



# Band News

## Winter 2022-23

### Number 31

## Christmas 2022.

It was really great to get back to normal this year and get out to play at Christmas concerts. In recent years the programme starts with a concert at St. Helena's Church at West Leake. West Leake is much smaller than nearby East Leake but has a claim to fame in that King Edward II visited in 1318 to sign the Treaty of Leake with his lords.

The concert took place on 2 December and as Dave Newman said, there's never any problem getting players for this gig as the Rev. Tim Parker and his church committee always put on a fantastic spread plus mulled wine for those able to partake.

This concert is a bit different because as well as playing some Christmas numbers, members of the audience have a book of Christmas carols and the band plays requests. The band played one piece of music that they hadn't played for 30 years, Little Donkey.



The Senior Band had eight engagements over the Christmas period including our regular visits to both the Melton and Hathern Christmas Tree Festivals, Carols at Hathern Church, and Carols at the New Inn, Coleorton.

We're already looking forward to next Christmas!





We were delighted to meet Marie Males once again. Mrs. Males was mayor of Rushcliffe in 1989 and Hathern Band played at her Mayor's Concert in Gotham. She was mayor again in 2010, and served for 40 years as a Rushcliffe councillor.

Mrs. Males brought along her copy of our recording Christmas Cracker on cassette which she said she often plays.



People come a long way to hear Hathern Band! John Kuhns was alerted by his daughter Lorna, who works in East Leake, that Hathern Band were playing at West Leake. A big fan of brass band music, John drove over from Northampton for the concert. John is a member of Northampton Pipe Band and during the interval told me some great stories including mishaps with kilts, which unfortunately can't be repeated here!





# Hathern Band Christmas Concert

by Gill Norris

My granddaughter happily plays tenor horn in the Hathern Training Band and played in the Christmas Concert on 17 December which we were able to go and watch. The trainees had bedecked their instruments with tinsel and baubles in some cases and most wore Santa hats – all very festive. They all seemed to thoroughly enjoy their rendition of Jingle Bells – as did we, their doting families and carers. As music teaching in schools has dwindled due to curriculum constraints it is a privilege to be able to see the enjoyment, confidence and pleasure that making music together can bring to children.

The programme for the concert was very varied, all Christmassy and included some pieces that were new to me. One was 'Who is he in yonder stall?' with words by Benjamin Russell Hanby an American hymn writer. He was active in The Underground Railway, which sought to help enslaved African Americans escape to freedom in the north and Canada. The tune was haunting and melodic and the words, found easily on the internet, are the story of Jesus from birth to resurrection – just beautiful. The other tune new to me was much more energetic. 'Schneewalzer' involved some of the audience swaying to the waltz rhythm and then jumping up, waving their arms and sitting back down at particular points during the chorus! Just when I had watched enough and thought I could work out the moves, it finished on a flourish and to great applause. The words to some of the Christmas carols the different groups played with expertise and joy, were included in our programmes and so we in the audience were able to join in, with gusto if not always with accuracy. As Eric Morecambe once said singing "all the right notes, just not necessarily in the right order"!

The concert was a showcase for the talented musicians who freely give of their time, not only to play and progress as musicians in their own right, but to encourage younger people to do the same. The Youth Band and the Senior Band members all showed us their musical talents and their efforts were rightly rewarded with applause and cheering. The Concert Brass are all very talented musicians and their expertise and enthusiasm shone in their playing as they brought out the colour, detail flow and wit of the music. The Hathern Band family showed us what we had been missing in not being able to attend live music concerts for some years. It was a delight and a privilege to see how people can really lose themselves in playing to others who share their joy and applaud their efforts.

The whole concert was an absolute treat! Thank you to all those who put so much effort into bringing us this excellent start to the Festive Season. Don't miss it this year!



**Just a few of  
our brilliant  
youngsters**



It's not often we hear a solo performance on bass trombone, but Joe Dobos-Southgate showed us what can be achieved on that instrument as the Senior Band performed Frosty the Snowman.

Chairman John Worsfold thanked everyone for coming along to the concert.



The Tom Dennis Trophy for the most improved young player went to George Hambleton. He wasn't able to be at the concert so it was collected on his behalf.

Dave Newman said, "George has worked very hard over the last two years and has made great progress. He is now full time in both Youth Band and Concert Brass. He's playing more often with the Senior Band too."



# On the Streets

As in 2021, the band played as three separate groups "on the streets" on 11 December. Groups played at the Cross, outside the Anchor Inn and at Daisy Bank. This year we embraced new technology and were able to accept donations by card!

A big thank you to all who came out to listen to the music and support us.





