



New Band Room Extension Planned

Our Training Band is going from strength to strength and we have over thirty youngsters learning to play. While the Training Band is playing in the main room, our beginners who receive individual or group tuition have to use the library, storerooms or even the kitchen. It is far from ideal and we could do with a practice room, not only for our beginners but also to provide a space for any group to practise in when the main room is being used.



So we are planning an extension to the south of the building, which would provide a practice room separated from the main room by the library and store. The parish council supports our proposal and has agreed to the relocation of the storage containers to allow the extension to be built. Plans have been approved by the borough council and a local housebuilder has offered to donate all the materials needed, though we will have to cover the labour and service costs ourselves. The project is being managed by our trombonist and retired builder, John Baum.

This would be the third extension to the original building built in 1985. A storeroom and library were added in 1990 and the north extension comprising a new kitchen, new toilets and a storeroom was built in 1996.



The second bandroom extension was opened by Stephen Dorrill MP on 11 May 1996

Hodson Hall Christmas Concert



Roger Thorne's arrangement of Stille Nacht (Silent Night) featured a cornet duet from Ken Powell and Dru Sparks

Our Training Band gave us Good King Wenceslas, Away in a Manger, We Wish You a Merry Christmas and Jingle Bells



Cornet player Jack Miller received the Tom Dennis Cup for the most improved young player

The President's Award, the Harry Smith Trophy for the young player who has shown particular commitment went to percussionist Jake Ruddy



Not only do we have first range musicians, we also have talented arrangers in our bands. The Senior Band played *All I Want For Christmas Is You*, arranged by bass trombonist and percussionist, Joey Dobos-Southgate. *The Twelve Days of Christmas* is always a challenge but this went without a hitch thanks to a great arrangement by Geoff Newman who guests for us on euphonium. One of the numbers from Concert Brass was an arrangement by euphonium player, Dean Onyon called *Christmas Eve in the BMW*. Was someone sleeping in the car? No, Dean takes up the story -

"After the success of the *Ballad of Ilex and Hedera* at last year's concert, I felt I had to offer something for the 2019 event. The problem was what? The blank sheet of paper was staring back at me so I made a number of lists of carols, genres and musical forms and, combined with a few thoughts on some novel elements, I started playing with the possibilities. I was particularly keen on introducing the sound of bells so immediately the third phrase in the Bleak Midwinter tune grabbed my interest - it sounded to me very much like a sequence of notes you might hear coming from a bell tower. The tune is also unusual as it doesn't start on the key note and in fact it rarely uses the key note. This not only gives it a free-floating, melancholic feel but also allows for a number of different harmonic possibilities.

Having developed these, I then thought I could string these together and make a narrative piece describing the events of a fictional Christmas night in five short episodes. So starting with *A Frosty Walk*, church bells in the distance, we arrive *In The Church* for a carol service after which we find ourselves *In the Pub* where a small jazz band is playing before we go *On To The Club* where a big band is on stage. Finally we arrive *Home With The Milk* as the clock strikes six (for those who didn't count). As for the title, I have a habit of using acronyms for the file names of my pieces and so as I saved the first sketch for a piece based on *In The Bleak Midwinter*, I saw that the acronym was BMW. From that moment I knew that I had to shoehorn that into the title of the piece. I settled on *Christmas Eve in the BMW* as an amusing bit of fun, pun and misdirection.

Thanks as always to Chris Groom, the band and especially Louise who took both solos and Tom who played the tubular bells."



**Chris Groom conducts
Concert Brass**



There's always anticipation at this concert - what headgear will Jenny Peak wear this year? As you can see Jenny didn't disappoint!

Carols Round the Streets



Thankfully the rain held off when our three band groups toured the streets of Hathern on 15 December. One group enjoys welcome coffee and mince pies in Anchor Lane. £730 was raised to go to supporting our Training Band

A photo from the History Society archives show the band playing in the snow on Green Hill. We don't know the date but guess it's the 1950s



Out and About Over The Festive Season



The Senior Band played at the regular concert at Melton Christmas Tree Festival



Carols at West Leake Church. John, what are you doing with that mug of coffee? Watch out Ken!



Customers were in great voice singing carols at the Needle and Pin micropub

Concert Brass

Concert Brass had a number of Christmas engagements including the regular two concerts at Charnwood Brewery, plus Beaumanor Hall Christmas Fair and Woodhouse Eve Christmas Lights.



On 23 and 24 December, Concert Brass entertained customers at Waitrose, Mountsorrel with carols and seasonal music.



