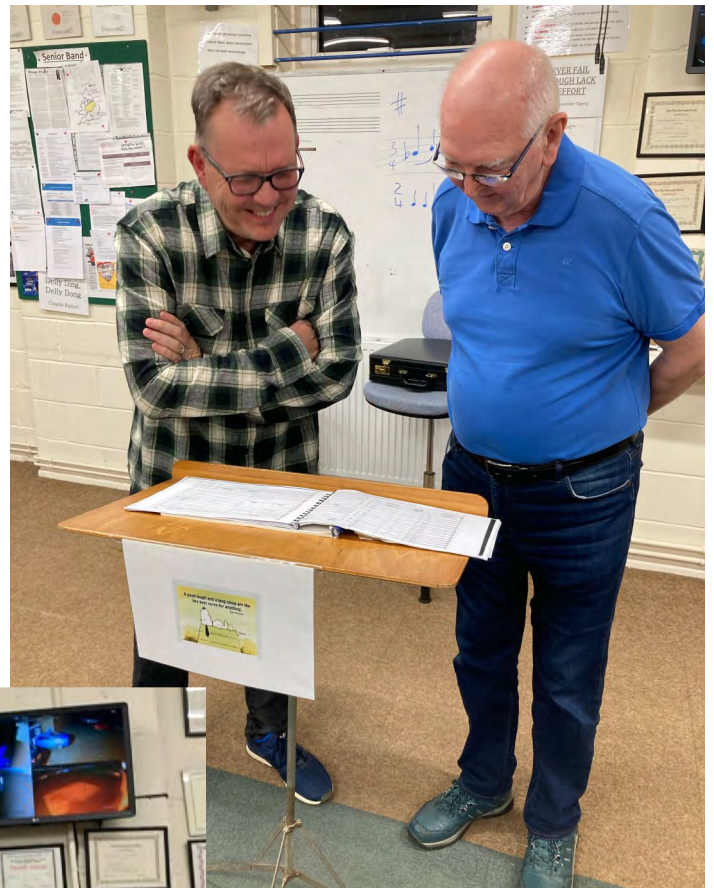




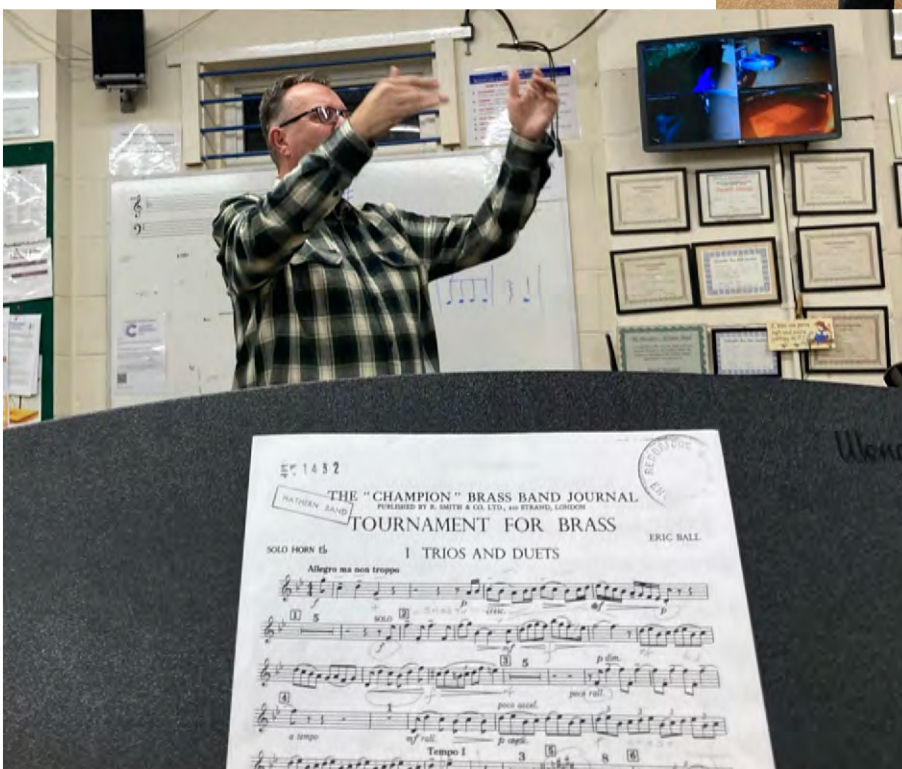
It 's LBBA Time Again!

