



Band News

Autumn 2023

Number 34

LBBA Open Contest



The Leicestershire Brass Band Association Open Contest takes place on 19 November and the Senior Band has been putting in a lot of rehearsal time. The music selected as the competition piece is Purcell Variations by Kenneth Downie which will provide a good test for the Band. The piece was composed in 1995 - the tercentenary of the death of Henry Purcell was regarded as one of England's most important early music composers.

As is our usual practice we invited a guest conductor to put the Band through its paces. Getting the input from another experienced conductor allows another perspective in approach to ensure the Band plays at its very best.

We are delighted to have obtained the services of Gary Wyatt as our guest conductor to help the Band prepare. Gary will conduct the Band

at the contest. Gary is Principal Cornet at Desford Colliery Band and has been with them since 1996. He has also been a member of the RAF Central Band with whom he has toured world-wide. Gary teaches and conducts brass bands at all levels.

Here's hoping for a great result!

At the Charnwood Bell Festival



Charnwood celebrated its first Bell Festival on 10 September in Queen's Park, Loughborough. This event was to commemorate the bell as a unique symbol of Loughborough. A willow bell represented the largest bell ever cast in the UK made by Taylor's Bell Foundry for St. Paul's Cathedral in 1881. There were handbell ringers and morris dance teams performing.

The Senior Band provided the music on the bandstand, and although the weather proved a bit iffy, the audience enjoyed a great programme. There were three soloists. Hannah Peak, Principal Euphonium, played Midnight Euphonium, Dave Tooth, Principal Trombone, gave us Melodie et Caprice,

and Adrian Drewitt, First Baritone (above), played Portrait of My Love - a hit for Matt Monro in 1960. Other notable pieces included Lincolnshire Poacher, Men of Harlech, Going Home (from the film Local Hero) and Pastime with Good Companie - composed by King Henry VIII. To reflect the theme of the event, the Band played Carillon and Bells Across the Meadows, a truly evocative composition by the renowned composer Albert Ketelbey. As the "bells" were ringing out, some of us in the audience were also wringing out!

Our “Down Under” Connections



It was great to welcome Richard Sandham to the band room on 26th September. Richard is over from Australia - his first visit since 2017. Richard learnt to play with Hathern Band and now works as a freelance musician, brass educator, conductor and composer in Sydney.

Richard composed the piece Pasture Lane for us which is featured on our CD of that name. We had a great catch up over a beer or two.

Richard is on the left in the photo with Gary Wyatt.

We have said hello again to our Australian front row cornet player John Moore. It seems like only yesterday that we were enjoying slices of John's farewell cake, but it's been four years since we last saw him. John comes over from Brisbane every few years to spend time with his son and his family. Back home, John plays with two Salvation Army bands plus a retirees band called Ye Olde Brass which plays concerts in retirement homes.



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Congratulations!!



Jonathan Stevenson and Nicola Sykes tied the knot on 7 July at the Carriage Hall, Plumtree, and the Senior Band was on hand to play. Solo cornet Jonathan has played with Hathern Band since he was six years old.

Congratulations and best wishes from us all.

We Make Musicians at Hathern Band!



Our latest recruit!!

Hathern Youth Club held their annual Scarecrow event on 7th and 8th October. It was a great success with 52 entrants. Well done Lesley, Ira and Bridget for putting our chap together.

Concert at Oadby



The Senior Band played at a well-received concert at the Trinity Methodist Church, Oadby on 7 October. We were delighted to again welcome soprano Jenny Saunders to sing with the Band.

The concert started with Mike Wood's Post Horn Gallop, followed by A Disney Fantasy and then Ken Powell on Soprano Cornet gave us Nessun Dorma . The Lincolnshire Poacher crept in before Jenny sang Summertime. Then the Band played Andrew Lloyd Webber's Memory. The front row cornets gave us Twelfth Street Rag (photo above) then Spartacus before the interval.

Back to Twelfth Street Rag. This is written for a cornet trio but Dave always doubles this up. Those of you who are mathematically minded might have noticed that three times two doesn't make five. Where was Stephen?

Stephen arrived for the interval. Where had he been? He had put the wrong postcode into his Satnav - LE12 instead of LE2 and ended up in Burton on the Wolds! Would Dave Newman not mention it to save Stephen's blushes? Not a bit of it. The Band came on stage for the second half and Dave introduced "the late Stephen", the Band of course stood up to greet the celebrity!

