



Band News

Winter 2021-22

Number 27

Looking Forward



Christmas 2021 proved to be a mixed bag for the Hathern bands. We fulfilled many engagements, but some had to be cancelled as a result of Covid. We were particularly sorry not to have held our Christmas Concert at Loughborough Grammar School for the second year running. Because of concerns about risk and some players having to isolate, the trustees took the difficult decision to cancel the concert at short notice. We know this was a disappointment to many, including our youngsters who had practised for many weeks, but the feedback we have had has supported the decision.

Some photos from engagements we were able to carry out are included in this newsletter. Let's hope for better things ahead, and we wish you a safe, healthy and happy 2022.

We were on the streets of Hathern playing carols and Christmas music on 12 December. As for 2020, we had three band groups playing at fixed locations in the village. Again, part of the performance at the surgery was streamed live on Facebook thanks to Martin Clayton.



Hathern Band played as usual at the Christmas Tree Festival held at St. Mary's Parish Church, Melton Mowbray on 5 December.





Concert Brass entertained at the Manor House Hotel, Quorn on 12 December.



It's the downstairs neighbours again - they say you're technically proficient but there's not enough emotion."

Faking It

Two of my favourite films were on the box during the Christmas holiday – The Glenn Miller Story and Brassed Off. It occurred to me that both films featured actors looking as if they were playing brass instruments. The Glenn Miller Story was released in 1953 and was one of the first films I saw at the cinema – which tells you how old I am. It's a somewhat fictionalised story of the famous band leader and trombone player,

Glenn Miller was played by James Stewart. James's mother was a piano teacher, and he could play a few piano chords – he does this in the film when composing. The film producers asked trombonist Joe Yuki to play in the film and train James so that he would look as if he was really playing. Joe Yuki said he would do better than that, he would teach the actor to actually play. After a number of painful lessons, Joe decided to revert to the idea of having James Stewart just appear to be playing. It was one of Glenn Miller's own trombones that James Stewart "played", lent by the Miller family.



Brassed Off is 25 years old – doesn't time fly? The film is about the troubles faced by Grimley Brass Band following the closure of their pit. The plot is based on Grimethorpe's struggle against pit closure and features the Grimethorpe Colliery Band. Several well-known actors sat amongst the Grimethorpe players. Tara Fitzgerald played Gloria, who has returned to the village and asks to play with the band. She "plays" the flugelhorn solo in Concierto de Aranjuez. Tara Fitzgerald played flute as a teenager and felt this helped her with the role, but she'd never heard of the flugel horn when she got the part. So, she hired one so she could learn the fingering helped by Grimethorpe's flugel player, Paul Hughes who plays the piece in the film. Tara practised for many weeks to give what she hoped would be a convincing performance. Ewen MacGregor played Andy Barrow, Gloria's boyfriend and for him, giving a convincing performance on the tenor horn was less of a struggle. Ewen actually can play a brass instrument, albeit one you won't find in a British brass band – the French horn. You can see him playing in a Youtube clip of his school orchestra.



Brassed Off became a stage show and Hathern Band has appeared as Grimley Colliery Band on several occasions. The band joined forces with the Festival Players in their production of Brassed Off in 2010 and again in 2013. In that production Lesley Bentley played Concerto de Aranjuez on the flugelhorn behind a curtain. In 2015, Derwent Brass provided the "band" at the Derby Theatre. Because of the large number of performances, Hathern Band was asked to help out, so Lesley, David, Graham Rix and Simon Baum moonlighted as members of the Grimley Colliery Band. Incidentally, Hathern Band has recorded Concierto de Aranjuez – it's featured on the On the Tracks CD. Lesley gives a brilliant solo performance.



To a non-musician like me, the performances were convincing, but what's the view of a musician? I asked Lesley what she thought of Tara Fitzgerald's performance. Lesley said," Tara must have worked hard as it looked pretty authentic to me. Paul played the solo beautifully, but Tara looked the part! "

Lesley Bentley Secretary

Tel 01509 672029

Email lesley.bentley@btinternet.com

www.hathernband.co.uk

Patrons' Evening

Patrons' Evening took place on 21 November at the parish church and was quite a different event given the issues with Covid. There was no mingling, however we were well fed as band members demonstrated even more talents as we were treated to waiter service for refreshments before the concert. David Newman reminded us that the band hadn't played between March 2020 and August 2021 and introduced a programme with a difference. All the evening's music was either arranged or composed by members of the band.



