



# **Band News**

## **Winter 2018**

**Number 11**

### **Another Busy Festive Season**

Once again it was a very busy time for our bands during the Yuletide season and we hope we brought a bit of festive cheer to everyone who came along to hear our music. We had some new engagements this year. Concert Brass played at Beaumanor Hall, and then played at Waitrose on the 24th December so it was handy for a bit of last minute shopping. The Main Band added Carols at West Leake Church to their regular performances at Melton and Hathern Churches. The bands were back again at the Needle and Pin pub in Loughborough, the New Inn at Peggs Green and Charnwood Brewery. Why are these engagements so popular?

It rounded off another great year for Hathern Band, and we look forward to 2018, with the Main Band back in the top Championship section.



**At the New Inn**

**And the Needle and Pin**

**More photos inside!**



## LBBA Contest

It was more like brass monkey rather than brass band weather at the Leicestershire Brass Band Association (LBBA) contest on 19 November. 55 bands competed in six sections and we were up against 14 other bands in the First Section. It was an "own choice" contest and the band played the challenging Connotations by Edward Gregson. Dave Newman explained, "It was quite a revolutionary piece when it was written in 1977 because of its use of percussion effects not heard in bands before, and modern harmonies and rhythms. So a good challenge for both band and conductor." Edward Gregson was only 32 when he received the commission for the piece for the national finals, the youngest person to have received this honour.



**Not just a contest, but a time to meet up with old friends**

The band's rehearsals took place over many weeks with our friend, adjudicator and celebrated musician David Hirst again conducting the band for several sessions and offering his sound professional advice.

We came eighth and as we will be a championship band from this year, coming mid table was a bit disappointing. The competition was very close and a few errors cost us points and a top three finish. Dave Newman reflected, "A famous general once said 'always expect the unexpected' and so it proved. The performance began well, with excellent soloists but a few unexpected errors meant that we didn't achieve the performance we hoped for. However there was, as football managers have a habit of saying, 'a lot of positives to be taken from the performance.'"

We took heart from some of adjudicator, Chris Wormald's comments. He said, "There were moments of high class, very high class and yet so many sections not right, not secure, not as they could and should have been. There is a huge amount of talent in this band. Huge."

"So lots to work on, but some very good signs for the future", said Dave

**Our next contest**

**Midland Area Brass Band Championships**

**Sunday 11th March from 2.00pm**

**The Civic Hall, Bedworth**



# Lest We Forget



On 12th November, Hathern Band took part in Remembrance Services at Hathern Church and Glenmore Park, Shepshed. 30 men are commemorated on the Hathern War Memorial - 21 in the First World War, seven in the Second World War and two in Cyprus and Egypt.

125 men from Hathern served in WW1 with two receiving the Military Medal and one the Croix de Guerre. Thomas and Mary Ann Hart from Hathern lost three sons in the conflict.

**Dru Sparks plays  
The Last Post at  
Glenmore Park**



## Please Come and Join Us!

If you're not already a patron, could you consider joining their ranks and help Hathern Band continue its success into the future? It costs a minimum of £25 per year, less than 50p a week.

We would be most grateful for your support.



# At the Christmas Tree Festivals

## Melton



The Main Band played at Melton's Christmas Tree Festival on 3rd December. Revd Kevin Ashby interviewed Dave Newman about the band (the video can be viewed on Youtube.) Dave revealed the carol that cornet players dread being asked to play is Ding Dong Merrily on High. The cornet part has a high range, and if a player "splits" a note, then they never live it down.



## And at Hathern on 10th December



**The Band's Christmas Tree**



# Carols Around Hathern



It was definitely "In the Bleak Midwinter" on 10th December when three groups of our bands toured the village playing Christmas music and received a great reception as ever. The snow was inches deep and the more senior members of the band reckoned that this was the first time we'd played in snow since 1978. £803 was raised and this will go towards instruments and music for our Training Band. We're sure the band would have been playing carols in the village from its formation in 1856, though the first record was a report in the Leicester Chronicle in 1883 about the band playing round Hathern streets on Christmas Eve with a party of singers.



Robert White has published a cine film clip on Youtube showing the band playing carols on the streets in 1954 or 1955. Robert has also posted a clip of the band playing at the Hathern fete in 1955. Robert writes, "I played in the band as tenor horn at this time, but I can't identify myself in the clips, however I do recognise some other players including Bill MacAnderson, solo cornet, and Les Kelham, soprano cornet. Perhaps someone can identify other players?"

But where are they playing? The house wasn't hard to identify as the exterior hasn't changed a great deal - it's no.10 Loughborough Road, and we were able to recreate the scene more than sixty years later.

A big thank you to the generous people of Hathern, and special thanks to friends who kept us fed and watered on the way round.



