



## Youth Band Day at Barnsley

Grimethorpe Colliery Band offered the opportunity for youngsters to take part in a workshop led by members of the band, including Jim Fletcher who plays tenor horn for Grimethorpe. As many of you know Jim learnt to play as a youngster with Hathern Band. This free workshop was open to youngsters at Grade 1 level and above, and took place at Barnsley Civic Hall on 15 April. This was a great opportunity not to be missed so a convoy of five cars transported eleven of our youngsters up to Barnsley. There were two bands, one for grades 1 to 3 and the other for grade 4 and above. The morning was spent rehearsing a selection of fun and challenging music. Then in the afternoon the two bands came together to perform a concert for parents.

By all accounts it was a most successful day and a wonderful opportunity to have some of the top players in the country providing advice and instruction. Our youngsters enjoyed the experience, although one or two found it a little hard. Grimethorpe said "You and your children were brilliant! To come in and play some of the really difficult music they did in both bands was outstanding, and we hope they all enjoyed it as much as we enjoyed teaching and performing with them. It wasn't about playing all the right notes, more experiencing playing and accompanying with some of the band's players and improving themselves whatever level they're at, and we're sure everybody had a fantastic experience.

Jim Fletcher said, "the workshop day went really well and we've had nothing but positive feedback so far. All the guys from Hathern were brilliant and represented the Band so well, and we look forward to seeing them again, along with some new faces hopefully at our summer workshop on 10 June."





**Hugh on right**

**Mikael on left**



There was a real Hathern connection in the front row cornets in the youth band. On the left is our own principal cornet, Seb Burrows. Next to Seb is Amber Croft. Amber's parents, Stuart and Joanne, played with Hathern Band for many years. Amber played with Stannington Training Band, but is now with Chapeltown, a Yorkshire first section band. Fourth along is Ella Fletcher, Jim's daughter. Ella is playing with Unite the Union Band which is a championship section band in Sheffield.



# More Hathern Connections - Down Under

Antony Edwards and Richard Sandham used to play for Hathern Band and now live in Australia. They got together at the Australian Nationals. Antony (on the left) tells us more.

Richard and I bumped into each other accidentally at the Australian National Championships in Newcastle, New South Wales held over the Easter weekend. In Australia there are no "regionals" to qualify for the Nationals and no nationwide contest such as Butlins, Whit Friday or the Open, so our Nationals is open entry. This means you can usually catch up with everyone year on year, but despite this I didn't bump into Richard until the fifth year I've been attending.



The Australian Nationals are held each year over the Easter weekend as the big distances involved in Australian travel make it only worth bands' while going to a longer event. Each grade plays a set Test and own choice hymn on Good Friday, a compulsory but non-competitive Street march on the Saturday and an own-choice Test and Stage march on Easter Sunday. Each year the event is broadcast by Tim Kelly (my fellow BBb bass in Footscray) under his "Brassbanned" umbrella on Youtube, so perhaps you have watched over your cornflakes!

Our bands both played in the "A grade" which is approximately a standard between the lower end of the UK Championship Section and the top of the 1st Section. Usually, the set Test is a piece that has recently been chosen in a top-section UK or European championship, but this year we had the pleasure of playing a work by a local composer: Siege by Jared McCunnie. Siege is dedicated to the lives of Tori Johnson and Katrina Dawson who were killed in December 2014 when a lone gunman held hostage ten customers and eight employees of a Sydney Lindt chocolate café. As a completely new work, it was a rare occasion where no recording or previous playout was available which made each band's interpretation unique.

Although our time in Hathern didn't overlap, Richard and I had heard plenty about each other via our mutual friends in the band, and we spent a happy and well lubricated time exchanging memories about the players we knew from Hathern Band. Both Richard and I are now settled in Australia with young children, me in Melbourne playing for the Footscray-Yarraville City Band, and Richard in Sydney with the Holroyd Brass Band. Although we didn't know it at the time (we met before the results), I would have bragging rights as Footscray was placed 5th and Holroyd 11th.

Best wishes from both of us to our friends in Hathern Band.

# When We Were Two

Hathern Parish Council has recently changed solicitors which meant retrieving all the documents being held by the former solicitors. As a result two fascinating minute books have come to light. These date from the start of the parish council in 1894 to 1908, and from 1929 to 1936 and provide a fascinating window into the issues in the village during those years. One of those issues was dealing with the bands. No that's not a typo. In 1894 Hathern had two brass bands.

It was in 1890 when Hathern Band, which had been going since 1856, split in two. Several members left, based round the Miller family to form the New Band. These were highly political times; the Miller family and supporters were Conservative and the remaining Old Band were of the Liberal persuasion - no Labour Party in those days. In 1893 the New Band came third in a competition in Coalville entitling them to now call themselves Hathern Prize Band. Needless to say, the Old Band weren't amused and, keen to add "Prize" to their name, entered competitions during 1894, eventually coming second at Hinckley. So now we had Hathern Old Prize Band, and Hathern Prize Band.