New Treasurer

Brian Fletcher has been an unsung hero at Hathern Band. Brian first became involved when his children learnt with the band forty years ago, and for over twenty years Brian has been our treasurer as well as tea maker for the Senior Band on Sundays and Concert Brass on Thursdays. Brian doesn't play an instrument - his musical talent lies in Gilbert and Sullivan. He has been a pillar of the chorus of the Christchurch G&S Society for fifty years having only missed one performance when his younger son was born. Our photo shows Brian wearing the black hat at the back in Ruddigore last year. Brian has decided to pack away his trusty abacus and retire as treasurer, though we will have the pleasure of his exquisite refreshments for some time to come!



Brian's son James learnt to play with Hathern Band when he was seven. Now he is first tenor horn with the famous Grimethorpe Colliery Band. James' children Archie, 11, and Ella, 14, are carrying on the family musical tradition. We were delighted that James and Archie were able to join us playing carols round the streets on 15 December.

Mike Hale is taking over as treasurer. Mike has been a patron and volunteer for many years. He looks after our raffles at concerts and lends a hand in the band room having taken on the daunting task of sorting and cataloguing the band's music library. Mike comes from South Kirkby in West Yorkshire, which coincidentally is right next to Grimethorpe. After working in the catering industry and the GPO, Mike started his decorating business, Knightthorpe Decorators eighteen years ago.



**Brian (left) and Mike in the Band Office
(also known as the Dewdrop Inn)**

LOROS Concert

There was a capacity audience for Hathern Band's first concert of the year (11th January) held in aid of LOROS, the Leicestershire and Rutland hospice. Conductor, David Newman, and the Band treated the audience to a varied programme including several well known numbers from much loved films and musicals. Firstly, three songs from Les Miserables including 'Bring Him Home' featuring the beautiful playing of Mike Wood on flugelhorn. There was also a selection from the recent and very popular film, Greatest Showman plus 'Let It Go' from Frozen and 'Don't Cry For Me Argentina' from Evita. However, no brass band concert would be complete without a march and the Band's first one was a great performance of the military march 'Colonel Bogey'. Later, they upped the tempo with the circus march, 'Rainbow Pier'.

The concert also featured the talents of Adrian Drewitt on baritone who gave a beautiful rendition of 'On My Own' from Les Miserables. The second solo spot was taken by principal trombonist, Alex Bland. His soulful and mellifluous performance of the Hoagy Carmichael tune, 'Stardust' was a real treat.

'The Irish Blessing' is a beautiful piece of music, and actually composed by an American, Joyce Kilmer who was recognised as one of the top choral composers in that country. This was performed in harmony by a quartet consisting of Bruce Harris, tenor horn, Mike Wood, flugelhorn, Adrian Drewitt, baritone and Hannah Peak, euphonium.



LOROS is a charity close to the Band's heart as three members of the Hathern organisation received care from the Hospice. David Newman thanked the audience for their continued support for this concert, now in its 20th year. He also thanked Barclay's Bank for their on-going commitment through their match-funding scheme, and announced that this year's concert had raised the fantastic amount of £2566.59, including £750 from Barclay's Bank.

Also a big thank you to our great friend, Ralf Wolsfeld (Woolfie!) from Trier in Germany for his very kind donation. This brings the total raised since the first concert to £42,097.59, a wonderful amount for an amazing charity.



The cheque was accepted by Adrian Walker, Senior Fundraiser and Community Lead at LOROS who thanked everyone for all the money raised, and for a wonderful evening's entertainment. Adrian went on to say that the Hospice is continuing to expand its services. It now provides monthly clinics throughout the county and around 20-30 people per day use the new Day Therapy Centre. LOROS is also very proud that 90 pence of every pound goes to patient care.

Before the final number, David Newman thanked all those involved with staging the concert but particularly Band secretary, Lesley Bentley, and Hathern Church for free use of their wonderful building. A splendid rendition of the 'Radetsky March' had the audience clapping along in time to the music and provided a sparkling finale to a great evening's entertainment.

Louise Haworth

LBBA Contest

The Leicestershire Brass Band Association contest took place on 24 November. This marked the band's last contest in the Championship Section for a while as we are back in the First Section from 2020. Bands were able to perform a piece of their own choosing and we played *The Year of the Dragon* composed by Philip Sparke. Stephen Barnwell rehearsed the band through this challenging piece with Dave Newman standing in when Stephen was unavailable. Stephen conducted on the day.



