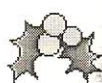


SPLIT NOTES

Number 24

News from The Harrogate Band

November 2002



Festive Brass & Voices

Ripon Cathedral is the venue for our Gala Concert this year. Our guests include the York St John Chamber Choir and guest soloist Lucy Rhodes, who recently won the BBC Radio 2 Young Chorister 2002 competition.

Saturday 7 December, 7.30pm. Tickets £6, £4 (concessions) from Ripon Tourist Information (01765 604625) or 01423 522643/887996. Interval refreshments will include "Ripon Jewel" beer tasting sponsored by Daleside Brewery. A splendid evening's entertainment is assured!

Malton Success

The annual Entertainment Contest at Malton, run by the Yorkshire & Humberside Brass Band Association, proved that the Band could hold its own against the best of the region. A strong entry in the "A" class produced a great afternoon's entertainment across the board, and Harrogate Band were delighted to be awarded 2nd prize, narrowly missing the top placing. Our 25 minute programme included music by Neil Diamond, the march *Arabian, Gaelic Blessing* by John Rutter, *Cartoon Music* - which kept our four percussionists on their toes, and ended with the rousing finale from *Year of the Dragon*.

People

We're delighted to welcome Rachel Higginson to the Band on cornet. Her father, John, was the Band's second musical director, following Neil Richmond. After studying at Newcastle, Rachel is now practising dentistry and in an ideal position to continue her interest in musicians' dental health.

Trombonist Martyn Wormald, of the Tewit Youth Band, has joined us recently and is still

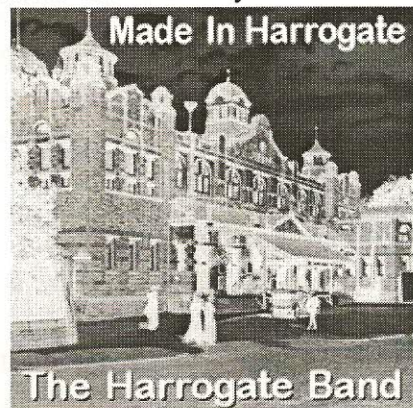
a mainstay of Tewit, rehearsing with both bands on a Wednesday evening!

Jo Campbell, another (ex) Tewit Band member has joined us on what is perhaps the most challenging seat in the band - that of soprano cornet, an instrument renowned for its difficulty. Andrew Jackson, the Band's Eb soprano cornet player for many years, is now playing Bb cornet.

Also, welcome back to Neil Davidson, cornet, who has returned to the area following the conclusion of his university course.

Made in Harrogate

The long-awaited new CD is almost ready. We apologise to all those who have been anticipating its arrival. It contains a selection of music from Harrogate composers and others associated with the town, including Gerald Finzi, Ernest Farrar, Edward Elgar, Arthur Wood, Amy Woodforde-Finden, Arthur Butterworth, Wilfred Heaton, Philip Wilby and our very own David Lancaster. Arrangements by Neil Richmond and Steve Morland are also featured, together with three items from *The Harrogate Song Book* which illustrates life in the spa town in the early years of the last century. Several of the items have not been recorded previously and had their premier performances at our *Made in Harrogate* concert for the Royal Hall last year. We are sure the CD will be worth the wait and we will let everyone know the minute it is with us.





Torquay Double!

We have often been in the position of defending our title at contests in the past. This time at the National Finals in Torquay, as luck and fate would have it, we successfully defended our last placing. Not only that, we again drew number 1 in the running order - not a good place to be in a field of 18 bands. Problems with the organisation meant that it was nearly 11 hours from the draw (and seclusion of the judges) to the results - not surprising they forgot how good our rendition of Philip Wilby's *Leonardo* really was! We were, however, pleased with our performance and thoroughly enjoyed the weekend of music in Devon.

Recent concerts

Choice Brass - A departure from the normal programming for a concert was a great hit with the audience in St Peter's Church, Harrogate. Instead of the musical director selecting the music, the pieces were chosen by individual band members. A wide range of musical tastes were catered for, ranging from classical (*Procession of the Sirdar*, *Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring*, *Polotskian Dances*) to popular (*With You I'm Born Again*, *New York New York*, *Puttin' On The Ritz*) and several others. In the second half, the audience chose an item via the Band Jukebox. There was a tie for first place and the Band played both the *Post Horn Galop* and *Nimrod*. The Band also gave their first public performance of *Leonardo* by local composer Philip Wilby, used as the test piece for the National Brass Band Championship Finals in Torquay this year.

Majestic Brass - The big band sound featured at the Majestic Hotel. Music from the 30s, 40s and 50s, classic swing numbers and modern interpretations of earlier pieces provided a change to the traditional brass band programme. Performers and composers whose contributions to the genre were highlighted included Glenn Miller, Duke Ellington, Stan Kenton, Neil Hefti, Count Basie, Ted Heath, Frank Sinatra and Neil Diamond.

Nidderdale Brass - We were very pleased once again to participate in the Nidderdale Festival with a concert at the Joe Longster Bandstand in Pateley Bridge. The weather smiled on us and the audience, and a splendid afternoon's music was enjoyed by all. Helping us out on 2nd Trombone was Arthur Layfield, conductor of the Summerbridge & Dacre Silver Prize Band and ex-member of the original Harrogate Silver Band, who has recently published a book, *Nidderdale Brass*, celebrating the centenary of that band. It is filled with pictures and reminiscences of Nidderdale bands over the last 100 years.