# Hodson Hall

We held our annual Christmas Concert on 16th December at The Hodson Hall, Loughborough Grammar School. Ah Christmas! That magical time of year filled with wonder and anticipation. Will it snow for Christmas? Will Santa bring me what I am hoping for? What hat will Concert Brass trombonist, Jenny Peake be wearing this year?

Jenny didn't disappoint as you can see!



The Harry Smith Trophy is awarded to the bandsman who has shown particular commitment over the year. Dave Newman presented the cup to cornet player William Fairlamb who has progressed through from Training to Main Band. William comes straight from school every Monday to help the youngsters in Training Band and is always keen to help out. Congratulations William!



The stage was invaded by three trombone playing snowmen who gave their unique rendition of Frosty the Snowman. Their attempt to persuade Dave Newman to have a go on the trombone was very politely(??) declined. Rumour has it that they might have been Joe Dobos - Southgate, Simon Baum and John Baum. Can you guess which one supports Nottingham Forest?



## Band Contact Info

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Cornets to the fore! Main Band front row cornets and Concert Brass back row cornets



Our fantastic Training Band gave us We Wish You a Merry Christmas and Jingle Bells arranged by Jaroslaw Tarasiewicz. Jaroslaw's daughter Julia plays cornet in the band.



The Tom Dennis Cup is presented by the President to the most improved young player and went to Ashton Peat. Well done Ashton! Below Jack Miller presents flowers to our wonderful secretary, Lesley Bentley.







We're very grateful to Lynne Dyer for videoing the band and audience swaying from side to side during the Schneewalzer. (You can see it on our Facebook page, Hathern Band Past and Present.) Great fun! The number took many weeks of intensive rehearsal for the Band. No, not to learn the music, they're OK with that. It was learning to sway at the same time and not bump into each other.

One more time, left, right, left, right.....

## Concert Brass at Charnwood Brewery

Mike Jones took the baton for carol singing at Charnwood Brewery with Concert Brass and a great time was had by all. Owner Andrew Reed said that he'd had to turn away 50 disappointed customers who would have liked to have been there. Charnwood Brewery made Hathern Band the brewery's charity for 2017, and almost £300 was donated by customers. The money will be used to buy instruments for the Training Band.

Thank you Andrew and Andrea, and your generous customers.





# LOROS Concert

Hathern Band's first concert in 2018 (13 January) was a charity event held in Hathern Parish Church in aid of LOROS, the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Hospice. The Charity has particular relevance to the Band as three members of the band organisation were cared for by the Hospice.

The capacity audience was treated to an entertaining programme and got off to a lively start with a circus march, Robinson's Grand Entrée followed by a trip to the movies with music from Band of Brothers. The concert gave prominence to several of the Band's talented soloists; Graham Rix was on fine form with a toe tapping rendition of Blaydon Races on euphonium, trombonist Simon Baum performed the lovely number All I Ask of You and principal cornet player Mike Wood joined forces with Ken Powell on soprano cornet for a beautiful rendition of Pie Jesu.

The final two soloists had progressed from Training to Main Band. Firstly local lad, Dru Sparks gave a moving rendition of Georgia On My Mind on flugelhorn and there was a complete change of pace from George Baum with his astonishingly speedy performance on xylophone of On The Track. In addition to conducting the Band, Dave Newman's easy manner together with his amusing and informative introductions to the numbers certainly added to the evening's entertainment.



The concert was a huge success and raised £2524.47 for the Hospice including a donation of £1000 from Barclays Bank under their match funding scheme. Derek Horsfall from LOROS said that following the recent completion of an extension to the Hospice, 31 people could now be accommodated in-house with another 12-18 receiving day therapy.

However a larger building means more funds are required to the tune of £8.5 m each year. Mr. Horsfall thanked the Band for achieving such a wonderful amount to help the people of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

Louise Haworth



## Freemasons' Award



Leicestershire and Rutland Freemasons recently held a ceremony where they donated £172,707 to 43 different charities. The Freemasons gave us £1000 to go towards new walking out jackets for the Main Band. On accepting the cheque from Acting Grand Master, David Haggard, Dave Newman thanked the Freemasons, and explained that the focus of the Band was very much on youth. He said, "This will release funds and allow us to improve the training and facilities for the young players."

## Hathern Band Forthcoming Engagements

- Midland Area Brass Band Championship  
Sunday 11 March, 2:00pm, *The Civic Hall, Bedworth*
- Proms Concert  
Saturday 24 March, 7:30pm, *St. Andrew's Parish Church, Kegworth*
- Brass and Voice Concert (with Loughborough Male Voice Choir)  
Saturday 19 May, *Hathern Parish Church*



Hathern Band  
Proms in the Park  
Saturday 16th June  
7.30pm  
Hathern Park  
With Christchurch Theatre  
Singers