



Winterley Methodist Brass Band



Founded 1938

75 Years Celebrations – Newsletter No.10



Band Sunday - guess the year.

FUNDRAISING TARGET ACHIEVED

Thank you to everyone for enabling us to exceed our fundraising target of £2000.

At the AGM on 7 February members were informed that the twelve events had raised the magnificent total of £2243.67. All the money will be used to help meet the costs of the 75 Years Celebrations, including the re-union event in November.

LIFE VICE-PRESIDENT

Many congratulations to Hazel Sandlands (Eb Bass) on being voted a Life Vice-President of the band at the AGM. She is also to be thanked for hosting the numerous 75 Years Celebrations planning group meetings at her home since May 2011. Fifteen years ago she also hosted similar meetings for the Diamond Jubilee celebrations.



COMMISSIONING OF NEW MUSIC

The band has now received the draft band parts for the arrangement which Adam Taylor has been working on. Once we have had a first look at the music, Adam wishes to travel up from London to join us for a rehearsal, in order that he can undertake any 'fine tuning' of the piece.

BAND SUNDAY 2013

We have invited Rev Frank Bishop to lead the worship on Band Sunday - 24 November 2013. Frank served as the minister of Winterley Methodist Church and as our Band President from 1967 until 1972 when he moved to Oxford. He chaired the band AGM on 31 January 1969 at which it was decided to hold the first ever Band Sunday on 2 November 1969. There were two services at 2.30 pm & 6.30pm, both led by Frank. We look forward to welcoming him and his wife Sheila (who is also a minister) back to Winterley.

NEW UNIFORM

The new band waistcoats and bow ties will be worn for the first time at the concert in Wheelock on Saturday 20th April. Your waistcoat will be numbered and you will be asked to sign for it. Please note that your old waistcoat must be handed in to Fiona before she will issue you with a new one.

A THANK YOU FROM THE TRAINER BAND

The members of the Trainer Band would like to thank Ben for organising the party food at the end of their rehearsal on 10th January. Thank you also to Erica for making the delicious cakes.

THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC - PRE 1938

The following article is part of a longer one which was written for the March editions of the Haslington & Winterley Methodist Church newsletter and the Haslington Parish News.

'Why did a small group of young men want to start a brass band in Winterley? A clue to the answer to this question lies in the annual Sunday School Anniversary. Each year the children and choir would sing special music at two services on the Sunday and again on the Monday evening. A special guest preacher was invited to preach two sermons, which is why the older generation often referred to the Sunday School Anniversary as the Sunday School Sermons.

"For the three Sundays prior to the Anniversary, the scholars, teachers and choir would tour different parts of the village singing hymns and publicising the special services. They would also invite donations for the Sunday School. Invitation leaflets advertising the services and containing a list of the donations which had been received in the previous year were given out.

"A receipt from 1923 shows that the Wheelock Heath Prize Band was paid £1, '...for services rendered by the above Band on the occasion of the Anniversary Services'. The receipt is signed by the band secretary Mr J. J Henshall of 94 Waterloo Road, Haslington. The document informs us that the band has a 'splendid' uniform and a full set of silver plated instruments. It also states that, 'The above band of 20 efficient men are open for engagements and solicit a share of your patronage.'

"For those of you who may be wondering how long the band existed, records show that in 1880 the Wheelock Heath Prize Band came fifth in a contest at The Rudyard Hotel, Staffordshire; and in 1909 they took part in a contest in Haslington. Nine bands performed, including Silverdale (1st), Congleton (2nd), Woodcock Wells (3rd), Tarporley and Clutton (4th), Audley Mission and Crewe Temperance.

"The test piece was Amber Witch, composed by W. V. Wallace and arranged by a well known composer and arranger of brass band marches William Rimmer.

"Children growing up in the Sunday School at Winterley in the late 1920s – early 1930s were therefore very familiar with having brass instruments to accompany them on the annual 'singing rounds'. An entry in my grandfather's (Arthur Barnett) diary for 10th July 1927 records, 'Went first round School Sermons without any band'. A week later he records, 'Went second round School Sermons – four instruments & music'.

"A photograph from 1928 of the Wheelock Heath Beer & Bacca Band (as it was sometimes known) can be found hanging in the Hollybush Inn in Winterley and shows just four players. The band probably ceased to meet within a few years of this photograph.

"It is perhaps therefore not surprising that in 1938 a group of young men at the chapel (brass bands were not deemed appropriate for girls in those days) decided to found a brass band to be known as Winterley Methodist Sunday School Band."

