



Winterley Methodist Brass Band



Founded 1938

75 Years Celebrations – Newsletter No.13



Golden Jubilee Celebrations - Band Sunday 1988

'NEW' BAND ROUND IN WINTERLEY – 15 SEPTEMBER



Please do your very best to support the 'new' band round on Sunday, 15th September. The aim is to raise awareness of the Harvest Festival on 29th September and Band Sunday on 24th November. We will start at the bottom of Pool Lane and also play in the Sandy Lane / Hassall Road area, before finishing at the church for coffee and biscuits. The round will commence at 9.30 a.m. and finish at approximately 11.00 a.m.

The Church Council has requested that any donations we receive are split between the church and the *St Paul's Pantry* (Crewe Foodbank). The Foodbank supports families in crisis by providing emergency food. If you know someone who would be willing to help collect please let Neil know.

MARK LANDON - GUEST SOLOIST

Our guest soloist at the 75 Years Celebrations Concert on 23rd November is Mark Landon. Mark is the principal percussionist with Foden's Band and comes from a typical brass banding family, Mark's first introduction into the brass band world came at the tender age of five when he began to play the cornet. But even under the influence of his father, Eric, Mark was still unconvinced that cornet playing was his destiny, and so at the age of twelve he began playing percussion at Delph Youth Band and Oldham Music Centre. He then progressed through Lees and Glodwick Band before settling at Dobcross Youth Band.

Since then, Mark went from strength to strength playing in many well-recognised bands, and joined the Todmorden Old Brass Band in 1998 when the band was promoted to the championship section. Under the baton of Eric Landon, Mark played for the Rochdale Youth Brass Band



for nearly 8 years, and in this time won the solo prize at the youth entertainment championships held at Blackpool's Winter Gardens.

Mark was a committed member of the National Youth Band of Great Britain for four years. During that time he was awarded several solo prizes for his hard work and virtuoso playing, becoming the NYBB's first principal percussionist in 2001. Mark is now very proud to be the percussion tutor for the National Youth Brass Band of Scotland and attends their yearly course in St. Andrews. When Mark is not at band, he works as a peripatetic music teacher in the Manchester area.

Joining the Foden's Band in 1999 has been an excellent move for Mark. Since then he has had the opportunity to play alongside some of the country's leading percussionists and has worked his way up through the ranks, thus earning himself the title of Foden's Principal Percussionist in 2000. As principal percussionist Mark is often seen centre stage as one of the band's leading soloists and he is keen to promote himself as a guest soloist.

CHARITY CONCERT for THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

As part of their Harvest Festival weekend, Audlem Methodist Church has invited the band to perform a concert on Saturday, 28th September at 7.30 p.m. in aid of the charity The Farming Community Network (FCN) and tickets cost £5 (including refreshments). FCN provides practical and pastoral support for farmers and for farming families during times of need, anxiety and distress which stem from the farm business or from within the family. FCN also operates a national confidential telephone helpline which is available from 7.00 a.m. until 11.00 p.m. every day of the year.

FORMAL PHOTOGRAPH OF THE BAND TO MARK 75 YEARS

A formal photograph of the band is long overdue, and so to commemorate our 75 Years' celebrations, Kim has kindly organised a photographer to be present prior to the concert at Audlem on 28th September. Please make sure you are there early and your instrument is looking its best.

COFFEE EVENING

Thank you to Caroline and David Lowe for hosting the Coffee Evening in their lovely garden at School Farm on Thursday, 4th July. Thanks also to everyone who helped to put up the marquee, staff the various stalls during the evening, and tidy everything away at the end. The event raised £190 for band funds.

HAVE YOU RECEIVED YOUR INVITATION TO THE 'BIG EVENT' ON 23rd NOVEMBER?

The distribution of invitations to the 75 Years Celebrations event at the Oakley Centre, Crewe on 23rd November 2013, began at the end of August.

The programme for the evening is as follows: 6.00 p.m. – Reception, 6.30 p.m. – Meal, 8.30 p.m. – Concert.

Everyone is invited to bring a partner or a guest, and you are asked to reply to the invitation by 30th September. We still need help with the distribution of some invitations. Neil has a list of those still requiring delivery – can you help?

COMING SOON: Winterley 'Brassed' and Present – 75 Years of Music Making

Winterley 'Brassed' and Present tells the unique story of Winterley Methodist Brass Band. In the first section, "*Thank you for the music*", it records the chronology of the band's musical journey, and includes biographical details about all the Musical Directors. The book then explores several themes under the title of "Thank you for the memories". These include some interesting and amusing experiences.

