

# The History of The Hanwell Band, 1891-1983

*Charley Brighton, 2001-2020*

*[note – the band eventually folded around 2001]*

On a certain evening in the Autumn of 1891, a few kindred spirits met at Hanwell to consider the question of starting a public band for the district. After some discussion, it was decided to form a band, to be known as The Hanwell Town Band, providing the necessary funds to purchase instruments etc., could be raised. After deciding to appeal to the public for subscriptions for this purpose, the next important matter was the question of a practice room.

From **THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY TIMES**, Saturday, 7th May, 1892.

"Formation of a Band - A movement has been set on foot to form a brass or brass and reed band in Hanwell. Two Meetings have been held and a good committee has been elected, comprising amongst others, Mr. Williams (bandmaster of the Asylum band), Messrs. Record, Marks, Benn, Cooper, and W. Woods (Hon. Sec. and Treasurer). The senior band (mainly professional) will be out in the course of a week or two. There is also a reserve band of about sixteen members. An appeal is being sent out to the gentry and traders for help to buy the instruments."

First Conductor, Alfred Augustus Williams.

His father served in the Army, a Lancashire regiment and Alfred was born in Australia around 1857. His parents had both died by the time he was 12 and he and his sister were shipped back to England to live with relatives in Hampstead.

Alfred joined the Army at the age of 14 and served as a Bandsman for 5 years. At the age of 19 or 20 he married, left the Army and moved to Hanwell.

He lived in Green Lane and then Westminster Road. He worked at Hanwell Asylum for 46 years where he started the Asylum Band. He also had a dance band that played at "The Feathers" in Ealing Broadway around 1900.

He was a versatile musician, playing cornet, fiddle, double-bass and piano. He died around 1934.

First Bandroom.

The landlord of The Viaduct Inn was at that time Mr. Wallis, and he very kindly placed a room at the disposal of the Band in which to meet for weekly practices. So cordial were relations with the Band that the headquarters of the Band remained there for many years, the Band being popular with numerous succeeding proprietors of The Viaduct Inn.

First Appearance.

After a lot of hard work on the part of the promoters, and owing to a liberal response to the appeal for funds, a number of instruments were purchased and a start was

made, under the conductorship of Mr. Williams. Early in 1892 the Band made its first public appearance in Hanwell Broadway.

Towards the end of 1892 the Band secured the services of Mr. W. Woods, a gentleman who possessed knowledge of the method of contesting Bands in the North of England. The members of the Band grew more ambitious with a view to competing for prizes against other Bands. Mr. Woods went on to conduct the Band until his death in 1904.

From **THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY TIMES**, Saturday, 4th March, 1893.

"The Town Band under the conductorship of Mr. W. Woods attended the evening service at the Union Church on Sunday and played at intervals during the service the following selections:

"O look for Comfort",  
"Gloria" from Mozart's No.2 Mass  
"Hallelujah Chorus " from Handel's "Messiah".

Annual Report 1897 Receipts: Total £33 12s 1d.

Expenditure:

Instruments £6.18s. 0d  
Repairs £2. 3s. 6d  
Room Hire £2. 0s. 0d  
Uniforms £4. 10s. 6d  
Music £4. 12s. 3d  
Postage, Printing, £2. 14s. 9d  
Collector £1.10s.0d  
Paid to members £8.19s.6d

Totals £33.8s.6d  
Cash in Hand 4s.5d  
Total £33.12s.1d

Ladies and Gentlemen, the members of the Hanwell Town Band beg to return their sincere thanks for the residents of Hanwell for their patronage and support so kindly granted to them and, in accordance with their annual customs, very respectfully solicit the favour of their subscriptions for the year 1898.

Assuring them of their best endeavours in the future as in the past,  
I beg to remain, yours respectfully,  
J. W. Clamp, Hon. Sec. 28 Rosebank Road, Hanwell.  
N.B Subscriptions will be thankfully received and acknowledged by the Secretary.

**The 1900s.**



*The Hanwell Band outside the Viaduct Inn, Hanwell, 1903.*

The above picture (although not very clear) prompted a response from Michael Redstone who's grandfather Frederick Percy Gladman played in Hanwell from 1900 to 1910 (aged 14 to 24).

He lived at 28 St. Andrews Road before moving to Teddington. At the start of the 1914/18 War he would stand on street corners with his cornet and summon up men to come and fight for King & Country. He later became a Regimental Sargeant Major.

Frederick can be seen in the picture behind the conductor, holding a tenor horn, and would have been 17 years old.

He gave his first public performance aged 6 when he played to the Women's Institute in 1892, the very year Hanwell came into being. Frederick's father, Frederick James Gladman, worked at Hanwell Asylum and this may well suggest a link to Mr. Williams, the original bandmaster.

The banding tradition continues in Michael's family, his son-in-law Stephen Popham is the Assistant Bandsmaster of the Swinton Band in North Yorkshire. His daughter Tracey was the Principal Cornet for many years and his son Andrew has joined the Hitchin Band. Lastly, his granddaughter Alice Tasane (aged 11) plays the cornet for Thirsk Royal British Legion Band.

Existing Uniforms; Black, Black and Gold Braid, White Cross Belts. Total Cost: £21 18s 7d.

Balance Sheet, 1902.

The sum of 5s. has kindly been presented to the Band by A. S. Sharp, Esq. to cover the deficit of 4s.1d. leaving a balance of 1d.

## **Name Change.**

At some time in 1903, the Band were successful in winning a competition and the name was changed to The Hanwell Prize Band.

Grand Concert.

Wednesday, 5th July, 1905.

At the London United Electric Tramways Club & Institute,  
Park Hall, Hanwell, 7.30pm.

Tickets 2/-, 1/- and 6d.

Two minutes walk from regular Electric Car services.

Solo & Quartet Contest.

From **THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY TIMES**, Saturday, 3rd December, 1910.

"The quartet party from the Hanwell Town Prize Band has worthily upheld the reputation recently gained at Yiewsley where it was awarded first prize and three medals for soloists. Under the able guidance of its esteemed conductor Mr. E. Brophy it succeeded in gaining second prize at the Enfield Quartet Contest."

Silver Prize Win.

Tottenham Contest, 1913, First Prize. Name changed to Hanwell Silver Prize Band.

## **The War Years.**

During the War, most of the bandsmen joined the forces and two members, Mr. Maurice Parkin and Mr. Cyril Butler, never returned.

## **The Re-start.**

At the end of 1918 steps were taken to re-start the Band. It was not an easy job, for instruments had become scattered and uniforms decayed, and there seemed little prospect of obtaining new ones.

Reg Bravington.

It was the following year that Reg Bravington took charge of the Band. There was an enthusiastic body of members. For uniforms they bought the remains of those worn by the Ealing Volunteers and had them dyed. The lot cost £5.

Elthorne Band Contest.