Our thanks to Jimmie Charles who is endeavouring to obtain a set of band parts for Amber Witch for us to have a look at.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? – Marc Clarke

As part of the 'countdown' to our 75 Years Celebrations, some of our former members have kindly agreed to write a few paragraphs about what has happened to them since they left the band. This article is from Marc Clarke:

"I don't suppose I really had an option . . . Harold Newton, my grandpa, was a founder member of the band, and mum's cousins David and Mark (Newton), who both learned to play at Winterley, were also both fine players with Foden's Band. It was clear that Harold's eldest grandson (me) had to play too!. Can't say I was a confident or willing learner, I certainly wasn't good and grandpa was a demanding teacher. I quickly learnt that it was better not to play at all than dare to put a bit in and it sound awful - especially when playing in a quartet.

"I think it was 1969 when I first blew a cornet, but sadly I can't remember too much of the first few years – I do remember though the early band rounds, largely as tremendously exciting rides, e.g. in the front of Warburton's cattle truck jammed between driver and grandpa (Oakhanger Band Round), and we trekked as far afield as Bradfield Road (Crewe), Sandbach Heath and Silverdale to help promote their anniversaries.

"These Sunday morning trips helped me improve quickly as often the band were few in number, and holding down second cornet hymn tunes alone became my forte! Before grandpa rewrote the tunes on double sided card in permanent ink you dreaded a wet round for obvious reasons. Journeys to band rounds got even better soon after as Mike Shenton had a red Rover 2000 and I got to sit in the front – what more could a young lad want? I enjoyed Thursday evening practices too, especially those led by Cliff Barnett, they were good fun.

"After grandpa died in 1972, Cliff took me under his wing and he ensured I was a band regular for ten years. A recurring highlight during that period were the refreshments during the Winterley rounds, e.g. sat at long trestle tables, munching away at some smashing fare at Mary Shenton's home in Newtons Lane. I vividly remember Remembrance Sundays, too, as I played (quaking in my boots and terrified by the responsibility) 'The Last Post' at Wheelock Cenotaph year after year, until I left for London and university in 1979.

"I occasionally returned to play a bit part in Band Sunday(s), or to listen to the amazing tales from Alan (Warburton) and Derek (Antrobus) as we strolled round Winterley and Haslington at Sunday School Anniversary, or Christmas time. Very happy days.

"Banding ended for me on graduation in 1982 as I moved to Hull. Married in 1983, Enid and I moved to Hedon (east of Hull) to take up teaching posts in Withernsea.

"In 1986 we relocated to the West Midlands, where we still live, and continue to impart knowledge (ha-ha) to the younger generation! Despite living 60 miles from Winterley we're regularly back home and are kept abreast of all band news by mum (Audrey), David (Newton) and Paul (Vickers). Very occasionally I have recently been spied struggling to put in a bit of "tops" during a band round.

"At our church in Kingswinford, Enid leads worship by playing the piano and I look after all things AV, sorting sound and vision each Sunday. Steadfastly I have hidden my cornet-playing light under a bushel since leaving Winterley, despite often being asked by church and school, "Do you play anything?" I think if you ask anyone who's ever stood next to me whilst playing over the years, the answer might well be a resounding "no" anyway!

"One last thing. When did Haslington Boys Brigade Band play in the fourth section of the National Championships? I can't remember the year, but I do recollect playing a diddy (and dodgy) Repiano solo after much patient coaching from David "Bandmaster" Newton. We were drawn first out of 26 I think. Our soprano cornet player failed to turn up, but we didn't come last. The test piece was a horrid composition named "Blenheim", and many of my fellow Winterley Methodist players were involved that day too.

"It'll be great to meet so many familiar faces again during the 75th celebrations.'

Please let us know if you have the answer to Marc's question.

NEXT PLANNING MEETING

The last planning meeting was held on Tuesday 29 January 2013.
Thanks to Hazel for hosting the meeting and to Jill, Jenny (& Neil) for attending.
Next meeting – Tuesday 19 March at 7.30pm at 12 Newtons Lane.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

20 April - CONCERT at Wheelock Methodist Church 7.30 pm
4 May - Warmingham Wakes 1.30pm
18 May TBC - Haslington Fun Day 10.45 am
19 May - Songs of Praise at Haslington
4 July - COFFEE EVENING at School Farm 6.30 – 8.30 pm
23 / 24 November - 75 Years Celebration Re-Union Event & Band Sunday

CONCERT

Please encourage your family and friends to support our concert at Wheelock Methodist Church on Saturday 20 April at 7.30pm. The concert provides us with an opportunity to say thank you for the numerous occasions when they have provided us with an alternative rehearsal venue eg. when Winterley is in use as a Polling Station.

AND FINALLY....

Best wishes to Cliff French for a speedy recovery following his recent operation. Cliff was the secretary of the band from 1972 – 1991.

Neil Barnett - 75 Years Planning Group Chair
7.3.13