



Band News

Spring 2018

Number 12

Midlands Regional Championships

We always knew that it was going to be tough being in the Championship Section this year as we would be up against some of the best brass bands in the country. The Midlands Regional Championships were held in Bedworth on 11 March and the test piece was Odyssey by Kevin Norbury.

A technically difficult piece of music, the composer tried to portray the imaginary journey of a human soul from the "darkness" of the earthbound situation to the "light" of spiritual union with God. The work undergoes a number of stylistic changes from the seriousness of the opening to the exuberance and triumph at the end. The melody, Slane, is of Celtic origin and will be known to most people as the tune for the hymns "Be Thou My Vision" and "Lord of All Hopefulness".

The band put in a great deal of work with many rehearsals over the last few months to learn and express the piece. We were helped once again by David Hirst, renowned conductor and adjudicator, who conducted many of our sessions and provided welcome advice.

There were 12 bands in the contest and we came 11th. The winners who are off to the national finals were Virtuosi GUS and Desford Colliery. Adjudicator comments included the observation that we were a fine sounding band stretched by the technical sections. At Tuesday band practice after the contest, Dave Newman said that he was proud of everyone and thought they did a cracking job. "Now let's do some blowing and get it out of our system."



Band Contact Info

Lesley Bentley Secretary 01509 672029

lesley.bentley@dsl.pipex.com

www.hathernband.co.uk

Adjudicators

For those unfamiliar with brass band contests, a bit about adjudication. There are two adjudicators for a contest and these are people with a wealth of experience in playing and musical direction. In our contest top euphonium player, Professor Steven Mead and Dr. Graham Jones, who was a director of music in the army, were our adjudicators. To make the judgment fair, the adjudicators do not know the playing order of the bands and hear the performances from inside a strange box placed in front of the stage.

Of course not everyone agrees with the adjudicators' decisions (particularly when they score your band lower than you had hoped). A few years ago a bandsman (not in our band) was very displeased with the adjudicators' decision after a contest. Bob (not his real name) decided to express his opinion via social media. Unfortunately he'd had a drink or two before doing this, so the comments could not have been considered as restrained, and featured some adjectives that are described as Anglo Saxon.



The adjudicators made a complaint and Bob received a twelve month ban from playing in a brass band. Bob exercised his right of appeal and duly made his case to the disciplinary committee. He was successful in getting the duration of his ban changed. They gave him another six months!

Thank You **Waitrose** and Your Customers



Earlier this year, Lesley put our Training Band forward to receive money from the Community Matters Fund available from Waitrose at Mountsorrel. The Training Band was one of three community charity organisations being considered for funding for the month of February. Waitrose automatically put an amount to each organisation, but this was enhanced by customers.

Each customer was given a green token to put in the charity box of their choice, and more tokens meant more money! Many members and supporters changed their shopping habits and visited Waitrose during February, and we were hoping we could lift the total to £300.

Lesley has now heard from Waitrose and we are delighted to learn that we have received a cheque for £335, which has put a smile on our treasurer's face!

Can we say a big, big thank you to Waitrose, and everyone who went shopping there — and put their tokens in the right box!

Interview with Eb Bass Player, James Kerfoot

How did your musical career start?

I learned to play when I started high school in St. Helens, where I was lucky enough to stumble into the music block and sign up for music lessons. My teacher, the inspirational Lynda Nicholson, gave me a tuba (bass) straight away and I've stuck with it ever since. Sadly, I've never played any other instruments — playing bass for a few years is as adventurous as I have been!

Which band did you start with?

I started at St. Helens Youth Brass Band in 2003 and moved through the ranks there. It was an excellent band and had won the National Youth Brass Band Championships on six consecutive occasions from 1997. I went on tour with them to Florence in 2008 and Ohio in 2010 which were great experiences.

Which other bands have you played for?

Due to having moved around to study, I've played in a lot of bands over the years. I joined the brass band at Warwick University when I went there and I was lucky enough to fill various roles on the organising committee for three years or so. I've also played with City of Coventry, Pemberton and Foresters Brass.

Congratulations on being awarded your PhD, what has been your area of study?

I studied Physics at the University of Warwick and received my Bachelor of Science in 2014. I then studied for my Ph D at the University of Nottingham and am now a researcher there. I currently investigate the fluorescence of single layers of molecules on surfaces. In the future I'd like to adapt this to make devices which could be adapted to make solar cells and LEDs.



James with fellow Eb Bass Player

Mary Sibson

James in his Foresters Brass days



How did you find your way to Hathern Band?

I joined Hathern Band last January. I didn't know anyone from the organisation beforehand but I was made very welcome. We have a great "bass team" with Mary, Colin and Steve, not forgetting young Sam who is starting to play with the Main Band. It has been a fantastic 14 months. I really enjoy the ethos of the band and I've made some great friends!

