



Our Youngsters Are Our Future

It's 6.00pm on Monday, the music stands are in place in three rooms at the bandroom and young people start to arrive, some carrying instruments half as big as themselves. One or two are still in their school uniforms showing that many schools from Loughborough and beyond are represented. Our youngsters are the life blood of the band with many of our senior players having completed the journey at Hathern from beginners to seniors.

We've said before that brass bands like ours are increasingly a very important resource for children to learn to play an instrument and appreciate music. Music provision in many schools is not what it was and the option of paying for music lessons is not one that is open to many families. Youngsters who learn with Hathern Band get the use of an instrument and lessons at no cost other than a £4 per month membership fee.

Youngsters come to us via a number of routes. Before Covid, we would regularly go out to schools and give a session with a group of five or six band members. In our area, the children are on side immediately as Dave Newman takes along a post-horn and plays the Post-Horn Gallop which is instantly recognised as the introduction to Leicester City matches. The instruments are explained and volunteers have a go at playing a note. Others who join are already learning an instrument and come along to experience playing with others in a band. We also get several youngsters who follow in the footsteps of siblings or parents.



In 2019 during Hathern's Big Week, our Monday night session was held in the big marquee on the park. It was an open session to let the people of Hathern see our young musicians in action. At the end there was an invitation to any young people to come up and have a go. A few did and some new recruits were made. It's hard to believe that was nearly three years ago, but as the Big Week is back to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, we will be repeating the event on 30 May and hopefully we'll encourage more youngsters to give it a go.



The break due to Covid gave us the opportunity to rethink our band training. Previously, we had a beginners group who progressed to the Training Band which included a range of abilities. Youngsters then moved on to the Youth Band. Now our 34 young people are organised in five groups of similar ability. The first group is the beginners' group who start to get to grips with their instruments under the watchful eye of Sam Peak.

In the past adults have sat in during practice, and we found after Covid, that the youngsters make much more progress without having mum or dad watching on. We know that this has caused some inconvenience, but we do believe this is the best approach for learning. The other big change has been the new extension which allows us to have three groups operating at the same time. Lesley Bentley looks after the learners group in the new room.



The next stage is the first of Dave Newman's groups who also play at 6.00pm in the band room.



As the youngsters in Dave's first group progress, they move into the second group which takes over the band room at 7.00pm.



At 8.00pm it's the turn of the Youth Band, several of whom are also sitting in with Concert Brass on a Thursday evening.

We mustn't forget a very important part of Monday nights - the popular tuck shop managed by Ira Tristante.



From Learners to Seniors

Seb

I was six when I started to learn the cornet at Hathern Band. Someone had come along to school with either a euphonium or bass, I went home and asked my mum if I could learn to play the trumpet without knowing what the instrument was! Friends recommended Hathern Band and I came along for lessons on the cornet, my fingers being too small for anything else at the time! I now play cornet and trumpet and I'm learning to play the piano. My dad plays classical guitar but my mum and brother aren't musical.

I'm fourteen now and I enjoy playing and creating beautiful music with everyone in the Senior Band. I think that's the main reason why I love it. Playing music with others can be wonderful - not to mention having such a fantastic conductor like Dave.



Brady

I started playing the E flat bass (tuba) five years ago when I was eleven. I joined the Training Band a few months after I started. My brother played for Hathern Band for seven or eight years on cornet and both he and my sister play the piano. I am solely a tuba player. At school I was in first place from the school candidates and played at the musicians of the year concert. Other than that I've had a few disappointing third places in competitions! I'm doing grade 8 on the E flat bass in June - my pieces are a big step up from grade 6 but I'm hoping I do well.

I had been playing with the Senior Band intermittently before the first Covid lockdown playing E flat bass, but since Christmas I'm a full time member, now on B flat bass. I thoroughly enjoy playing with the band, and as a bass player I get lots of bars rests and don't play the tune. Dave is great as well. The only down side is trying to fit my instrument in the car!

Jack

I played the recorder when I was six years old, and then when I was nine, I went to Hathern Band's Christmas concert. I knew then that I wanted to join the Training Band. I started playing the tenor horn and that has been my instrument ever since. I'm the only musician in the family. I was fourteen when I made the step up to the Senior Band and I've just celebrated my eighteenth birthday. I've taken part in the Leicestershire Brass Band Association contests and was proud to be part of a quartet that took first prize.

I'm studying at Loughborough College where my subjects are physics, business and finance. I thoroughly enjoy playing in the Senior Band and I'm grateful for the help I've received from fellow musicians, not to mention Dave and Lesley. I enjoy the teamwork and the challenge of the Senior Band. I just want to keep improving.