The evening kicked off with Grandioso, arranged by Neville Buxton, and was followed by In Christ Alone, which Sam Peak had arranged for a friend's wedding in 2016. Sam studied music and composition at the University of Coventry. Then came the rousing Raider's March from Raiders of the Lost Ark arranged by bass trombonist, Joe Dobos-Southgate. Joe unfortunately wasn't at the concert as he was recovering from the effects of Covid. John Rutter's poignant A Gaelic Blessing was beautifully arranged by Ian Bartram.

Then we heard Chris Allen's brilliant composition Three Images of North East England. We featured Chris in our last newsletter when he won the Durham University Open Composition Competition with this piece. The haunting and evocative composition Dawn Across the Meadow by Sam Peak was followed by another of Joe's- The Wrath of Brass. Joe's compositions are now being published by Larch Music.

The final piece was from a composer not usually noted for his brass band compositions - Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart - well there weren't many brass bands around in 1786! Ian Bartram was brave enough to arrange the overture Impresario for brass. I'm sure Mozart would have approved! Patrons much appreciated the talents and performance of Hathern Band. Hopefully Patrons' Evening will be back to normal in 2022.





Ian Bartram takes a bow

Sam and Hannah Peak
Joint winners of the
Bandsman of the Year
Trophy



Dave Walker
Players' Player of the Year



Gary Taylor, Mike Hale and John Baum gave their services for free in building the extension. They were made Honorary Patrons



Long serving treasurer, Brian Fletcher, who has recently retired from the role, was also made an Honorary Patron



Richard Sandham

It was great to see that our old friend, Richard Sandham was a member of the Barmy Army Band at the fourth test which took place at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Richard has lived in Australia since 2014 and learnt to play with Hathern Band. He works as a freelance musician, brass educator, conductor and composer in Sydney. Last July he was appointed as band manager for the Penrith Symphony Orchestra.

Richard composed the pieces Fanfare to Charnwood and Pasture Lane for us. Pasture Lane is the title track on our latest CD.

We last welcomed Richard and his wife Emma in 2017 when Richard conducted the band and actually had them singing! We won't be putting that on a CD any time soon.

Perhaps Richard and the Barmy Army musicians had an effect at Sydney. At least England weren't thrashed this time, managing to scrape a draw, unfortunately that was their only "success" having been beaten in the other four test matches.

