

GODALMING BAND NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER, 2015



Dear Readers,

I hope you enjoy this issue of the Newsletter about the Bands' activities. The Youth Band has had an especially active year, as seen below. You will find here information about engagements, achievements, and a comprehensive report on the Senior Band's recent trip to Joigny, as presented by Dominic Cleal.

David Daniels, Editor

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter. 2015 has been a very busy and different year, especially for the Senior Band. Much of the early part of the year was spent preparing for the regional qualifying contest of the national brass band championships in March and for the Mayor of Waverley's massed bands charity concert at Charterhouse in April. In addition to our usual summer events including an outdoor concert at King Edward's School, Witley, much of our time and effort went into preparing for the Senior Band's visit to Joigny, France in October. This visit was at the invitation of the 'Harmonie de Joigny', the wind band of the music academy in our French twin town, to celebrate their 150th anniversary.

Now as the festive season approaches our Bands are busy preparing for the numerous local engagements as well as the joint annual Christmas Concert on Saturday 19th December, 2015.

Thank you for your continued interest and support. We hope to see you and your friends and family at the United Church in Godalming on the 19th.

Ray Pont, Band Chairman

A WORD FROM DAVID LOFTUS, YOUTH BAND MD

As I write for this newsletter we are rapidly heading towards another very busy Christmas set of engagements. More of that towards the end! With the darker evenings I begin by reflecting on our participation in Godalming's Staycation event. This was our second year of participating and consisted of two elements.

Firstly we had a "Taster Session", giving youngsters the opportunity to try out an instrument with a view to then coming along for lessons in the hope that they would develop and progress, enabling them to take up a position in the Youth Band. Whilst a team worked sterilising mouthpieces and guiding prospective recruits through an introductory session, the Youth Band played on the bandstand at The Burys. Several of the youngsters took up the challenge and are now having lessons on a Monday evening whilst the Youth Band rehearses – hopefully encouraging them to join the us eventually, as well as keeping mums and siblings entertained whilst they wait.

Our second session was "Come and Join In", inviting anyone who already plays a brass instrument to sit in with the Band, hoping they may join us. Sadly no one took up the offer, but the Band provided an impromptu concert for passers-by.

We returned to our routine of Monday evening rehearsals at the beginning of September and spent a couple of weeks looking at some existing pieces as well as trying new works for possible inclusion in our Christmas repertoire. In actual fact we tried one Christmas piece before we broke for the summer holidays.

We are pleased to welcome Hannah, sister of our principal solo cornet Matthew, into our ranks. Hannah has decided not to take on the smallest instrument but rather one of the largest and is making a contribution to the lower sounds of the Band by playing Eb Bass.

Another change within the playing line-up is that Lizzie has moved from Tenor Horn to Flugel Horn. This adds to the richness of sounds within the Band, bringing in the additional tonal colour that the instrument produces.

A number of the Youth Band have been staying on after our own rehearsal to join in with the Senior Band. In October several of them took part in the Senior Band's twinning trip to Joigny. They enjoyed themselves and made a significant contribution to the weekend.

Our Christmas Engagements

Elmbridge Retirement Village – Sunday 13th December 3.00 pm

Joint Christmas Concert – Saturday 19th December 7.00 pm. Please contact David Daniels on 01483 536016 or dwd112112@yahoo.com to reserve tickets for our Christmas concert.

Eastlake Retirement Home – Sunday 20th December 3.00 pm

Carols at Waitrose – Monday 21st December (this will also be our “End of Term” Social in the café afterwards) 5.00 pm

We will feature several of the Band as soloists in our Christmas concerts. We will also play at least one novelty item and have arranged for a special guest celebrity.

The schedule for the 2016 Godalming Music Festival has been received. We have yet to decide which Class/es we may enter and therefore which pieces we may play.

Meanwhile a big Thank You to all the parents who ferry their children to and from rehearsals as well as engagements and to everyone who supports us in our endeavours to develop individuals within the Band, enabling them to enjoy their music making.

David E Loftus MBE
Youth Band MD

REGIONAL BAND CONTEST

In mid-March the Senior Band travelled to Stevenage for the London and Southern Counties Regional qualifying round of the National Brass Band competition. This marked the Band’s return to this contest after ten years. Much preparation went into the test piece, ‘An English Pastorale’ by Dean Jones, and included a very helpful visit in February by the composer, who took us through his music. We were disappointed at placing 14th out of 25 bands, as we felt we had played well. However we were not dismayed and thoroughly enjoyed playing an excellent test piece. We are now looking forward to doing better in 2016.