Performing

Pre-Covid, our young people had opportunities during the year to entertain as a band. At Hathern Church, the Training Band played at the Family Service, and the Harvest Festival bringing many a tear to the eyes of their proud families. At the Christmas Concert, the Training Band shared the stage with Concert Brass and the Senior Band, Instruments were covered with tinsel and there was competition to see who had the most Christmassy hat.

The Leicestershire Brass Band Association Spring Festival provided an opportunity to compete against others in their age group, as soloists, duets or quartets and Hathern has had many successes there over the years.

Let's hope that we can return to enjoying these occasions..



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Midlands Area Contest 2022

We reported in the last newsletter that the Senior Band was taking part in the Midlands Area Contest on 27 February. The test piece was *Spectrum*, composed by Gilbert Vintner. The work is a musical depiction of the seven colours of the spectrum and is a challenging piece.

As ever, the Band put in a great deal of work and played the piece at an open rehearsal in the church on 15 February. Col. Stephen Barnwell acted as "adjudicator" for the performance and gave useful advice. The Band really played well and we had high hopes of a good placing. 4Barsrest is the premier brass banding website and they send their own experts to the various area contests to report live on their Facebook page. Unlike the adjudicators, the 4barsrest team has sight of the bands as they play. They ranked Hathern as a top six performer, even saying we were "dark horses" for a top two spot. They reported that after the top two bands "Rushden, Sovereign, Hathern and Foss Dyke found favour with others in the hall".

It was a great surprise, or dare I say shock that we were eventually placed 13th. It's the nature of the brass banding game and like other bands, it's easy to say "we wuz robbed", however many neutral experienced bandspeople who were there had difficulty understanding the placings beyond the top two or three. We will put it behind us with the knowledge that the Band gave a great performance.





It's now the 250 Club as we have over 200 numbers taken!

The club provides welcome funds for our bands. If you'd like to join, it's £1 per number per month by standing order. If you'd like to join, please contact

Sam Peak

Email: sambigfootg@hotmail.com

Recent Results

February

£30 Jeremy Pratt
£24 Mike Wood
£18 Stephanie Harpham
£12:50 Mick Garton
£11 Michael Pearson
£10 R & C Tatton

April

£30 Gemma Olweny
£24 Dave Newman
£18 Geoff Wood
£12:50 Mary Sibson
£11 Amber Lewis-Roberts
£10 Val Garton

March

£30 Sue & Ted Rea
£24 Lynne Dyer
£18 Lucy Ruddy
£12:50 Sam Peak
£11 Joe Dobos-Southgate
£10 O'Neils

REMINDER

A reminder to band members and patrons. If you haven't already done so, please pay your subscriptions.

Many thanks

Bridget (Treasurer)



Some good advice
supplied by Mark
Tanser

Golden Rules for Ensemble Playing

1. Everyone should play the same piece.
2. Stop at every repeat sign and discuss in detail whether to take the repeat or not. Listeners will love this a lot!
3. Carefully tune your instrument before playing. That way you can play out of tune with a clear conscience.
4. Take your time turning pages.
5. The right note at the wrong time is a wrong note (and vice-versa).
6. If everyone gets lost except you, follow those who get lost.
7. If a passage is difficult, slow it down. If it's easy, speed it up. Everything will work itself out in the end.
8. If you are completely lost, stop everyone and say "I think we should tune".
9. Happy are those who have not perfect pitch, for the kingdom of music is theirs.
10. If the ensemble has to stop because of you, explain in detail why you got lost. Everyone will be very interested.
11. A wrong note played timidly is a wrong note. A wrong note played with authority is an interpretation.
12. When everyone else has finished playing, you should not play any notes you have left.

Engagements

Senior Band

May 2022

- Brass & Voice with Loughborough Male Voice Choir
Saturday 21 May, 7:30p.m. *Trinity Methodist Church, Loughborough*

June 2022

- Hathern Training/Youth Bands Open Practice
Monday 30 May, 6:00p.m. *Pasture Lane, Hathern*
- Hathern Proms in the Park
Saturday 4 June, 7:00p.m. *Pasture Lane, Hathern*
- Wistow Park Proms
Saturday 11 June, 7:00p.m. *Wistow Park, Nr Market Harborough*
- Birstall Proms Gala
Saturday 18 June, 7:30p.m. *School Lane Birstall, Leicester*

August 2022

- Bandstand Concert
Sunday 14 August, 2:00p.m. *Cutts Close, Oakham*

Concert Brass

June 2022

- Church Concert
Friday 3 June, 7:00p.m. *St Lawrence Church, Gotham*

July 2022

- Bands in the Park
- Sunday 3 July, 3:00p.m. *Humberstone Park, Leicester*