



# Band News

## Winter 2018/19

Number 15

## David Newman to Retire as Musical Director

David Newman is to step down as our Musical Director. David said "I am told that 2019 is my 40th year as Musical Director and it is with that in mind that my thoughts turn to the future.

I believe the band needs fresh inspiration and to this end I have informed the Committee of my intention to retire from the Senior Band and have given 12 months notice. I hope to advise and help with my successor. I have said 12 months, although if the right person is found in the near future, we need not wait the whole year.

I am honoured to be President of Hathern Band and will not be going anywhere. I am even thinking about playing again so I will still be around!"



David's commitment to Hathern Band has been outstanding over, what could be a record of a 40 year directorship. He took on a struggling fourth section band and built, guided and directed the band taking them through to where we are today in the Championship section.

David was one of the master minds in setting up our fantastic Training and Youth Bands, spending many hours teaching to ensure the future of the Band. David's dedication, work and commitment to Hathern Band has been absolutely outstanding. We can't thank him enough for all he has done, and I am sure will continue to do for the Band.

David will stay on as conductor of the Training and Youth Bands, something he loves, where he will continue as he has done for many years to teach and mentor young talent. A number of his pupils are already making their mark in the Senior Band.

**Lesley Bentley**

# Hathern Band December Tour

What a busy December! Between the Senior Band and Concert Brass. We fulfilled 18 engagements ending with our annual carolling around Hathern Streets on the 23rd.

**Quorn**                      **Hathern Parish Church**                      **The Needle and Pin**

**The New Inn**                      **Waitrose**

**Woodhouse Eaves**

**Masonic Hall**

**West Leake**

**Hodson Hall**

**Melton Mowbray**

**Beaumanor Hall**

**Loughborough Hospital**

**Charnwood Brewery**

**Hathern Streets**

**Stanton under Bardon**



## **Defence and National Rehabilitation Centre**

We were privileged to be invited to play for the services men and women at the newly constructed Defence and Rehabilitation Centre at Stanford Hall. A £300million project, DNRC is a world class centre of clinical excellence that will contribute to the redesign and improvement of rehabilitation services.

Staff also gave us a tour of the outstanding facilities which are so important in repairing our seriously wounded.



# Carols Round the Streets



**Ken and George Powell brave the elements**

When you're a young person and you play bass, it can be a problem lugging the instrument round the streets. Our Senior Band bass player, Sam Edwards had the solution. Dad Phil came along to carry a folding chair plus a large umbrella. It was also Sam's 16th birthday so he received the standard out of tune version of Happy Birthday from the rest of the band.

Well done Sam!

Last year it was snow, this year it was constant rain. However this didn't put off young and old who turned out to play carols round the streets of Hathern. There were enough players to form three groups to cover the whole of the village. We collected over £900 for Training and Youth Band instruments, and a big thank you goes to the generous people of Hathern for supporting us so well.





# Hodson Hall Christmas Concert



We held our annual Christmas Concert on 15th December in a packed Hodson Hall on 15 December. This is such a special evening when our band family meets together to play and enjoy Christmas music. It was a mixture of old and new. We had favourite carols like O Come All Ye Faithful, Once in Royal David's City and Hark the Herald Angels Sing. During a band changeover, eight young players from the Senior Band came out front to play The First Nowell. The oldest of the eight, Dru Sparks is only 22. It shows that the band is in fine shape for the future and demonstrates the great success of our in house training programme. Future Senior Band players in our Training Band delighted us with Hathern Christmas Combo and Jingle Bells.



**Applause for our brilliant Training Band**

John Rutter is an acclaimed composer, arranger and conductor of mainly choral music. He has written scores of Christmas carols and three were featured in our concert programme. Shepherd's Pipe Carol (or Shepherd's Pie Carol according to some band members) was John's first carol composition at the age of 18, What Sweeter Music was written for the King's College Festival of carols in 1987, Concert Brass gave us John's Candlelight Carol which has been recorded by many artists including Aled Jones and Neil Diamond.

The Christmas concert isn't complete without Hathern's signature finale together with audience participation. Firstly Schneewalzer where we all swayed from side to side, and then we sang along to the timeless classic, White Christmas.



