



Hathern Band

Newsletter No. 3

Winter 2016

Farewell Amber

We are saying goodbye to Amber Lewis, bass trombonist with the main Band. Amber has played for the band for over eight years. She was living at home in Chesterfield when she joined, then went to Keele University and then moved to Sheffield to work after she graduated. In all that time she has been travelling to concerts and twice weekly band practice. Amber has joined a band closer to home for contesting and we wish her well for the future however we are pleased to say you will still see Amber playing as a guest at some of our concerts. Our photo shows Amber with her fellow trombonists Tom Dyer-Hill (hiding!) and Simon Baum.



Hathern Band Down Under!

Band Patrons Joy and Barrie Atkinson recently visited their son and his family in Sydney. One evening they went to see their grandson Will, who plays clarinet, in concert and found that Richard Sandham was conducting. Richard learnt to play with Hathern Band, played with the Central Band of the RAF and now works as a Program Manager and Conductor for Directions in Music - a music education service, which provides Sydney schools with band programs and instrumental tuition. Richard composed the piece Pasture Lane for us which is featured on our latest CD. Our photo shows Richard and Will at band practice on Will's ninth birthday.

What a small world!!



Recent Concerts

The end of the year is always a busy time for our bands starting with Remembrance Services in November, then Christmas concerts in December – with the Leicestershire Brass Band Association Contest sandwiched between the two. The main Band played at Remembrance Services at De Montfort Hall, Leicester, Hathern and Shepshed with Concert Brass performing at Queen's Park, Loughborough.

Christmas performances started with a group playing carols at Lingdale Golf Club and during December concerts were held at Melton Mowbray, Loughborough Masonic Hall, Loughborough Hospital and Quorn, as well as Hathern Church. The main event was the ever popular Christmas Concert at Hodson Hall. For those who haven't been, this is the annual opportunity for all our bands to play together. The main Band and Concert Brass gave us a programme of seasonal music and carols with lots of audience participation. It's always great to see the Training Band play at this concert and their contribution this year was A Christmas Treat (a medley of Christmas pieces) arranged by Dave Newman's brother Geoff.

The Hodson Hall concert will be remembered for another reason. Just before the performance Stephanie Harpham, one of our percussion section, fell down some concrete stairs backstage. She damaged her shoulder and gashed her leg so for her it was an evening at Loughborough Hospital and Leicester Royal Infirmary instead of the concert. Stephanie's injury was worse than initially thought, and she had to return to hospital for a major shoulder operation.

But that wasn't all. Unbelievably percussionist and trombonist Joe Southgate was also missing as he had an accident in his works van at 5.30pm. Because he badly bumped his head he was taken to hospital and was under observation for three days! We are very grateful to percussionist Joe Shaw who was in the audience and bravely volunteered to step in at the last minute. Joe Southgate is playing again, and Stephanie has recently returned to playing percussion.



Band Contact Info

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Hathern Band Looking Back

Following the discovery that Hathern Band was originally formed in 1860, the Loughborough Echo featured us in their Looking Back history section on 11 November. They did us proud giving us two pages and publishing six of our old photographs. The Echo asked for memories of the band and there was a great response.

Chris Watt recognised his father Jack on a 1939 photo. Chris joined the band while at school. He recalled that "After the Second World War the band was very short of players so Ernie Miller the bandmaster visited Hathern School and gave a talk on the band. He recruited several children, including myself. The band practised in a room above a joiner's shop on The Green and it had a large wood burning stove at one end of the room as heating. Unfortunately the room became in such a bad state of repair in as much as when the band played loud, the plaster fell off the ceiling into the brass instruments." The band then moved to Shepshed.

Doreen Fletcher recognised her late husband Dave in a 1969 photo. Doreen said, "Dave joined the band in the 60s and played the trombone. He was in the band for a few years. He enjoyed it, he really liked music. He had guitars and banjos and was always a music person. It was lovely to see that photo, it brings back memories. We used to go out all over the place, we had some good times. The band used to make me laugh."

Maggie Styles spotted her partner David Baker in the 1969 photo. Maggie said, "David played flugelhorn and was with the band for 10 or 12 years.

Hayden Newton also got in touch, having played for the band from around 1960 to 1980. Hayden, known as Spike, recognised many people on a 1969 photo. Hayden sent in a clipping of the band taken when they played at the wedding of Robert and Jean Parker 47 years ago. Doreen Fletcher also submitted a photo of the wedding.

In all Hathern Band was featured in five editions of the Echo. As well as bringing some happy memories to people involved with the band in the past, it has provided some welcome publicity for us. Do you have any memories or stories of the band? If so please let us know.



Hathern Band at one of the member's wedding. The picture was sent into Looking Back by Doreen Fletcher whose late husband David played the trombone in the band.

Jack and Rian Go Busking

Jack and Rian from the Training Band went busking at Christmas. Jack's mum Sarah Browne said "Jack decided he wanted to raise some money to help other people who are suffering from cancer after his wonderful Uncle Ian (my brother) passed away in August, after a very brave fight with bowel cancer. Jack and Ian were incredibly close. So he thought it would be nice to spread some Christmas joy in the Carillon Court shopping centre, playing carols with his best friend. They got lots of praise and encouragement, even from the Salvation Army band who tried to poach them!" Jack and Rian raised an impressive £180 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Well done!



