



# Hathern Band

Newsletter No. 9

Summer 2017

## Proms in Hathern Park



What a scorcher! Hathern's Big Week started with the Carnival on 10 June featuring Concert Brass and came to an end with Proms in the Park on 17 June. The Christchurch Theatre Club Singers conducted by Vicki Hing, and Hathern Band conducted by Musical Director Dave Newman gave us a proms concert to remember packed with music from film, television and musicals. The evening ended with a full Last Night of the Proms finale. Over 250 people came along to enjoy a fantastic concert at the end of a day when the temperature had hit 31 degrees.

## Band Contact Info

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# **We had a great time at Proms in the Park!**



**We took some refreshment**



**We enjoyed our picnic**



**We danced to the music**

**We sang and waved  
our flags**





# Concert Brass at Shepshed Baptist Church



Concert Brass gave an outstanding performance at Shepshed Baptist Church on 3 June. Musical Director Chris Groom introduced the band as an eclectic mix of players ranging from the young and not so young. The programme was eclectic as well with something for everyone.

At the time that the 50th anniversary of the Beatles' Sergeant Pepper album was being celebrated, it was fitting that the band played a Beatles number, Hey Jude. Twenty years earlier in 1947 the big band sound was all the rage and the band gave us Brass Band Boogie written in that year. The song Mack the Knife was a favourite of swing singers who initially came out of the big bands. Bobby Darin had the big hit in 1959, but it's a much older number, originally appearing in 1928. The Concert Brass version was extra special as it was Chris's own arrangement.

The spotlight was on Angela Kirk and Dean Onyon on Euphonium who performed the Everly Brothers hit All I Have To Do Is Dream and the youthful front row cornet players, Emily and Louise Higson, Olivia Needham and Jack Hardy, took us on a Bugler's Holiday. Chris said he didn't know why it was called a holiday as it wasn't an easy piece to play.

Other numbers included the American quick march The Waltonian, When the Saints, I Will Follow Him and Sir Arthur Sullivan's The Lost Chord. Little Lisa was composer James Warr's granddaughter and Lisa "messing about in the kitchen" was conveyed musically by percussionist Jake Ruddy playing on every nearby surface.

There was also a distinctly feline dimension to the concert with the band playing Mr. Jums from the Three Brass Cats composition and Andrew Lloyd Webber's Memory from the musical Cats. The band took on a test piece, Little Piece For Brass which has three challenging movements.

As the concert took place in a beautiful church, it was fitting that a hymn was included in the programme, and Amazing Grace was the choice. The band gave us New York as an encore and the concert was thoroughly enjoyed by all - even the couple who went to the wrong Shepshed church and eventually arrived after first returning to Hathern to find out where the concert was being held. Anonymity has been promised but for Hathern people, the name might ring a bell!

# The Doppler Effect

It was Austrian physicist Christian Doppler who gave his name to the effect whereby a frequency of a sound wave changes for an observer moving relative to its source. In 1845, Christophe Ballot, a Dutch meteorologist conducted a public demonstration to prove it. He got a train to pull an open cart filled with trumpet players. Meanwhile, more trumpet players stood in a station. Ballot got each section to play the same note as the train passed the station. The players in the train seemed to be pitched a little too high, and dropped a little too low as the train passed the station. Everyone in the station could hear the changing note, and one of the most useful tools in all physics was finally recognised.

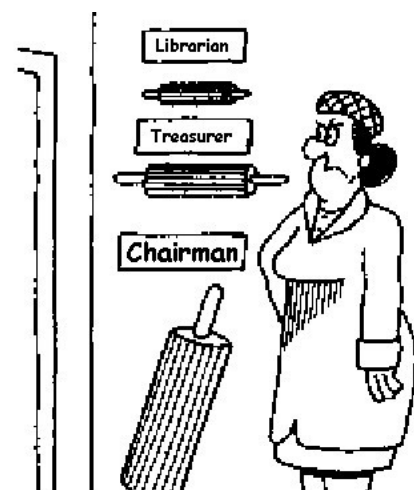


Hathern Band was approached by Radio 4 to take part in a recreation of that experiment on the Great Central Railway. Conductor Charles Hazlewood who is to present the programme was in attendance. Twelve of our band members played on Loughborough Station, then boarded a train. Fortunately, they were allowed to travel in a coach rather than an open wagon. At Quorn Station, the BBC had a recording and film unit and as the train approached, the players put their instrument bells out of windows and played top G for as long as possible. The recording showed about a semitone change. The programme is planned to be broadcast on Radio 4 on Tuesday 15 August at 11.30am, and then repeated on the following Saturday, 19 August at 3.30pm. This may change, so check the listings.