Back to 1890. The split was acrimonious, and the Old Band took the New Band to court. The Old Band claimed that music belonging to them had been taken by the New Band, and that Thomas Miller was refusing to return his uniform. It's difficult to follow the claims and counter claims in the court report, but the upshot was that the judge found for the Old Band, awarding them 18 shillings, reducing to one farthing if the property was given up. Things were no better in 1894 when a member of the Old Band was charged with being drunk and disorderly at Hathern Cross. All the witnesses at the Police Court were members of the New Band and the defendant was found guilty being fined fifteen shillings.



**Hathern Old Prize Band in 1903**





### **Hathern Prize Band probably 1893**

Back to Hathern Parish Council. The council owned Round Bank at the top of Wide Street. Round Bank was larger then and was a popular venue for village events. Both bands wanted to play there on these occasions and the council had to act as referee. Up to 13 June 1895 use of the Round Bank had been on a first come first served basis, but the council decided then that for 1896, the Old Prize Band would have Whitsuntide and August Bank Holiday and the Prize Band at the Wakes with the bands alternating this arrangement each year. That doesn't seem to have held because the council had to adjudicate on many occasions. For instance in 1898, the council gave the Old Prize Band Whit Sunday evening and Wakes Sunday afternoon, and the Prize Band Whit Sunday afternoon and Wakes Sunday evening. There were occasions when the bands did play together, notably at Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee celebration in 1898 and the relief of Mafeking in 1900.

Eventually the two bands merged in 1917. There was a long strike at Hathern Brick and Terracotta Co. at Hathern Station and the strikers wanted a band to accompany them on a march to a big meeting in the Market Place, Loughborough. Because of the war, neither band could find enough players so they amalgamated as the Hathern United Prize Band.

(Acknowledgement to Geoff Fletcher, band historian for information in this article. For more of our history, see the band website)

**A6 looking towards Kegworth.  
Round Bank on right around  
1898/9 (note Jubilee Tree  
planted 1897)**



## Bandroom Bird Boxes



Several members of Hathern Band are keen bird watchers and suggested that we could have some bird boxes on the back wall of the bandroom. There's always a lot of sparrows in the hedge nearby. Coincidentally Hathern Wildlife Group were looking to relocate some nest boxes, so David Stock from the Wildlife Group put four in position. At the time of writing, we seem to have one occupied - not by a house sparrow, a great tit has taken up residence.



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](mailto:sambigfootg@hotmail.com)

### March

£30 Mick Garton

£24 Mike Hale

£15 Lesley Bentley

£12 Gemma Olweny

£10 Jeremy Pratt

### April

£30 Will Fairlamb

£24 Steve and Lynn Plant

£15 Sam Peak

£12 Vanessa Harvey

£10 Geoff Wood

### May

£30 Brian Fletcher

£24 Michael Pearson

£15 Alison Swift

£12 John Worsfold

£10 Linda and John Wigley

# Annual General Meeting

The Hathern Band Annual General Meeting was held on 30 April, and the following officers were elected

Chairman	John Worsfold	Secretary	Lesley Bentley
Treasurer	Bridget Plimmer	Bandmaster	Joe Dobos-Southgate
Band Representatives	Mark Tanser, John Baum and Jonathan Stevenson		

## Band Members

The Senior Band has a full complement with Chris Allen returning on Eb bass. Youth and Concert Brass has 27 members and there are 45 youngsters learning to play in the six training groups.

## Musical Director's Report

David Newman said "We are getting back to normality after the Covid years with our concert work improving. Despite creditable performances in the area contests we have lost our First Section status and will be in the Second Section from 2024. There's no point in going through excuses - it is what it is and we just have to get on with it. The focus has to be getting back in the First Section. To this end, I've selected some more challenging pieces and have invited two conductors to take some rehearsals - they will bring fresh ideas. A special mention for Seb Burrows now playing principal cornet. I was training Seb as a future principal cornet taking over, perhaps in a year's time or so, however circumstances intervened which meant Seb had to take over recently. He did an amazing job at the Area Contest. Thankyou to all the players and those who do the vital work with our young players - the future of the band."

## Concert Brass Report

Chris Groom said," Concert Brass is going along well and we are improving little by little. The band works very hard and they must be enjoying it as they keep coming back for more! We have two concerts arranged with another in the pipeline.

Hathern Band is the envy of many of the top bands - Some have tried to establish training bands and failed. This is our great success in growing the players to ensure the band's future."

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**MANY THANKS**



# Hathern Band Forthcoming Engagements

- Brass and Voice (*with Loughborough Male Voice Choir*)  
Saturday 13 May, 7.30pm, *Trinity Methodist Church, Loughborough*
- Hathern Proms Concert  
Saturday 3 June, 7.30pm, *Pasture Lane, Hathern*
- Wistow Park Proms Concert  
Saturday 10 June, 9.00pm, *Wistow Park, Nr Market Harborough*
- Birstall Gala  
Saturday 24 June, 7.00pm, *School Lane, Birstall, Leicester*
- Oakham Bandstand  
Sunday 2 July, 2.30pm, *Cutts Close, Oakham*
- Stafford Orchard Concert  
Sunday 20 August 3.00 pm, *Stafford Orchard, Quorn*

## Concert Brass Forthcoming Engagements

- Bands on the Parks  
Sunday 27 August, 3.00pm, *Humberstone Park, Leicester*
- Quality of Life Fundraiser  
Saturday 30 September, 12.00pm, *Village Hall, Normanton on Soar*

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