



Winterley Methodist Brass Band



Founded 1938

Where Are They Now?

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RACHEL GODDARD

'I first started playing, not with Winterley Band, but with Berisford's Junior Band at the grand old age of 14. My younger brother John had already been playing for a few years with some success and I decided to follow in his footsteps. Berisfords gave me a flugel horn and Charlie Cook gave me some lessons and I went to Winterley Band to get some additional practice. Winterley Band was always very welcoming no matter who you were or how good or bad you were at playing. They allowed you to learn without feeling too nervous at the prospect of making a mistake.

Harold Newton was still conducting when I first went to Thursday night practices in the Sunday School room. A chair and a music stand would always be made available for anyone who turned up and wanted to play. When Harold Newton became ill and went into hospital, I remember the band recording a tape and messages for him in the hope that it would make him feel better. I still remember those little Wright and Rounds music books containing tunes with very politically incorrect titles.

After Berisford's Junior Band was disbanded, I moved on to Middlewich (later Roberts' Bakery) Band. Berisfords gave me the flugel horn that I had been playing and because Middlewich wanted me to change to tenor horn, I loaned the flugel horn to Winterley Band. I think it may still be there. I used to go back to Winterley Band for Band Sunday, the occasional band round and on Christmas morning in Haslington.

I thought I would retire from banding in 1981, but as soon as I had I done so, I was offered the chance of a lifetime to play with Foden's Band in the British Open Championships at Belle Vue Manchester. The band came 3rd and I became the first woman to be registered as a player with them. I was lucky enough still to be playing for Foden's when Winterley Band celebrated its 50th anniversary with a concert and dinner at Sandbach Town Hall. I expect Winterley Band's forthcoming anniversary celebrations will be just as enjoyable.'