## Band AGM

We held our AGM in April and the current officers and committee were re-elected:

**Chair** John Worsfold      **Secretary** Lesley Bentley  
**Treasurer** Brian Fletcher      **Bandmaster** Simon Baum  
**Band Reps** Susan Hargrave (Minutes Secretary)  
Joe Southgate Jenny Peak  
**Child Protection Officer** Steve Hunnybun  
**Co-opted Member** Dave Neville (Marketing/Publicity)



Spouses get edgy after the band AGM

# President's Report to the AGM



Musical Director and President, Dave Newman said:

I have now been to, I think, 37 of these AGMs and thought I could perhaps think about the future as well as the present. This has been a very good year for the band as a whole. Senior Band has had a few changes, some expected, some not so but thanks to some good additions to the band as well as people moving within the band, we are now stronger and playing as well as at any time in the band's history. Third place at the Midlands Area Contest means a return to the Championship Section and if we keep up the current work rate and dedication, I am sure we can exceed past expectations. Can I therefore take this opportunity to thank the band for all its work this year; it really is a pleasure to stand in front of you when you play like this.

We welcomed Chris Groom to lead our Concert Brass. When I heard that Chris was "on the market", I didn't think he would be interested but I was wrong, thankfully. Chris understands what Concert Brass is about and is working hard to make it enjoyable for all, as well as challenging. So welcome Chris and keep up the good work.

Training Band continues to go from strength to strength. We now have more young players than at any time in our history thanks in no small way to the work of Dave Neville who has organised school recruitment visits. Also, a huge thank you to all of those people who help on a Monday night. It would not be possible without you.

So the present is taken care of. Things are going well, now what of the future? A bandsman's job is very simple, turn up to rehearsals and practise your part. Some do more, teaching, van driving, instrument repairs, organising and committee work. I would like to ask everyone, in all bands, could you do more?

I write this knowing that at the one meeting in the year you are asked to attend, most will be missing. It has been said previously, that this is a sign that people are happy with how things are run. This may be so, but attendance at one meeting in a year too much to ask? This is your band, not mine or Lesley's or John's and I would call on all to get that bit more involved. We won't be here for ever. There are a thousand and one jobs that need doing, and it would be wonderful if you all thought occasionally, what can I do?

I'll leave you with that thought but again thank you for all your work this year. The whole Hathern Band organisation is moving in a very positive direction. Keep up the good work and thank you to everyone connected to the band from players, teachers, patrons, friends and officers. A good year!

## 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 please consider supporting us in this way?



# Performance Improvement - Hathern Style

Christopher Allen plays baritone in the Training Band and comes along with dad Colin (Bb bass) to Band practice. Christopher is an important part of an exciting new way of improving musical performance. Under Dave Newman's direction, Christopher gives a short blast from his miniature water pistol to anyone playing a wrong note. Unfortunately flugelhorn player Dru Sparks seems to suffer the most. This isn't because Dru plays more wrong notes, rather he is closest and directly in the line of fire. A search of brass band literature has failed to find this unusual way of encouraging musicians to improve, and we believe it must be a world first for Hathern Band.



As a ninth birthday present, Christopher played with the Main Band. He also won a competition organised by the PBone Official Facebook page in which he had to send in a video of him playing music from Beauty and the Beast. Christopher played Be Our Guest and won a green pbone (plastic trombone). Another instrument to learn with help from mum Andrea who is an accomplished trombonist.

**Christopher showing the Band how it should be played.**

**Dad is behind.**

# Tuba Master Class

Our bass (tuba) section attended a master class given by international tuba player Simon Styles in Leicester. Simon studied tuba at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester and currently is the solo tuba player of the Tonhalle Orchestra in Zurich.

