



Band News

Autumn 2022

Number 30

President and Musical Director's Report to the AGM



The last two years have seen changes to all aspects of life, including banding. However, we have come through this in better shape than lots of bands.

We have the advantage of our bandroom, and so, after a small enforced holiday, we began to organise rehearsals for small numbers outside. Chris did the same with Concert Brass, and so we at least kept in touch and our lips in. Eventually we moved inside, in half-bands, and finally back to full bands.

This option, however, was not available to our Youth and Training bands. Parents were understandably wary of contact with others and so we could do very little for our younger players.

When we were allowed to continue as before we had lost a number of young players who, along with the rest of the population, made changes to their lives. We have, however, recovered the numbers, due in large part to our appearance with the youngsters at Hathern's Big Week.

The small groups outside during lockdown did give me an idea, however. We have re-organised the young players into small groups of comparable ability and this has seen quicker progress to a point where five players are now regulars with Concert Brass and some are having a taste of life in Senior Band.

The Band's diary has been less than full for the last couple of years, but this is gradually returning to something like normal. Thank you therefore to all the players, officials, Chris and Lesley, Sam, Andrew and John who devote time to children every Monday.

David Newman

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Concert Brass - Strength to Strength

Concert Brass is a vitally important part of the Hathern Band family and a key to the success of the whole organisation. It's an eclectic mix of players who have stepped down from the Senior Band, players who just want to play and youngsters moving up from the Youth Section to learn and gain experience. Added to that, the band is open to anyone which might mean lots of players in one section and not so many in another. An unusual band but it works!

Chris Groom has been the MD now for six years. He and Dave Newman work closely together to ensure that young players get the experience they need to progress on their way to the Senior Band. In the lower photo you can just spot Dave Newman playing in the back row cornets helping a youngster who is new to playing with Concert Brass.

At the AGM Chris said "The band is getting better week by week. We all knew it would be difficult to get back to the standard we were before lockdown. Concerts, especially the one at Knighton Park, were excellent with great feedback from people attending. Concert Brass proves that the Youth and Training Bands are working as we've gained some new young players and there have also been some new adult players. The band is going the right way but it will continue to be hard work keeping the momentum going since some players can't always attend. We usually have around 22 players. Thanks to everyone for all their hard work."



Geoff Colmer sent the following email to the AGM.

"I must say that Chris Groom does a first-rate job as stick of Concert Brass. In my opinion he is very well suited to the role and his rehearsals are focussed, plus everyone seems to enjoy them. Having attended several different, and local, musical groups in the area over the last year, I can definitely say his rehearsals are the best run".

Bridget Plimmer



Bridget is one of the unsung heroes of Hathern Band. She is our minute secretary and liaises with Lesley on Concert Brass administration. She recently also became Hathern Band treasurer, she says that it must be because she knows how to work Excel! We asked Bridget about herself and her musical journey.

"I play tenor horn with Concert Brass. I played the flute a bit in school and I can play the guitar, badly! I always liked the sound of a brass band so when I saw a (very!) cheap horn for sale about ten years ago, the opportunity was too good to miss. Then I just had to find out how to play it....

After meeting someone from the band when I went to one of their park concerts, I was made very welcome in the Training Band, and in my late forties, along with all the other learners, I always had my parents at engagements.

There's so much to learn! Thanks to the help received from many, many people I hope I'm improving. As well as Concert Brass, I've been to a few "playing days", and I've attended the Bolsover Brass Band Summer School (now the Elgar International Brass Band Summer School) four times. Since it started earlier this year, I've also been playing with the Ratby Daytime Band open to members of all bands who have a few hours spare during the week. And I've been asked to stand in with the Senior band a few times to cover absence - a bit intimidating at first, but a great experience. The small groups set up during Covid were a real boost. I've always been told to play louder and I have standing instructions that whatever is written on the score, I'm to play forte, so it was a personal achievement when I was told to "keep it down a bit" this summer!

