

ISSUE 9, APRIL 2023

Introducing Our New Chair

Cathy O'Carroll

To introduce myself - I'm Cathy O'Carroll the new Wind Band Association (WBA) Chairperson. I am not a professional musician, rather I am a passionate amateur, having played the clarinet since I was 9. I cannot conduct! I work full time but music plays a big part in the "life" part of my (still not quite in equilibrium) work/life balance.



So why did I put myself forward to be the Chair of the WBA? The answer is really quite simple. In my opinion and experience, amateur music making is so important. It is more than simply learning to excel at an instrument - I could do that in splendid isolation at home. It is the bringing together of many different voices (instruments) and making a sound that is greater than the individual parts. But it's more than that. Through making music we interact as a group, we develop friendships, we support each other. Music has helped me at the most stressful times in my life and has given me some of my fondest memories.

I sincerely hope, utilising my leadership skills, I can build on the success of the last decade, under Kevin Lamb's leadership, to drive the WBA forward to support this important community and give it a voice. There is an amazing committee, a number of who have supported this association for years, who give freely of their time to make the Association function and Kevin will continue to support our aims as Musical Director.

How will I measure success? Simple! It's hearing that what the WBA is doing is supporting and making a difference to you individually and the groups you play in. So I do have an ask of you all! Please talk to me and the committee and tell us what you need. This could be a Big Blow in your area to give musicians the opportunity to play together in a larger group, a conductors workshop, advice on an aspect of running a band, ideas on how to attract new players or something we have not yet thought of! This is your organisation and I am here to serve the needs of this community (whatever wind band instrument you play)!



**We're on
Facebook!**

WBA COMMITTEE

CHAIR

CATHY O'CARROLL

CHAIRPERSON@WINDBANDASSOCIATION.CO.UK

SECRETARY

JEAN ALDRED

SECRETARY@WINDBANDASSOCIATION.CO.UK

TREASURER

SUE PARRY

TREASURER@WINDBANDASSOCIATION.CO.UK

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

KEVIN LAMB

MD@WINDBANDASSOCIATION.CO.UK

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

MAILI KONCZAK

BRIAN O'CARROLL

TONY FLEMING

CAROLINE PRICE

TOM FEENIE

TED MILNER

NICK ELWOOD

LYNNE ANSTICE-BROWN

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

EDITOR

MAILI KONCZAK

JEAN ALDRED

KEVIN LAMB

CONTRIBUTORS

KEVIN LAMB

CATHY O'CARROLL

DAVID HIDE

TED MILNER

NICK ELWOOD

DANIELLE LANGDRIDGE

**TO SUBMIT AN
ARTICLE OR LETTER
CONTACT THE
EDITOR**

MAILI@WINDBANDASSOCIATION.CO.UK

Outgoing Chair's Farewell

Kevin Lamb

♩ CODA

"Why not make it just a weekend and hold it in the October holidays?"

In the Summer of 1998, Sue Parry, Chris Chaloner and I, following a week-long 'band camp' with the Bristol Concert Wind Band at Benslow in Hitchin, Hertfordshire, came to the conclusion that a shorter, weekend-style 'gathering', open to bands and musicians from across the UK might be a good idea.

Some twenty-three years later and the event has become a great showcase for wind band musicians from across the UK. The Wind Band Festival has undoubtedly become a major event in the musicians' calendar. It also inspired the creation of the Wind Band Association in 2010.

From those humble beginnings the Association and its Festivals have grown wings - The Big Blow and Conducting Workshops have been added as 'new strings to our bow'. We also offer advice on Copyright; Setting Up a Band; Repertoire; and other interesting and helpful topics.

I feel extremely proud to have been there at the beginning. The Wind Band Association Committee and the Festival Administration Team have been amazing throughout. As Festival Director and Chair of the Association since their inception, I've made some fantastic friends; conducted and performed some amazing music; and watched some impressive guest conductors. In 2022, after so many years, it was time to 'hand over the baton' of both roles to new enthusiasts. I'm convinced the Association and all its activities will continue to grow and be evermore successful. I am hanging around for another couple of years as Musical Director in order to help with the transition. I'll then enjoy attending many Festivals to come, purely as a musician (probably playing a Saxophone!).



