



Winterley Methodist Brass Band



Founded 1938

75 Years Celebrations – Newsletter No.14

LOOKING AHEAD TO 23rd & 24th NOVEMBER



Lions Youth Brass at the 2012 Nationals

The Lions Youth Brass – Our entertainers on 23rd November



The Lions Youth Brass will be providing part of the entertainment at our 75 Years Celebrations event at the Oakley Centre, Crewe on 23rd November. The youth band was formed in 1989, taking its name from the Lions Clubs around South Cheshire who agreed to sponsor the band through annual donations, and still do to this day.

Nigel Birch, the Musical Director Lions Youth Brass, hails from Sandbach in Cheshire, and from the age of twelve started to play the cornet at Haslington Boys Brigade Band. Within twelve months he went on to play for the Roberts Bakery Band.

In 1984 Nigel left Roberts Bakery to fulfil a lifelong ambition of playing for the famous Foden's Band. Whilst with the band he was fortunate to play under some great conductors, such as James Scott, Richard Evans, and most notably, Howard Snell. After a few successful years with Foden's, Nigel rejoined Roberts Bakery, where he finished his playing career.

In 1990 Nigel took up the conductor's baton, and joined the Lions Youth Brass. It was soon evident that Nigel and the band were an excellent combination, and in 1994, and then again in 1995, Nigel guided the band to becoming the Champion Youth Band of Great Britain.

Nigel left the Lions Band in September 1996, and at that time became band manager for the Roberts Bakery Band. Nigel was persuaded to rejoin the Youth Band in August 2001, and has since won multiple awards and played concerts all over Europe.

Over the years Nigel has played many times with Winterley Methodist Brass Band. Can you spot him in the photographs on pages 28 and 69 of Winterley 'Brassed' & Present? Nigel is married to Helen and has two daughters, Charlotte and Franczeska.

Mark Landon – Our guest soloist on 23rd November



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. 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.

Mark joined Todmorden Old Brass Band in 1998 when the band was promoted to the championship section. Under the baton of Eric Landon, Mark also 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.

Joining the Foden's Band in 1999, he became the Principal Percussionist in 2000.

Band Sunday – Sunday 24th November

On Band Sunday we look forward to welcoming back Rev Frank E Bishop to lead the worship.

Frank served as Band President during his ministry at Winterley from 1967 – 1972. He led his first ever Band Sunday services on 24th November 1969, at 14.30 and 18.30.



My very best wishes to you all

The following letter has been received from Revd. Ivor Mann, a former member of the band, who grew up in the village and attended the Sunday School as a young man. He returned for the Golden Jubilee (1988) and Diamond Jubilee (1998) celebrations, and led the worship at both Band Sunday services in 1988. Ivor is now a supernumerary Methodist minister and lives in Storrington, West Sussex. He writes:

Dear Neil,

Many thanks for the information about the Band 75th Anniversary celebrations and the invitations to the events. Although I will not be able to attend I wish you all continuing success and a long life to come.

By now I suppose I count among the dinosaurs among past members of the band. I think it was in about 1947 that Eric (Barnett) took me and Marcus (Newton) into the vestry one Sunday morning after Sunday School, handed him a cornet and me a euphonium. We learned a simple scale, took the instruments home and within about three weeks were in the band. I thoroughly enjoyed all we did – the band practices, the visits to other chapels to play in neighbouring streets, and trundling round in the snow at Christmas time.

I joined the Royal Navy in January 1950 as an Electrical Artificer Apprentice. For four years I was a bass player in the apprentices' volunteer band, striding out and puffing and blowing with great pride in our parades. Later, on a huge warship, I played again in a crew's volunteer band where we paraded with great aplomb. Once in later years I was able to borrow an instrument from the local corps of the Salvation Army and became an item in a chapel concert. All good stuff.

I wonder if I envied the cornet players? I recall Marcus, Derek and Donald (Antrobus) and, of course, Cliff – having such small instruments to strap to their bikes when I had to clean and strap on my monster when we all went round the villages. But we attracted the girls! It wasn't easy on my mother's sit up and beg bike.

A few were sometimes late and were reminded to get up and get there on time by a very gentlemanly gentleman who somehow managed to arrive early. (It wasn't Bob Fleet – he and Mrs Fleet were two of Winterley's saints: don't forget it). But this respectable gent – in the days of George VI of course, would ask, would you be late if you had to meet the King? NO. Then don't be late when you are going to meet the King of Kings. I've never forgotten that.

My very best wishes to you all.

Ivor

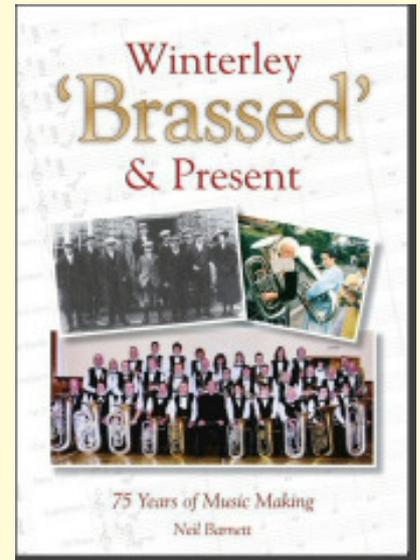
Looking for an unusual Christmas present to give to your friends and family?
Look no further!