Richard and Emma in 2017



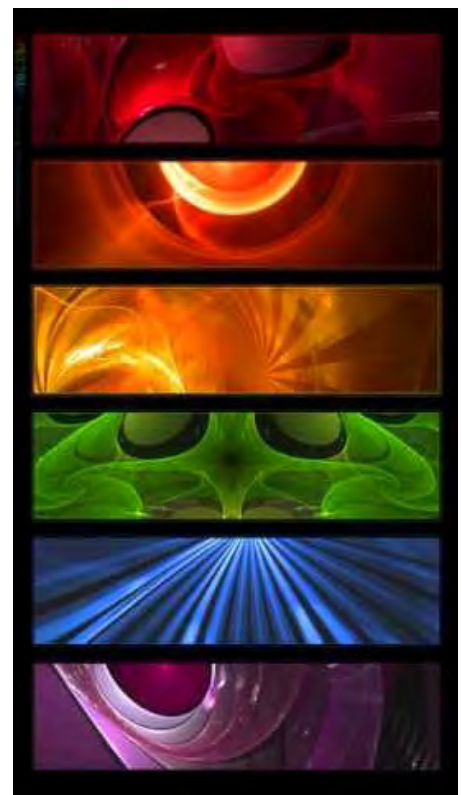
Midlands Area Contest 2022



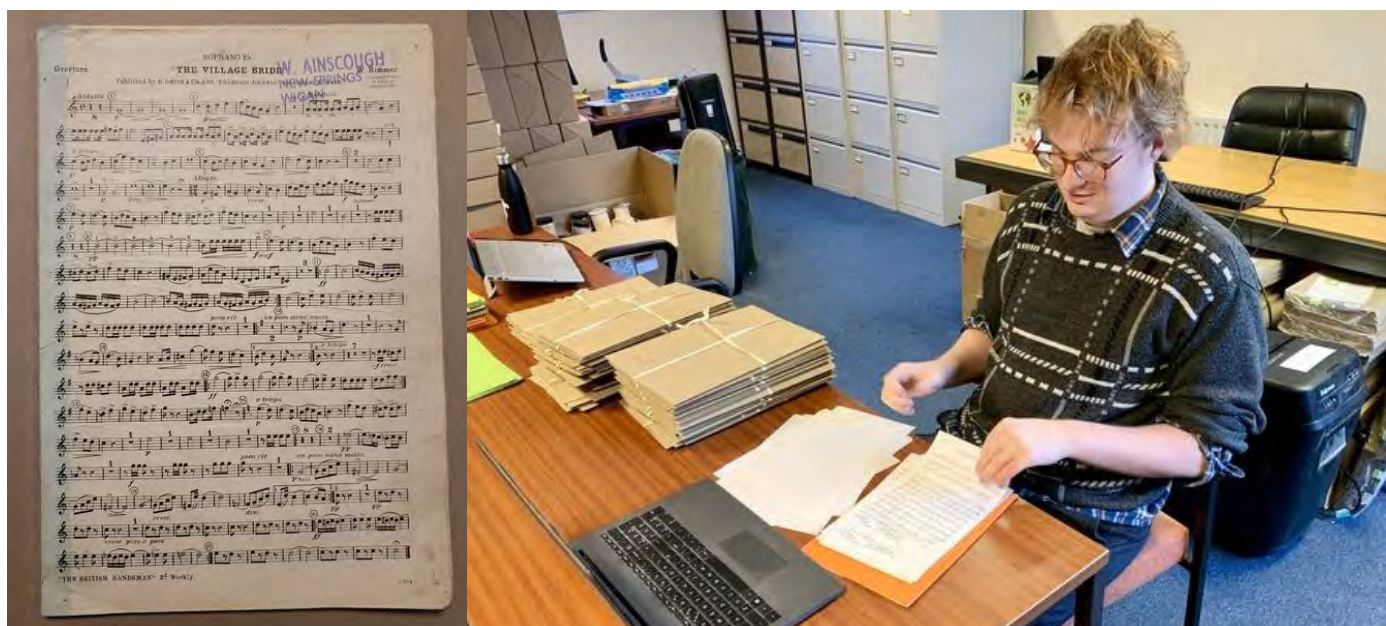
Covid has had such an effect on brass banding, and one consequence was that the usual venue for the Midlands Area Contest, Bedworth Civic Hall was unavailable. Lesley Bentley is secretary of the Midlands Area, and has been searching for a suitable venue that can accommodate five brass band section contests with over 80 bands. Eventually the Core Theatre at Corby Cube, Northamptonshire was booked, but it meant that the area contests had to be earlier than normal, at the end of February.

The test piece for Hathern Band in the First Section is Spectrum, composed by Gilbert Vintner for the British Open in 1969. It has featured as an area contest piece in 1976 and an 1996. The work is a musical depiction of the seven colours of the spectrum. It was a ground breaking work fifty years ago and caused controversy with the use of percussion and some saying that the work was just too difficult. That criticism eventually died down and the piece is now regarded as a classic. It proved to be Gilbert Vintner's last work, Terminally ill when he composed Spectrum, he died just one month after the British Open in 1969.

Hathern Band has been hard at work rehearsing Spectrum with little time before the contest, though of course it's the same for all bands. Let's hope it goes well. Good luck!



Chris Lends a Hand



Brass Band England are busy cataloguing their sheet music archive prior to it being relocated at the University of Huddersfield. Hathern Band's Chris Allen has been one of the volunteers carrying out this task, and catalogued the 4000th piece - The Village Bride by William Rimmer. A milestone, but that represents less than half the collection.

Chris said, "I've been volunteering one or two days a week since September. It takes five to fifteen minutes to catalogue a piece depending on how much material there is. We look for composer/arranger names, publishing date, number of items, name of piece, interesting facts, such as if it was arranged for a contest and stamps that indicate who owns the music. We also have to work out what is a photocopy and what is original, what is manuscript and what is typescript and the condition of the items. It's good fun and interesting to go through all the scores finding signatures of the big conductors and players. It's always cool seeing Eric Ball signatures and original manuscripts."



It's now the 250 Club as we have over 200 numbers taken!

The club provides welcome funds for our bands. If you'd like to join, it's £1 per number per month by standing order. If you'd like to join, please contact

Sam Peak

Email: sambigfootg@hotmail.com

Recent Results

November
£30 Dru Sparks
£25 Bart Baum
£20 Martin Clayton
£12 Rachel Miller
£10 Jim Gisborn
£10 Sam Hableton

January
£30 The O'Neils
£24 Lesley Bentley
£18 Jeremy Pratt
£11 Linda and John Wigley
£10 Gemma Olweny
£10 Steve and Lynn Plant

December
£30 Diane Powell
£25 Pauline Fletcher
£20 Jim Gisborn
£12 Mel & Steve Hope
£10 Rowland & Christine Tatton
£10 Mick Hale