Where are we heading to for WBF 2023?

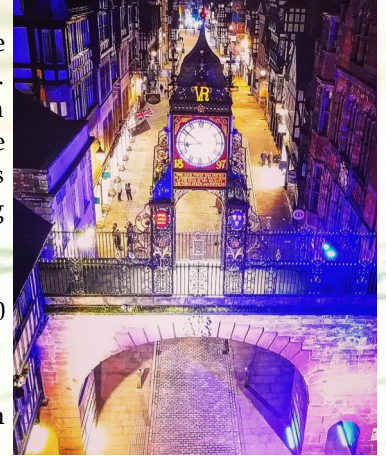
Ted Milner

This October we will all be congregating in the Queen at Chester hotel. The hotel was built in 1860 to accommodate 1st class passengers arriving from Chester station. Other travellers used the Albion (later known as the Town Crier) on the opposite corner – interestingly they were linked by an underground passage! The hotel has welcomed many interesting people including Charles Dickens, Lillie Langtry and Cecil Rhodes. Situated across from the railway station it is in the perfect position for exploring Chester.

Chester was a Roman fortress known as Castra Deva – the military camp on the river Dee. It was one of the most important military bases in the Roman Empire. The fortress began as a ditch, known as a fossa, and an embankment topped with a wooden palisade. Eventually these were replaced by stone walls and towers – the city was surrounded by 2 miles of stone wall, which helped protect the city and its occupants. You can still see remnants of mosaics, bath houses, underfloor heating and toilets near the amphitheatre.

If you're feeling energetic, why not walk the walls of Chester – it takes about 40 mins and if you're lucky you might bump into the odd Roman!

Today the city has many interesting old buildings and a famous clock which commemorates Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.



Bristo Community Concert Band

Danielle Landridge



Over the past few months Bristo Community Concert Band have stepped out of their usual rehearsal and concert space to play at some exciting venues in the centre of Edinburgh.

19th November saw a welcome return to the St Cecilia's Day celebrations at St Cecilia's Hall, the oldest purpose-built concert hall in Scotland dating back to 1763. Nowadays, the building is also home to the University of Edinburgh's musical instrument collection. We played in the Sybert Concert Room and took the audience on a tour around Europe, with pieces including "Spanish Gypsy Dance" (Pascual Marquina Narro), "Monte Carlo or Bust" (Ron Goodwin, arr Pascal Devroye) and "March of the Trolls" (Edvard Grieg). The best piece however, was "St Cecilia's March", which today only exists in audio form but was transcribed especially for this event by Musical Director, Bob Cowan. We look forward to playing at the event again in November 2023!

After our annual festive season of busking in the local area and carol concerts at Bristo Baptist Church and St Nicolas Parish Church, we headed to St Giles' Cathedral on 22nd January for "A Scottish Festival". Arranged by one of the committee members, this concert saw the band join forces with The Regimental Band of The Black Watch Army Cadet Force, from Dunfermline, to perform an hour of Scottish music as part of the St Giles' at Six series. The concert was attended by over 300 people who enjoyed music such as "Ardross Castle" (Philip Sparke), "Cock o' the North" (D. Carrie) and "Sayonara" (Jan Van der Roost), a beautiful version of Auld Lang Syne. What better way to prepare for Burns Night?

We are now rehearsing for our popular film music concert in March and are enjoying discussing what pieces to play! If you are based in Edinburgh and are looking for a concert band email bristocommunityconcertband@outlook.com and join our rehearsals on Monday evenings.



How to Join the Association

To find out information about joining the association & for an application form, please visit the WBA website at :

www.windbandassociation.co.uk/membership/.


Alternatively contact the Association Secretary at secretary@windbandassociation.co.uk or 104 Boswall Terrace, Edinburgh, EH5 2BW.

Individual membership is £15 per year & band membership is £25 per year. Cheques should be made payable to **Wind Band Association**.

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

Benefits at present for members are: discounted rates for all Wind Band Association events; newsletter, 20% off Bandleader Publications; 10% discount at the Wind Section & access to the WBA Music Library.


Band membership allows the band to nominate one member to be a fully paid-up member of the association; discounted rates for the nominated representative for all WBA events; opportunity for the representative to attend the AGM and vote; newsletter, 20% off Bandleader Publications; 10% discount at the Wind Section; access to the WBA Music Library & details of the band advertised on our website.