Family Service



Our great Training Band excelled once again at the Family Service held at Hathern Church on 4 February. The programme included Kum Ba Yah, Father I Place Into Your Hands, Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands and Jesus Loves Me.

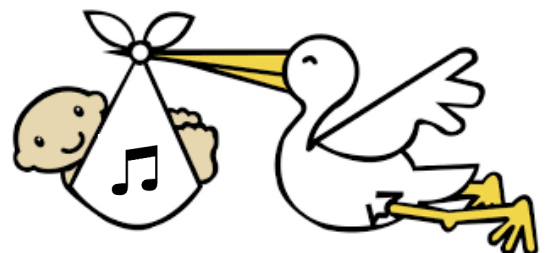
Many of our Main Band players can point to the Family Service as their very first public performance, something they never forget. This year the service coincided with cornet player Eirinn Hani Daggett's 10th birthday and both band and congregation gave Eirinn a rousing version of Happy Birthday.

Well done our youngsters, you made us all very proud.

Hatching and Matching !!

In 2016 we featured the wedding of our solo cornet player Susan Robinson to Dale Hargrave. We're delighted to hear that Susan and Dale are expecting a baby in August.

Many congratulations!



We have another wedding in the band coming up in November when tenor horn players Sam Garton and Hannah Peak tie the knot. Congratulations and best wishes to Sam and Hannah.

The Musical Director and the Amazing Talking Dog

Monday evening at Training Band, Dave Newman explains a pause in the music and writes the word PAWS on the board. The children tell him that it's not spelt correctly.

Dave argues and says that his dog told him that's how it's spelt. The children are adamant that it should be PAUSE.

Dave says, "This exchange has been going on for years with the youngsters correcting my spelling, but for some reason, no-one ever queries the fact that I have a talking dog!"



Betty Anderson



Sadly I have to announce that Betty Anderson, Honorary Patron of Hathern Band for over 30 years, died on 8 January after a long illness.

Betty was a pioneer of women being active in brass bands, firstly as a fine tenor horn player with Kibworth band and going on to conduct Ratby Band, where amongst other distinctions, she was the first female conductor to win the Grand Shield and to conduct at the British Open.

Betty has also been for many years a mentor and friend to many bands in Leicestershire and for over 20 years has been the President of the Leicestershire Brass Band Association. Many young players owe their training and interest in brass bands to this remarkable woman. Her lasting legacy is the fine condition of brass banding in the East Midlands.

Lesley Bentley

Please Come and Join Us!

If you're not already a patron, could you consider joining their ranks and help Hathern Band continue its success into the future? It costs a minimum of £25 per year, less than 50p a week.

We would be most grateful for your support.

Last Night of the Proms at Kegworth

Every year the Main Band plays at the Kegworth Last Night of the Proms at St. Andrew's Church. This year's concert on 24 April was another success with proceeds going to the church and Prost Aid, the prostate cancer charity. The programme started with a favourite, Robinson's Grand Entrée followed by four more featured in recent concerts, Band of Brothers, Georgia on My Mind, (soloist Dru Sparks), Do Re Mi and Pie Jesu (duetists Mike Wood and Ken Powell).



The Trombone Trio in Action

Allegro from the Water Music by Handel was the oldest piece played by the Band. It was first performed on 17 July 1717 on barges on the Thames, at least three times at the insistence of King George I. Blaydon Races came next. The Geordie national anthem is in the Tyneside folk/music hall tradition and was composed by George Ridley as a song to advertise his show in Blaydon held at the time of the horse races in 1862. The arrangement by Gordon Langford featured Graham Rix on euphonium. From Tyneside to America with the Appalachian Mountain Folk Song suite, based on three folk songs, Sourwood Mountain, Black is the Colour of My True Love's Hair and Camptown Races. This took us to the interval and a welcome glass of wine.



George plays Helter Skelter

The second half got underway with Spartakiade and All I Ask of You, the latter being a trombone solo. Simon Baum our principal trombonist was ill so John Hopkins from the top Midlands band, Virtuosi GUS stepped in and bravely took on the piece. It was trombones again when our trio of Joe Dobos-Southgate, John Baum and John Hopkins played I Will Follow Him. Originally an instrumental composed in 1961, it became a hit when lyrics were added, for Petula Clark and others in 1962/3. It's probably best known as the song at the end of the film Sister Act.

Helter Skelter was played on the xylophone by our talented young percussionist, George Baum. Then it was time for singing with You'll Never Walk Alone, and into the familiar Last night of the Proms finale, Jerusalem, Fantasia on British Sea Songs and Pomp and Circumstance.

Another Hathern Band Proms Concert coming up in June - see page 10 for details!

Australian Band Pays Tribute

We have previously reported our Aussie connections with Richard Sandham and John Moore. We have another strong link down under with former band member Antony Edwards who despite now residing in Melbourne, still maintains our website.