**Senior Band members Wendy Rix, Mike Wood and Ken Powell take in Concert Brass' performance**

The Tom Dennis Cup is presented to the most improved player and this year went to up and coming Eb bass, player Brady Herring. The Harry Smith Trophy goes to the bandsman who has shown particular commitment over the year and was awarded to Jack Browne. Jack is playing with Youth Band and Concert Brass, as well as making his way in Senior Band. He also finds time to help out with Training Band.. Congratulations Brady and Jack!



**Brady**

**Jack**





# The Ballad of Ilex and Hedera

We asked Dean Onyon from Concert Brass to tell us how he came to write The Ballad of Ilex and Hedera which was featured in our Christmas Concert.



"The original idea for the piece was to reimagine the well known carol tune The Holly and the Ivy in a reggae style for the band. Don't ask, someone had put this whacky idea into my head the previous Christmas. However, while I was working on this idea I remembered that there was an alternative tune to the carol. The inspiration to superimpose the two tunes came from playing Fantasia on the Dargason, the fourth movement from Holst's Second Suite in F. In this well known brass band piece the 3/4 melody of Greensleeves is superimposed on top of the 6/8 Dargason, a fast traditional dance tune. Concert Brass has been playing this during the year and with some experimenting with both tunes, it became clear that the idea was going to work.

Once I'd found a style that worked for the alternative tune, the last step was to integrate the two tunes into one piece. The idea that brought this together was the title - by imagining Ilex and Hedera not as the Latin names of two plants, but as two characters, each with their own theme tune; Ilex has the well known tune and Hedera the alternative one. The piece then became a short story of romance between the two characters where they start out as individuals (with individual themes), progress through courtship (each theme is heard over the other's "backing track"), and become a couple with the themes superimposed.

It seems to have worked. Chris Groom took to it straight away, and I received some very encouraging comments after the performance. Not least from Chairman John Worsfold who told me that he sang the Holly and the Ivy to the Hedera tune as a chorister many years ago.

The question now is, how to follow that? I've promised the basses something that's a bit more challenging so I'll have to see what inspiration (if any) strikes me during the year.

I've been asked about other compositions - well there aren't that many. I started out by doing transcriptions from piano music and I've moved on to doing arrangements of well known tunes in different styles as a means of exploring, learning and teaching myself what works, what doesn't and generally how it's done. By taking a tune, I can make the exercise easy or difficult by choosing whether to use the existing chord sequence, add a bass line, counter melody, choose an unusual arrangement - the list is endless.

Most of my practice pieces are based on Christmas carol themes. The Ballad of Ilex and Hedera started out as one of them, but some are a lot more tongue in cheek... would you be amused by the idea of While Shepherds Watched interpreted as a tango? It's actually one of my favourites so maybe I'll work on that for next Christmas!"



**Chris Groom leads the applause for Dean's  
The Ballad of Ilex and Hedera**

# Trevor Groom



"Legendary" is often an overworked term, but in Trevor Groom's case it is well deserved. Trevor, father of Chris our Concert Brass Musical Director, is one of the greatest euphonium players in the world - ever, and is still going strong. We were delighted that Trevor was able to join us to play at our Hodson Hall Christmas Concert.

Trevor first played with the Kettering Citadel Band and then with the GUS Band with whom he won two National titles, a world title and a British Open. He is remembered as the first person to play the Joseph Horovitz Euphonium Concerto at the Royal Albert Hall in 1972. This performance showed the capability of the euphonium as a solo instrument and paved the way for other composers to produce works for it.

Trevor joined our principal euphonium player, Hannah Peak, to play Babe in a Manger at the concert. Hannah said it was the best that she'd ever played because Trevor took all the nerves away.

We received a lovely letter from Trevor after the concert thanking us and for reminding him what a thrill it is to share an evening of music making with a good band. "And on top of that to stand in front to play the duet with Hannah. I felt forty years younger, if just a little nervous - I didn't want to let anyone down! What a great example of what brass banding can bring to the locality you have involving so many people, young and mature - the product of lots of work and interest carried out by some dedicated people.

I can now add to my CV, "I have played with Hathern Band".

Thank you Trevor, it was our great privilege.