Bandleader Publications Ltd.
are proud to continue to support the
Wind Band Association &
the Wind Band Festivals.

We're also pleased to continue
to offer all WBA members
20% off our music.

Visit our website,
choose your music
& enter the code BL-WBA
at the checkout.



Bandleader Publications Ltd.
24 Old Furzebrook Road, Stoborough,
Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5DD.
www.bandleader.biz
info@bandleader.biz

Our Newest Regional Representative

Nick Elwood

Having just accepted the role of area representative for Northumbria (Northumberland, County Durham and Cumbria), I thought it polite to introduce myself.

My name is Nick Elwood. That's me to the right. I live in Berwick upon Tweed.

I organise a group called the Northumbrian Symphonic Ensembles. Amongst other things, we bring together players to form a concert band.

For fifteen years I was a musician in The 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards.

My childhood instrument was the trumpet but early in my career, I switched to the flute. I am retired and hence able to pursue several passions that working life inhibited.

My sole interest is now music. As far as Flautists go I consider myself mediocre so I have spent the last three years improving my keyboard skills. I also compose.

In former times I was an ardent martial artist. I lived in South Korea until 2015.

Triggers likely to make me rant include the dumbing down of music in society and the poor provision of music education in schools. Why did I become involved with the WBA? In Berwick at least, there will be no concert band in 10 years. Locally we have no brass or woodwind students in state schools.

The future of concert bands, especially in small towns, lies in centralisation, networking and collaboration. I hope we will be able to contribute to the development of the Wind Band Association and look forward to working with you.



Malmesbury Concert Band's Triumphant James Bond Concert

David Hide

The Malmesbury Concert Band (MCB), a WBA member, celebrated its first annual concert for three years last October with a hugely successful James Bond themed event, held in Malmesbury Town Hall to a sell-out audience.

The audience, all seated at candle-lit tables and creating a night club atmosphere, enjoyed a wide range of music, but principally the famous James Bond themed tunes, including the wonderful "Skyfall", "Goldfinger", "For Your Eyes Only" and "Live & Let Die".

Under the baton of Musical Director Art Robb, the concert also included "The Three Elizabeth's March", by Eric Coates, a tribute to the late Queen, who had died the previous month, and all-time popular numbers including "Wuthering Heights", made famous by Kate Bush.

The programme also included the conducting debut of two band members, first, Flautist and Piccolo player Sharyn Wilson with "Ashokan Farewell", a beautiful melody linked to the American Civil War, and then MCB Chairman Ben Randell-Sly led the band on the "Lone Arranger", based on Rossini's famous composition, and played at a furious - and challenging - pace.

As a tribute to Tony Fleming, the band's recently retired Musical Director after over 20 years, the concert included "Choral & Rockout", composed by Ted Huggins and arranged by Tony, who conducted the piece to great acclaim.

Other numbers included "Tall Ships", by Ron Goodwin, "At a Dixieland Jazz Funeral", "Birdland" and "Sailing By", the theme tune of the BBC's Shipping Forecast.

The concert concluded with Neil Diamond's "Sweet Caroline", composed by him as a tribute to John F Kennedy's daughter, which, with full audience participation, went down so well that the band had to play an encore.

Musical Director Art Robb commented: "It really was a triumphant evening, which the audience clearly loved. In all the years I've been involved with the band, I've never received such a response. It took much organisation, but the result was definitely worth it. It was marvellous to be performing again after Covid.

This autumn, we are planning another themed event, this time featuring favourite numbers from musicals. It will be difficult to decide what to leave out!

For information about the band contact David Hide - Tel: 01666 824248 or davidhide@hotmail.co.uk



THE WIND SECTION
Brass & Woodwind Specialists

The Wind Section is a specialist brass and woodwind shop that takes pride in its expert staff, fantastic range of instruments and high-quality repair facility.

