band practice the following Tuesday when he had recovered from his skirmish with the dentist.

The Bandsman of the Year (the Joan Crayford Memorial Trophy) was awarded to Sam Garton who in addition to being a talented musician and arranger, also puts in many hours of organisational work behind the scenes. Our congratulations to Graham and Sam.

Hathern Band Engagements

Festival of Remembrance Concert

Saturday 31 October ,7.00pm *The DeMontfort Hall, Leicester*

Armistice Service

Sunday 8 November, 10.30am *Hathern Church*

Shepherd Remembrance Service

Sunday 8 November, 3.00pm *Glenmore Park, Shepshed*

Leicestershire Brass Band Association

Sunday 22 November, 10.00am *Charnwood College, Loughborough*

Carols at Lingdale

Sunday 6 December, 2.00pm *Lingdale Golf Club, Woodhouse Eaves* (GROUP)

Melton Mowbray Christmas Tree Festival

Sunday 6 December, 6.00pm *St. Mary's Church, Melton Mowbray*

Carols at Lingdale

Saturday 12 December, 9.00pm *Lingdale Golf Club, Woodhouse Eaves* (HALF BAND)

Hathern Streets

Sunday 13 December, 10.00am *Hathern*

Hathern Christmas Tree Festival

Sunday 13 December, 4.30pm *Hathern Church* (GROUP)

Masonic Hall Carols

Wednesday 16 December, 9.00pm *Masonic Hall, Ashby Square, Loughborough* (GROUP)

Quorn Carol Service

Friday 18 December, 7.30pm *The Village Hall, Quorn* (HALF BAND)

Christmas Concert

Saturday 19 December, 7.00pm *Hodson Hall, Loughborough Grammar School*

Lessons and Carols, Hathern

Sunday 20 December, 6.15pm *Hathern Church*

Loughborough Hospital Carols

Tuesday 22 December, 7.00pm *Loughborough Hospital, Epinal Way, Loughborough* (GROUP)

Loughborough Care Centre Carols

Tuesday 22 December, 8.00pm *Loughborough Care Centre, Epinal Way, Loughborough* (GROUP)

LOROS Concert

Saturday 16 January, 7.00pm , *Venue to be confirmed*

Concert Brass Engagements

Loughborough Armistice Hymns

Sunday 8 November, 10.00am *Queen's Park, Loughborough*

Quorn Christmas Lights

Saturday 28 November, 4.30pm *Quorn Village*

Barrow on Soar Christmas Lights

Saturday 5 December, 3.15pm *Barrow on Soar*

Christmas Concert

Saturday 19 December, 7.00pm *Hodson Hall, Loughborough Grammar School*