MASSED BANDS EXTRAVAGANZA SUCCESS

A spectacular evening with three massed bands from the Waverley area was attended by 250 supporters, successfully raising thousands of pounds in aid of Citizens Advice Waverley. The Great Hall at Charterhouse School, Godalming hosted the event on Sunday evening, 12 April. Eighty musicians and three Musical Directors played to a packed audience. Cllr Liz Wheatley, Mayor of Waverley, said of the evening, "David Wright, head of brass at Charterhouse, had the brilliant idea of bringing together the massed bands of Waverley for the first time in about twenty years and I am absolutely delighted that all went so well. In the end we had a wonderful audience and I just can't thank the Musical Directors and bands of Farnham, Godalming and Haslemere enough for their immense hard work and support for my Mayoral charity, Citizens Advice Waverley." The massed bands produced a tremendous sound playing orchestral classics such as Jean Sibelius' "Finlandia", Richard Strauss' "Also Sprach Zarathustra" (featured in the film 2001 Space Odyssey) and the locally inspired "Haslemere Suite" by Peter Graham. Segments were led by David Wright, James Haigh, and Maurice Wright, Musical Directors of Farnham Brass Band, Godalming Band, and Haslemere Town Band respectively.

After the concert David Wright said, "It is many years since we have put all the Waverley bands together and judging by the success of the evening and the really positive audience response all of the players' efforts were very worthwhile. There was music to suit all tastes and the exciting atmosphere made it a very special evening to remember."

Dominic Cleal

SUMMER ENGAGEMENTS During the Summer the Senior Band undertook the following regular engagements: St Johns Church fete at the Burys; opening the season at Godalming bandstand; Music in the Park in Woking; the Shamley Green village fete; St Andrews Church fete in Cranleigh ; the Wonersh United Church Songs of Praise and the final concert of the summer season at Godalming Bandstand.

LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS

On the 27th June the Senior Band were invited to play at Last Night of the Proms at King Edward School. On a lovely sunny Summer evening the Band opened the event playing to the assembled parents, pupils and staff beside the pond in the school grounds. A barbecue followed before the various school groups provided a selection of vocal and instrumental music. This was a most enjoyable evening and hopefully we can return next year.

150th ANNIVERSARY OF HARMONIE DE JOIGNY

A very special anniversary for the Harmonie de Joigny marked the coming together of bands from Joigny (France), Mayen (Germany), Erlangen (Germany), Amelia (Italy) and Godalming. 2015 was the 150th anniversary of the Harmonie de Joigny, and a full weekend of concerts, music and joint celebrations had been planned around the town.



It all began at 4am on Friday, outside our band room in Godalming. There weren't many bright-eyed and awake members of the Band at that point, and we all settled down for what would be a long thirteen hour coach trip to Joigny. Delays at Folkestone for the channel tunnel put us behind schedule by a couple of hours, but we eventually arrived in one piece at the Hotel de Ville, Joigny.

An evening meal and entertainment had been laid on, featuring A Ti à Taille, a bagpipes and percussion group. This was followed by an evening concert given by Carlo Rizzo, a talented tambourine percussionist.

The following morning, the bands got together for a joint rehearsal before Godalming went out for our first concert of the weekend. We set up outside the Joigny market, which was busy at mid-morning and played for an hour to a growing audience.



Our numbers were bolstered on this trip to Joigny by a group of eight excellent players from our very own Youth Band, who played in almost every section. Many thanks to them all! The Saturday afternoon took an interesting turn when the Band joined in with an improvisation session - we're only used to reading sheet music and being reminded to follow all of the annotations. Named *Soundpainting*, a conductor directed the massed bands of Godalming and Mayen to play a note of their choice at a certain pitch, volume and other characteristics. As the bands played, the director gave further hand movements to bring sections in or cut off notes, to play sudden accents, or to play rhythms.



As evening approached, the official 150th anniversary ceremony for Harmonie de Joigny began outside the Hotel de Ville. Godalming Band presented Harmonie de Joigny with a celebratory plate, to be awarded to band members in future, while Godalming Town Council gave a gift of a painting to the town of Joigny. The ceremony was rounded off with three massed band performances, one under each band's musical director.





Saturday night hosted a lively dinner inside the Hotel de Ville, with each of the four bands providing dance music throughout the evening. After the main course, Godalming Band took to the stage and started with *Music*, which tested the dancers with its 7/8 time signature, and went on to play a variety of traditional pieces to a lively dance floor in front.

There are some photos of Band members from later that evening, but for the sake of their reputations, they have been withheld...

Not-too-early the next morning, the bands reconvened next to the (very wide!) river Yonne for a Dawn Serenade. Bands from Godalming and Mayen stayed on the market side of the river, while bands from Joigny and Erlangen waited on the far side. The bands played passages from *Andro* and *Passerue de Montpellier* across the river, calling and responding to each other.