## Band Contact Info

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## Aussie Band Visit

We reported last year that the Footscray-Yarraville City Band was going to visit us last November. The band had been touring France, Belgium and the UK to pay their respects to Anzac soldiers who fell in the First World War. The tour was inspired by the discovery of inscriptions written by Australian soldiers inside a bass drum when at training camps in the UK. While over here the band played at Australia House, Southwark Cathedral, Durham and York.

They also found time to take part in the Leicestershire Brass Band Association contest on 18 November. The previous day they practised in our band room, then we all met in the evening for an excellent buffet supper and liquid refreshment at the Three Crowns. We presented the band with a framed Hathern Band logo, and we also lent them Joe Dobos-Southgate as a percussionist for the contest. Playing "The Silent Anzac", and conducted by Philippa Edwards, Footscray-Yarraville City Band was placed an excellent 4th (Hathern came 6th).

Well, we had to celebrate again didn't we! It was back to Hathern for a swift half (dozen) at the Dewdrop Inn. Organiser and previous Hathern bandsman, Antony Edwards said, "We have thoroughly enjoyed our visit to Europe and seeing the places where our countrymen fought and are commemorated has been a humbling experience. And special thanks to Hathern Band for their warm welcome and looking after us so well. The Hathern Band logo will have pride of place in our band hall."





# Mike Jones

For some of our musicians, playing for Hathern Band forms only a part of their musical career. We have band members who also “moonlight” as jazz musicians, theatre pit players and even itinerant buskers!

Mike Jones plays with Concert Brass, for which he also sometimes conducts. He has been active in local theatre with several Loughborough groups for over thirty years undertaking many principal roles as well as occasionally producing and directing. He recently played the part of the Mikado in Christchurch Gilbert and Sullivan Society's production, a version set in the 1930s. Incidentally our treasurer Brian Fletcher is part of the chorus which he has been for the Society since 1970 missing only one year when his younger son was born.

Mike comes from a musical family, and having been a choirboy in his local church choir in Wales, taking the step into musical theatre and stage work was not a difficult one. It was just a case of finding the time from his teaching job and many sporting interests. He started with the Markfield Theatre Group as his wife worked with someone who was a member. He moved to LAOS in 1986 for a performance of Maid of the Mountains. Membership of Loughborough Theatre Club and Falcon Players followed.

While living in Neath, South Wales Mike played tenor horn for his father's band, Briton Silver Ferry and various County and Welsh Youth Bands, but because he didn't have his own instrument when he came to Loughborough Teacher Training College in the 70s, he taught himself to play the saxophone and did that for the next 37 years. When his children came along (twins) his son wanted to play the saxophone and his daughter wanted to play brass. This led to Mike bringing Victoria down to Hathern Band where he helped out by pointing at the music.

After a few weeks, Dave Newman, not slow in recognising an opportunity, stuck a cornet in his hands with the “order” to “play that”, so leading to Mike returning to an instrument he hadn't played for forty years. After a year or so of playing cornet next to his daughter as she progressed through the various Hathern bands, the opportunity arose for Mike to return to his favourite tenor horn instrument. He tries hard to avoid playing solos because “that involves practice!” In his “spare” time Mike is an RFU referee assessor for the National Panel and is a keen woodworker/turner.

Mike's next role will be playing the part of Jim Trott in the Festival Players' production of Vicar of Dibley at the Town Hall in February (19th - 23rd). We asked Mike if he was looking forward to the challenge and he replied, “No,no,no,no,no,yes!”



# LOROS Concert

Hathern Band got the New Year off to a splendid start on 12 January with their annual concert in aid of LOROS, The Leicestershire and Rutland Hospice. The charity has special significance to the Band as three members of the Hathern organisation received care from the Hospice.

The capacity audience at Hathern Parish Church soon had their feet tapping to the march, Great Little Army which opened the evening's entertainment. The Band then took us on a trip to the movies to see The Magnificent Seven and Cabaret, and then a very fast performance of Can Can from Orpheus in the Underworld had us dancing in the aisles - well almost!

The pace slowed a little for the number I Will follow Him from the film Sister Act which featured the trombone section of Simon Baum, Tom Dyer-Hill, John Baum and Joe Dobos-Southgate. Joe's talent is not restricted to playing the bass trombone as the Band demonstrated with their energetic rendition of his excellent arrangement of the Curse of the Black Pearl from Pirates of the Caribbean.