## Well Done George!

Twelve year old George plays cornet with the Youth Band. His dad plays cornet with the Senior Band. In recent years George and his dad have played outside the shops in their home village of Kegworth at Christmas time. This year George rounded up a few more players to play with him and his dad outside Oaklands the butchers and sandwich shop at Kegworth, and raised £150 for LOROS. Well done, George - (did you manage to get a sandwich?)



**George practising in  
the bandroom**

## Youth Band at Hathern Church

We had a brilliant Family Service on 5 February with the Hathern Youth Band back with us after three years of pandemic and lockdown. It was lovely to get back to "normal" and it was a great time for us all: congregation, parents, grandparents and band supporters.

John Worsfold

# Seb Burrows

The audience at our Christmas Concert can't have failed to have been impressed by the beautiful playing of the young man sitting in the Senior Band's principal cornet's chair.

That was Seb Burrows who has now been appointed principal cornet at the ripe old age of fifteen. We think he is probably the youngest principal cornet in the band's history. We featured Seb in the newsletter a year ago and we asked him for a bit more information.



"I was six when I started to learn the cornet at Hathern Band. Someone had come along to school with either a euphonium or bass, I went home and asked my mum if I could learn to play the trumpet without knowing what the instrument was! Friends recommended Hathern Band and I came along for lessons on the cornet, my fingers being too small for anything else at the time! I now play cornet and trumpet and I'm learning to play the piano and that is coming on fairly well. My dad plays classical guitar but my mum and brother aren't musical.

I'm studying for my GCSEs, my subjects being Maths, Physics, Fine Art plus Grade 5 music theory which I should hopefully be sitting anytime over the next month. I really haven't decided what I want to do later in life, but art - sketching, digital painting, things like that - is something I think I would like to pursue in the future. Whether that leads to a job in illustrating or designing - I think such a thing would really suit me. Of course, whatever I do, music is something I want to continue to pursue, it's something I really enjoy doing.



Another thing I enjoy is writing which I've been doing for quite a while. It's a dream of mine to one day publish a book I've both written and illustrated, though that won't be happening very soon.

I've been with the Band for nine years and am very privileged to now be principal cornet. Over the years I've grown to love the rehearsals all the more and am so glad that I stuck with it when I was younger. It certainly has paid off! I love playing with the band and look forward to where it will take me in the future."

Dave Newman said, "I'm proud once again that a youngster has come through our system to take the principal cornet position. Seb has worked very hard. He has been principal cornet for Concert Brass for the last two years and understands leadership. He's ready to move to the next level."

Seb's cornet is a brand new Geneva which was expensive. Veronica McDonnell, a patron for many years sadly passed away in January and her husband Patrick made a most generous donation in her memory which we've put towards the instrument. Veronica was very keen to see our young players develop.



# Hathern Band Forthcoming Engagements

- Midland Area Contest

Saturday 25 February, 12:00pm, *Core Theatre, The Cube, Corby*

- Brass and Voice (with *Loughborough Male Voice Choir*)

Saturday 13 May, 7.30pm, *Trinity Methodist Church, Loughborough*

## Midland Area Contest

The Senior Band is practising hard for the forthcoming Midlands Area Contest. This year the test piece is the intriguing *A Day in the Life of a Knight* by Philip Lawrence. It's inspired by 24 hours in the life of a "star" knight competing in a medieval jousting tournament. He arrives to capture the hand of a fair princess by vanquishing rival competitors, before showing himself also to be something of a star on the dance floor in the evening reception. (Knight Fever???)

After declaring his undying love, he heads off next morning to battle a dragon, which he soon dispatches in time to make it back for the wedding.

It's to be hoped that he took his armour off - if not there'll be a lot of work for our percussionists!



Our 200 Club continues to be a great success, providing welcome funds for our bands as well as paying out cash prizes to the lucky winners.

it's only £1 per number per month by standing order. If you'd like to join, please contact

Sam Peak

Email: [sambigfootg@hotmail.com](mailto:sambigfootg@hotmail.com)

### December

£30 Amber Lewis-Roberts

£24 Eileen Boyce

£16 Jenny Peak

£12 Jeremy Pratt

£11 Mike Hale

£10.50 Martin Clayton

### January

£30 Simon Baum

£24 Dru Sparks

£15 Lesley Bentley

£12 John Baum

£10 Ian Bartram

£10 Stephanie Bartram

### February

£30 Mark Needham

£24 Dave Newman

£15 John Worsfold

£12 Charlene Freeman

£10 Mel and Steve Hope

£10 Mike Wood

### HATHERN BAND AGM

**SUNDAY 30 APRIL**

**6.30pm BANDROOM**

**ALL PLAYERS AND**

**PATRONS ARE INVITED**