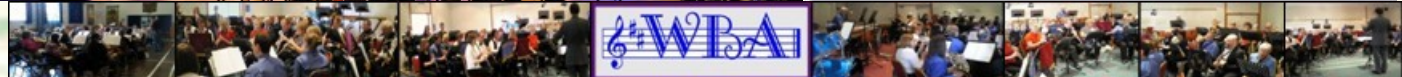


The Word On The Wind

ISSUE 3, OCTOBER 2015



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WIND BAND FESTIVAL
2014

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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 2016. 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 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.

The Big Blow!

Jean Aldred

On Saturday the 9th May the first ever Wind Band Association Big Blow was held in Edinburgh, hosted by the Capital Concert Band.

Thirty Seven people attended from nine different bands from Edinburgh and the surrounding counties:

- Bristo Community Concert Band
- Capital Concert Band
- Dunedin Wind Band
- Edinburgh Concert Band
- Peebles Concert Band
- Leith Community Concert Band
- Regal Wind Band
- Rosyth Concert Band
- Kirkcaldy Orchestral Society

This included three conductors, Sarah Cunningham from Edin-



burgh Concert Band, Sarah Neish from Dunedin Wind Band and Kevin Lamb from the host band.

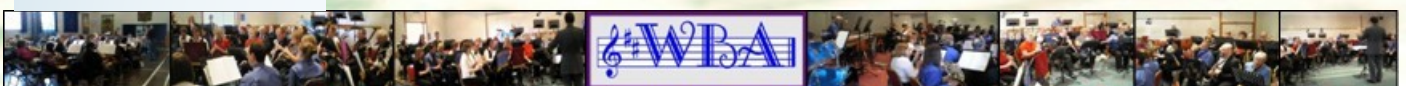
It was a great day playing a large variety of music with great conductors and a great experience for all standards of musicians.

We met friends old and new and while stopping for lunch sampled



a large variety of home baking and browsed through many books and CD's that were for sale.

Everyone went home very tired but happy and looking forward to the next one.



What's In A Name?

Kevin Lamb

Symphonic Wind Band, Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Wind Orchestra, Symphonic Winds, Community Wind Band, Community Concert Band, Wind Band, Concert Band the list is endless! Unlike Brass Bands or Orchestras, we do not have a 'corporate' name that the general public can associate with. Okay, in a local area such as a village or small town, a particular band may have a substantial following, but, on a national scale, we have a problem. The general public (nationally) just don't know who we are, or what we do musically.

It is certainly not helped by the proliferation of names associated with 'wind bands'.

Let's concentrate on the generic term of "community band" as I suspect most of us in the Wind Band Association, can relate to the concept.

If we use the premise that a Community Band, whether they incor-

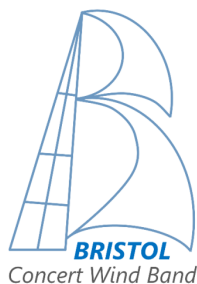
porate the words 'concert' or 'wind' in their title or not, are there to entertain the local population and importantly gain their support both in attendance at concerts and financially. It requires a strong commitment from all members of the band to play an active role in all aspects of band life. That doesn't just mean turning up for rehearsals once a week (or whenever it suits); it doesn't just mean it's something to do on a particular night of the week; and it doesn't just mean coasting along whilst other members take on all the responsibilities both musical and administrative.

Community Bands, by their very nature and indeed by their very title, ironically require a higher degree of commitment than a professional musical ensemble. Professional groups have an admin staff to look after the day to day running of the organisation; a professional conductor responsible for the musical programmes

and performances; the group probably have 'roadies' to look after the kit, music stands and the like, and put them all up for the performers to just turn up, sit down, and play. I think it would be a unique Community Band that had any of the above!

So, where does that leave us? The word 'community' means "a group of people", "a society", "a commune", "a cooperative". I suppose we could say "one for all, and all for one". Sadly all those definitions pale into insignificance if the Community Band doesn't get the full support of its members. It's sad to say, that usually, it's left to a small dedicated group within the band to organise everything the band does

How much better would your band be if everyone associated with your group became part of your community?



Bristol Concert Wind Band are seeking a new Musical Director.

Due to personal circumstances our highly respected and successful Musical Director has had to resign. We are therefore looking for a highly experienced MD to lead the band to even greater heights. More details will follow but feel free to speak to Kevin and Will (committee members) or Nicola (Acting MD) over the festival weekend.

Bristol Concert Wind Band rehearses on a Wednesday night in Brislington, Bristol and is the senior band of the BCWB organisation. The band performs a wide variety of music at a very high level. You can come and listen to the band on November 14th at our formal autumn concert at Trinity Henleaze United Reform Church to see what we can do.



Capital Concert Band in Gibraltar

Jean Aldred



On 8th April 2015, 26 members of the Capital Concert Band and the Herald Trumpeters of Scotland travelled to Gibraltar.

We caught a flight from Edinburgh to London with no delays, then boarded the flight to Gibraltar. Due to the French Air Controllers strike we sat in the plane for two hours waiting for an air space so we could take off.

On our approach to Gibraltar the pilot advised that because of high winds we may be diverted to Malaga but he would attempt a landing and if he didn't manage first time he would try again as long as it wasn't too much for the capabilities of the plane. Luckily we did manage it first time but it was very scary with the wings of the plane nearly touching the sea on the left

hand side at points.

Once we arrived and had settled into our hotel we had the Wednesday night free to walk round Gibraltar. It was not the temperature we were expecting with it only being about 16 degrees most of the time we were there. It was warmer in Edinburgh while we were there.

The next day we walked down to the band room of the Royal Gibraltar Regiment where we were warmly welcomed to their wonderful new facilities. We rehearsed with them for periods on the Thursday and Friday as we were joining them in a concert in the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity on the Saturday. This was a wonderful experience with both conductors sharing the conducting. After the concert we headed back to the band room where we socialised with the Royal Gibraltar Band.



On the Friday we travelled to the top of the Gibraltar Rock in the Cable Car and spent the whole day walking up and down the rock looking at the monkeys, the war tunnels and the exhibitions inside them and St Michaels cave which initially we had hoped to play. It was a fantastic experience but a lot of walking.



We returned home on the Sunday having had a wonderful experience and I would thoroughly recommend this to any band thinking of going on tour.



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