



Band News

Spring 2024

Number 36

We Came 3rd



The Midlands Area Second Section concert was held in Corby on 2 March. We were hoping for a turn round in our fortunes after disappointing results in our last two contests. We were absolutely over the moon to achieve third place.

The top two bands go to the national finals in Cheltenham. If there had been one more band in the section, three bands would have gone. Never mind, this is a great step forward for the band which has many young players. Hannah Peak proudly accepts the shield and a cheque for £100.

The test piece was Tryptych by Philip Sparke. It was commissioned by the Swiss Band Federation for the Second Section of the 1990 National Championships. It is not a work inspired by anything other than the expert craftsmanship of its composer. There are three connected movements each having its own defined style. Pageant with a slightly medieval mood, Fantasy on One Note, a hymn like movement and Festival, a joyous movement with a lively tune.

On the day neutrals reckoned that three bands stood out from the others. The question was, which two of the three would win out. The 4 bar rests brass band information website said:

"With the judges confirming that there had been "three very strong performances to consider", there was going to be one band disappointed with the result. On this occasion it was Hathern who just missed out with a finely structured account under Gary Wyatt."

Conductor Gary Wyatt said:

It was lovely to be asked by Dave Newman to take the band on his behalf to the regional competition. Philip Sparke's Tryptych proved to be a tricky test for all the competing bands.

The three movement work gave the band various obstacles to overcome. Soloist and ensemble playing was the key to success. My main purpose and goal was to make sure that the band was ready to play to its best ability. To qualify for the national finals was definitely our mission! I was really pleased with all the soloists who all performed to their best abilities.

Being placed a very creditable third out of 15 bands, and just missing out on qualification for the finals, puts the band in a very strong position within the second section.

I was very pleased with the overall performance and I couldn't have asked for more.



Musical Director Dave Newman said:

I was convinced that we had won, but cannot be disappointed as Gary and the band both did wonderfully.

It was also very gratifying to see so many young players who have now graduated to the Senior Band.

The system seems to be working well!

Patrons' Evening

This year's concert for patrons took place on 13 April in Hathern Church and was a great success. It was well attended and patrons not only enjoyed the concert but also the excellent spread laid on by baritone player Jenny Drewitt (Heaven on a Plate Catering).

The concert kicked off with a rousing march - The Cossack followed by the first solo from principal cornet, Seb Burrows - The Sunshine of Your Smile. Dave Tooth on trombone gave us Thoughts of Love (more on page 4), then it was a duet, Novella by Ben Hollings featuring Hannah Peak on euphonium and Ken Powell on cornet. La Mer by Charles Trenet also known as Beyond the Sea was followed by another solo, this time from Adrian Drewitt on baritone who played the well known Matt Monro number, Portrait of my Love.

The last number was the rousing Olympic Spirit by John Williams, but before that the audience was treated to something very special. Inigo (photo right with Dave Newman) is one of our talented young musicians. Not yet fifteen, Inigo plays tenor horn, percussion, and also keyboards. He has endeared himself to the people of Hathern by playing the church organ during services. The Lost Chord was composed by Sir Arthur Sullivan in 1877 and the band gave us an excellent rendition accompanied by Inigo on the church organ. The effect was amazing, Is this the first time Hathern Band and the church organ have played together? Certainly it has never happened in living memory. Several patrons hoped that the organ and brass band combination could be repeated at a future concert in the church.



**Dave Newman
introduces more of our
youngsters who have
graduated to the
Senior Band**



Dave Tooth's solo was extra special because of the trombone he played. Dave takes up the story.

"It's an Olds Standard, manufactured in 1912 by F.E.Olds in Los Angeles. It was one of the most popular models of the period and I bought it in an auction of a New York house clearance. It has a smaller bore and bell diameter than modern instruments, giving it a more compact sound. It has an in-slide (hand slide) tuning mechanism that adds weight and also at that time they did not chromium plate inner slide tubes so hand-slide is a bit sluggish.

I like to think that over the last 112 years, this instrument has probably played Pryor's Thoughts of Love before. Additionally, my wife recently composed a cadenza for me, so playing it has additional sentimental value, though maybe her intention was to torture me?!"

Presentations

Patrons' Evening is also the time for presentations. Players' Player of the Year went to principal cornet, Seb Burrows (left) and Mark Tanser collected the Bandsman of the Year trophy.



Mouse

50 Years with the Band



Hi, I'm Mike Sturgess, but you probably know me as Mouse and I've been connected with the band in one way or another for 50 years. Back in 1979/80 when Dave Newman started conducting Hathern Band, there were four Michaels in the band, and he nicknamed me Mickey Mouse (I was the youngest) and the nickname has stuck to this day in the banding circle. You may also know me from the many BBQs that have taken place over the last 50 years. I'm the one serving you hot dogs and burgers in the smoke together with a variety of helpers.

I started in the band in 1974 at the age of 14 and have always played the trombone. Roy Atkin, the secretary of the band at that time, asked me to join and he picked me up and returned me home every band practice.

I have seen many changes with players coming and going plus taking part in a variety of events such as dinner dances, garden fetes, proms in the park, concerts, contests - winning the area contests which have taken us to Harrogate and London.

