

The Word On The Wind

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WIND BAND FESTIVAL
2017

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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 2019. 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!

Tony Fleming

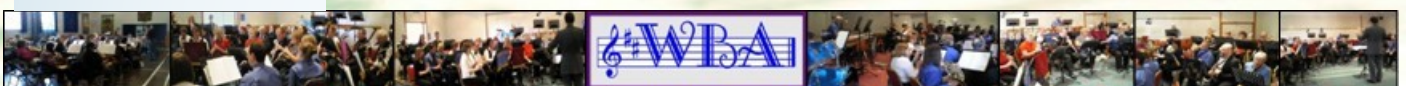
After a very successful Big Blow in Chippenham last year, this year's (2018) event was held on Saturday 17th March at Brookfield Community School, Sarisbury Green near Southampton. Although the weather was mixed to say the least, with flurries of snow throughout the day and several inches that night a really good time was had by the 55 attendees, who had the opportunity of playing a wide range of varied and interesting repertoire under the musical direction of Kevin Lamb (Chairman of the Wind Band Association and Musical Director of the Capital Concert Band in Edinburgh) He had come all the way from Perth (not the Western Australia one, but far enough) to lead the event. He was assisted



by Dave Kinloch the Musical Director of the Southampton Grad Band, which hosted the event (and provided more cakes than a Band twice the size could have coped with!) and Tony Fleming the Musical Director of the Malmesbury Concert Band. All in all a really great day leaving many of us



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



Capital Concert Band at Craggan Outdoor Centre

Maili Konczak



On a Friday afternoon in the middle of August, an intrepid group of musicians set out into the wilds of Perthshire to the banks of Loch Tay and the Craggan Outdoor Centre.

Once dinner was cleared away, the weekend started with a demonstration of exercises for improving your core by Jean followed by a class on breathing exercises by Kevin and a lesson in the names of your stomach muscles. Don't forget your obliques. Once we had all stopped laughing it became apparent that we need a bit of practice! (Who knew it could be so difficult to keep a piece of paper stuck to the wall just using your breath).

After the Big Craggan Pub Quiz, the evening was ours to enjoy and the

merriment continued on into the early hours of the morning.

The focus of Saturday morning was the Festival Fringe concert programme, which we were performing the next weekend. It was an excellent opportunity to spend some time on our intonation (and breathing!).

Saturday afternoon was free time and a daring group set out onto the water in kayaks along with their instructor Kirsten. Luckily the beast of Loch Tay didn't make an appearance and all made it back to dry land safely, albeit a bit soggier than when they went out.

After another dinner cooked by Jean and her kitchen crew (those of us that didn't fancy the look of the loch) it was time for the evening entertainment. The



Sport's Event. We were split up into teams of two and battled it out around the room playing Pool, Table Football, Dominoes and Table Tennis. It quickly became apparent that my partner Stuart was very competitive and despite my efforts to thwart his gameplan, we somehow came first. The games then continued into the evening until we all drifted



off to bed.

Sunday morning gave us the opportunity for another run through the music before it was time to head home.

It was agreed that we all had an absolutely fabulous time and we're all looking forward to next year—Kevin have you booked it yet?



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