



# Hathern Band

Newsletter No. 8

Spring 2017

## Third in the Midlands Championships!!



**Stu Ratcliffe and Dave Newman**

What a day at the Midlands Regional Championships of Great Britain on 11 March! Hathern were up against 15 other bands in the First Section competition. All the bands played the same test piece, Aotearoa - Land of the Long White Cloud. After weeks of rehearsal the Band gave a rousing performance in Bedworth Civic Hall. The audience had already heard some good (and one or two less so) performances before Hathern took to the stage as the thirteenth band to play. Adjudicator Kevin Wadsworth said it was "a performance that matured throughout - much to really enjoy." His colleague Chris Davies said "There is good discipline and it all worked! The band finished really well, perhaps the best on the day."

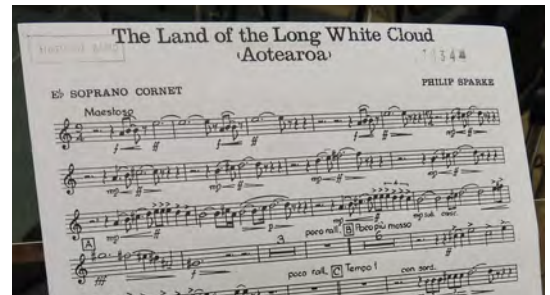
Stu Ratcliffe was presented with the shield, and the Band will receive £100 prize money. A proud Dave Newman said,

"It is always good to be in the prize winning frame at any contest. We knew that a good result would send us back to the Championship Section from 1st January 2018 and this proved to be the case, although it was a little disappointing that the

Band didn't qualify for the National Finals. One of the bands withdrew, not playing on the day which meant that only two bands qualified for the National Finals in September. But overall a fine performance and I would like to take the opportunity of thanking all the players for their hard work and commitment to this fine piece of music."

# Aotearoa -The Land of the Long White Cloud

The Land of the Long White Cloud was written by Philip Sparke and was commissioned by the New Zealand Brass Band Association for their 1980 National Championships. Aotearoa was the name given to New Zealand by Polynesian settlers who described the islands as a long flat cloud lying over the land. The opening bars bring to mind the surging ocean crashing onto the land. A faster dance like section leads to a slow, haunting soprano cornet solo (ably performed for us by Tom Wallage). This is taken up by the whole band before earlier material returns. The opening bars return to close the work.



As part of the preparation for contests, we often engage a guest conductor who has the experience to identify areas where the Band could improve its performance. This year David Hirst conducted some rehearsals. David played solo cornet with the famous Black Dyke Band. His conducting career began in the 1970s, and after conducting a number of bands, in 1994 he became musical director of the renowned Brighouse and Rastrick Band where he

stayed for 11 years enjoying much success. Since leaving B&R, David has been guest conductor for Grimethorpe Colliery, Fairey and Fodens as well as carrying out contest preparation for a wide range of bands of all standards. David is secretary of both the Black Dyke Band and the Association of Brass Band Adjudicators.

Dave Newman said, "It has been a real pleasure to work on this piece of music. Sometimes with compulsory compositions for contests, rehearsals can become tedious and hard work, but all the Band thoroughly enjoyed working and performing The Land of the Long White Cloud."

The players would like to thank Dave for all his hard work preparing the piece and producing a reading of the score that found favour with the adjudicators.

All those sleepless nights were worth it!!

## Brass Band Organisation in the UK

There are five brass band sections, Championship, First, Second Third and Fourth, and there are eight regions throughout the country. The Midlands Region is one of the largest and covers Leicestershire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Warwickshire, Hereford and Worcester, Shropshire, Staffordshire and the West Midlands. The top two bands in each regional championship go through to compete in the national finals. (It's three bands if there are more than 16 bands competing). The finals are held in Cheltenham, except for the bands in the Championship section who compete at the Royal Albert Hall.



## Concert Brass



A great new picture of Concert Brass. The band's next engagement is "Bands on the Park" at Knighton Fields, Leicester, 3.00pm on Sunday 25 June.

## Training Band at the Family Service



Training Band played at Hathern Church's Family Service on 5 February. The youngsters gave a brilliant performance accompanying the hymns and playing a selection from their First Sounds books at the end of the service (to rapturous applause!) Four members of the band also joined Rev. Laurretta Wilson at the front to take part in a section of the service. The band is going from strength to strength and currently has 34 members aged between six and eleven years.

## Band Contact Info

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# Interview with Solo Cornet Player Susan Hargrave

## How did your musical career start?

My parents always wanted my brother and me to have the opportunity to play an instrument. My great uncle died and we were offered his piano. It had to be transported all the way from Scotland! I started lessons at the age of five and took to it. I loved tackling new pieces and having practice sessions with my dad who plays guitar.



## Did you only play piano?

I started playing the flute when I was about nine and joined Leicestershire Arts Junior Band - there were lots of players. I reached grade 5 on flute but didn't really enjoy it as much as the piano, so I stopped. Then my brother Andrew took up the trumpet, so I had a go and decided that I now wanted to play trumpet! I had lessons with Dave Newman's brother Geoff who got me to a certain level and then I moved on to another teacher when I was about 14. I asked Geoff if there was a brass band in the area I could join and he said that his brother conducted Hathern Band. I auditioned for what was then the B band and joined the back row cornets. Dave Newman then taught me and I reached grade 8 on the trumpet.



## Did you study music at university?

It seemed natural for me to study for a degree in music. My parents encouraged me to do what I enjoyed, so I went to the University of York without a clear idea about where it would lead to. I did think about going into conservatoire, but decided that it wasn't for me. It would require many hours of practice each day and I wasn't sure I'd be good enough. What I really enjoyed was performing at schools and in the community, and speaking about the music. I did a project about brass bands and I helped set up a brass band at the university, which is still going strong. We took part in the Whit Friday Marches which was great fun.