The first decisive step which brought the band back into the public eye was taken in 1919 when a band festival was held in order to raise funds for a new set of instruments. The Hanwell Urban Council granted the use of Elthorne Park, and the festival was a great financial and musical success. Sufficient profit was made to pay the first instalment on a new set of silverplated instruments.

The festival ran for many years and attracted bands like Luton Red Cross, Callender's Cables and consisted of four sections with a massed bands concert. Sometimes the event was finished by candlelight due to huge entries in every section.

The organisation of the annual festival, the winter bazaars, dances, whist drives and the formation of the Band Patrons Guild made the band one of the most envied combinations in the South of England.

Conductors.

Sufficient funds were raised to pay the conductor, Mr. Willesden and under his conductorship the band entered nine contests in 1922. In the following year Mr. Willie Greenwood was appointed conductor and in 1924 two prizes were secured at Uxbridge and Reigate contests.

It was under Mr. Greenwood's baton that the band secured the first of its countless London & Home Counties Championships.

Promotion.

In 1927 the band were recognised as Championship Section by all contesting councils.

J.C. Dyson.

A further change of conductor was made in 1929. It was felt that a regular conductor should be engaged instead of the occasional visits by Mr. Greenwood. Sixty men from all over the country applied for the position. Mr. J. C. Dyson was chosen.

Mr. Dyson, who came from Clackheaton, was well known as a teacher to 14 north country bands, including Black Dyke Mills and Wingates Temperance. In addition he was cornet soloist with these and a trumpeter with the Huddersfield Choral Society, Leeds Symphony Orchestra and The Halle Orchestra.

A cartoon in the local press commented on his being left handed, saying the right would be too busy collecting awards. When he arrived at Hanwell the committee gave him a free hand in the musical running of the band and it quickly became one of the foremost Bands in the country.

**1930.**

From **THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY TIMES**, 1930.

"Hanwell Band Heard Abroad"

"An interesting letter has reached the Hanwell Prize Band from Adjutant F. H. Francis, superintendent of the Salvation Army's Leper Hospital in Cochin State, South India. Adjutant Francis writes to say that he picked up the Band's broadcast on 19th May and how it 'cheered up an isolated band enthusiast.'

Commenting on the broadcast he says: 'A feature was the tone of the band and it is a job to say which section was best, though the Trombone's colour, tone and precision were great.'"

From the **MUSICAL PROGRESS.**

"Hanwell's Trip to Whitstable"

"We have just received an illustrated booklet from Whitstable containing a programme of music recently rendered by the Hanwell Silver Band under the direction of Mr. J. C. Dyson. Our local correspondent goes on to say, 'Among the many fine items given by the Band and the various soloists, the Bombardon Solo 'Cyclops' played by Mr. Jack Wilkinson, will long be remembered as a masterly performance

We were also pleased to hear of Hanwell's success at Headington Contest where they beat the renowned Luton Red Cross Band. This is a distinct feather in their cap and should prove a big stimulant for the Crystal Palace Contest."

Elthorne Contest.

**From THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY TIMES, Saturday, 7th June, 1930.**

"In announcing the result of the adjudication of the first division, Mr. Denis Wright said that he had a feeling that the conductors of some of the competing bands had been studying the gramophone record of Cyril Jenkin's Victory.

In that case they were liable to fall into great error in regard to speed, because when a work was played for the gramophone it had often to be mutilated in order to get it on the record. Callenders Cable Works Band were victors on that occasion.



## **1931**

The first Annual Band Dinner was held on 12th April, 1931 at the Red Lion Hotel, Hanwell.

Contests.

8 First Prizes, 6 Second Prizes, 4 Third Prizes, 19 contests entered.

## **1932.**

5 First prizes, 2 Second Prizes, 2 Third Prizes, 6 special awards, 2 medals for soloists, 10 contests entered.

## **1933.**

The Hanwell Band made its first appearance at Belle Vue Contest in Manchester, leaving by train from Euston Station at 8.30am and connecting with a bus to the Kings Hall. The party from Hanwell was 60 strong and arrived back at 5a.m. on the following morning.

Concert.

**From THE BRITISH BANDSMAN**, 2nd September, 1933.

"The Hanwell Band were in excellent form last Sunday in the Victoria Embankment Gardens. During the Berlioz Selection, the bandstand lights went out, but the band continued to play notwithstanding. The lights were ultimately rectified."

B.B.C.

**From THE BRITISH BANDSMAN**, 6th May, 1933.

"Hanwell Band attended at Broadcasting House on 23rd April for the audition arranged through the association for the first prize winners at Walthamstow contest. The items selected were "Egmont" and "Coriolanus", and the band were highly complimented by the official in charge, and it is hoped that we may hear the band 'over the air' once more.

Surely no reasonable excuse can be found for continuing the 'no change' policy of the BBC regarding brass bands from the London Station.

## **1934.**

Crystal Palace Contest

The Band draw No.1 and are on stage waiting to start as two players arrive by taxi. The Band went on to achieve 8th placing.

Elthorne Contest.

Bands included Callender's Cable Works, Luton Red Cross and Munn and Feltons, conducted by Harry Mortimer.

## **1935.**

Contests.

Hanwell Band win the London & Home Counties Championship for the 9th time in succession

Concerts.

Hanwell are the first band to appear on the West End stage with two concerts at the Prince of Wales Theatre, 29th December, 1935.

Soloists included Eric Bravington "Boy Wonder" on the Post Horn with 8 Championships to his credit. Arthur East, Principal Cornet, with over 50 Championship wins and A. W. Morby, Euphonium Champion.



*The Hanwell Band, conductor J.C. Dyson on stage as the first brass band to play in a West End Theatre, the Prince of Wales.*

They gave two performances on December 29th. 1935.

*Programme;*

*March, The Contemptibles*  
*Overture, Lustpiel*  
*Cornet Duet, Ida & Dot*  
*soloists Dennis Moran & Eric Bravington*  
*Selection, Bizet*  
*Novelty, The Elephant's Parade*  
*Selection, Sweethearts of Yesterday.*

*Interval*

*March, Ballerina*  
*Euphonium solo, My Hearts Delight*  
*(encore, Song of Songs)*  
*Fantasia, A Hunting Scene*  
*Novelty, The Killies Courtship*  
*Selection, Gracie Fields Songs.*

Elthorne Contest.

John Henry Iles is engaged to conduct the massed bands following the contest in Elthorne Park.

Film.

The Band are engaged in the production of "Look Up and Laugh" with Gracie Fields conducting the Band. Made at Ealing Studios, 19th August, 1935.

Largest Audience.

The Hanwell Band play before an audience of 40,000 for two and a half hours prior to the football match between Brentford and Arsenal at Griffin Park.

N.B. This was a local newspaper report, the record attendance at Griffin Park is said to have been 38,678 in a match versus Leicester City, later in 1949.

**1936.**

Solo & Quartet Contest.

St. Anne's Hall, Hanwell. 105 soloists, 15 quartets.

