



Winterley Methodist Brass Band



Founded 1938

75 Years Celebrations – Newsletter No.11



The First Band – 1938

*Back Row: Eric Barnett, Cyril Bailey, Harold Newton
Front Row: Roy Antrobus, Clifford Barnett, William Newton, David McClymont*

How old do you think they were? The answers can be found at the end of this newsletter.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE FIRST BAND

At least two different photographs exist of the first *Winterley Methodist Sunday School Band*, as it was known in 1938. One photograph was taken in the rear garden of Hawthorn Villas, Wheelock Heath, the family home of Eric and Clifford Barnett. The other photograph is the one above – the observant ones amongst you will notice the metal railings behind the players, rather than the brick wall which exists today. An article about the early years of the band appears later in this newsletter.

YOUR INVITATION TO THE 'BIG EVENT' ON 23rd NOVEMBER

The invitations to the 75 Years Celebrations event at the Oakley Centre, Crewe on 23rd November, 2013, will be available for delivery during the second half of August.

The provisional programme for the evening is as follows:

6-00 p.m. – Reception; 6-30 p.m. - Meal; 8-30 p.m. – Concert.

Everyone will be invited to bring a partner or a guest, and you will be asked to reply to the invitation by 30th September.

ADAM D. J. TAYLOR

Our sincere thanks to Adam Taylor for arranging *Peacefully Round Us* for the band, and for making the journey from London to join us for the rehearsal on 28th March.



Adam graduated from the Royal College of Music in 2012 (principal study trombone) with a B.Mus.(Hons). He now teaches trombone and brass in London and Oxford, and is a published composer and arranger.

While he was at the Royal College of Music he studied with Roger Harvey the co-Principal Trombone in the BBC Symphony Orchestra, and Lindsay Shilling, Principal Trombone with the Royal Opera House Covent Garden.

Adam's arrangement of *Peacefully Round Us* sensitively compliments the words and tune of the original hymn. The original tune was composed by C.E.Kettle (1833 – 1927) and appears in the *Primitive Methodist Hymnal Supplement* of 1912. Interestingly, the supplement was commissioned by the Primitive Methodist Conference which met at Tunstall in 1910.

For those of you who have never sung the hymn, the words are:

PEACEFULLY ROUND US

Peacefully round us the shadows are falling,
Glad be our praises and trustful our prayer!
Hear us, O Lord! on Thy providence calling,
Lighten our darkness, and banish our care!

Hushed are the sheep-bells afar on the moorland,
O'er the still meadows the night breezes sweep,
Faint fall the footsteps in city and hamlet,
Safely the children are folded in sleep.

Softly may weary ones rest from their duty,
Bright be the dreams of the troubled and worn!
While through the shade beam the stars in their beauty,
Watching the world till the breaking of morn.

Lord of the night! let Thine angels befriend us!
Sunshine and gloom are alike unto Thee.
Lord of the day! Let Thy Spirit attend us,
Bless us, and keep us wherever we be!

AMBROSE NICHOLS BLATCHFORD (1842 -1924)

Ambrose Blatchford studied for the Unitarian ministry at Manchester New College in London. He also received his BA degree from London University. Blatchford's hymns were written for the Sunday school anniversary services at Lewin's Mead Meeting, Bristol and were adapted to existing tunes. The words for *Peacefully Round Us* were written in 1878 and are based on Psalm 139 verse 2, "*The darkness and the light are both alike to thee.*"

THANK YOU

A big thank you to George Laycock for meeting Adam at Crewe station, taking him for a meal and then bringing him to Winterley. Similarly our sincere thanks to Seamus O'Dowd for taking photographs during and after the rehearsal. To view some of them just visit the band website.

SECOND PIECE OF COMMISSIONED MUSIC RECEIVED

The band has now received the band parts for a new piece which has been specially composed for the band by Kevin Birch. Kevin says 'I wanted to write a piece that encapsulated a typical morning out on the band rounds'. The result is "To Praise Thy Name". Once we have had a first look at the music, we hope to invite Kevin to join us for a rehearsal. More information about the piece will appear in the July/August edition of the newsletter.

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY – CAN YOU HELP?

The Band and Trainer Band are playing as usual at the annual Haslington Fun Day on the Village Green on Saturday 18th May. The bands are asked to play from 10.45 – 12.00. Last year the band also had a stall which raised £90 for band funds. Whilst we still have a few items 'in store' which were left over from last year, we would still welcome any donations of 'as new' items for the stall. We also need offers of help to staff the stall during the morning or afternoon.

AMUSING STORIES

Neil is endeavouring to record something about the 'journey' which the band has undertaken since 1938. If you have a particularly amusing band-related story or incident which stands out in your memory, please write it down (in no more than 150 words) and hand it to Neil by 15th June. Thank you.

THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC – A BAND IS BORN

The following extracts are part of an article which I wrote for the April editions of the Haslington & Winterley Methodist Church newsletter and the Haslington *Parish News*.

'No instruments, no music and no money! This was the reality which faced the founders of Winterley Methodist Brass Band in 1938. The group of young men who took on the challenge quickly realised that they would need to organise themselves and decide how they would be able to fund the resources they needed. This led to them agreeing to pay weekly subscriptions and to appointing a president, secretary and treasurer, all of whom were teenagers.

..... the band's founders are to be admired for committing themselves to pay a subscription of 6d per week, in order that they could fund the band. With the advent of the Second World War and the resulting financial hardship, a meeting was held on 15 May 1940 when it was agreed to reduce the subscription to 3d per week.....

During those early weeks and months the players had to practice hard and in some cases they also had to learn to read music. Whilst there is no record of when the band officially played for the first time, I can be certain that the band did play in 1939, as my grandfather's diary records the following information for Christmas Eve 1939 - "Went round carolling with the band from Sunday School. Nice Night".

..... a new chapter in the life of the band commenced in October 1943. This was the introduction of a trainer group of school boys. They were referred to as 'Lads' in the record of subscriptions, and they each paid 1d per week. Basic instrumental tuition was given and this was mostly done by Harold Newton and Eric Barnett.

A formal photograph of the band from 1948 includes the following - eight cornet players, one tenor horn, one baritone, one euphonium and an Eb Bass, plus Harold Newton holding his conductors baton.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? – Rachel Goddard

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 Rachel Goddard (*nee* French) – Senior Lawyer with Cheshire East Council.

'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.'

NEXT 75 YEARS CELEBRATIONS PLANNING MEETING

Tuesday 14th May at 7-30 p.m. at 12 Newtons Lane.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

4 th May	- Warmingham Wakes 1-30 p.m.
18 th May	- Haslington Fun Day 10-45 a.m. to 12.00 noon
19 th May	- Songs of Praise at Haslington 6-00 p.m.
4 th July	- COFFEE EVENING at School Farm 6-30 to 8.30 p.m.
6 th July	- Yoxall Village Hall Centenary (Haslington) 2-00 to 4.00 p.m.
28 th September	- Charity Concert: Audlem Methodist Church 7.30 p.m.
23 rd & 24 th November	- 75 Years Celebration Re-Union Event & Band Sunday

GUESS THE AGES - ANSWER

Back Row: Eric Barnett (16), Cyril Bailey (30), Harold Newton (29)

Front Row: Roy Antrobus (15), Clifford Barnett (14), William Newton (16), David McClymont (17)

Neil Barnett - 75 Years Planning Group Chair

2.5.13