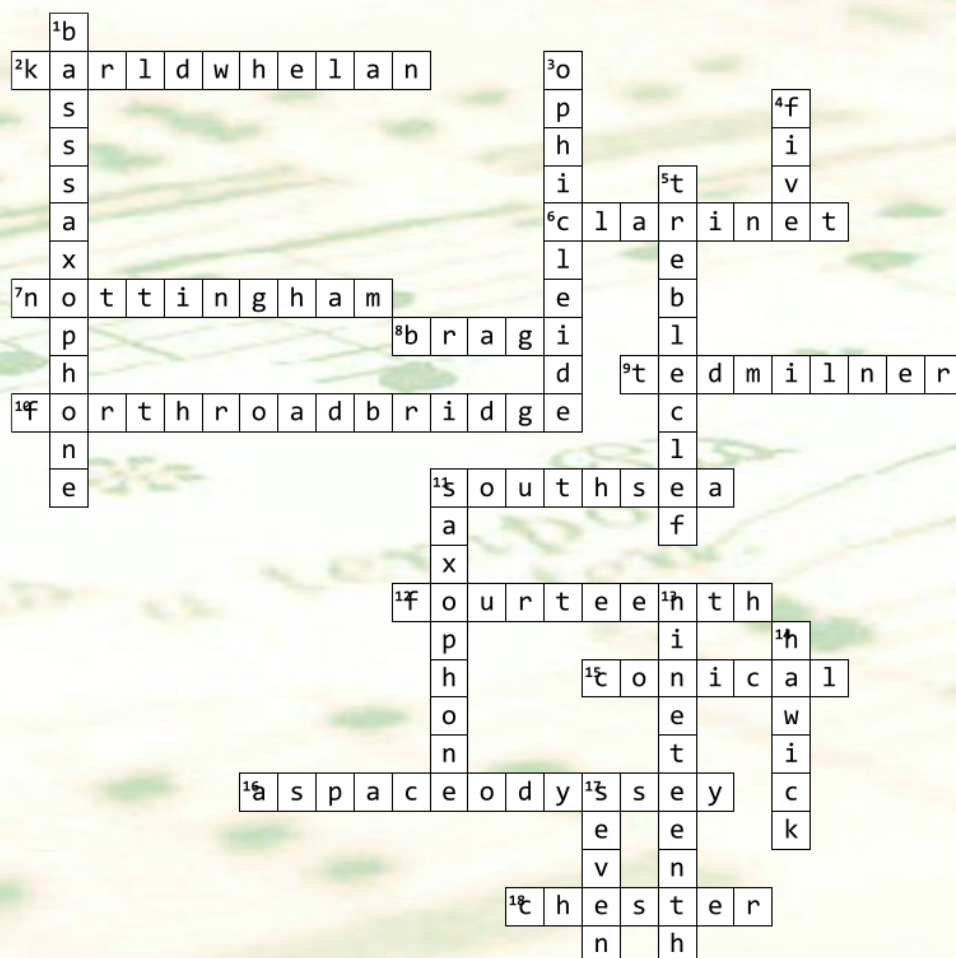
As a Yamaha Pro Custom centre, this makes The Wind Section the ideal choice for both the amateur and professional player.

The Wind Section
11/13 Cumberland Street
Edinburgh
EH3 6RT
T: 01131 557 6543
W: www.thewindsection.com
E: info@thewindsection.com



Crossword Competition – Answers

Did you complete our Wind Band Association crossword in the last newsletter? I was told it was too hard & there were no entries! Here are the answers for those that are interested.



Across

2. Who composed the winning composition for our 20th year?
6. What instrument does our Treasurer play?
7. Where does our editor come from originally?
8. Who is the Norse God of music?
9. Who is the representative for NW England?
10. What is the name of the second oldest bridge visible from this year's festival venue?
11. Where was the first Wind Band Festival held?
12. In which century were music stands first commonly used?
15. What kind of a bore does a cornet have?
16. What is the theme of the festival in 2022?
18. Where will next year's festival be held?

Down

1. What is the largest instrument we've ever had at a Wind Band Festival?
3. What instrument did the tuba replace in the orchestra?
4. How many times has the festival been held in Scotland?
5. What does "TC" stand for on a euphonium part?
11. What instrument does our outgoing Chair claim to be his "favourite"?
13. In which century were conductor's batons first introduced to the UK?
14. The people from where our Secretary was born call themselves "Terries" - which town is this?
17. How many bands are currently members of the WBA (as at 7th October 2022)?