The Leicestershire Brass Band Association Open Contest takes place in November and the Senior Band is practising hard under the baton of Contest Conductor Gary Wyatt. Last year we were placed a creditable fifth when we were in the First Section, and we followed that with an excellent third place in the Second Section Regional Finals earlier this year, just missing out on a place in the National Finals.

Our contest piece this year is Tournament for Brass written by Eric Ball 70 years ago for the British Open Championship. It was described as "a touching academic homage to the crafted elegance of Mozart and Haydn with just a little bit of Elgar added to the mix."



Above
Gary and Dave look at the score



Left
The player's view

Well Done Anya!

Until recently 12 year old Anya played tenor horn in our Training Band, but has now moved to near Matlock. Her brother Edward has special needs and mum Gemma said she does so much to help her brother. Anya was nominated by Gemma in the Inspirational Sibling category of the WellChild Awards. She received the award from Prince Harry at a ceremony at the Royal Lancaster Hotel, Harry being ta patron of WellChild, a charity or seriously ill children and their families.



Anya said she met a host of celebrities and enjoyed music from Pixie Lott on the night. "The ceremony was really cool," she said. "I got to meet Rod Stewart, KSI and Gaby Roslin who took me round to meet all her celebrity friends. Prince Harry was really nice and I got a hug from him. We had a really good time and it was worth it to miss school!"

Prince Harry paid tribute to the children and teenagers recognised at the event, calling them little legends who remind him of the strength of the human spirit. "Thank you for being you and uplifting those around you", he added.

Gemma said Anya was an amazing girl who not only cares for her brother but "helps me stay sane!" Edward has little understanding of danger, so he needs constant supervision, meaning Anya has to step in whenever her mother has to do jobs around the house. "I nominated Anya because she does so much and she doesn't realise how much she does," Gemma said. "A lot of siblings live this way and they don't realise how special they are. I'm really proud of Anya. It's nice for her to get a bit of attention and for it to be all about her.

Grade Success



Our young musicians who were successful in grading examinations proudly display their certificates. From left to right, Charlie, Iris, Sophie, Calum, Mikael, Isaac, Beba, Hugh and Zoli Vicenze, Music Leader for Leicestershire Music who put them through their grades.

About a year ago, Leicestershire Music commissioned a piece of music from Alan Fernie to celebrate young musicians in the county who play brass instruments. Alan composed a piece called A Leicestershire Rhapsody that includes three movements, Fosse Way, Coalville Clock Tower and Lineker's Pants. More than 90 young players signed up to take part in an afternoon rehearsal session followed by the public premiere performance on 6 October.

Hathern Band were represented by Hugh, Isaac, Calum, Beba, Charlie, Inigo and Mikael. Zoli said, "It was a wonderful afternoon, a lot of fun and a very special experience of playing a piece of music for the first time ever, conducted by its composer who is a well known figure in the brass band world. We were delighted that Charlie was chosen to play the cornet solo in the second movement, which he did beautifully."



