



Hathern Band

Newsletter No. 5

Summer 2016

Welcome Chris!



Chris Groom has taken over as the Musical Director of Concert Brass. Chris trained as a bandsman at the Royal Military School of Music at Kneller Hall. He served six years as a horn player in HM Scots Guards. On leaving the army, he moved to Markham Main Colliery Band and then on to Brodsworth Colliery. After the pit closed in 1985 Chris moved to the famous GUS Band at Northampton on solo horn, a position he held for five years. Since 1990 he has been brass tutor at Kimbolton School in Cambridgeshire and a visiting music teacher at the Loughborough Endowed Schools and Loughborough University.

For the past 25 years Chris has been the Musical Director of the Harborough Band. Last, but certainly not least, Chris is the son of the legendary Trevor Groom who is still one of the finest euphonium players around.

Welcome Chris - It's great to have you in the Hathern Band family.

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Concert with Loughborough Male Voice Choir



A joint concert featuring Hathern Band and Loughborough Male Voice Choir was held at Hathern Parish Church on 21st May. The Band began the concert with the Post Horn Gallop. Although this is one of the Band's standard numbers, it has particular significance this year as it is the anthem for Leicester City FC. Mike Wood, the Band's principal cornet, played the post horn which was much appreciated as Mike is from Manchester and a United supporter! Appropriately the Band waved blue and white Foxes flags at the end of the number.

The Band played a mix of old and new demonstrating the diversity of modern brass band music. George and Ira Gershwin's I Got Rhythm was followed by David Bowie's Life on Mars. Old and new came together in Pop Looks Bach, better known as the Ski Sunday theme. Although Hoagy Carmichael's Stardust has been recorded over 1500 times, the arrangement for brass brings a certain poignancy to the tune, ably demonstrated by soloist Simon Baum on trombone. Several young people have recently broken through into the main Band and two of these are percussionists, George Baum and Edward Hefferman. They produced a lively rendition of a xylophone duet, The Two Imps.

Loughborough Male Voice Choir followed on from the band in each half accompanied by Becky Norton on piano. Musical Director Chris Hill told the audience that the Choir would be celebrating its 50th anniversary next year when there would be a programme of celebratory events including a visit to Belgium. The Choir was in great voice and treated the audience to a varied programme. As with the Band, the Choir mixed old and new. The "old" included the Serenade from the The Fair Maid of Perth by Bizet, Holst's Thaxted from The Planets with the lyrics World in Union and A Roman War Song from Rienzi by Wagner. It was quite a contrast then to hear the Choir sing the Turtles' 1967 hit Happy Together. When I Survey the Wondrous Cross featured music coach Lyndon Gardner as soloist, and the Choir gave a moving rendition of the classic Welsh song Myfanwy.

At the end of each half the Band and the Choir came together. Speed Your Journey by Verdi brought the first half to an end and the concert concluded with What Would I Do Without My Music. This was particularly apt as the brass band arrangement is by Hathern's own tenor horn player Sam Garton. Sam heard the song performed by the Choir which inspired her to set it for a brass band. A fitting end to a most enjoyable concert.

Thank You, Dean

We are very grateful to Dean Onyon for filling in as Musical Director of Concert Brass, and we asked Dean to tell us a bit about his musical life.

"I've spent most of my life making music in one form or another both as an amateur (brass and wind bands) and as a gigging musician at weekends with a country dance band which I did for 25 years. For me it all started with seeing my grandfather playing in the Sleaford and District Silver Band. He played with that band for over 60 years, mostly as principal cornet and I wanted to do that!. So shortly after my seventh

birthday, and because I had my front adult teeth in place, I was taken round to his house to learn the cornet. After that the routine for Sunday mornings was lesson at 9.30 till 10 o'clock, a few years later followed by band practice from 10.30 till 12 o'clock and then meet my dad in the pub to go home in time for Sunday lunch at 1.00 o'clock. The routine stayed pretty constant until I left home at 18, bound for Southampton University.