1st. Hanwell 'A' (Beethoven)  
2nd. Spring Gardens Reading (Poliuto)  
3rd. Hanwell 'B' (Poliuto)

Championship Air Varie.

1st. Arthur East, Cornet Hanwell  
2nd. A. W. Morby, Euphonium Hanwell

3rd. Ed. Loton, Euphonium Enfield  
4th. Eric Bravington, Cornet Hanwell



*Solo & Quartet Champions; left to right;  
W. Southwood, C. Hammond, W. Morby, D. Moran & A. East.*

#### Band Contests.

Leicester 3rd. £4  
Paddington 2nd. £15  
Romford 4th. £5  
Fairford 3rd. £10  
Bugle 3rd. £14  
Orpington 3rd. £3

#### **1937.**

Leicester 1st. £20  
Paddington 3rd. £3  
Fairford 1st. £25

#### **1938.**

Leicester 3rd. £10  
Paddington 1st. £7  
Hayes 1st. £12

Romford 2nd. £12  
Fairford 1st. £25  
Bugle 4th. £8  
Yiewsley 1st. £12  
Walthamstow 1st. £15  
East Ham 1st. £7

### **1939.**

Leicester 2nd. £15  
Paddington 3rd, £1.10.0d  
Hayes 3rd. £5  
Romford 1st. £15  
Fairford 2nd. £15  
Walthamstow 1st. £15  
Barking 1st. £8

Contests.

From **THE DAILY HERALD**, Thursday, 2nd September, 1937;

"Hanwell's performance at Bounds Green in winning six of the seven Championship trophies is an outstanding achievement. Winners of the Air Varie, Eric Bravington, and the Junior and Senior Slow Melody, Fred Lack are both products of Hanwell's Junior Band.

Gilbert Hall, Hanwell's Solo Horn, had an enjoyable day. He and his three -boys competed, Gilbert being 4th in the Air Varie and playing in the winning quartet, whilst Albert Hall was second in the under 18 and under 14 years sections. George Turner and Eric Bravington worked hard in coaching the contestants."

Gilbert Hall went on to play Solo Horn with the quartet in the Championships of Great Britain and his son Albert became one of the leading session trumpet players.

### **1940's.**

Gradually as a result of the war, many band contests ceased, many never restarted. With the movement of service men all over the country, Hanwell was successful in obtaining over 20 musicians whilst many of its own were posted elsewhere. Said Reg Bravington at the time: "It may be that when the war is over we will have two Hanwell Bands!"

Film.

Hanwell appear in the 1941 film 'Major Barbara'. A British film starring Wendy Hiller and Rex Harrison.

The film was produced and directed by Gabriel Pascal and edited by David Lean. It was based on the 1905 stage play by George Bernard Shaw.

At around 1hr. 15 minutes into the film, the band can be seen on stage at the Royal Albert Hall, with Eric Bravington on principal cornet and father Reg. on 2nd. Euphonium.





Contests.

The 1940's saw the Band achieve great honours in National contesting on a scale that was remarkable for a subscription band.

October 19th. 1946, National Finals; 4th.  
playing Oliver Cromwell, Gheel.

**1947;**

April 5th. Hammersmith, 1st. playing Excerpts from Tchaikovsky

April 26th. Area Contest, 4th. playing Akhnanton, Ball

June 14th. Hinckley, unplaced, playing Liszt's Works.

July 12th. Brighton, 4th. playing A Downland Suite, Ireland

December 6th. Bletchley, 1st. playing Coriolanus, Jenkins

Quartet Champions 1945-46.

At the first Solo & Quartet Championships of Great Britain in Cowley, Oxford, the A quartet won first prize, repeating the success in the following year.

Area Contests.

With the formation of the National Brass Band Championships and its Area Qualifying Rounds, the Hanwell Band were quick to make their mark as finalists.

In 1945 they were second only to the famous Luton Band with Fred Mortimer, and the following year they were first, with Luton having to be content with 4th placing. Hanwell were conducted on both these occasions by George Turner.

BY ROYAL COMMAND.

**HER MAJESTY QUEEN MARY** formally opens the gates of the Garden of Remembrance at St. James's Church, Piccadilly, 2.45 pm, 12th May, 1946 following the dedication by the Rt. Rev. The Lord Bishop of London.

Fanfare by the Trumpeters of His Majesty's Lifeguards.

Programme of music by the Hanwell Silver Band,  
guest conductor: Frank Wright.

Overture from "The Messiah" Handel  
Solemn Melody, Walford Davies  
Lift up your Heads (Messiah) Handel.

### **Contests, 1948.**

February 7th. Area Contest, unplaced, playing Fantasia in F

March 13th. Hammersmith, unplaced, playing Beethoven's Works

June 12th. Gravesend, 1st. playing Carmen

July 10th. Brighton, unplaced, playing Carmen

August 21st. Walthamstow, 1st. playing Carmen

### **Contests; 1949.**

March 19th. Hammersmith, 3rd. playing Egmont, Beethoven

April 9th. Area Contest, 4th. playing Morning Rhapsody, Ball

May 7th. Clacton, 1st. playing Symphony in C, Schubert

June 11th. Gravesend, 1st. playing Symphony in C, Schubert

June 25th. Romford, 1st. playing Symphony in C, Schubert

August 6th. Southsea, 2nd. playing Symphony in C, Schubert

September 17th. Walthamstow, 1st. playing Les Preludes, Liszt

December 3rd. Bletchley, 1st. playing Egmont, Beethoven



### **The 1950's.**

The appointment of George Thompson as Musical Director was to bring the Band its greatest success to this date, that of runners-up in the Daily Herald Brass Band Championships at the Royal Albert Hall, one point behind the mighty Fodens Motor Works Band.

Festival Concert.

As Area Champions they also joined 8 other bands in the massed bands festival concert conducted by Sir Malcolm Sargeant and Harry Mortimer.

Music.

For the qualifying rounds the test piece was Henry Geehl's Festival Overture and Herbert Howell's Pageantry was chosen as a suitable test for the finals.

Contests.

February 25th. Area Contest, 1st. playing Festival Overture, Gheel

April 4th. Leicester, 3rd. playing Eugene Onegin, Tchaikovsky

June 3rd. Hayes, 1st playing Moorside Suite, Holst

June 24th. Romford 1st. playing Academic Festival Overture, Brahms

July 15th. Brighton, 2nd. playing Labour & Love, Fletcher

August 26th. Walthamstow, 1st. playing Morning Rhapsody, Ball

October 28th. National Finals, 2nd. playing Pageantry, Howells

December 2nd. Bletchley, 1st. playing Eugene Onegin, Tchaikovsky

**1951, Contests.**

March 17th. Hammersmith, 1st. playing Comedy Overture, Ireland

March 26th. Leicester, 4th. playing Othello, Rimmer

April 21st. Area Contest, 2nd. playing Atlantic, Wright

June 16th. Bournemouth, unplaced, playing Severn Suite, Elgar

July 14th. Brighton, 1st. playing Festival Overture, Gheel

October 27th. National Finals, unplaced, playing Epic Symphony, Fletcher

Annual Dinner.