The Joigny and Erlangen bands came back over river to join forces for a few more massed band items, held outside the Joigny market hosting the local wine festival. The Italian flag-throwing group from Amelia put on an impressive performance outside the market after the bands had played.



The weekend drew to a close on Sunday evening, with a combined concert from the three visiting bands, held in the packed hall of the Hotel de Ville. Godalming Band opened the concert with the dramatic piece *Also Sprach Zarathustra* by Strauss.

To close the concert, the three bands and players from Harmonie de Joigny joined again for one last fun piece, *Bare Necessities* on the main stage.



The Band, just before the concert

Thank you to the kind families in Joigny who gave us hospitality for the trip - we hope to have made new friends for years to come, strengthening the link between the towns.

The trip wouldn't have taken place without a great deal of organisation from our own Band chairman, Ray Pont, and his counterparts in Joigny, Mayen, Erlangen and Amelia. Thanks to their enormous efforts, the Band had a very enjoyable and memorable trip.

A few videos were kindly recorded during the event, which can be found on our website at www.godalmingband.org.uk or on Facebook, by searching for "Godalming Band".

Editor's note: this comprehensive and beautifully presented article on the Joigny trip was produced by Dominic Cleal, Public Relations Officer.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Once again the Band led the Remembrance Day parade through a crowded Godalming to the war memorial where many had gathered for the service of remembrance. The Band played several hymns, the 'last post' and 'reveille' were played by David Sergeant, and Ray Pont laid a wreath on behalf of our Bands. The Band also took part in the memorial service in the parish church. After the service the Band led the very large parade back through the town past the mayoral saluting dais. Twenty five musicians turned out for this solemn event, including four members of the Youth Band.

UPCOMING CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Both Bands have a busy schedule from the end of November almost to Christmas, in Godalming and nearby villages. It culminates in our own joint concert at the Godalming United Church on the 19th, so there are plenty of chances to join us this season. Please contact David Daniels on 01483 536016 or dwd112112@yahoo.com to reserve tickets for our Christmas concert.

Date	Event
Saturday, 28 Nov., 4 pm	Godalming Christmas Lights, the Pepperpot
Wednesday, 2 Dec., 9 pm	Godalming Masonic Hall, carols
Sunday, 6 Dec., 4-5.30 pm	Carols at Guildford United Reformed Church
Monday, Dec. 7, 7 pm	Rotary Carol Concert, Cranleigh Village Hall
Saturday, 12 Dec., 2-3 pm	Christmas Together, the Pepperpot

Sunday, 13 Dec. Youth Band, carols at Elmbridge Retirement Village

Friday, 18 Dec., evening Carols at Wonersh Cricket Club

Saturday, 19 Dec., morning Carols on Godalming High Street, Crown Court

Saturday, 19 Dec., 7 pm **Godalming Band and Youth Band joint Christmas Concert, Godalming United Reformed Church.** Please contact David Daniels on 01483 536016 or dwd112112@yahoo.com to reserve tickets.

Monday, 21 Dec., 6 pm Carols at Godalming Waitrose

Please check our website at www.godalmingband for any last minute revisions to times. The website is now run by Dominic Cleal, who has opened up a Facebook page for the Band. Any contributions to the sites are most welcome. Many thanks to Phil Kingsbury, who set up and ran the site for many years.

GREYTOPS GROUP

For the last two years several retired Band members and other Band musicians get together in December to play a festive programme at several venues. This year the group will be playing at the 'Cameo Club' Christmas lunch at Guildford Salvation Army, Sunrise Retirement Home in Peasmarsh and at the Farncombe Day Centre Christmas lunch. Visits may also be paid to the Meath Home and Eastlake elderly persons home.

NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted that in January several Youth Band players, Matthew Tate, Isobel Davis, Danny Baumberg and Charles Steele started coming to Monday evening Senior Band rehearsals and joining the Band for various engagements. Matthew's dad, Peter Tate, has reignited his musical interest and is now part of the bass section.

GODALMING BAND MONTHLY DRAW WINNERS

Remember, you can always join the monthly Godalming Band Draw. The chances of winning are presently one in thirty, a big improvement on the National Lottery's one in fourteen million! Simply contact Julie Rowling at keithandjulie@rowling.plus.com for more information. Half the money raised goes to Band support.

FIRST PRIZE

SECOND PRIZE

November	William Rowling	Charles Steele
December	David and Lu Powell	Fred Gardner
January	Julie Rowling	David and Lu Powell
February	Keith Rowling	Eric Tyler
March	Robert Gosden	Margaret Lloyd
April	Tony Gordon-Smith	William Rowling
June	no draw	
July	Dana Daniels	Ron and Ivy Gray
August	Tony Gordon-Smith	Tony Gordon- Smith
September	Emma Scholar	Val Gardner
October	Phil and Eve Kingsbury	Ron and Ivy Gray