The Championship Section is a challenge for a band like ours, but many thought that the band rose to the occasion and played at its best. There were ten original entrants but three bands were not able to do the necessary preparation in order to make it to the contest platform and ended up withdrawing. The winners were Ratby Co-operative Band and Hathern came sixth out of seven remaining competing bands. Stephen's reflections of that day are: "The band's performance was an intensely emotional and highly musical one, and the feelings of pride were so tangible, you could feel them emanating between us all throughout the performance and for a long time afterwards. Musically, we were all on the same wavelength."

The band's next contest will be the Midlands Area Championships which takes place in March. The test piece will be *Legacy* composed by Tom Davoran. All the bands in the contest will be playing this piece.



Scary!!!

Tate and Beva came along to Training Band dressed in their fantastic Halloween outfits last year.

Well done guys! There are some really scary people in this photo!

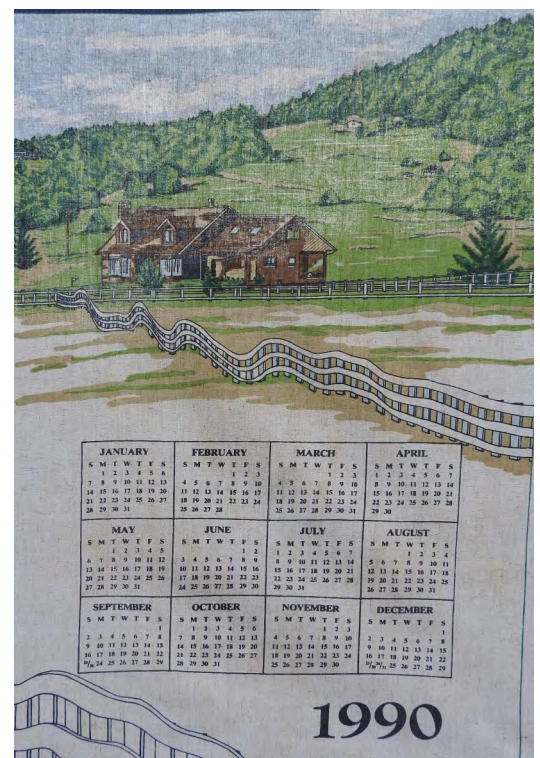
Thirty Years Loyal Service

A member of the Hathern Band family has given unstinting service for thirty years with never a grumble or complaint in all that time. The band would therefore like to place on record its sincere and heartfelt appreciation for the duty and dedication shown over all those years.

So thank you STT, we will be ever grateful for what you have done for us. STT? That's Senior Tea Towel. We know it's been 30 years because the tea towel has the 1990 calendar printed on it. Perhaps a bit threadbare and frayed at the edge (who isn't after 30 years?) STT still gives great service in the band room kitchen. No suggestion of throwing in the towel just yet, though it was a close call last year when someone thought STT was just the thing to use to wipe up mud from the floor. And we have been able to make use of the calendar in 2001, 2007 and 2018 when it repeated.

Well done STT.

Here's to the next thirty years!



Forthcoming Engagements

Hathern Band

- Midlands Area Contest
Sunday 7 March, 10:00am, *Bedworth Civic Hall CV12 8NF*
- Kegworth Last Night of the Proms
Saturday 21 March, 7:30pm, *St. Andrew's Church, Kegworth*
- Leicestershire Brass Band Association Spring, Open Solo, Duet and Quartet Festival
(features players from all Hathern Bands)
Sunday 29 March, *Loughborough Endowed Schools Music Centre*
- Hathern Church Concert
Saturday 25 April, 7:30pm, *Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Hathern*
- Concert with Loughborough Male Voice Choir
Sunday 16 May, 7:30pm, *Trinity Methodist Church, Loughborough*
- **HATHERN'S BIG WEEK** - Proms in the Park
Saturday 6 June, 7:30pm, *The Park, Pasture Lane, Hathern*
- Music in the Park
Saturday 13 June, 7:00pm, *Wistow Park, near Market Harborough*

Concert Brass

- **HATHERN'S BIG WEEK** - It's a Knockout
Saturday 30 May, 1:00pm, *The Park, Pasture Lane, Hathern*

Training Band

- Family Service
Sunday 2 February, 10:30am, *Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Hathern*
- **HATHERN'S BIG WEEK** - Open Rehearsal
Monday 1 June, 6:00pm, *The Park, Pasture Lane, Hathern*