Mowbray Proms - For the fourth year the Band led a Proms style concert with choir at Mowbray House in Kirkby Malzeard. A range of suitable items were performed as the audience enjoyed their picnics during a warm summer evening on the lawns in front of the house. Traditional "proms" pieces closed the concert which culminated with a veritable barrage of fireworks.

Askham Bryan - A popular open day at the local agricultural college at Askham Bryan was rather overshadowed by the England

world cup match on the same day. The band entertained the rather meagre audience that only started to pick up later in the afternoon. A wide range of attractions was available - not least, of course, ourselves - and we look forward to the opportunity to perform there another year without the competition of soccer.

Golden Acre Park - In glorious hot, sunny weather, in a pleasant corner of the park, we entertained visitors enjoying the delights of this park at Bramhope. It is nine years since we last played there and the park is well worth a visit with its lake, gardens and woodlands - even if there is not a band playing!

Rotary Conference - As well as many public concerts, the Band perform various private engagements. One such recently was music for a service at the Rotary International Conference in Harrogate. Despite the early start - getting the equipment from the bandroom down to the Conference Centre for 8.30am for a 9.00 start, we all made it - except for one player (who will remain nameless, but who just happened to have turned up at the wrong church last year), who had forgotten altogether and had to be phoned from the stage. We then discovered the organisers had made a mistake in the timings and we weren't required for another half an hour - just giving the missing player enough time to join us!

Singing In The Rain - It is not inappropriate that this piece of music was the second item in our concert in the Harrogate Valley Gardens. A small audience braved the flaming June drizzle and downpours to listen to the concert. A wedding reception in the Sun Pavilion, up-slope from the Bandstand, had a more enjoyable (at least dry) position to enjoy the band's performance!

MG Dales Rally - A wet, cold, early Sunday morning found the band entertaining the arrival of members of the MG Owners' Club as they gathered for the start of their Dales Run. Unfortunately the weather probably kept

the more elderly cars away - there were none of a pre-1960 vintage - however we sent them on their way with a variety of rousing and suitably "Yorkshire" melodies.

Helen and Nick

All our congratulations and best wishes to band cornetists Helen and Nick Garrett on their wedding. The band was delighted to provide music for the service at St Mary's church in Thirsk and to join the bride and groom for the celebrations later. One of the highlights was the processional music chosen by Helen - *Elsa's Procession to the Minster* from Lohengrin by Wagner - the timing of band and bride were impeccable and the sound absolutely magnificent!



High Peak Performance

A very strong field of Championship and 1st Section Bands were arrayed against Harrogate at the Buxton Brass Band Festival. Amidst the splendid backdrop of the Pavilion Gardens and Opera House, in glorious spring weather, the band gave a strong and spirited performance of their chosen test piece - *Spectrum* by Gilbert Vinter, to win fourth place. This is one of Vinter's finest works and consists of seven distinct sections each representing a colour of the spectrum, from fiery red through to brooding purple.

Barbeque Treasure

The Band's Annual Treasure Hunt was held around the streets of Harrogate in the summer.

Taking in the more salubrious and verdant parts of the town and, to the disappointment of at least one team, not passing a single pub, a most enjoyable and puzzling afternoon concluded with a barbeque held in the grounds of our President's home. Anyone who fancies an afternoon's clue hunting in Harrogate next year should contact the band!

Emmerdale

Last April a group of Harrogate Band players spent a week recording an episode of *Emmerdale* for Yorkshire TV. In unusually fine weather for the season, the special Jubilee programme was filmed with the band members playing the role of a local brass band at the village celebrations. It was aired during the Golden Jubilee week and was a great success. This TV appearance follows closely on the Band's starring role in *Heartbeat* earlier on in the year.

Harrogate Champions

From January 2003 Harrogate will officially have a Championship level band for the first time ever. This superb achievement, the culmination of a steady series of promotions over recent years, makes the Harrogate Band the first such organisation in the area to reach the top echelons of its chosen field. Congratulations to all the band members for achieving this - particularly David Lancaster, MD, who has led the Band to these heights.

Email News

If you would like to receive occasional news from the Band via email, just send a message with your name and email address to Gavin Holman - see below.

Rhineland Tour 2003

The Band will be setting off for Germany, between 19 and 25 April next year, for a

concert tour in the Rhineland. Based at St Goarshausen, a number of concerts will be played around the region. This will be the Band's eighth overseas tour - the fourth to Germany.

Future Engagements

1-Dec-02	Light up a Life Service, St Michael's Hospice, 4pm
7-Dec-02	Ripon Cathedral, 7.30pm
13-Dec-02	Asda supermarket, evening
14-Dec-02	Morrisons supermarket, am
14-Dec-02	Victoria Gardens Centre, all day
19-Dec-02	Asda supermarket, evening
22-Dec-02	Fire Brigade Charity Concert, (Royal Hall or Conference Centre), 7.30pm
18-Jan-03	German Night (venue TBA)
26-Jan-03	Rochdale Contest
16-Mar-03	Northern Championships
19-Apr-03	Rhineland Tour
17-May-03	Starbeck Methodist Church

These are confirmed public engagements. For further details of any of these, please see the website or contact the Band via the numbers below.

Keeping in touch

For further information see the Band's award-winning and world-famous website:

www.harrogateband.org

If you have any news or information you would like to see in future issues, please let the Editor know. For queries about our engagements or to book the band, please contact Sue Morland on 01423-887996, for any other information contact Gavin Holman.



Editor:

Gavin Holman, 4 Lunedale Avenue, Knaresborough, HG5 0HJ.
Tel: 01423-866454 Email: gavin.holman@ntlworld.com