Our 200 Club provides welcome funds for our bands as well as paying out cash prizes to the lucky winners.

it's only £1 per number per month by standing order. If you'd like to join, please contact

Sam Peak Email: sambigfootg@hotmail.com

September
£30 Dave Neville
£24 Jeremy Pratt
£15 O'Neils
£12 Mary Sibson
£7.50 Mike Wood

October
£30 Mick Garton
£24 Stephanie Harpham
£15 Pauline Fletcher
£12 Amber Lewis-Roberts
£7.50 Dru Sparks

November
£30 Dave Bentley
£24 Simon Baum
£15 Mike Jones
£12 Linda and John Wigley
£7.50 Jeremy Pratt

Letter from Down Under

Antony Edwards used to play for us before emigrating, but remains part of the team as he manages our website. Ant came over in 2018 with his band, and we haven't forgotten that evening with them in the Three Crowns! We asked Ant what he's been up to since then.

It feels strange to be giving you all an update about things have been going since I saw you all in 2018 for Footscray-Yarraville City Band's European tour. It only feels like last week I was down in Hathern with you all for it! For those that are more recent players, I played with the band from 2007-2010 when I was studying in Loughborough Uni and now live in Melbourne, Australia. I'm still very proud to be connected with you all as the person that helps keep the website ticking over.



Without wishing to steer this down the route of a Christmas-card circular, I have had some major life events since seeing you all. I got married in 2022 and a few months later we welcomed our son into the world. I had the luxury of taking a year off work to be his primary carer. When I returned, my university promoted me to Associate Professor and gave me a new role helping lead the University's education portfolio work with Generative AI. My time is now full with family, banding, and work.

Recently, I achieved a milestone in my banding life that might feel inconsequential to many of you but means a lot to me. I have now played with my current band for longer than any other. As someone who has had to move every few years for education or work contracts, banding has been a constant to me: you show up in a new town or city and you can immediately sit down with a group of people with a similar world-view to you. Pending an available seat – speaking as a Bb bass player, there is *always* a vacancy – you might even get to stay a while. That's why I never really noticed how many bands I'd played with: each always felt like "home" to me.

As an aside, if you haven't seen the website

www.brassbandresults.co.uk,

it's a great way as a player to keep track of who you've played for, which test pieces etc. My profile tells me I've now contested with 10 bands across 60 contests, winning 10. Without it, I'd be lucky to tell you the last two pieces I played!



In terms of how Footscray-Yarraville City Band is going, since the high of coming second in the Australian equivalent of the Championship-section Nationals final in 2017, and our 2018 European tour, we sadly parted ways with our conductor shortly after returning from Europe. After a series of interim internal conductors we appointed Louisa Lawless, who before coming to Australia was a player in Fodens for many years. She's brought with her a desire to boost the sound of the "middle" of the band, giving the horns and back row the licence to play as loudly as they can, while telling our front row to just sit on top. That alone has transformed the band's sound, and we placed a very credible 5th and 6th in the last two Nationals.



We've had a few reasonably high-profile gigs including being adopted by our local "footy" team, the Western Bulldogs, to play for four or five games a season before the game and at half time. I can now claim to have been the "best thing playing at the G", as quipped by a radio pundit during a low-quality match between Bulldogs and the Hawthorn Hawks. For those who don't follow cricket or Australian Football, the G is short for MCG, which is short for the Melbourne Cricket Ground - ask Dave Newman for why that's kind of a big deal! (Before anyone says, the photo is from our local Whitten oval and not the G!).

We're preparing now for a major concert celebrating our 150th year as a band, we have Glyn and Helen Williams flying in from Cory as guest artists as well as soloists from the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. So, if you know anyone in Melbourne with nothing else to do on November 9th, send them to the Melbourne Recital Centre!.

As for Australian banding more generally, the National Band Council of Australia recently put the cat amongst the pigeons by commissioning a "Premier" grade to complement our existing structure of A, B, C, and D grades. This brings us into line with UK and Euro events, but much like the UK's journey, it upset as many people as it pleased. The Council didn't do themselves any favours by then choosing a piece for Premier that needed many specialist percussion instruments that local orchestras, let alone bands, don't own (e.g. waterphone). Some schadenfreude from us therefore as only the top five bands from 2024 were invited in 2025. We instead get to try and win the "A Grade" to secure promotion to Premier 2026. Yes, that's right, there will be direct promotion and relegation each year rather than an aggregate like the UK has. What could possibly go wrong?