The Cuckoo Rooms, Park Hotel, Hanwell. Tuesday, 3rd April, 1951.

MENU

Tomato Soup

Fillets of Plaice

Roast Turkey & Seasoning

Roast & Cream Potatoes

Vegetables

Ice Cream Gateau Biscuits & Coffee

Entertainment: Syd Sadler's Dance Band, Joyce Hewitt and Gordon Parr, Will Tedder

Celebrating Principal Honours.

17 times Champions London & Home Counties Band Association.

National Finals 1946 4th

National Finals 1950 2nd

Southern Area Champions 1946, 1950

Winners;

Fairford 6 times,

Romford 6 times,

East Ham 6 times,

Walthamstow 11 times,

Erith 3 times,

Bletchley 3 times

Oxford 3 times,

Egham 3 times,

High Wycombe 3 times.

Quartet Championships of Great Britain

Cornet Championships, Southern Area, Eric Bravington, twice.

L& H.C. Solo Champions:

A.East  
A.Morby  
E.Bravington  
V. Saywell  
S. Willis  
T. Collins  
F.Lack  
G. Slatter  
A. Wilkinson.

Total Prizes since 1920:  
218 Prizes  
138 First Prize Awards  
146 Trophies  
Cash = £2169

Toasts: THE BAND, THE LADIES, THE SUPPORTERS

Cornet player Alan Fippard remembers;

*"When George Thompson left, Alf Jarvis took over the conducting. This worked well for a while but I think that the band being used to the "bullying" of George didn't attain the same sparkle under the gentlemanly manner of Alf. When Alf left to conduct Croydon, I think Tommy Evans, as bandmaster, acted as temporary conductor for run of the mill engagements with Eric Bravington covering contests.*

*During this period we were also desperate for cornet players and I remember finding myself playing in different positions each job, even ending up on one job playing 3rd man in "Three Jolly Sailormen"! Eventually the band settled when Eric Bravington took over as Musical Director. There many other players that passed through the band that I happily remember, not that I can remember all their names but included;*

*Johnny Lockett, Ces Davis (Euphoniums) Frank Bing, Ray Norton, George Groom, Charlie Leatherby, Billy Keen, Laurie Butland, George Lee, Len Bryant, Len Atter, Tommy Collins, Mike Edwards, David Noad, Roy Beesley, Percy Pitkin, the girls Dot Kilvington & Barbara Stone, later came the Williams brothers (Terry on flugel & Brian on trombone), Brian Burchall, Dave Allison and Ted Walker."*

### **1952, Contests.**

April 5th. Area Contest, 3rd. playing Resurgam, Ball

July 7th. Brighton, 1st. playing Eine Kleine Nachtmusik

October 4th. Oxford, 1st. playing Coriolanus, Jenkins

October 11th. Croydon, 1st. playing Festival Overture, Gheel

### **1953, Contests.**

March 7th. Hammersmith, 2nd. playing Rhapsody In Brass, Goffin

March 28th. Area Contest, 1st. playing Rhapsody In Brass, Goffin

June 13th. Brighton, 1st. playing Rhapsody In Brass, Goffin

June 27th. Romford, 1st. playing Eugene Onegin, Tchaikovsky

August 11th. Fairford, 1st. playing Coriolanus, Jenkins

September 5th. Belle Vue, unplaced, playing the Three Musketeers, Hespe

Change of Conductor.

From **THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY TIMES**, 5th October, 1953.

"With only a few weeks to go before Hanwell Silver bandsmen contest the biggest brass band championship of the year, their regular conductor has had to resign. Into the breach to take the rehearsals and conduct the title performance of Diadem of Gold at the Empress Hall, Earl's Court, has stepped Honorary Conductor Eric A. Bravington.

Eric began his career as a cornet player with Hanwell when he was only 8, he is now Principal Trumpet with the London Philharmonic Orchestra. The Band will be televised for the first time on Saturday, 17th October with two half hour sessions being screened direct from the Festival. This is the fifth time since the war that Hanwell have qualified for the National Finals."

Contests.

October 17th. National Finals, unplaced, playing Diadem of Gold, Bailey

December 5th. Bletchley, 1st. playing Academic Festival Overture, Brahms

### **1954, Contests.**

March 6th. Hammersmith, 2nd. playing Clive of India, Holbrook

April 3rd. Area Contest, 4th. playing Clive of India, Holbrook

June 12th. Brighton, 5th. playing Clive of India, Holbrook

August 10th. Fairford, 1st. playing Labour & Love, Fletcher

September 18th. Bletchley, 4th. playing Oberon, Weber

November 20th. Reading, unplaced, playing The Three Musketers, Hespe

Fame & Glory.

Many of the Hanwell bandsmen became famous in the musical world outside brass bands, including Arthur Wilkinson, one of the foremost arrangers of radio and television, Stanley Brown, Trombone of the Canadian Air Force Band and ex Philharmonia Orchestra, Roland Dyson and Norman Burgess (who's father played in Hanwell), Sadlers Wells Orchestra, Arthur Tilley, RAF Central Band, and Victor Saywell, soloist with H.M. Scots Guards Band.

During the years 1954 - 1957, Denzil Stephens plays with Hanwell on euphonium whilst based at R.A.F. Uxbridge. His introduction comes via George Thompson whom he played under with Odhams Press Band earlier. Denzil is also allowed to conduct the band whilst training.

### **1955, Contests.**

March 5th. Hammersmith, 2nd. playing Severn Suite, Elgar

June 26th. Romford, 2nd. playing Clive of India, Holbrook

July 9th. Fairford, 3rd. playing The Severn Suite, Elgar (the last contest George Thompson conducts before leaving for Grimethorpe)

July 16th. Brighton, 4th. playing The Severn Suite, Elgar

November 19th. Reading, unplaced, playing Tournament For Brass, Ball

Film.

The Band featured in the Ealing Film: "Value for Money" with Diana Dors. (Video copy available)

The band recorded their sections of the film in Batley, Yorkshire, over a weekend in January 1955.

Cornet player Alan Fippard recalls;

*"During the filming of Value for Money, the band spent 2 to 3 days at Pinewood Studios filming the end wedding reception scenes. On one end of the day Jack Hill, who also rode a motorbike offered to give Johnny Du Bois a lift home. John rode pillion with his Baritone across his back whilst Jack who normally carried his trombone on his back had to hang it across his chest, all was well until they reached a T junction where in Jack found he couldn't quite make the turn and ended up in the ditch! Luckily nothing was bent or broken to men, machine or instruments."*

Membership.

Principal Cornet Alan Smith leaves Hanwell after three years as soloist to join the Munn & Feltons Band of Kettering, as Principal Cornet.



