



Winterley Methodist Brass Band



Founded 1938

75 Years Celebrations – Newsletter No.12



Winterley Methodist Brass Band 1948

*Back Row: Eric Barnett, Dave Newton, Dave McClymont, Cliff Barnett, Bob Fleet, George Tomlinson, Harold Newton
Front Row: Derek Antrobus, Marcus Newton, Alan Warburton, Don Antrobus, Eddie Sproston, Sydney Wright*

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 in aid of the charity *The Farming Community Network* (FCN). 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.

TO PRAISE THY NAME

Our sincere thanks once again to Kevin Birch for composing *To Praise Thy Name* to mark the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the band. The title he has chosen, is the second line of the hymn *Sweet is The Work* (Deep Harmony).

You can read below Kevin's description of how he 'shaped' the piece in order to paint a musical picture of a band round.

"My starting point to tackling the band's commission was the band's website, looking into how and why the band was formed and that it provided an opportunity for Christian witness in the open air. I wanted to write a piece that encapsulated a typical morning out on the band rounds. This led me to the first lines of the hymn:

***'When morning gilds the skies,
My heart awakening cries
May Jesus Christ be praised!'***

(Tune: *Laudes Domini*)

The first line of music to this hymn provides the basis of the opening of the piece, which sets the scene to the backing of some simmering percussion which depicts the cold and frosty mornings in which the band often plays, with the timpani part providing the footsteps as the band sets off. The sun comes out with 'New every morning is the love' (Melcombe), leading to Deep Harmony (Sweet is the Work my God, my King), you will hear little references to Cwm Rhondda (Feed me now and evermore) and 'All things bright and beautiful'.

The second section is based on Deep Harmony in 7/8 time. It is to describe lively interaction between the players as they walk from place to place to play. When they arrive they play the hymn tune "Elsie", a favourite of my great friend and mentor (during my time at Audley Band) Granville Jennings, it comes first as a quartet and then for full band.

The final section starts with a little fugue of "Lord of the Dance". Often towards the end of the rounds the players swap instruments, so everyone gets chance to play the tune here as the fugue passes through the sections of the band. This leads to a full band more triumphal version of 'When morning gilds the skies' with cornet and euphonium continuing with the 'Lord of the Dance' theme. The piece ends as it began with the 1st bars of the hymn."

KEVIN BIRCH – Brief Biography

Kevin was born in 1960 in Congleton, Cheshire, into a family with a real musical tradition. He pestered his mum and dad to learn to play the piano and followed on to the church organ, continuing in the footsteps of both his father and grandfather. As a result of his father's interest in following the Fodens Motor Works Band conducted by Rex Mortimer, Kevin used to go and listen to rehearsals at the bandroom in Elworth.



It was the Foden connection which led to his involvement with Brass Bands. He joined the Middlewich Band (now Roberts' Bakery Band) on Second Baritone and progressed through Solo Baritone to the Solo Euphonium Chair. Following a short break he was asked to join the United Co-op Crewe Band by Roy Sparkes and played in various positions, spending time on Horn, Baritone and E₁ Bass. He was also bandmaster for a while.

Whilst he was at Roberts' Bakery he started to arrange and compose music for brass bands. His conducting experience started with Tarporley Band and in 1994 he was asked by Granville Jennings to take on the post of Musical Director at Audley Brass. In 2007 he was honoured to accept the position of Composer in Residence of the United Co-op Crewe Band. At the end of 2011 he followed in his father's footsteps when he was appointed as Organist & Director of Music at St. Mary's Parish Church, Sandbach.

THANK YOU – HASLINGTON FUN DAY

Special thanks to Sheila Wood for looking after the band stall at the Haslington Fun Day on Saturday, 18th May. By selling some of the remaining items, which were donated for the various stalls in 2012, we raised a further £24 for band funds. Thank you also to Ben & Erica for their cake stall and 'Have a blow' table. One or two visitors to the stall expressed a serious interest in learning to play a brass instrument one of whom, Oliver, has since joined the band.

COFFEE EVENING

Thank you to Caroline and David Lowe for hosting the Coffee Evening at School Farm on Thursday, 4th July. Thanks also to everyone who has offered their help during the evening.

'NEW' BAND ROUND

A 'new' band round which is designed to raise awareness of the Harvest Festival and the band's 75 Years Celebrations, is planned to take place in the Pool Lane / Sandy Lane area of Winterley on Sunday, 15th September from 9.30 – 11.00 a.m., approx. Please do your best to support this event. There will be refreshments at the end.