The band had their own dinner dances and at one I met Christine, my wife of 41 years. (Thanks Gary for bringing your friend's little sister). The band played at our wedding which was very touching. There have been many events that have brought good friends in the band together for instance the supper and songs where I did the catering (I was a chef at the time) and I was part of the entertainment group with Stuart Evans, Edward Atkin, Gary Taylor, Dave Bentley and Andrew Haworth to name but a few. Together we changed the words to popular songs to sing about the band and had good time doing this.

I have played all three parts of the trombone section depending on who came or went! I was the music librarian for many years and organised the rotas for carol playing during Christmas and pub crawls for fundraising to keep the band going and eventually build the wonderful bandroom we have today. The band used to use venues such as Shepshed school and Hathern primary school, and at every rehearsal stands, music, seats etc. had to be put out and tidied away - such an easy life now for members! I had to give up playing due to stress and anxiety - I just can't cope with being in confined spaces and feeling trapped on stage. I still have this issue but I try to give what I can back to the band by going to the juniors on Monday nights helping them play music.

The band has given Christine and I such good friends, taken us to places we wouldn't have been to/seen - such as meeting life long friends and their families, holidays with these friends, playing on the Royal Albert Hall stage, banding in different countries and other events.

Banding isn't just a hobby - it's a lifestyle!

Here's a photo at one of the garden fetes in the 80's – playing with fellow members – me (Mouse) with hair at the front, then Dave Curtis, Alan Newman and Stephanie Harpham on percussion



Grimethorpe North of England Youth Band



We've previously reported on the workshops for youngsters organised by the famous Grimethorpe Colliery Band. Out of that has come the Grimethorpe North of England Youth Band for those at Grade 6 and above.

The band meets once a month and played at the Royal Northern College of Music Brass Band Festival held in Manchester in January.

We have a trio regularly playing with the band. Seb, our principal cornet takes the same role with the band, and the two Georges are also part of the band - one on cornet and one on bass.

Well done guys!



**George (cornet), George (bass) and
Seb (cornet)**

Memories from John

Following our article about the Kelham family in the Autumn newsletter, we were delighted to be contacted by John Rowbotham whose memories of Hathern Band go back 77 years.

"It was a nice surprise to see band members of 1939 in your newsletter. As a 10-Year-old I joined the band in 1947. I saw several of the players from that time. Ernest Miller taught me to play on tenor horn, his son Jack was also well known to me, like me he lived in Kegworth. Jack Watts, I knew well, like Jack Miller he played tenor horn. Chris Watts: Jack's son played euphonium. Tom Kelham was on bass and Albert Kelham was our conductor. Les Kelham principal cornet and Tom Dennis soprano cornet. Peter Wortley was also in the band and a guy called Roy on euphonium – he was from Shepshed and had a joinery business.

The uniforms we wore back then were ex Coldstream guards red with brass buttons up to the neck, but I had to wait until I was the right size to fit into one!

I now play baritone for Ilkeston Brass. I rejoined the Brass world 15 years ago after a very long absence."

Musical Director Summoned to Court

Back in 2018, there were several events held in Hathern to celebrate some anniversaries. The circa 1265 historical re-enactment group held a Medieval Court where certain members of the community were brought before the lord of the manor. It was all great fun and is going to be repeated this year on Sunday 2 June at 2.30 in Hathern Church. We have been informed that musical director, Dave Newman has been summoned to answer charges - we don't know what yet. Do come along and watch the proceedings.

What punishment will be meted out to Dave?



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**If you do not wish to receive our newsletter please
contact the secretary**

Forthcoming Engagements

- Brass & Voice

Saturday 18 May, 7:30p.m. *Trinity Methodist Church, Loughborough*

Concert with Loughborough Male Voice Choir

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM LESLEY - All £12.00 INCLUDING REFRESHMENTS - UNDER 12`s FREE

June 2024

- Hathern Proms Concert

Saturday 8 June, 7:30p.m. *Pasture Lane, Hathern LE12 5LJ*

- Band BBQ

Saturday 22 June, 6:00p.m. *The Bandroom Pasture Lane , Hathern*

FOR TRAINING/ YOUTH&CONCERT BRASS/MAIN BAND

- AGM

Sunday 23 June, 6:30p.m. *The Bandroom*

August 2024

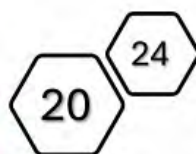
- Oakham Bandstand

Sunday 11 August, 2:30p.m. *Cutts Close, Oakham*

- Summer Concert

Sunday 18 August, 3:00p.m. *Stafford Orchard, Quorn*

200
CLUB



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TO BE
IN IT
TO WIN IT**

It's only £1 per number per month
by standing order. If you'd like to
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Sam Peak

Email: sambigfootg@hotmail.com

March

£30 Mike Wood
£24 Harry Baum
£15 Andrew Haworth
£12 Chris Berry
£7.50 Amber Lewis-Roberts

April

£30 Val Garton
£24 Sue and Ted Rea
£15 Sam Hambleton
£12 Joan Newman
£7.50 Sean Hale

May

£30 Jon Hill
£24 Mel and Steve Hope
£15 Dave Neville
£12 Jeremy Pratt
£7.50 Sam Peak