Men of Harlech kicked off the second half, followed by another Lloyd Webber composition, sung by Jenny - Pie Jesu. Then it was Clog Dance - unfortunately none of the Band actually demonstrated their dancing skills. I Dreamed a Dream and 76 Trombones came next then A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square. To round off the evening, Jenny gave us We'll Meet Again and The White Cliffs of Dover.

Some members of the Band called in at the Dew Drop for a swift half after the concert. Stephen managed to make it there - it would have been a disaster if he couldn't find the pub as well!

The Kelham Family and Hathern Band

At times in Hathern Band's past it has been a family affair and one prominent family were the Kelhams. Herbert Frederick Kelham and his father Samuel Kelham played with the Hathern Prize Band (the village's second band) in 1890 and later that decade, Herbert's sons Herbert Widdowson and Caleb were also members. Albert Kelham, Caleb's son was conductor from 1950 to 1959. Tom Kelham, Albert's cousin and his son Les were the last of the Kelhams in the band in the 1970s.

We were delighted to hear from Jan Leaper who is Tom's daughter. Jan now lives in New Zealand and has fond memories of the band.

"My dad Tom played euphonium but moved to Eb bass. I remember going to listen to them in the practice room which was a ramshackle old building at the Green end of the village. Competition times were thrilling. There was a strong smell of Brasso in the air as not only instruments had to be polished to an eye watering shine but also every button on the scarlet uniforms. Then there was the trip to Nottingham or Leicester for the competition which went on all day followed by the massed bands concert in the evening. Mum and I would slip out after our band had played and go round the big shops. I never went to sleep during the evening concerts but quite often slept on the journey home. My fondest memories of the band are at Christmas when the band would walk from place to place all round the village playing Christmas carols. My job was to go round with the collection box. It must have been a long walk but I never complained. I got half a crown, the occasional mince pie and all my favourite carols to sing."

We think there have been at least eight members of the Kelham family who played with the band over the years. For more information about our history, please see the website.



Alveston Park, near Derby September 1939

Back Row: A. Henson, C. Brown, J. E. Miller

Third Row: J. Watt, H. Thornley, T. Dennis, L. Kelham, C. Ward, E. Miller, H. W. Kelham

Second Row: J. Aldridge, J. Iverson, W. Harbidge, A. Ward, T. Kelham, C. Kelham

Front Row; J. Wortley, H. Webster

Hathern Youth and Concert Band - in Concert



Youth and Concert Band at Bands on the Park at Humberstone Park on 27 August (above) and at St. Denys Church Evington on 21 September which we're told was memorable for the excellent spread laid on by the church! The Band also played at the Quality of Life Fundraiser held on 30 September at Normanton on Soar.



Results

September
£30 The Ainsworths
£24 Geoff Wood
£15 Mary Sibson
£12 Ian Bartram
£11 Amber Lewis-Roberts

October
£30 Sue and Ted Reay
£24 Dave Neville
£15 John Baum
£12 Ken Powell
£11 Dave Bentley

November
£30 Michael Pearson
£24 Jake Baum
£15 Val Morgan
£12 Linda and John Wigley
£11 Brian Fletcher

Forthcoming Engagements

- Armistice Service

Sunday 12 November, 11.00 am, *Hathern Church*

- Shepshed Armistice Service

Sunday 12 November, 3.15pm, *Glenmore Park, Shepshed.*

- LBBA Contest

Sunday 19 November, 10.00am, *Loughborough Grammar School.*

- West Leake Carol Service

Friday 1 December, 8.00pm, *St. Helena's Church, West Leake*

- Melton Mowbray Christmas Tree Festival

Sunday 3 December, 5.30pm, *St. Mary's Church, Melton Mowbray.*

- Carols Round the Streets

Sunday 10 December, 10.00am, *Hathern Cross.*

- Christmas Tree Festival

Sunday 10 December, 4.30pm, *Hathern Church (Group).*

- Carol Concert **(Youth and Concert Band)**

Thursday 14 December, 7.30pm, *Shepshed Baptist Church,, Charnwood Rd, Shepshed.*

- Carols at Quorn

Friday 15 December, 7.30pm, *Quorn Village Hall (Group).*

- Christmas Concert

Saturday 16 December, 6.00pm, *Hodson Hall, Loughborough Grammar School.*

- Lessons and Carols

Sunday 17 December, 6.00pm, *Hathern Church.*

- Carols at the New Inn

Monday 18 December, 7.30pm, *The New Inn, Peggs Green, Griffydam. (Group).*

- Loughborough Hospital Carols

Tuesday 19 December, 7.00pm, *Loughborough Hospital, Epinal Way. (Group)*

- Masonic Hall Carols

Wednesday 20 December, 9.00pm, *Ashby Square, (Group).*