Copies of this illustrated book will be available in the early Autumn.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? – Michael Shenton

As part of the 'countdown' to our 75 Years Celebrations, some former members have kindly agreed to write a few paragraphs about what has happened to them since they left the band. This article is by Michael Shenton, former euphonium player with Winterley.

"As a less than successful potential piano player following lessons in younger years, which I hated! I first started 'learning' to play the cornet when I was 12 years of age. It was thanks to the considerable patience of Harold Newton who took me through that all too critical period for anyone in their early days of learning. For Harold's wife May, it was an even more excruciating experience as these early lessons took place in their front room - she was a lovely lady.

"My early days of playing were mostly on Anniversary Band Rounds during the summer months with the highlight of the year being the Christmas rounds including Christmas Day morning. I had the privilege and pleasure of playing with some real characters, including some of the founders. I recall with fond memories the likes of Dave McClymont, Eric (Ric) Barnett, Cliff Barnett, Harold Newton, Bob Fleet, Derek Antrobus, Don Antrobus, George Tomlinson, Marc Newton, Alan Warburton, Brian Bispham, Dave Newton, Terry Jones just to name a few and, happily, the many others that followed over the years helping keep this very special band alive. To this day the band retains its unique status amongst other local bands, players and learners alike.

"Over the years that followed, my second cornet background graduated through most valve instruments and settled with the Euphonium which I loved and my interest in playing moved forward with a greater commitment. I had the good fortune of playing with Middlewich Band which later became Roberts Bakery Band whilst still always playing with Winterley.

"There came a time in my working career with Fodens that took me overseas, initially an assignment working in the diamond mines of Sierra Leone for a 3 months term. It wasn't long after my return that I continued my travels with several stints in other parts of West Africa before I eventually moved to what became my full time base in Saudi Arabia, responsible for the Middle Eastern Region across to and including India.

"I returned to the UK in 1980 and married my wife Lyn later that year. My playing days had sadly become very numbered and whilst I did play again, I wasn't playing enough due to increased work and family commitments hence I allowed it to fall away, with much regret.

"Happily, some years on and now retired, I still have my own instrument and have recently spent time with my granddaughter Lydia, helping teach her to play the cornet alongside tuition she has received at the Dingle School, courtesy of Kevin Birch. She's a natural (but then I would say that!) and my hope is that she continues with it when she goes to Sandbach High School in September this year.

"I retired over 7 years ago and just don't know where the time has gone, finding it difficult to figure out how I ever found time to work. With our two sons both living and working in Dubai, I'm kept very busy as their gofer here, but we do have the benefit of making visits out there. Otherwise, I keep myself ever busy and occupied, play some golf and enjoying other holidays abroad whenever we can afford.

"There's no doubt in my mind that banding is a great institution and wonderful to be a part of, to enjoy with other like-minded people who become friends, practice and work hard to improve with a great sense of achievement. Winterley Methodist Brass Band has a very special place in this fraternity having an 'always open door' for anyone to come and have a blow. It's made such an immeasurable contribution to the community over many years - long may it remain.

"I'm very much looking forward to the weekend of celebration in November marking the Band's 75 years history and to meeting some very good friends once again."

CONGRATULATIONS

Many congratulations to Georgina and Tim Buckler on the occasion of their wedding on Saturday, 3rd August.

CONDOLENCES

Our sincere condolences to Richard Birchenough following the death of his father.

GET WELL WISHES

Best wishes to Arthur Jury – Senior Steward at Winterley Methodist Church, who has now returned home after a stay in hospital following a stroke. Thank you Arthur for all you have done to support the band over many decades.

NEXT 75 YEARS CELEBRATIONS PLANNING MEETING

Tuesday, 24th September at 7.30 p.m. at 12 Newtons Lane.

NB. This is preceded by a 'site' meeting at The Oakley Centre, Crewe at 5.00 p.m.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

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| 7 th September | - CONCERT – Coppenhall Methodist Church 7.00 p.m. start |
| 15 th September | - Band Round – Winterley (Pool Lane) 9.30 – 11.00 a.m. approx. |
| 28 th September | - CHARITY CONCERT – Audlem Methodist Church 7.30 p.m. |
| 23 / 24 th November | - 75 Years Celebrations Reunion Event & Band Sunday |

Neil Barnett - 75 Years Planning Group Chair
1.9.13