*Photograph thought to be taken at probably the 1957 Area contest at the Central Hall, Westminster.*

*Left to right are; Albert Osborne, principal cornet, 2 unknown, Billy Keene, solo cornet, Roy Beesley, tenor horn, George Lee, flugel horn, unknown cornet, Johnny Luckett, solo euphonium, (signing), Frank Bing & Laurie Butland, tenor horns, Dorothy Kilvington, solo cornet, next row Cec Davies, euphonium, Tommy Evans, trombone, Alan Fippard & Colin Young, cornets, Jack Hill, bass trombone, . The final row is Ray Norton & George Groom, trombones, Tommy Collins, E flat bass, Johnny DuBois, 1st. baritone & Len Bryant, E flat bass. Players missing in the picture would have been Len Atter, Mike Edwards, B flat basses & Arthur Buckland, 2nd. baritone.*

## **1956, Contests.**

April 7th. Area Contest, unplaced, playing Orion, Bantock

June 9th. Brighton, unplaced, playing Orion, Bantock

November 24th. Reading, 1st. playing Resurgam, Ball

Cornet player Alan Fippard recalls;

*"There was a very memorable performance at Reading Contest in 1956 when we played Resurgam with Eric Ball in the box. We knew we had played well, because when we finished playing (one of the most evocative endings to any test piece) there was a moment of absolute silence, then the hall erupted! In his announcement of the results Eric Ball said that the performance of the winning band was exactly as he envisaged it when he wrote the piece!  
It doesn't get much better than that"*



Hanwell playing at the Earls Court Radio Show in either late 1956 or early 1957. The programme was called 'The Country Comes to Town' and was basically an indoor agricultural show.

The players visible are;

David Noad, soprano, Charlie Leadbetter, principal cornet, Terry Dewhurst, solo cornet, Percy Pitkin & Roy Beesley, tenor horns, Frank Bing, baritone, Johnny Lockett, solo euphonium, George Groom & Tommy Evans, trombones, Mike Edwards & Len Bryant (almost seen) on B flat basses.

### **1957, Contests.**

February 24th. Islington, 2nd. playing Beethoven's 9th. Symphony

April 13th. Area Contest, 3rd. playing Beethoven's 9th. Symphony

June 8th. Brighton, unplaced, playing Beethoven's 9th. Symphony

October 26th. National Finals, 13th. playing Variations, Vaughan Williams

### **1958, Contests.**

February 9th. 1st. playing Moor of Venice, Alwyn

March 18th. Area Contest, 3rd. playing Moor of Venice, Alwyn

April 19th. Tunbridge Wells, 2nd. playing Moor Of Venice, Alwyn

June 7th. Brighton, 2nd. playing Moor Of Venice, Alwyn

July 5th. Weymouth, 1st. playing Sunset Rhapsody, Ball

November 22nd. Reading, 4th. playing Moor of Venice, Alwyn  
( recording available)

Alan Fippard (cornet) remembers;

*"There has always been mutterings at contests, mostly by the non-winning bands, or their supporters, that 'how on earth can an adjudicator give only one or two points between the top bands.... its ridiculous ' or similar comments. At the London and Home Counties Area, for 1958, Henry Gheel was the adjudicator, and he gave 15 points between the first and second bands, and 10 points between the second and the third!*

*Whether he genuinely believed the top bands deserved the points he gave, or he was saying "pick the bones out of that!" we will never know, but suffice to say the following year conformed to the norm."*

### **1959, Contests.**

April 11th. Area Contest, unplaced, playing Wuthering Heights, Raynor

May 18th. Hove, 1st. playing Labour & Love, Fletcher

May 23rd. Tunbridge Wells, 1st. playing Labour & Love, Fletcher

June 13th. Brighton, unplaced, playing Wuthering Heights, Raynor

June 27th. Romford, 1st. playing Wuthering Heights, Raynor

July 4th. Weymouth, 1st. playing Labour & Love, Fletcher

November 21st. Reading, 1st. playing Wuthering Heights, Raynor ( recording available)

Membership.

In September 1959 a young David James joins Hanwell on the front row whilst Principal Cornet of the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain. He is awarded a scholarship at the Royal Academy of Music.

Appointment.

In 1959 Eric Bravington is appointed Musical Director on a permanent basis. Two years later he retires from playing to take on the post of Managing Director of the L.P.O.

Hanwell in Trafalgar Square.

Len Atter remembers;

*"Hanwell was engaged to play at a British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection rally in Trafalgar Square in 1959, hence the picture of us at the base of Nelson's Column.*

*The most famous celebrity was publicised to be Jayne Mansfield, but she didn't show. I think that must have been the first engagement, but we also did two Sunday afternoon concerts for that organisation at the Richmond Theatre, where we supported, or were supported by, several showbiz stars of the day, though the only name I now recall was Elsie Randolph. One of the shows included a short item, the BUAV Dog Rescue March, written by their President's pianist wife (initial R - I believe for Rona), which was arranged for us at only a day or two's notice by our principal cornet Bert Osborn. We must have impressed favourably because the Association's President, Randolph Wren, offered that they should link more permanently and sponsor the band.*

*We rejected the approach simply, as I understood it, because our Committee couldn't really see Hanwell Band on the contest stage or in the broadcasting studio as the Band of the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection! Randolph clearly wasn't affronted by rejection, however, as he subsequently was Band President for some years."*

Cornet player Alan Fippard remembers;

*"In all the years I played with Hanwell we always rehearsed in the small hall behind the Red Lion pub in Boston Manor Road, Hanwell. I seem to remember being told that Reg Bravington either got the use of the hall for free, if not, at a very reduced rate, as I remember the band always bought the landlady a large bouquet of flowers and a gift worth £20 each Christmas as a way of thanks. I noticed through Google that it is no longer a pub although the structure remains as I knew it. When I joined the band as a young schoolboy I didn't understand the grown up brass band world of contests and how bands were graded in sections, so was unaware, initially, that I was playing in what was possibly the best band in the London area. This ignorance also extended to the reputations on the band members, suffice to say I knew I was the worst player in the band.*

*The two most formidable people were George Thompson & Reg Bravington. George was, what I came to realize later, typical Yorkshire man. He was blunt, enthusiastic and although he could be caustic you couldn't help wanting to get his approval. I remember his little encouraging homilies like "...b---y cornet players -10 a penny." also " the only excuse for missing band practice is a death in the family, and that must be your own". George was also athletic, at Brighton Contest on Rhapsody in Brass, he not only managed to let the baton slip from his hand whilst giving an emphatic cross beat toward the trombones, he also leapt in the air, with both feet off the stage, during the end part of the third movement!*

*I always remember Reg as wearing an overcoat, a trilby and smoking a pipe. His word was law on all matters non musical, but always had things running well organized and under control. Some others I remember; Len Burton was the Soprano player, he was short, slightly rotund and had a large moustache in to which the cornet seemed to disappear when he played ! He had a terrific sound and could sail up over the band. I remember we were doing the May Day Parade marching from the Embankment to Hyde Park Corner, there were 10 bands marching in pairs, we were the lead band and Len would play our march then busk to the band behind us!*

