



# Band News

## Winter 2023-24

### Number 35

## LBBA Open Contest - We Came 5th



**Gary Wyatt at rehearsal**

At the time of the last newsletter the Senior Band was rehearsing for the Leicestershire Brass Band Association Open Contest. Gary Wyatt took many of the rehearsals and conducted the Band at the contest. We were delighted to have been placed fifth in the First Section contest. The Band has had a couple of disappointing results in recent contests which means relegation to the Second Section for 2024 .

The result has given the band a lot of encouragement and the focus is on achieving promotion back to the First Section.

Well done everyone and thank you Gary.

So off we set on our seasonal programme of concerts, kicking off with the Senior Band and a concert at West Leake church on 1 December. This is always a popular engagement for the band because the church puts on a great spread plus an amazing mulled wine (the bishop's wife's recipe). Part of the concert is sing along where the audience selects carols to play and sing.







On 3 December the Senior Band was off to Melton Mowbray to play at the ever popular Christmas Tree Festival. This is one of the largest in the country with over 225 large trees this year.

On 10 December the Hathern Bands split into three groups to play round the village-the first time we have played "on the move" since before Covid. Boy, did it rain! A big thank you to the people of Hathern for their support, and keeping us fed and watered. One group managed to dry out and play at the Dew Drop Inn!





After drying out, a group later played at Hathern's Christmas Tree Festival.



On 11 December members of Hathern Band who play with Barclaybrass were off to Southwark Cathedral in London to play in their annual carol concert.

On 14 December it was the turn of Hathern Youth and Concert Brass who played at Shepshed Baptist Church.







15 December found the Senior Band at Quorn Village Hall.

Part of the programme for one of our church concerts. To save blushes, we're not saying where!

Please stand

### Carol

Hark the Herald Angel Sing  
(Boney M.)

Hark! The herald angels sing  
"Glory to the new-born king  
Peace on earth and mercy mild  
God and sinners reconciled"  
Joyful all ye nations rise  
Join the triumph of the skies  
With angelic host proclaim  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
"Glory to the new-born king"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace

On 16 December it was our grand concert at **Hodson Hall** featuring all our bands.



Can something you have only done twice be called a tradition? I am beginning to think so. For me now, my traditional start to Christmas has to be the Christmas Hathern Band Concert. It was a mix of the old and the new to me. We had the words of well-known carols so we could join in the singing. The final decision about if we in the audience sang better than the people of Quorn had the night before was a bit vague, but at least those who joined in sang with gusto.

The arrangement of Away in a Manger was, for me, the highlight of the evening. As the widow of an Anglican priest, I have lost count of the number of times I have heard this carol. It had slipped down my list of popularity, but this new (to me) arrangement has put it firmly back in my Top Five. Beautiful! Special mention of the soloist in this carol, Seb Burrows, at sixteen he was amazing.

“O du fröhliche”, a German carol, was new to me, and the words when I looked them up later, seemed highly appropriate for the current state of some parts of the Middle East.

“Jingle-Mas”, played by the Hathern Training Band was a delight in my unbiased opinion. Once again, creativity with tinsel was apparent in the youngsters’ decoration of their instruments. My granddaughter chose purple and silver this year. All the young people in the various bands showed their enthusiasm and were encouraged by their conductors and other older musicians who helped. It is a joy to see them teach newer musicians their love of their craft.

Prokofiev’s “Troika”, Leroy Anderson’s “A Christmas Festival”, Tormé and Wells “The Christmas Song” and Berlin’s “White Christmas” are old favourites which were superbly performed and we can recognise, even if we are unsure of the names of their composers.

New to me this year was “The Tipteerers’ Carol”, which turned out to be also known as “The Sussex Mummers Carol” upon further research. Tipteerers or Mummers (possibly from the Greek word ‘mommo’ for mask) are players who went round villages putting on plays with a variety of characters from St George and the Dragon, Father Christmas, a Turk, a soldier and some ruffians. Mummers expected to be paid as they were usually local farm workers, laid off during the winter months and drinking and revelry usually ensued, leading to some mummers being banned in certain villages. These plays are still performed in Sussex, hence the alternative title.

I still have not mastered all the moves to “Schneewaltzer”, but once again half the audience took enthusiastic part and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Enjoyment and admiration are now an integral part of the audience’s reaction to the Bands’ performances. The music they play is entertaining as well as touching and my admiration for their dedication and musicianship is boundless. My thanks once again to all those who work so hard behind the scenes and the instruments in many unseen ways to bring us such an entertaining start to the Christmas season.

Gill Norris







The President's award of the Harry Smith Trophy for the young player who has shown particular commitment went to Seb Burrows (left) and Inigo Tristante received the Tom Dennis Trophy for the most improved young player.





Lessons and Carols at Hathern Parish Church on 17 December was the first Senior Band concert for Charlie (left) and Isaac.

Amber Lewis- Roberts used to be our bass trombonist and still fills in for us despite the fact that she lives in Sheffield. To recognise her great contribution to Hathern Band, Amber has been made an Honorary Patron.



Members of the Senior Band were at the New Inn, Peggs Green (left) on 18 December, then played at the hospital the next day and were at the Masonic Hall the day after that.

Our busy December programme was rounded off with members of Youth and Concert Brass playing at the Manor House Hotel on the 23rd.



And so we enjoyed our Christmas and New Year and were looking forward to a peaceful 2024 when the heavens opened and the River Soar broke its banks to arrive at the bandroom nearly a mile away. Yes, we were flooded. The water was ankle deep and thankfully no major damage was done. We've had a lot of mopping out and cleaning, to do.

Special thanks to Hannah and Sam Peak for all the work they have put in.



## Forthcoming Engagements

### March 2024

- Midland Area Contest

Saturday 2 March, 10:00a.m. *Corby Business Academy, Corby, Northants*

### April 2024

- WI Concert

• Saturday 13 April, 7:15p.m. *Birstall Methodist, Wanlip Lane, Birstall* Tickets

available from Penny Weston-Webb - 07754 892842 or pennywestonwebb2022@gmail.com



**Lesley Bentley Secretary Tel 01509 672029**

**Email [lesley.bentley@btinternet.com](mailto:lesley.bentley@btinternet.com)**

**[www.hathernband.co.uk](http://www.hathernband.co.uk)**

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December  
£30 Jenny Peak  
£24 O'Neils  
£15 Jim Gisborn  
£12 Andrew Haworth  
£11 Gemma Olweny

January  
£30 John Laurance  
£24 Mary Sibson  
£15 Jeremy Pratt  
£12 Will Fairlamb  
£11 Andy Bestwick

February  
£30 John Baum  
£24 Mike Hale  
£15 John Worsfold  
£12 Charlene Freeman  
£11 Jon Hill