Summer Concerts



Well this is a bit different to the usual concert photos taken by our team of photographers (well both of them!) It's the Senior Band seen from a drone at Cutts Close, Oakham on 11 August. At first you might think that, that was a disappointing audience, however it was a sweltering hot day, and the audience sensibly took cover under the trees.

Other Senior Band concerts were at Quorn and Oadby.

Youth and Concert Brass played at Sutton Bonington Show (below), and at Evington Methodist Church.



Followers of the Senior Band will have noticed that our long serving percussionist, Stephanie Harpham has been missing for some time. Stephanie broke her femur in an accident. There were complications which meant that she had to have a hip replacement as well. Stephanie is on the mend and looking forward to playing again with the band, though she won't be taking part in contests. Everyone in the Hathern Band family wishes Stephanie a speedy recovery.

Summer School



Jenny Peak, Hannah Peak, Bridget Plimmer and Sam Peak took part in the Elgar International Summer School held at Bromsgrove School in July. The course director was Carole Crompton, the Artistic Director was Philip Harper and there were ten tutors. This year for the first time the course was split into two bands of 60 musicians, each band had a new piece commissioned to perform. The week consisted of sectionals, full band, individual lessons, workshops and concerts. The first concert, was a mid-week bandstand concert at Sanders Park and the finale was at Routh Hall recorded on WOB play (World of Brass on-line performance platform).

A delegates concert was held mid-week which gave the opportunity for anyone to perform individually or in a group ensemble. This was followed by the Tutor's Concert, also recorded on WOB play.

Sam said, "The four of us will be returning next year. I can honestly say it's one of the best weeks of the year, meeting like-minded people who inevitably become friends, and learning so much from all the tutors and Philip."



On 18 April I embarked on a virtual challenge to run, walk and cycle up the country from Lands End to John O'Groats. I even managed some on the water, kayaking! It's a distance of 874 miles which I completed on 13 September with a Park Run.

I decided to raise money for two charities, Cancer Research UK and MIND, both of whom do tremendous work. I raised £635 for the charities which couldn't have been achieved without the kind donations from so many people. Thank you all!

The donations page is still open if anyone else wishes to donate.

<https://www.justgiving.com/team/sams-virtual-challenge>

Sam Peak

Engagements



- LBBA Contest
Sunday 24 November, 10:00a.m. *Loughborough Grammar School*
- West Leake Carol Service
Friday 6 December, 8:00p.m. *St Helena`s Church, West Leake, LE12 5RP*
- Hathern Christmas Tree Festival
Saturday 7 December, 4:30p.m. *Hathern Church* GROUP
- Melton Mowbray Christmas Tree Festival
Sunday 8 December, 5:30p.m. *St Mary`s Church Melton Mowbray*
- Youth and Concert Brass Concert
Thursday 12 December, 7:30p.m. *Shepshed Baptist Church, Charnwood Road, LE12 9QF*
- Carols at Quorn
Friday 13 December, 7:30p.m. *Quorn Village Hall* GROUP
- Christmas Concert featuring all the Hathern Bands
Saturday 14 December, 6:00p.m. *Hodson Hall, Endowed Schools, Loughborough*
- Carols round the streets of Hathern (Senior Band and Youth and Concert Brass)
Sunday 15 December, 10:00a.m. *Hathern Cross*
- Carols at The New Inn
Monday 16 December, 7:30p.m. *The New Inn, Peggs Green, Griffydam* GROUP
- Loughborough Hospital Carols
Tuesday 17 December, 7:00p.m. *Epinal Way, Loughborough* GROUP
- Masonic Hall Carols
Wednesday 18 December, 9:00p.m. *Ashby Square, Loughborough*
- Carols at the Black Swan
Friday 20 December, 7:30p.m. *The Black Swan, Shepshed*
- Lessons & Carols
Sunday 22 December, 6:00p.m. *Hathern Church*