*Denzil Stephens was the Euphonium player when I started and not long after I had joined he asked me if I would like him to give me some free tuition for half an hour before practice, which I leapt at, and had some very useful lessons for a few weeks!*

*Another couple of characters were Jack Hill (bass Trombone) and Johnny DuBois (Baritone) known as "Flash" because he rode a BSA Gold Flash motorcycle. Jack always reminded of Danny Kaye due to his infectious laugh and unruly hair. Arthur Buckland was another stalwart bass player, who suffered with "bad" legs. I'm not sure if it was the result of a war wound or arthritis, however he contained the pain behind a screen of alcohol, which on one occasion, on returning from Weymouth Contest, resulted on an episode straight out of "Carry on Banding" when it took 4 of us nearly 20 minutes trying to get Buckey out of the coach. The old type coaches had narrow doors with 2 or 3 steps down and Buckey insisted on steadying himself by wedging his legs either side of the doorway and those that were in couldn't get out and those who were out couldn't get in....happy days."*

*Of all the contests that one plays in, the one you tend to remember the most is the finals at the Royal Albert Hall (no hanging "mushrooms" in those days), it's the big one and you are mixing with the top bands in the country. I must have played 5 or 6 times at the Finals and remember that the atmosphere was electric and by the middle of the draw the hall was filling up, the cigarette/pipe smoke (it was allowed in those days) was getting lower and the temperature was rising, unless you played early.*

*This is where my memory fails me. I always thought that Hanwell once drew the dreaded number 1, but the records seem to show that we actually drew number 2 twice. However, the scenario was the same, the Hall was cold, almost empty and lacking any kind of "buzz" and as Reg Bravington always called a rehearsal at 06.30, and usually at the Salvation Army Hall in Hammersmith, we were more ready for breakfast than a Test Piece."*

## **1960's.**

September 3rd. Brentford & Chiswick Carnival features a concert by the band.

Contests.

Area Contest 3rd

(Eric Bravington's first area contest, Tchaikovsky 5th. Symphony)

Tunbridge 1st. £25

Grays 1st. £25

Brighton 1st. £50

Reading 2nd. £15.15.0d test piece played; Fantasia, Mozart ( recording available)



*This photograph is thought to have been taken in November 1960 prior to the Reading Contest. The band was featured in two evening massed bands concerts in both 1960 & 1961, with Harry Mortimer conducting on both occasions.*

Bert Sullivan was the euphonium soloist in one of those concerts, accompanied by Hanwell. Names of some of the players shown are Albert Osborne, principal cornet, Billy Keene, solo cornet, Percy Pitkin & Laurie Butland, tenor horns, George Groom, Ray Norton & Ted Walker, trombones, Arthur Buckland & Johnny DuBois, baritones, Cec Davies & Johnny Lockett, euphoniums, Len Atter & Mike Edwards, B flat basses Len Bryant, E flat bass. The other bass not shown would have been Tommy Collins and the two men by the door are Alf Jarvis & Reg Bravington.

### **1961.**

Gloucester 1st. £75

Tunbridge 1st. £25 test piece played; Les Preludes, Liszt ( recording available)

Brighton 2nd. £25

Area 2nd. £20

Hove 1st. £15

Grays 1st. £20

Romford 1st. £40

Reading 2nd. £15.15.0d

Southend 4th.

### **1962.**

Tunbridge 2nd. £15

Brighton 2nd. (playing Tchaikovsky's 5th.) £25

Hove 1st. (Playing Rhapsody in Brass, Goffin) £12

Reading 2nd. £15.15.0d

Grays 1st. (Playing Rhapsody in Brass)

Area 3rd. £15

Cornet player Alan Fippard remembers;

*"There was another memorable musical experience playing Rhapsody in Brass, with Eric Bravington conducting, Grays Contest, possibly 1962. This was an outdoor contest, played in an old fashioned bandstand.*

*The piece was going well and by the time we had got to the last quarter of the third movement, just where all the semiquaver runs are, the band was really motoring and Eric realized that the band had "clicked" and rather than disturb the flow by energetic conducting, he bravely took one step back, leant against the rail, and just pointed out the first of the bar until we neared the end, when he reclaimed the control!*

*From where I sat on the back row of the cornets, I had a clear view down the line on the basses, and when they were playing their semiquaver runs, glanced up and was totally impressed with precision with which all their valves were moving in unison without the hint of any bluffing."*

The London & Southern Counties Area Qualifying Contest was held on April 14th. 1962 in the Seymour Hall, London W.1. The test piece was Salute to Youth by Gilbert Vinter.

Results of the Championship section were;

1st. Morris Motors, conducted by Stanley Boddington, 184 points, (drawn 1st.)

2nd. Luton, conducted by Albert Coupe, 180 points,

3rd. Hanwell, conducted by Eric Bravington, 178 points,

4th. John Dickinson Band, conducted by Geoffrey Brand, 176 points

The other two competing bands were;

Croydon Borough, conducted by Alf Jarvis

& East Ham Borough, conducted by Cyril Suckling.

Park Concerts.

July 8th. 1962, **Crystal Palace Park;** (recording available)

Overture, Lustpiel, Bela

Eton Boating Song, Kapps

Three Dale Dances, Wood

The Wee MacGregor Patrol, Amers

Hungarian Medley, Somers

Indian Summer, Ball

August 22nd. 1962 **Southall Rose Garden;** (recording available)

Also included in the programme;

Slavonic Rhapsody No.2

Ballet Egyptien Themes, Luigini

Euphonium Solo, The Cavalier, Sutton

soloist John Luckett

Recording.

In November of 1962, the band release "Here's Hanwell" on a 10" L.P. disc with the programme;

March, The Avenger, William Rimmer

Tone Poem, Quo Vadis, Drake Rimmer

Cornet solo, Facilita, John Hartmann, soloist David Allison

The Slavonic Rhapsody no.2, Friedmann.

The record is no. MLPB 10104 (copy available).

Issued by Keepoint Recording Services, 1 Knighton House, 102 Manor Way, London S.E.3. and sells for 26/- including tax.

### **1963 Contests.**

Area 1st. £50

Tunbridge 2nd. £15 test piece played, Overture The Force of Destiny, Verdi, recording available

Romford 1st. £40

Reading 1st. £30 (190 points)

other awards; 2nd. East Ham Borough, Cyril Suckling (186 points)

3rd. 383 Field Regt. R.A.T.A. , A. Davies (187 points)

other competing bands; Cinderford Town (C. Chappell), Croydon Borough (Alf Jarvis) and Hayes & Harlington (B. Williams).

The set test piece was the Force of Destiny Overture, Verdi.

In the second half of the evening massed concert, Hanwell were featured playing Labour & Love (Fletcher) and the cornet solo Carnival De Venice with David Allison as soloist.