Geoff Fletcher

Geoff Fletcher has played cornet in the main Band since 1981, however this has been his second spell having originally followed his brother into the band 65 years ago at the age of 11. Geoff features on a photograph c1960 in the History section on our website. Geoff has decided that the time has come for him to step down from the main Band and play with Concert Brass. Geoff is the band's historian and as secretary of the lively Hathern History Society he has carried out a great deal of research into the history of the village.

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?

And a Reminder!

As you know we rely on subscriptions from members and Patron's fees. There are still some Band members' subscriptions and Patrons' fees outstanding for 2015.

Could you please check to see if you have paid? We welcome and encourage payment by standing order or direct debit. Thank you

LBBA Contest

The Leicestershire Brass Band Association Open Brass Contest took place at Charnwood College on 22 November. Over 50 bands took part, competing in five sections and as you might imagine the event is a big logistical challenge. Bands have to have rooms to practice in and be in the right place at the right time to compete. Hathern Band has very close ties with the LBBA in that Lesley is the association's secretary, and Dave is vice chairman.

Hathern Band played in the Championship Section which started at 4.45pm in the Sports Centre. This was a new venue for the competition. And it was cold!!! Hathern were drawn first and gave a rousing rendition of Pageantry by Herbert Howells, finishing 7th in the competition.



**Well I think
you're out of
tune!**

On the Streets

It was a mizzly day on 13 December when the band took to the streets to play Christmas carols round the village. Two groups went out to bring some Christmas cheer. As one lady said (having come out in her dressing gown to listen to the band), "There's nothing like hearing carols played by a brass band." Band A was fed and watered en route with hot mulled wine and hot mince pies by Anita Badock. At the end everyone assembled for a most welcome lunch courtesy of Ron and Val Carter. This year we didn't lose any players who stopped off for an odd dram or three! Some band members were back in the evening to play carols at Hathern Parish Church's popular Christmas Tree Festival.



Susan at the Royal

Susan Robinson is not only a fine cornet player, but also a talented pianist. She was invited to perform as the "pre-concert pianist" at Nottingham's Royal Concert Hall ahead of the Philharmonia Orchestra concert on 5 February. Susan entertained for 45 minutes before the concert and ten minutes at the interval. Her programme included memorable classical music by Bach, Chopin, Brahms, Schumann, Debussy and Grieg plus more modern pieces like Erroll Garner's *Misty* and *Forgotten Dreams* by Leroy Anderson. On the previous Sunday Susan gave a preview in the band room for band members, patrons and friends who thoroughly enjoyed the performance.



LOROS Concert



Our first outing of 2016 was the ever popular concert at Hathern Parish Church in support of LOROS, the Leicestershire and Rutland hospice. A lively programme included music old and new with a mix of popular favourites and some numbers having their first performance including Lady Stewart's Air. Another new piece was Me and My Shadow, in which trombonists Simon Baum and Amber Lewis took the lead. Now, Simon is somewhat taller than Amber and to everyone's delight, part way through the number, Amber went off to get a stool!

The cornet section reprised their rousing Buglers Holiday, and there were solo performances from Dru Sparks with Ashokan Farewell and Graham Rix demonstrating his versatility on the euphonium with an arrangement of My Grandfather's Clock. The programme also included Magnificent Seven, Radeski March and What Would I Do Without My Music arranged by our own Sam Garton.

The "old and new" theme continued as Dave Newman paid tribute to Geoff Fletcher who has stepped down from the main band (see page 4). Dave introduced young players making their debut with the band, Stephen Guerin, William Fairlamb, and Leo Parry on third cornets with George Baum and Edward Hefferman on percussion. It was a great demonstration of the band policy of nurturing young players on their journey from Training Band through to the main Band, and the audience gave the youngsters a warm welcome. Dave always has a joke up his sleeve, and said that the combined age of the new players was probably less than Geoff's (sorry Geoff, I'm sure it's not true!)

Adrian Walker from LOROS thanked everyone for their support and was presented with a cheque for £1851.56. This has meant that over £32000 has been raised by the band with the support of Barclay's Bank £4£ scheme.



Forthcoming Engagements

Hathern Band

- **Newstead Brass Area Testpiece Evening**

Saturday 27 February, 7.30p.m.

Ashwood Centre, Portland Street, Kirkby in Ashfield, NG17 7AB

- **Area Contest**

Saturday 12 March, 10.00a.m. (Hathern Band between 2p.m. and 5p.m.)

The Civic Hall, Bedworth, Warwickshire

Any one is welcome to come to the band room on Tuesday or Sunday evenings to listen to the rehearsals (and Dave shouting at us!) Might be an idea to email Lesley first just in case we change the time, also we do quite a few extra rehearsals as we get nearer to the date

- **Proms Concert**

Saturday 9 April, 7.30p.m.

St. Andrews Church, Kegworth

- **Brass and Voice**

Saturday 21 May, 7:30p.m.

Hathern Church

Concert with Loughborough

Male Voice Choir

- **Proms Concert**

Saturday 11 June, 8:30p.m.

Wistow Park, Market Harborough

Concert Brass (group)

- **It's a Knock Out**

Saturday 11 June 12.00p.m.

Hathern Park

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.

STOP PRESS

We are delighted to report that following our publicity in local schools, we have recruited seven youngsters to our Training Band