

The Word On The Wind

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Malmesbury Concert Band

Written by Tony Fleming (Musical Director)

The Malmesbury Concert Band is pretty typical of many community wind bands. It has a long history, going back to 1859 in our case - although it has not had an unbroken existence since then, and its full history can be found on our website. It is also available in printed form for £4.00 (plus p & p). We are about 30 strong and do not audition members welcoming all-comers, subject to vacancies, and try not to rely on augmentees except when absolutely unavoidable! Like many similar Bands, we perform in Bandstands in local Municipal Parks (on 3 or 4 occasions during each summer) and for fetes and other ad-hoc events both inside and outside. The highlight of our year is our annual Musical Extravaganza in Malmesbury Town Hall in November, which is always well

attended and gives us an opportunity of preparing a varied Programme of original music for Concert Band as well as transcriptions of popular and classical works.

We also have a prestigious annual commitment for Remembrance Sunday at the historic Malmesbury Abbey, where we perform before the Service, play for the hymns and provide a Trumpeter for the Bugle Calls. A slightly unnerving incident occurred last year (2012) when the organist, played the introduction to one of the hymns and, having just dropped his music,

guessed (incorrectly) the key in which it was to be played! You can imagine how disconcerting it was when the Band came in for the first verse - but playing in the key that had previously been agreed!!

We are always looking for additional members and engagements and contact details are available on the website.

For more information on the band, visit the website:

<http://www.freewebs.com/malmesburyconcertband/>



How to Join the Association

To become a member of the Association please download a membership form from the WBA website or contact the Treasurer who can send one to you.

Please complete and send to the Association Treasurer at 104 Boswall Terrace, Edinburgh EH5 2BW.

The subscriptions are £15 per year, payable on 1st April 2014. Cheques should be made payable to **Wind Band Association**.

If you wish to pay by Direct Debit or Standing Order, please contact the Association Treasurer for details.

Benefits at present for members are: discounted fees for the annual Wind Band Festival; all other events presented by the Association; a half yearly newsletter; and a chat forum on the website. In the near future we hope to obtain discounts for members from various music publishers and shops.



Rosyth Concert Band at Lathalmond Vintage Bus Museum

Written by Maili Konczak

For anybody who doesn't know where Rosyth is, it's on the other side of the Forth from Edinburgh. Playing at the Father's Day event at the Lathalmond Vintage Bus Museum has become an annual day out for the band and this year was my first time.

As ever, with a young family and several commitments happening on the same day, I was late. I had been given instructions we were playing in one of the hangars. Confronted with several, over a large area of ground, carrying a

small toddler, with my husband carrying all my gear (good job I only play the flute), we raced across the area dodging people and vintage cars, shouting 'I can't hear any music yet'. It turns out Bill McCance was starting accord-



ing to the old clock on the wall, which luckily for me was 10 minutes slow!

We (eventually) played two sets of music of an hour each including, Les Miserables, Casino Royale and Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid whilst sitting in the middle of a large number of buses.

My young son decided band music was boring and the highlights of his day were sitting inside a small bus with a steering wheel and (not) sharing an incredibly large ice cream with his dad!

Meet Your Regional Representative

South of England – Stephen Biddlecombe

I am the Southern Area rep. I live in Cowplain about 10 miles outside of Portsmouth. I play several instruments not all to the same level. My main instrument is the Trombone, Percussion beginner, Flute played rarely, Guitar and piano beginner. I play with two big bands The Starlight Big Band and the Langstone Big Band, and 3 brass bands Spinnaker Brass, Portsmouth City Band and Blendworth Brass band. I also guest with Tadley Brass band. I love theatre,



walking, running, squash and travel. I hate band politics and go to bands to relax and play.



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Letters to the Association

Bagshot-Basingstoke Concert Bands Concert

The website www.bcband.org.uk/Proms2013.htm contains photos of the two bands' joint concert at Roth-erwick which Cathy O'Carroll and Kate Gregory, WBF stalwarts at-

tending again this year, organised. I thought it might be of interest to encourage other WBA members to hold joint concerts of their own.

Brian O'Carroll, by email

Thanks for sharing these with us Brian, what a great idea. It looks like a brilliant time was had by all. Maili



Summer in Sunny Somerset

Written by Louise Price

The summer season for the Taunton Concert Band has got off to a sunny start. The Training Band had their first solo performance in the bandstand at Vivary Park in Taunton over the May Day Bank Holiday weekend and were very well received. The standard of the training Band has improved considerably over recent years along with an increase in numbers.

The main band enjoyed the warmth of Wellington Park for their first outdoor summer concert

ahead of other venues including Vivary Park, Taunton; Blenheim Gardens, Minehead and Blake Gardens in Bridgwater.

Both bands are practising lots of well



known pieces of music for the upcoming 'Stage & Screen' concert, including Selections from Les Miserables, Starlight Express and soundtrack music from Pirates of the Caribbean and The Cowboys.

The highlight of the summer for the band will be a trip to Munich in August which will include playing at some great venues, a bit of sightseeing and no doubt a few 'Biers'.

Farewell Webbington

Written by Kevin Lamb

Having spent the last two festivals in The Webbington Hotel, it's time to say a fond goodbye to not only a great hotel, but a great couple of festivals! I'm sure you will all agree that our time in the hotel has been excellent.



We now can look forward to two years "up north", where we will be ensconced in The Britannia Hotel at Newcastle Airport. The hotel is ideally situated right next to the airport (in fact you can walk from the terminal to the hotel in less than five minutes!). It can also be reached by train and there is a good road network to the hotel too. The hotel has plenty of rooms and two good-sized conference rooms for full band rehearsals. Hotel parking is plentiful and they have WiFi and all mod cons!

This will be our first visit to the North-east and I know we will receive a warm welcome from the wind band enthusiasts there.



The dates for next year's festival are Friday 24th October to Sunday 26th October. I hope we see you all there!

What's On

2013

October

12 Spinnaker Brass

Fernham Hall, Fareham

25-27 Wind Band Festival

Webbington Hotel, Loxton

November

02-03 Rosyth Concert Band

Dunfermline High School, Dunfermline

23 Malmesbury Concert Band

Malmesbury Town Hall, Malmesbury

December

8 Capital Concert Band

Inverleith St Serf's Church, Edinburgh

14 Rosyth Concert Band

Rosyth

2014

March

29 Capital Concert Band

Inverleith St Serf's Church, Edinburgh

June

14 Capital Concert Band

George Square Theatre, Edinburgh

October

24-26 Wind Band Festival

Britannia Hotel, Newcastle