Recording.

A follow up to "Here's Hanwell" is released in 1963 with the title "Bold As Brass". Another 10" L.P. on the Keepoint label, no.MLPB 10118 (copy available).

The programme was;

March, Bold As Brass, Thomas Chappell

Overture, Rienzi, Wagner arranged by Haydn Johns

Cornet solo, Carnival De Venice, William Rimmer arranged by Drake Rimmer, soloist David Allison.

Tone Poem, Labour and Love, Percy Fletcher.

Broadcast.

The band are heard playing the following programme on the B.B.C. **Bright & Early** programme, February 14th. 1963 ( recording available);

Washington Greys, Grafulla

Tango Militaire, Siebert

Thunder & Lightning Polka, Strauss

The Thin Red Line, Alford

Oklahoma Selection, arr. Wright  
Don Jose, Charrosin  
Toy Town Tattoo, Jordan  
The Falcons, Williams  
March, Bold As Brass, Chappell

Quartet Contests.

At the **Luton** Solo & Quartet Contest, March 9th. 1963, the trombone quartet of George Groom, Tom Evans, Ray Norton & Jack Hill perform the selection "**Tchaikovsky**"( recording available)

Massed Bands Concert.

At the Victoria Embankment Gardens on July 27th. Hanwell joined with the C.W.S. Manchester Band and the John Dickinson Band for a concert at 8pm.

Solo & Quartet Contest.

At the London & Home Counties contest held at Matthew Arnold School, Staines on November 11th., the band's members gained the following awards;

Senior Slow Melody;

1st. Len Newstead (B flat bass)  
Championship Quartet;  
1st. Hanwell (Eric Bravington)

1964, Contests.

Area 2nd. £30  
Luton 3rd. £20  
Tunbridge 2nd. £15  
Romford 1st. £40  
Reading 2nd. £15.15.0d **Recording available**

Tilbury Solo, Quartet & Septet.  
May 1964, Senior Slow Melody;

1st. H.Thompson (John Dickinson Band)  
2nd. T. Collins (Hanwell)  
3rd. D. Nightingale (Chinnor)

Best Bass Trophy; T. Collins (Hanwell)  
Quartets;

1st. Romford  
2nd. Hanwell 'B'  
3rd. Hanwell 'C'

4th. East Ham

Sepets;

1st. East Ham

2nd. Hanwell 'B'

Grays Temperance

4th. John Dickinson's

Adjudicators; Ralph Nellist & Dennis Smith.

1965 Contests

Area 2nd. £30

Nottingham 1st. £40

Hammersmith 1st. £20

Mansfield (Lorenzo) 1st. £120

Reading 1st. £30

Folkestone 1st. £20 (Deep Harmony & Resurgam)

National Finals 11th.

In the BBC Radio competition for bands, Challenging Brass of 1965 the band reached the semi-finals playing against Camborne Town Band who went on to the final that year.

1965 TOC H Festival Concert

The weekend of the 22nd.-23rd. May of that year saw the band join forces with BMC Morris Motors Band at the Royal Albert Hall for a festival of music conducted by Harry Mortimer, with organist Arnold Greir.

The band music played featured the **Spirit of Pageantry** March by Percy Fletcher, **Resurgam** by Eric Ball and **Cornet Carillon** by Ronald Binge.

1966, Committee

President; Randolph Wren, Chairman; Frank Bing, Treasurer; Peter Toppo, Public Relations Officer; Reg Bravington, Secretary; Ray Norton

1966, Contests.

February 19th. Nottingham, test piece; Life Divine, Jenkins.

1st. Hanwell 189 points

2nd. Cresswell Colliery 184 points

3rd. Hendon 176 points.

Adjudicator, Eric Ball.

March 6th. Hammersmith, test piece; Life Divine, Jenkins

1st. Hanwell 184 points

2nd. East Ham 182 points

3rd. Watneys 179 points.  
Adudicator, Frank Wright.

May 7th. Tunbridge Wells, test piece; Beethoven's 1st. Symphony  
1st. Hanwell 195 points  
2nd. Betteshanger Colliery 192 points  
3rd. Hendon 190 points.  
Adjudicator, Bert Sullivan.

May 21st. Grays, test piece; Beethoven's 1st. Symphony  
1st. Hanwell 190 points  
2nd. Newham 185 points  
3rd. Drayton 183 points.  
Adjudicator, Harry Mortimer.

June 11th. Mansfield, test piece; Le Roi D'ys Overture, Lalo  
1st. Hanwell 186 points  
2nd. Grimethorpe Colliery 184 points  
3rd. Cresswell Colliery 182 points.  
Adjudicator, Alex Mortimer.

June 25th. Romford, test piece; Le Roi D'ys Overture, Lalo  
1st. Hanwell 195 points  
Adjudicator Harry Easy.

November 12th. Reading, test piece; Symphony of Marches, Vinter  
1st. Hanwell 95 points Conducted by Geoffrey Brand **recording**  
2nd. Luton 93 points  
3rd. Aldbourne 91 points.  
Adjudicator, Rodney Bashford.