James Kerfoot said "Simon concentrated on technique rather than musical improvement. He showed us how to improve our breathing and how to maximise our air intake. I hadn't appreciated the importance of posture. Simon actually came up and gave me a push showing that I could improve the way I sat and held my bass. The class was really worthwhile and we all learnt a great deal."



**Steve Hunnybun, Colin Allen, Mary Sibson, Sam Edwards and James Kerfoot**

Sam Edwards is 14 years old and is gaining experience playing with the Main Band. Sam has been playing for four years but started playing bass two years ago after Dave Newman asked him to give it a go. Sam also plays regularly with Concert Brass. Sam very much enjoyed the workshop. It has helped him understand about breathing so he can get the most from his playing. He also enjoys spending time with senior band members and learning from them.





# Farewell Tom



Or we should now say Dr. Thomas Wallage BVMedSci BVM BVS(Hons) MRCVS - brilliant and many congratulations. First Class Honours - nothing less than we expected!! We had a great night on 16 June saying goodbye (hopefully not for good!) to our Veterinary Tom. Where has the time gone since Tom arrived at Hathern Band in 2012? In September 2012 I received an email from a colleague of mine in the North which said "Dear Lesley - there is a young man who has been playing for some years with Riverside Concert Band. He's a very good player and a smashing lad - aren't all Geordies?!! His name is Tom Wallage and he is going to Vet School at the University of Nottingham. I said give me more details and at best I will find out for you which bands not to join!! I pushed him further and he said he was to be based in Sutton Bonington. As soon as he mentioned Sutton Bonington, Lesley, I thought of you .... I immediately denied all knowledge of knowing anyone in the area, but relented and just warned him .... sorry .... cautioned him about you!! Joking aside, Lesley, I know you are just the person to look after him."

I received a phone call from Tom a couple of days later and the rest is history as they say. Tom turned up at the band room with his cornet and impressed us all with his playing - and what a bandsman, always there helping. We have laughed since at how Tom got excited when he saw the band room for the first time in daylight. Not wanting to let the grass grow under our feet, we were picking him up, taking him to rehearsals all through the winter months, whether he wanted to be there or not!

We'll miss you very much Tom and hope you will be very happy in Nantwich, and just remember it's an easy drive down the A50!! Love from all your friends at Hathern Band.

Lesley

## WUD

There are many instructions on a piece of music, but have you ever heard of WUD?. We're grateful to Chris Groom, Concert Brass Musical Director for this anecdote. A friend of Chris's played trumpet in the orchestra for the original production of Jesus Christ Superstar. He decided to take a holiday and arranged for a stand-in. During the stand-in's first performance, the percussionist completely missed his cue, incurring the substantial wrath of the conductor at the interval. It transpired that the percussionist wasn't required for a couple of numbers and took the opportunity to get a bit of shut eye. To wake up in time, he depended on Chris's friend who added the instruction WUD to his score - Wake Up Drummer. Of course the stand-in was unfamiliar with this musical direction and the unfortunate percussionist slept on!



## **Hathern Band Forthcoming Engagements**

- Birstall Gala and Proms Concert

Saturday 5 August, 7:30pm, *School Lane, Birstall, Leicester*

- Band on the Banks

Sunday 20 August, 3:00pm, *Quorn Banks*

- Patrons' Evening

Sunday 10 September, 7:30pm, *Hathern Community Centre*

- Leicestershire and Rutland WI Concert

Friday 6 October, 8:00pm, *Charnwood College Theatre, Loughborough*

*Tickets will be available on the door, but please advise Lesley if you wish to reserve tickets*

- Hathern Church Concert

Saturday 28 October, 7:30pm, *Hathern Church*

- Armistice Service

Sunday 12 November, 10:00am, *Hathern Church*

- Armistice Service

Sunday 12 November, 3:00pm, *Glenmore Park, Shepshed (GROUP)*

- LBBA Contest

Sunday 19 November, 10:00am, *Loughborough Endowed Schools*

## **Concert Brass Forthcoming Engagements**

- Queens Park, Loughborough

Sunday 16 July, 2:00pm, *The Bandstand, Queens Park, Loughborough*

- Hathern Horticultural Show

Sunday 27 August 1:00pm, *The Three Crowns, Hathern*

- Armistice Service

Sunday 12 November 10:00am, *Queen's Park, Loughborough*