Ant joined Hathern Band on third cornet in 2007 while a student at Loughborough University, representing the band twice in the First Section National Finals. After graduating in 2011, he became a patron of the band and moved to teach mathematics at the University of York. Here he played for the York Railway Institute Band on Bb bass enjoying promotions from the Third to the First Section and three consecutive National Finals.



In 2013 Ant took on a lectureship in Mathematics Education at Swinburne University in Melbourne. After enduring four days of the 2013 Boxing Day Test at the 'G; (Melbourne Cricket Ground), when Australia beat England by eight wickets, and the subsequent reaction at work, he began to wonder if Australia was for him. However after joining the Hawthorn Band and then in 2016 taking the principal Bb bass chair at the Footscray-Yarraville City Band, he thinks that he might be in Australia for a while more. In 2017 he was placed second in the Australia National Brass Band Solo Low-Tuba Championships.

Ant and the Footscray-Yarraville City Band are to visit Europe later this year to pay their respects to Australians who fell in the First World War. The tour forms part of a larger project 'The Silent ANZAC' which has been inspired by the discovery of five inscriptions written by the soldiers on the inside of a bass drum that had been stored for nearly 100 years in their band room.





These indicated that the instrument was used at the Australian training camps at Fovant and Sutton Veny on Salisbury Plain with further research showing that all the men served on the Western Front. One of their number, Alexander Lambert, was killed in action on 30 August 1917.

A special 'The Silent Anzac' composition has already been commissioned based on the exploits of the Australian submarine AE2 which was the first vessel to penetrate the Dardanelles in 1915. The band has also developed a road show that provides an emotive commemoration of the Australians who made the ultimate sacrifice and has produced a CD which will be released to coincide with their tour which starts on 3 November.

The tour will take stops in France, Belgium and the UK to commemorate the centenary of the armistice and to perform 'The Silent Anzac' show for communities where Australian servicemen fought and died. These will include performances in Paris, Amiens Cathedral, the Australian National Memorial near Villers Bretonneux, the Menin Gate and the Reninghelst New Military Cemetery in Belgium as well as in London, York and Leicester. The band will hopefully be taking part in the Leicestershire Brass Band Association contest before making the long trip back to Melbourne on 21 November.

Ant said,

"I'm really excited to be seeing my friends from Hathern Band and Hathern Concert Brass in November. The fact that so many people who I knew in the band ten years ago are still playing within its ranks is such a great measure of how friendly and welcoming the group is.

I first played in the LBBA contest as a student at Warwick University in 2006. Thanks to the efforts of Lesley, Dave and the rest of the committee it set an impossibly high standard for contest organisation. I'm looking forward to contesting with the Footscray-Yarraville City band and showing off to everyone the standard of Australian A Grade brass playing."

Hathern Band 1955



Our article in the last issue about the films of Hathern Band that Robert White has put on Youtube has created a bit of interest. One question we were asked was about the film taken at Hathern Village Fete in 1955. Some of the players are in red, others in blue. Was this the time when Shepshed Brass Band folded, and several of their players joined us resulting in a mix of uniforms? Over to Geoff Fletcher, the band historian. Geoff said, "The red uniforms were surplus guards uniforms, with buttoned up high necks, very hot in summer. At least two of the players in red were from Shepshed, Roy Atkin (euphonium at front) and Ray Blood (tenor horn in front of drummer). So it seems likely that the Shepshed Band had already disbanded by July 1955, but I've never been able to find the precise date.

Those not in red were Albert Kelham (conductor); Caleb Kelham (in civvies on side drum); Ernie Miller (bass trombone); trombone player in civvies, probably Arthur Bunker ; young lad with hat, probably my brother Mike, 13 years and too small for a guards uniform and an even younger lad. All of these were from Hathern."

Hathern Band Forthcoming Engagements

- Brass and Voice Concert (with Loughborough Male Voice Choir)

Saturday 19 May, *Hathern Parish Church* **Tickets £8.50. Only a few left — may not be available at the door. Please contact Lesley to reserve your ticket**

Don't miss Proms in the Park, part of the Hathern 2018 commemorations. We had a brilliant time last year helped by the glorious weather. We have put in our order for the same again this year! Don't forget to bring your picnic—a good time is promised!



Hathern Band
Proms in the
Park

Saturday 16th
June

7.30pm

- Gala and Concert

Saturday 30 June, 7:30pm, *School Lane, Birstall, Leicester*

- Band on the Banks

Sunday 19 August, 3:00pm, *Quorn Banks, Main Street, Quorn*

Concert Brass Forthcoming Engagements

- **Hathern 2018** It's A Medieval Knockout

Saturday 9 June, 12:30pm, *Hathern Park*

- Bands on the Leicester Parks

Sunday 10 June, 3:00pm, *Western Park*

- Loughborough Park

Sunday 22 July, 2:00pm, *Queen's Park, Loughborough*