Since I've cut down my working hours, I have much more time for other interests, walking, cycling, outdoor swimming and photography. We have an older dog, so it's only short leisure walks if she comes with us. My husband and I have converted a little micro-camper so there are adventures to be had. And when I get the chance, I'm going to extend the work my Dad did on our family tree. We have two children, both in their early twenties, but they never really leave home do they ?! They both learned instruments at school, and the younger one played cello with the Nottingham Youth Orchestra until she went to university. Rather than just wait in the car, I did my Grade V theory alongside her.

I really love playing with the band, even Hathern Streets at Christmas in the rain and snow. I've made some great friends at Hathern and it's wonderful that as an organisation new players are welcome at any age. Playing is a good way to relax, and whatever is going round in my head when I get to rehearsal, there is an hour and a half when I can't think of anything else than the notes in front of me."

Chairman's Report to the AGM

We've had the ups and downs of several different lockdowns, who would have predicted that? The first came as a temporary blip which we were sure would soon be over, but more followed more, and the pandemic is not over even now. We are, however, gradually getting back to normal, and taking on more engagements. Although 2020 and early 2021 was lost to us, we did manage a Patrons' Evening in 2021 but the Christmas Concert had to be cancelled. This year we've had several concerts in various parks and we are looking forward to a full programme at Christmas.



When we locked down we were contemplating a new extension to ease practices and be able to teach more and smaller groups, particularly on Mondays. At issue was whether or not to go for the Section 106 grant from the borough council. In the end, we decided not to apply because of the requirement to lease the building to anyone who wanted to hire a space, and we pride ourselves on our own band room, everything can be left out and made secure for the next rehearsal. The extension has been built and is in regular use, but funded by ourselves, free work from band members and their firms, as well as generous gifts from our Patrons, some of whom have become Life patrons (for a fee, of course!). It is working wonderfully well and is a great asset to the Band. We have made Honorary Patrons of John Baum, Gary Taylor and Mike Hale for their generosity and giving up so much time to do the work. We thank these three particularly for their efforts.

A consequence of the extension was the need to renew the lease with the Parish Council and the Land Registry, with the Trustees being updated too. After a lot of ground work, we decided that legal input was necessary and we have engaged a legal firm who are working on the finishing touches. As usual, a big thank you is due to everyone who does the background stuff, too. All those whose contributions enable rehearsing, concert playing and contesting to go ahead fairly seamlessly.

The Newsletters continue to appear at frequent intervals to keep the band in the minds of the Patrons and Friends of Hathern Band. Dave Neville's output is always an interesting read, with new aspects being dredged from the inner recesses of band history,

On the day-to-day management of the band, we are still getting to grips with GDPR, how we handle and keep secure the personal data we have to use in our daily band lives, and a new GDPR Policy is on the way. This will also set out our way of working with the data in a handbook format. We are also about to tackle the provision of card payments as we now lag behind current trends and will be suffering at Christmas on the streets as fewer and fewer people carry cash these days.

There have been a lot of changes to the make-up of the bands as always – thank you to all those stepping down or moving aside, and to those stepping up to fill their roles. We look forward to a full year ahead with Hathern Band bringing live music to Hathern and Leicestershire.

Thank you all for your support. John Worsfold

Oh, Listen To the Band!



The coronation of King Charles III will take place on 6 May. Some of us are old enough to remember the last coronation in 1953. Boy, did it rain! Let's hope for better weather this time. After the coronation of King Edward VII in 1902, Councillor W.H. Wootton presented a bandstand to Loughborough Corporation to commemorate the event. It was originally positioned near to the Granby Street entrance of Queen's Park, but before 1914 it was moved to its present, more central position.

In their heyday, there were over 1500 bandstands in Britain, many located in public parks and gardens. They were developed in Victorian Britain in response to a growing concern for health and well-being. Loughborough's Queen's Park was opened in 1899. Music was seen to have an influence on moral health, and so bandstands became focal points for entertainment.

Often designed with striking and intricate features, bandstands flourished until the Second World War. Nearly 600 bandstands were lost between 1945 and 1980. However since then, there has been renewed interest. Many historic bandstands have been given a new lease of life and even brand new bandstands have been built.