When I joined Concert Brass it was still called Hathern Youth Band. That was now 11 years ago, but it was only three years or so in that format before Concert Brass was formed. Rehearsals were moved to Thursday nights so that a proper youth band could be developed.

What got me started with conducting was that the then MD, Mike Cooper, was heavily involved with the cadet force and spent time away on activities and courses meaning that quite a few rehearsals were cancelled. I found this frustrating, and at one of the band meetings, quite out of character, I volunteered to take the rehearsals in his absence. When I got home I was absolutely horrified at what I had done and immediately went on to the Amazon website to find a book. If anyone wants to follow in my footsteps, the book I chose was "Conducting Technique for Beginners and Professionals by Brock McElheran." This book, in the middle of a discussion on cueing, contains the immortal line "...Many a brass player is so nervous that looking at him causes him to go to pieces completely. He wants everyone to pretend that he isn't there..." But the rest of the book has been very useful.

The best way to describe Concert Brass, I think, is as a community band. Just about anyone that turns up with a brass instrument and can read music can join. So there is a wide range of ability from the youngsters who have progressed from Youth Band to the seasoned oldsters who have played for the main Band in Championship section contests. The joining policy has another consequence in that the balance of the band varies as people come and go. At one time we had nine regular players in the euphonium/baritone section and at the moment there are about seven tenor horns. This, added to the mix of abilities, provides a challenge to the MD - how do you select the pieces and rehearse the band while keeping everyone interested and still end up with a presentable concert programme?

Hopefully I've been able to do that during my six months in the position. We have picked up a few new regulars in that time and I've not noticed anyone quietly leaving! Of course every MD needs the support of their band and I would like to thank Concert Brass for giving theirs to me with added thanks to the Hathern Band organisation for giving me the opportunity."



Tom's Story

One cold winter's evening just before Christmas, must have been about 2004, our little son Tom was very excited to listen to Hathern band leading the Christmas carols in Market Place Loughborough, and being so fascinated by the trombones, he decided then that he was going to learn to play! And so began his association with the Hathern family of bands.



Training Band, with youngsters learning to play, experienced players helping out, and often parents listening in, was the first stop where he learned the basics of playing in a band with the bass trombone part. As a parent, I have an overwhelming memory of their rendition of "Pots and Pans" which was showcased at many events including the annual concert at Hathern School, a concert at Charnwood Baptist Church in Shepshed and a Rainbows event at the Endowed Schools in Loughborough.

Training Band was on a Monday evening, then, having outgrown Training Band, he added Youth Band to the mix. Here the youngsters were coached more intensely, a kind of group lesson in playing, which aimed to give them a deeper understanding of music, and to prepare them for playing at a more advanced level, hopefully within the Hathern family, but not exclusively. Dave Newman gives many players nicknames and Tom became "Shrimp" After a while "Shrimp" also joined Concert Brass at their rehearsals on a Thursday evening and was able to play at all sorts of venues and events.,.



Early Days



Rainbows Event with Training Band



And then one day, after serving his apprenticeship, Tom was invited to play in the Senior band, to cover for someone who was unable to take part in a concert. What an exciting day that was! Concert Brass players were excellent, but Senior band players were at the top of their game. And if that wasn't enough, then dressing the part was also appealing. - black jacket with blue and gold trim,.

That first concert – the Braunstone Proms – he must have played OK because he became a fully-fledged member of the band. As a parent of a Hathern Band member, I've visited places I would otherwise not have heard of. I've been privileged to support the band in their contesting from Training band members in the Groby contests, to Senior band in Championship section at Bedworth

Senior Band Debut September 2010

However, throughout Tom's career with the bands, the close association between the band and the village has been a constant whilst players have come and gone. Hathern Church and the school/community centre have been regular venues. If I had to highlight just a couple of events, my favourites would be Quorn Banks, a proms type concert like Braunstone or Kegworth, and the Christmas Tree Festival at Melton Mowbray. Oh and the Christmas concert at Hodson Hall. Tom is now studying Chemistry at Queen Mary University, London, but continues to play with the Band when he's home.