## What did you do after leaving university?

I became a peripatetic teacher with the Soar Valley Music Centre, teaching piano and trumpet. It meant moving around a number of distant schools which wasn't easy and I wasn't always given the equipment I needed. Once I had to teach trumpet to three boys together at a school. I turned up to find that they had not been given instruments and I was expected to teach in what was a tiny closet. I undertook some private teaching as well.





**Susan with the front row  
cornets at Hathern Church**

### **What came next?**

I started working for the University of Nottingham in 2011 in the Campaigns and Alumni Relations Department. I became Information Manager in 2012 and was promoted to Head of Information Management in 2014. I have really enjoyed working at the university and feel I have the right balance. I think my life would be too stressful if it was all music.

### **How did you become the pre-concert pianist at Nottingham's Royal Concert Hall?**

One of my tutors at the University of York, Sarah Beth Briggs, performed at the Concert Hall in 2013 and I went to meet her. She introduced me to Neil Bennison, the Music Programme Manager for the Concert Hall who invited me to play without hearing me! I was only three years out of university and I had to ask for an audition to ensure that I was the right standard for the event. Luckily I was, and I've thoroughly enjoyed performing there - I've done it three times so far.

Whether it's there or playing with the Band, it's performing that gives me a buzz. I love playing for people and making a difference to their evening.

### **The Band played at your wedding last year. Did they behave themselves?**

Yes they did! It was great to have them there. Dale and I are celebrating our first anniversary in May with a visit to Florence.



## Brass Banding 1894

It costs quite a bit to run Hathern Band. We are grateful for the support of patrons and others whose contributions provide an important part of our income. It was ever so. Below is a report from 1894 which gives an insight into the band organisation over 122 years ago. Note that this was the time when there were two brass bands in Hathern following a split in 1890. In 1893, both bands entered a competition when the New Band came third and the Old Band was unplaced. The New Band then changed its name to the Prize Band and the Old Band engaged a professional conductor (referred to below). For more on the split and band rivalries, for those on-line, see Geoff Fletcher's history on our website.

This was the report for the Old Band

*"On Saturday evening (27 January, 1894) a successful evening was held in aid of the old brass band in the large room of the Liberal Club. The programme opened with a glee from the band glee party. After a few remarks from the chairman, Mr. Fred Roper read a report which stated that some time ago a committee was formed to provide new uniforms for the band. The cost amounted to £15 14s of which £9 was subscribed by friends in the village. During the year the band had fulfilled 26 engagements with great satisfaction, and have given two open air concerts, one for Loughborough Dispensary, the collection amounting to nearly £4 in aid of the institution. During the summer it was decided to engage a professional teacher, the choice falling on Mr. Albert Pounder, band-sergeant of the Nottingham Robin Hood Rifles, the result being a marked improvement in the playing of the band. Shortly after Mr. Pounder's engagement, he suggested the enlargement of the band, which then comprised 16 members, and a committee was chosen consisting of 30 gentlemen outside the band. The villagers responded generously to the appeal for funds, the result being that they have been enabled to purchase four new instruments at a cost of £27 10s of which over £12 was subscribed in the village. The band has now 20 playing members and eight hon. members and subscribers. Mr. Charles Moody (bandmaster) thanked the public generally for their kind support, and trusted that by diligence and practice they would be able to supply the neighbourhood with music second to none in the county."*

If only four instruments cost £27 10s these days! The engagement of the new conductor paid off with the Old Band coming second in a competition in August 1894, and so became the Old Prize Band. Hathern then had two "Prize" bands with their rivalries (there were even court cases) until 1917 when the bands merged.



**The Old Prize Band pictured nine years later**

# Spring Festival Success

It was a brilliant day for all the Hathern Youth Band members at the Leicestershire Brass Band Association Spring Solo/Quartet/Duet Festival on 2 April. A special mention to:

George Baum, 1st in the Open Percussion and on Euphonium, George came 3rd in the Junior Slow Melody, and 3rd in the Sight Reading.

Hathern Youth Quartet (Ashton Peat, Jack Browne, Sam Edwards and Rian Grindley), 1st in the 14 years and under.

Ashton Peat, 2nd in the 10 years and under Slow Melody. This was Ashton's first contest so a 1st and a 2nd is pretty good!!

Jack Browne, 3rd in the 11/12 years Slow Melody.

Sam Edwards, 4th in the 15 years Slow Melody and 2nd in the Sight Reading.

To all the players taking part which included George Powell, Camilla Newham, Inigo Tristante, Alice Powell and Amadea Tristante - **WELL DONE !!**



**Ashton, Jack and Sam with adjudicator Keith Leonard.**

**Rian had to leave early**

**200 Club**

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the National Lottery!!!!

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## Hathern Band Forthcoming Engagements

- Concert with Loughborough Male Voice Choir  
Saturday 20 May, 7:30pm, *Trinity Church, Loughborough*

(Tickets available from Lesley Bentley)



### *Proms in the Park*

Bring a picnic and listen to the Band in Hathern Park.  
Saturday 17 June, 7.30pm  
More information to follow

- Birstall Gala and Proms Concert  
Saturday 5 August, 7:30pm, *School Lane, Birstall, Leicester*
- Band on the Banks  
Sunday 20 August, 3:00pm, *Quorn Banks*

## Concert Brass Forthcoming Engagements

- Bands on the Park  
Sunday 25 June, 3:00pm, *Knighton Park, Leicester LE2 3RR*
- Queens Park, Loughborough  
Sunday 16 July, 2:00pm, *The Bandstand, Queens Park, Loughborough*
- Hathern Horticultural Show  
Sunday 27 August 1:00pm, *The Three Crowns, Hathern*