Concert Brass playing on the Queen's Park bandstand in 2018

Congratulations!



Many congratulations to Tom Wallage and Amy Stamp who tied the knot on 3 September at Deepdale Farm, North Yorkshire. Tom played cornet with us from 2012 to 2017 while studying at the University of Nottingham School of Veterinary Medicine and Science at Sutton Bonington. Amy also studied there. They are both now small animal veterinary surgeons, but don't work together. Tom is based in Alfreton and Amy in Stoke. The couple are living in Ashbourne. Tom now plays with Derwent Brass and Amy plays clarinet with Burton Concert Band. No surprise that one of their wedding presents was a piano and Tom says they are both having lessons.

And more congratulations to another Tom. After studying for a degree in chemistry at Queen Mary University, and for a degree in medicine at Warwick University, our former trombone player, Tom Dyer-Hill (once known as 'Shrimp') has graduated. He's now working as a junior doctor at Walsgrave Hospital in Coventry and has just completed his first three months. Tom began with the Training Band in 2006 at the age of nine; progressed through Concert Brass, and made his debut with the Senior Band in 2010. During his studies he has not been able to play with us, but he does find time to listen to his trombone hero, Joseph Alessi! Proud mum Lynne thanks the Hathern Band family for nurturing him.



Hathern Band Forthcoming Engagements

- Armistice Service

Sunday 13 November, 10:30am, *Hathern Church*

- Armistice Service and Parade

Sunday 13 November, 3:00pm, *Glenmore Park, Shepshed*

- Leicestershire Brass Band Association Contest

Sunday 20 November, 10.00am, *Loughborough Grammar School*

- West Leake Carol Service

Friday 2 December, 7:30pm, *St. Helena's Church, West Leake Church (HALF BAND)*

- Melton Mowbray Christmas Tree Festival

Sunday 4 December, 6:00pm, *St. Mary's Church, Melton Mowbray*

- Carols in the Streets

Sunday 11 December, 10:00am, *Hathern Cross*

- Hathern Christmas Tree Festival

Sunday 11 December, 4.30pm, *Hathern Church (GROUP)*

- Hathern Band's Christmas Concert

Saturday 17 December, **Note 6:00pm**, *Hodson Hall, Loughborough Grammar School*

- Masonic Hall Carols

Wednesday 21 December, 9:15pm, *Ashby Square, Loughborough (GROUP)*

- Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday 18 December, 6:15pm, *Hathern Church*

- Carols at the New Inn

Monday 19 December, 7:30pm, *The New Inn, Coleorton (GROUP)*



- Midland Area Contest

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



Concert Brass Forthcoming Engagements

- Armistice Parade

Sunday 13 November, 10:00am, *Queen's Park, Loughborough*

No, this isn't a Concert Brass engagement. The painting is entitled Christmas Eve and was painted by Stanhope Forbes in 1897. The scene depicts a local band playing outside the Dock Inn, Penzance. Members of Concert Brass will be playing on Hathern streets on 11 December and Concert Brass together with the Senior Band and our youngsters will be playing at our Christmas Concert at Hodson Hall on 17 December (See previous page).

Not to be missed!!



Our 200 Club is proving to be a great success. It's 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

Recent Results

August

£30 Dave Newman
£24 Jack Hunnybun
£18 R & C Tatton
£13 Michael Pearson
£11 June Hing
£11 L & J Wigley

September

£30 Diane Powell
£24 Alison Swift
£18 Dave Bentley
£13 Mike Wood
£11 Sam Hambleton
£11 Gemma Olweny

October

£30 Dave Neville
£24 Bridget Plimmer
£18 Sam Peak
£13 Peter Mason
£11 Stuart Morgan
£11 Dave Walker

November

£30 Lucy Ruddy
£24 Geoff Wood
£18 Mary Sibson
£12 Vanessa Harvey
£11 Brian Fletcher
£10.50 Julie Allsobrook

Stop Press!

We are delighted to announce that Geoff Wood has been appointed Principal Cornet in the Senior Band. We'll have an article about Geoff in our next newsletter.