The concert also featured the solo talents of James Kerfoot who expertly presented The Trouble with the Tuba, appropriately on the tuba; and George Baum (17) played Helter Skelter on the xylophone at break neck speed!

David Newman thanked the audience for their continued support of this concert which this year raised £2195.30 including £750 from Barclay's Bank under their matched funding scheme. David also thanked everyone who had helped with the organisation of the concert, but particularly the Parochial Church Council for the free use of their splendid building and also Band Secretary Lesley Bentley.



John Knight, LOROS Chief Executive, said he thoroughly enjoyed the concert and was delighted to accept the cheque on behalf of the Hospice. He also explained that the Hospice is continuing to expand its services and now has a new Out Patient and Day Therapy Centre plus the recently opened Education and Research Building. Mr Knight thanked everyone for raising such a magnificent amount - which brought the total raised since 2001 to £39531.

A rousing rendition of the Radetzky March brought the excellent concert to an end and sent everyone home with a spring in their step.



**Louise Haworth**



# Engagements

## March 2019

- Midland Regional Brass Band Championships  
Sunday 10 March, 11:00a.m. *The Civic Hall Bedworth*  
First band on approximately 2.30 p.m.
- Kegworth Proms Concert  
Saturday 23 March, 7:30p.m. *St Andrews Church, Kegworth*



**April 2019**

## HATHERN BAND IN CONCERT

RAISING FUNDS FOR ST PETER & PAUL CHURCH

**Saturday 6th, 19:00 | £7**  
**St Peter & St Paul Church, Church Street**

Hathern Band are in Concert again at Hathern Church, this time raising funds for Hathern Church.

Another great evening of brass band music.

Tickets from:  
John Worsfold  
01509 842 585  
JHW.hathern@gmail.com

## May 2019

- Brass & Voice  
Saturday 18 May, 7:30p.m. *Trinity Church, Loughborough*  
With Loughborough Male Voice Choir

## June 2019

- Melton Mowbray Summer Concert  
Saturday 8 June, 7:30p.m. *St. Mary's Church, Melton Mowbray*
- Gala Concert  
Saturday 29 June, 7:30p.m. *School Lane, Birstall, Leicester*

# Hathern's Big Week 8 - 15 June

June 2019

## HATHERN VILLAGE FÊTE

AND VINTAGE CAR PARADE

**Saturday 8th, 13:00 - 17:00 | FREE ENTRY**

**Hathern Park, Pasture Lane**

Now an annual event, this fun-filled day is a treat for the entire family.

The Marquee In The Park will be filled with table-top games for you to try your hand at, plus side-stalls thanks to Pastures New Playgroup.

There will also be the It's A Knockout games, bouncy castles, food vendors, Hathern Concert Brass and live acoustic music. Plus the Pub In The Park will be open and trading all day.

June 2019

## YOUTH & TRAINING BAND WORKSHOPS

WITH HATHERN BAND

**Monday 10th, 18:00 - 21:00 | FREE ENTRY**

**The Big Marquee, Hathern Park, Pasture Lane**

Training Band (18:00 - 19:00), Youth Band (19:15 - 20:45)

Instruments, music and tuition are provided free of charge to young people learning to play brass or percussion instruments. Beginners receive one-to-one tuition, then progress to the Training Band. The band is directed by the Musical Director with experienced players assisting with tuition.

Hathern Youth Band is for players graduating from the Training Band. The aim is to improve musicianship and have fun! Many players progress to our Concert Brass Band or the main Band. Come along and find out more!

## PROMS IN THE PARK: WWII

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE D-DAY LANDINGS

**Saturday 15th, 19:30 | FREE ENTRY** (collection for Hathern Training Band)

**Hathern Park, Pasture Lane**

Join Hathern Band with special guests the Loughborough Theatre Choir as they present Proms In The Park - a night packed full of music from WWII and a Last Night of The Proms sing-along section. Songs include I Vow To Thee My Country, Jerusalem, Land of Hope And Glory, You'll Never Walk Alone and the National Anthem.

Bring your picnics, chairs & flags (a limited number of flags will be supplied) and we'll provide the bar, teas & coffees.

Food will be available if you don't wish to bring your own.

30