Lynne Dyer



Tom in the Concert Brass Trombone Section

Back to School Again!

We reported last time on the Band's visit to Oxley School, Shepshed. Since then we've been to three more schools. The interest has come about as a result of the publicity cards which have been distributed to over 20 local primary schools. On 26 May we went "next door" to Hathern Primary School. Dave started by playing Post Horn Gallop, which the children recognised as Leicester City's anthem, while Lesley waved the "Leicester City Champions" flag. Dave explained the instruments and how sounds were made, Some of the children tried holding the instruments - Andrew's Eb bass was a challenge! The Band played some numbers, then it was off to the next "gig" for a repeat performance at Sacred Heart Primary School, Loughborough.





On 16 June, we went to St. Winefride's Primary School , Shepshed who teach their children brass instruments. The "magnificent," but "mature" band of six were augmented by Dru Sparks and it was good for the children to meet a young main Band player who had progressed from Training Band not that long ago. The afternoon was a "battle of the bands" as we played and the St. Winefrides beginners and advanced bands also entertained us.

Bands such as ours have an important role to play in encouraging children to play an instrument, and the fact that we don't charge for instruments or tuition means any child who wants to, can learn. We are delighted that our school visits have resulted in more children joining Training Band. The 2016 Hathern Band Schools Tour isn't over yet - we have two more to visit in the Autumn Term.

200 Club

Are you a member of our 200 Club? Income from the club helps to supplement band funds and gives participants the opportunity to win prize money in return. Numbers cost £1 each and a monthly draw takes place with up to six cash prizes to be won! Half the money raised goes directly to the band and the other half is split into prizes. Payments can be made via cheque (yearly or half yearly) or preferably standing order. If you are interested in joining the club or would like some more information please contact us or speak to a band member at one of our concerts.

Patrons

Hathern Band is a non-sponsored organisation and relies on the continued support of its patrons. Every year the band says thank you by giving patrons their own concert in Hathern. It costs a minimum of £25 per annum to be a patron.

If you're not already a patron, could you consider supporting us in this way?

Congratulations Susan and Dale



Solo cornet player Susan Robinson married Dale Hargrave on 22 May, and the band were there to play and wish the happy couple well for the future.

The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations



The Queen's 90th Birthday was celebrated at an event at Hathern Park on 11 June organised by Hathern Village Association. The popular It's a Knockout competition took place as well as the School Fete. Concert Brass entertained visitors with a lively programme of old and new inside the big marquee, just as well as showers were the order of the day!

In contrast, it was on with the sunglasses for many of our players when the main Band played at Platt's Lane Recreation Ground, Cossington on 3 July. It was a hot day and certainly made a change after June's torrential downpours. And there was the added bonus of free ice cream (we had the cornets!!).



Forthcoming Engagements

Hathern Band

August 2016

- Music on the Banks
Sunday 21 August, 3:00p.m. *Quorn*

September 2016

- Patron's Evening
Sunday 11 September, 7:30p.m. *Hathern Community Centre*
- RAFA Concert
Friday 23 September, 7:45p.m. *The Civic Centre, The Kingsway, Braunstone, Leicester*

October 2016

- Concert
Sunday 29 October, 7:30p.m. *Hathern Church*

November 2016

- Armistice Service
Sunday 6 November, 10:30p.m. *Hathern Church*
- Armistice Service
Sunday 6 November, 3:30p.m. *Glenmore Park, Shepshed*

Concert Brass

August 2016

- Hathern Horticultural Show
Sunday 28 August, 1:00p.m. *The Three Crowns, Hathern*

September 2016

- Sutton Bonington Show
Sunday 4 September, 12:00p.m. *Sutton Bonington Village*
- Bands on the Parks
Sunday 11 September, 3:00p.m. *Abbey Park, Leicester*

November 2016

- Royal British Legion Concert with Choir
Saturday 5 November, 7:30p.m. *Emmanuel Church, Loughborough*