YOUR INVITATION TO THE 'BIG EVENT' ON 23 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.

THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC – PASSING ON THE BATON (1970s)

The following extracts are part of an article which was written for the June edition of the Haslington & Winterley Methodist Church newsletter and the Haslington *Parish News*.

“.....By 1972 Harold Newton had conducted Winterley Methodist Brass Band for well over thirty years. At each AGM he had always been willing to continue in the post of Bandmaster and had led the band in this crucial role for year after year. Sadly, Harold became seriously ill in that year and eventually passed away. As a tribute and a mark of respect, the band played the hymn tune Deep Harmony outside his home and then walked in formation in front of the hearse, before playing Arizona outside the church prior to the funeral service.

During the early 1970's Harold had reinstated regular weekly band practices, and as a consequence the membership had grown significantly. Those who attended on a Thursday evening each week remember sitting in a large semi-circle, with top cornets at one end and Bb Bases at the other. The band did not possess a storeroom or even a cupboard at this time, just a single drawer under the stage where the stands were kept.

.....During Harold's illness, Cliff Barnett stood in as the temporary Bandmaster, but he felt unable to continue in this role when invited to do so at the following AGM. As a result a special meeting was held on 8 February 1973 to discuss who might be approached to take up the conductor's baton. After a long discussion, the new position of Musical Director was created - "to be musically responsible for the band". The meeting also agreed that "some tutorial assistance would be found". Sadly, 1973 was also the year in which the band found itself saying 'farewell' to another founder member who had died – David 'Dave' McClymont.

And so by 1974 the baton had passed from one person (Harold) to a team of three: Cliff Barnett became MD, Roy Sparkes (Bass player in Foden's Band) became Conductor, and John French (who was later to play with both Foden's and Black Dyke) as Assistant Conductor. Cliff held the post of MD continuously until 1994, however the post of 'Bandmaster' was re-instated in 1976 and held by Michael Shenton for two years, before Cliff French took on the role until 1980.....”

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? – Daniel Keen

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 Daniel Keen – former principal cornet with Winterley.

“After leaving Winterley Band I went to Leeds College of Music where I graduated with a 2:1 Honours degree in music. Whilst at LCM I conducted a number of ensembles, including stints with the West Yorkshire Symphony Orchestra and Amadeus Orchestra, as well as lots of Musical Theatre work.

On leaving LCM I took part in the BBC2 documentary 'A Band for Britain' as a conducting contestant, and was subsequently appointed the conductor of Bunbury Singers, where I have been for nearly 5 years. I have recently been appointed conductor of Biddulph Male Voice Choir, and ran a staff choir at Alton Towers last year. My connection with Alton Towers comes from 2011 when I left my PGCE course and was in need of work. I went to work at Alton Towers for a year whilst I found something else, but ended up falling in love with the place and never left. I am now responsible for operating Rita and Thirteen as well as a number of children's rides, and train the new staff in the safe operation of the rides.

I founded the Alsager Arts Festival in 2010 after organising concerts with big name singers at the Victoria Hall in Hanley for a number of years. What I consider to be the crowning glory of my life so far happened last year when I performed in the Opening Ceremony of the Olympics, it was a lot of hard work, but was an amazing experience that I loved every minute of.

As you can tell I am constantly busy doing lots of different things and am very happy with the balance I currently have between my day to day working life and my musical life. Although my musical life is mainly conducting now, I do still play for Rode Hall Silver Band when time allows and regularly dep for orchestras and brass bands in Yorkshire from my time at university.

I am also a columnist and reviewer for The Sentinel newspaper and have my own weekly Radio Show. As of 2013 I also run the Alsager Carnival and will be a fully accredited local preacher in the Methodist Church by the end of the year. If you want to know any more about me you can check out my website: www.danielkeen.co.uk this is still under construction, but will hopefully be fully up and running soon!"

NEXT 75 YEARS CELEBRATIONS PLANNING MEETING

Tuesday 16th July at 7.30 p.m., at 12 Newtons Lane.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

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| 4 th July | - | COFFEE EVENING at School Farm, 6.30 – 8.30 p.m. |
| 6 th July | - | Yoxall Village Hall Centenary (Haslington), 12.30 – 1.30 p.m. |
| 14 th July | - | Open Air Service at Nantwich Methodist Church, 10.30 a.m. |
| 7 th September | - | CONCERT – Coppenhall Methodist Church, 7.30 p.m. |
| 15 th September | - | Band Round – Winterley (Pool Lane), 9.30 – 11.00 a.m. |
| 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

27.06.13