



Winterley Methodist Brass Band



Founded 1938

75 Years Celebrations – Newsletter No. 16

Bi-Annual Newsletters

Welcome to the first of Winterley's twice-yearly newsletters, following on from the monthly bulletins issued during the run-up to the 75th Anniversary celebrations last year. The aim is to provide a general round-up of news and events to supplement the weekly notices at rehearsals and the updates on our website and Facebook page. All contributions welcome!

Facebook



Winterley Methodist Brass Band now has its own Facebook page, which exists to post updates about forthcoming events and concerts and generally cast our net wider into the community, hopefully attracting new members for both the senior and trainer band in the process, as well as promoting our concerts. The website (www.winterleybrassband.org) continues to carry the bulk of our ongoing news, concert reports, diary dates and photos. We are trying to reach 100 Likes on Facebook, so please spread the word!

PA system donated

A second-hand Roland PA system (speaker and amplifier combined) has been kindly donated to the band by long time Winterley supporters Janet and Bill Field. We may still require a microphone and stand, so please let Neil know if you are aware of one available.

New instruments at Winterley

The committee recently approved the purchase of two brand new items, cannily sourced from Germany by Richard: a tam tam (a must-have for an increasing number of brass bands) and a top notch bass drum (including a stand). Christmas has definitely come early this year for the percussion team. Fingers in ears, trombones.

Musical chairs

Following Brenda's departure, the Committee has accepted Neil's offer, as current Vice Chair, to cover her position until a new Chair is appointed at the AGM in February, 2015. Sarah Edwards has kindly agreed to be co-opted to the committee in order to take meeting minutes until then.

Uniforms

In response to our expanding membership, Fiona is ordering 10 more waistcoats and bow ties. So if you don't yet have a uniform or need to swap your current waistcoat for a different size, please see Fiona

Fundraising

Target for Winterley Brass Band & Methodist Church:

£5,000

£1,170 = Funds raised to date by the Band
£1,600 = Funds raised to date by the Church

We're over halfway there!

COMINGS AND GOINGS AT WINTERLEY

Changes...

Over the last six months or so it's been great to see some new faces in the band: Steve Oldham (EE_b bass), Duncan Hamilton (BB_b bass), Lloyd Owen (repiano), Rachel Hubball, Edward Rhodes and Ruth Rhodes (cornet), and Henrietta Thompson (percussion). We've also welcomed back a few old faces too, in the shape of Ernie Broughton (trombone, who also provides a very handy bass part when required!), Peter French (baritone), Katy Lowe (trombone) and Daniel Rowlands (solo cornet), who had taken a break from the band during his GCSEs, and he is to be congratulated on passing with flying colours. We are also very fortunate to have Granville back full-time, making everything sound wonderful with his soprano cornet.

We also lost some key, longstanding members of the band. Tim Bennet (solo cornet) took up a job in Surrey at the beginning of the year. Rob Beckett (principal cornet) left to start teacher training in London this autumn, and Brenda O'Dowd (solo cornet) recently moved to Norfolk with husband Seamus (the band's photographer). Euphonium player Dave Woollam has also moved on, following a promotion to the Coop Funeralcare Band, but has kindly volunteered his services at concerts if required.

Highlights

July

Eight car loads took part in a challenging treasure hunt, penned by Richard, which raised £40 for the building project and culminated in a debriefing session at the Bear's Paw in Warmingham.

September

The band played to a very appreciative audience at Yoxall Hall, Haslington, in a concert organised by St Michael and All Angels Church, featuring the band's usual diverse repertoire. Kim gave a beautifully captivating rendition of the timeless classic, *"I'm in the Mood for Love"*, while Georgina impressed with a performance of James Curnow's *"Fantasy for Trombone"*.

The packed programme featured plenty of foot-tapping numbers (*"Swinging Safari"*, *"Happy"*), in contrast with more atmospheric pieces such as the *"Band of Brothers Theme"* and *"Irish Tune from County Derry"*. The band also played an arrangement of the hymn tune *"St. Clement"*, as requested by the church. Interestingly, the words for *"The Day Thou Gavest Lord is Ended"* were written in 1870 by Rev. John Ellerton, chaplain to Lord Crewe and vicar of St Michael's.

Neil interviewed former MD Paul Vickers, thanking him for his service to the band and his efforts to boost membership during his time as conductor.

Building & Renovations Project

Planning

The planning stage continues apace, thanks to Neil's unstinting efforts, with the project now divided into two stages. Phase 1 involves providing a separate building for the Goslings Pre-School. The focus of phase 2 is modernising the main building. The cost of this work is estimated to be around £100,000.

The band recently became a member of Brass Bands England, a development that led to Neil meeting with Rev. Malcolm Lorimer and Rachel Veitch-Straw, BBE's Liaison and Funding Officer, to discuss potential sources of funding for the project. She expressed her admiration for the way in which both the trainer and main bands were organised.

Connie Grayson, from PTC Community Trust, also came along in order to assess the project location, with a view to helping the planning committee secure additional funding. All three emphasised to Neil the vital importance of our bands as key users of this space and of our existing links with the wider community, which should lend considerable weight at the funding bid submission stage.

Building & Renovations Project *Contd./*

Fundraising

CD sales, raffles and various fair stalls combined to raise over £330 by the end of May. The hugely successful Garage and Attic sale held in September boosted this figure by a further £796.53, a fantastic effort from everyone involved, particularly the energetic band of helpers who sorted items on the Friday evening, and the dedicated selling team who manned the stalls. Special thanks must go to Janet for the refreshments, David Lowe and Joe Hassall for providing vital transport, and Andy Stapleton for recycling a heap of left-over metal for a further £23!

St Peter's Church, Elworth, has kindly offered us free use of their new premises to hold a fundraising concert.

Sponsored Music Event

In 2015 we are aiming to run a sponsored event based on the idea of a Hymntuneathon. If you are able to volunteer any other combinations of instruments that could feature (along with both bands), please let Neil know.

In the absence of sufficient inspiration, we will be forced to deploy Plan B: the ever-popular Three Peaks with brass band instruments and summit performance challenge!

Did You Know?

Kevan was once a keen Morris dancer— although he maintains he never waved a hankie. Perhaps this calls for a performance of The Morris Dance from Henry VIII?

Forthcoming Events

Sat 29 Nov - Carols in Middlewich 11 a.m. – 1.45 p.m. (location tbc)

Sun 30 Nov - Band Sunday 6.30 p.m.