WINTERLEY 'BRASSED' & PRESENT – 75 Years of Music Making

This illustrated book tells the unique story of Winterley Methodist Brass Band and has been written to coincide with the band's 75 Years Celebrations. The first section, *Thank you for the music*, 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. To obtain your copy please contact Neil Barnett or email your name and address to winterleybrassband@gmail.com

Copies of the book are priced at only £5 (Special offer – 2 for £10!) All profit will go to the band.

Please, please do your very best to sell some copies and/or promote the book.



Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!



'New' Band Round in Winterley

Thank you to the twenty one people who supported the 'new' band round on Sunday 15 September. The aim was to raise awareness of the Harvest Festival on 29th September and Band Sunday on 24th November. The donations received totalled £120 which has been split between the church and the St Paul's Pantry (Crewe Foodbank). Special thanks to the collectors and to Sheila for brewing up afterwards.

Charity Concert at Audlem

The Charity Concert at Audlem Methodist Church on Saturday 28th September raised £415 for *The Farming Community Network* (FCN). Our sincere thanks to everyone who helped to make the concert a success.

We are pleased to report that Barclays Bank have agreed to provide 'matched funding' (ie. £1 for every £1 raised). This means that the charity will receive a final total of £830.

Formal Photograph Of The Band

Thank you to Michael Hawkes for stepping in at short notice to take a formal photograph of the band prior to the concert at Audlem Methodist Church on 28th September.

The image can be viewed on the Home page of the band website. Our thanks also to Alan Casey, for placing the photo on the new permanent link which we now have at Haslington Online – the Haslington Parish website.

The Band Party – Friday 3rd January 2014

Caroline and David Lowe have kindly agreed to host the band party again. The date is Friday 3rd January 2014 and the price, only £10. If you wish to come please give your names and money to Kim.

Why not join us for some good fun and excellent food?

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? – Lisa Wilkinson

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 Lisa Wilkinson, former tenor horn player with Winterley.

I had absolutely no choice...

"You're going to learn to play a brass instrument. Ask your teacher if he has a tenor horn." Those were my mum's words when I started at Sandbach High age 11. I suppose it was always going to be. Her dad was Harold Newton, one of the founders of the band and teacher to so many of the local brass players. Mum had always said that he refused to teach her and Auntie Aud because they were girls and it wasn't the done thing! So, I was to take up the challenge for the girls in the family.

As soon as I got my horn I started to play in the Chapel Band. Rehearsals were every Thursday night and what a mix of players they were! Where else would beginners get to practice alongside players with years of experience or others who had popped down for a blow from Foden's? Where else would you be able to have such a laugh with family and friends of all ages, and hear the stories about all the 'goings on' on band rounds and on Band Sunday? (One of my favourites - a quartet one year, playing 'Clouds and Sunshine'. Half of them did the repeat, the other half didn't, resulting in mum nearly falling off the pew laughing and Mike Shenton so hysterical he couldn't blow a note).

Mum forcing me to play was actually a great thing. I joined youth bands and travelled all over the world with them, playing in some amazing venues, making lifelong friendships and generally having a fantastic time. To anyone who is just beginning to play – keep it up, the social life is terrific! (Parents – try not to think about it...)

I left the Chapel Band when I went to do teacher training in Manchester, but always came back (as does everybody) for band rounds, particularly on Christmas morning. I started doing that one in my pram, and it feels strange not to do it so much now. Non- banding friends can't understand that, but Christmas morning with the Band is very special.

I played with a number of bands from round Manchester, but ended up playing for Glossop Old Band. They were in the Championship section and so I was lucky enough to play at the Open and the Nationals a few times. It was also at Glossop where I met my husband, Stuart. (We were two thirds of the horn section; I mentioned the social life...)

We live in Romiley near Stockport. I still teach, but I'm not playing at the minute. I keep up to date with banding as Stu plays at Fairey's. I obviously get all the Winterley news from Auntie Aud. and Rupert. I'm looking forward to the 75th celebrations. (Good grief, I remember the 50th so well. Oh no, I'm old. When did that happen?). It will be tinged with a little sadness at mum not being there as she always loved 'a band do'! Our two fabulous children Sam, 10 and Sophie, 5 are going to come with us, so the generations of our family will be well represented. They haven't started playing yet. Maybe they will. Maybe they'll have no choice...

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

23 November	75 Years Celebrations Reunion Event	18.00
24 November	Band Sunday	18.15
30 November	Middlewich – Carols	11.00 – 14.00
5 December	Warmingham Church (recording for Hospital Radio)	19.30
7 December	Wheelock Hall Farm – Carols	11.00 – 14.00
12 December	Wheelock CE Church – Concert	19.30
20 December	Haslington Village Green – Carols	19.00 – 19.45
22 December	Winterley – Band Round	09.30
25 December	Haslington – Band Round	09.00

and Finally . . .

The January / February edition of the 75 Years Celebrations Newsletter (No.15) will be the last in the series. I hope that you feel that the newsletters have kept you up to date with what the 75 Years Planning Committee have been working on since 201. My very special thanks to the members of the committee - Hazel, Jenny, Caroline, Jill, and George, for all their hard work during the last three years.

If you have any items or special memories for inclusion in the final 75 Years Celebrations newsletter, please send it to me by Friday 20th December. Thank you.

Neil Barnett - 75 Years Planning Committee Chair
30.10.13