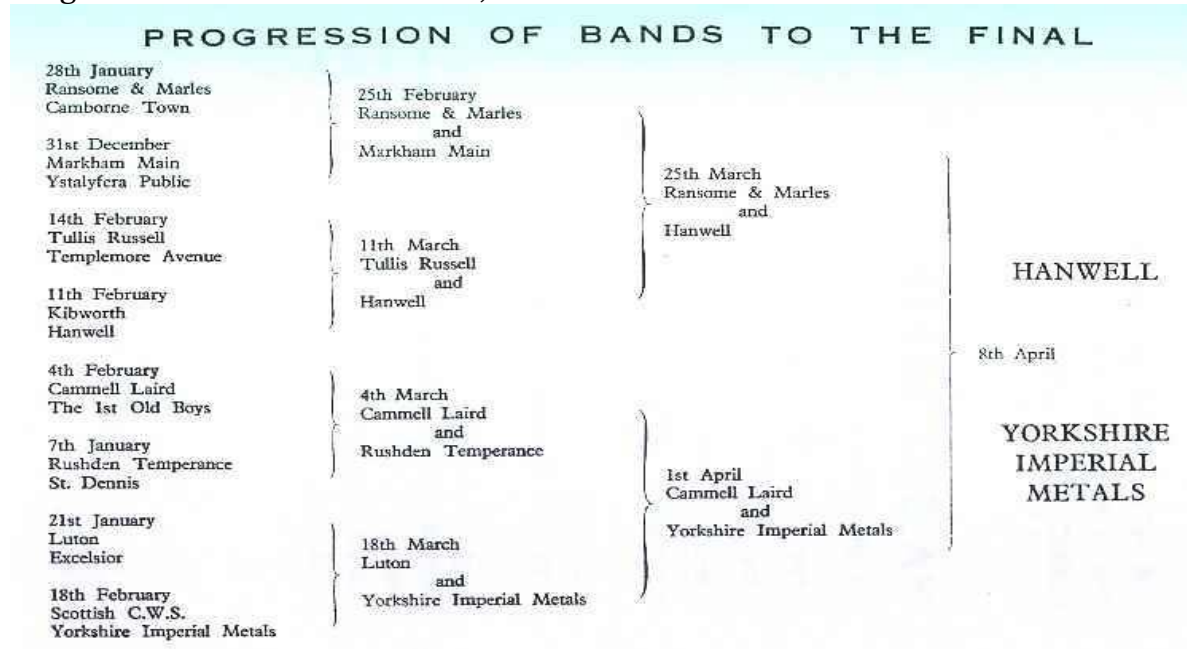
1966, Concerts

May 7th. Evening Festival Concert, Tunbridge Wells Contest & May 15th. Cliff  
Pavillion, Dovercourt  
March, The Middy, Alford  
Overture, Morning, Noon & Night, Suppe  
Whispering Brass, Peter Haysom,  
Cornet solo, Facilita, soloist David Allison  
Waltz, Morning Papers, Strauss  
Themes from Beethoven's Symphony no.1  
Interval  
Slavonic Rhapsody no.2, Friedman,  
Little Suite no. 2, Arnold  
Rondon from Horn Concerto No.4, Mozart, Euphonium soloist John Lockett  
Stardust, Carmichael  
The Shipbuilders, Peter Yorke  
Abide With Me.

Challenging Brass.

Mention now of yet another of the Band's great contest achievements, winning the Challenging Brass Radio Competition.

Progression of Bands to the Final;



Set Test Pieces;

Round 1;

- 1; Scherzo from Little Suite, Arnold
- 2; Rondo from A Downland Suite, Ireland
- 3; Music for Brass (mov.1), Wright
- 4; Tournament for Brass (mov.3), Ball
- 5; Off The Cuff, Rivers
- 6; Second Suite (mov.2), Jacob
- 7; Moorside Suite (mov.3), Holst
- 8; Kenilworth (march), Bliss.

Round 2;

- 1; Pageantry (King's Herald), Howells
- 2; Scherzo, Boekel
- 3; Rhapsody In Brass (mov.2), Goffin
- 4; Epic Symphony (mov.1), Fletcher.

Semi - Finals;

Programmes 1 & 2; Commissioned Work, Peter Yorke.

Final;

Challenging Brass, Vinter.

In the 1st. round of the contest on February 11th., Hanwell choose to play;

The Explorers Overture, Yorke  
Siciliano from Little Suite, Arnold  
March from A Moorside Suite, Holst.

The 2nd. round programme is;

The Buccaneer, Osgood  
Rhapsody in Brass (mov.2), Goffin  
The Shipbuilders (movs. 3 & 4), Yorke.

On Thursday April 7th., the band arrive at the Faversham Hotel, Springfield Mount in Leeds. The party consists of;

D. Allison, B. Chew, M. Graham, B. Hazlegrove, L. Redstone, A. Faraway, P. Thorne & T. Williams, P. Palmer, C. Hughes, P. Hyland, S. King, F. Bing, D. Jewitt, R. Beesley, K. Harris, J. Luckett, C. Davies, J. Dubois, B. Birchall, G. Groom, R. Norton, T. Evans & B. Williams, T. Collins, L. Bryant, B. Howells, L. Newstead, A. Howard & G. Lock.

On Good Friday, April 8th. at St. George's Hall Bradford, there is a 2pm massed bands rehearsal conducted by Malcolm Arnold. The 2 finalists bands rehearse between 5 & 6pm.

At 6.15pm the doors are open and the live broadcast starts at 6.45pm.

Hanwell Band drew No.1 to play against the Yorkshire Imperial Metals Band and Trevor Walmsly in the final of the BBC Challenging Brass radio contest.

Commencing with David Allison playing the Trumpet Voluntary, they followed with Stardust, Challenging Brass and ended with the Slavonic Rhapsody No.2.

Adjudicators; Harry Mortimer and Captain Rodney Bashford placed Hanwell first and Band went on to play in the Festival Concert conducted by Malcolm Arnold with the massed bands of Cammell Laird, Ransomes, and Yorkshire Imperial Metals.

The programme was;

March, The Middy, Alford  
Overture, Rule Britannia, William Rimmer  
Nimrod, Elgar  
Cornet Carillon, Ronald Binge  
Little Suite for Brass, Malcolm Arnold



Engagements 1966.

THE HANWELL BAND		ENGAGEMENTS 1966	
Sunday	March 6th.	Hammersmith Contest.	2.00 pm
Friday	" 11th.	Challenging Brass 2nd. round	
Friday	" 25th.	Challenging Brass Semi-Final	
Friday	April 8th.	Challenging Brass Final. Bradford	
Sunday	" 10th.	Easter Parade. Battersea Park	1.45 pm
Thursday	" 21st.	Annual Dinner. Isleworth.	7.30 pm
Saturday	" 23rd.	Portsmouth.	1.00 pm
Sunday	May 1st.	May Day Parade. Embankment	1.45 pm
Saturday	" 7th.	Hastings Contest & Concert.	9.00 am
Sunday	" 15th.	Dovercourt Concert.	9.00 am
Saturday	" 21st.	Grays Contest	
Sunday	" 22nd.	Victoria Park	3.00 pm
Saturday	" 28th.	Acton Carnival	
Sunday	June 5th.	Walpole Park	3.00 pm
Saturday	" 11th.	Mansfield Contest	
Sunday	" 12th.	Crystal Palace Park.	3.00 pm
Saturday	" 18th.	Hanwell Carnival	1.45 pm
Sunday	" 19th.	Embankment Gardens. massed bands	7 pm
Saturday	" 25th.	Golders Hill Park	3.00 pm
Sunday	" 26th.	Romford Contest	1.00 pm
Saturday	July 2nd.	Southall Park	3.00 pm
Sunday	" 3rd.	Geffrey's Gardens	7.30 pm
Sunday	" 10th.	Elthorne Park	3.00 pm
Saturday	" 16th.	Hornimans Gardens	7.00 pm
Sunday	" 17th.	Battersea Park Concert Pavilion	7.30 pm
Sunday	August 7th.	Clissold Park	7.30 pm
Sunday	" 14th.	Ravenscourt Park	3.00 pm
Sunday	" 21st.	Dean Gardens, Ealing	3.00 pm
Sunday	" 28th.	Greenwich Park	3.00 pm
Sunday	" 28th.	Waterlow Park	3.00 pm
Sunday	" 28th.	Lucas Gardens. Camberwell	3.00 pm

The Golden Sound.

The following year the Area trophy was returned to the bandroom and the Band recorded a long playing record "The Golden Sound of The Hanwell Band" on Saga Eros records, selling for 13/11d.

Recorded in Walthamstow Town Hall with the sleeve cover photograph taken in the Greenford Hall.

Saga Records was the personal creation of Marcel Rodd and at their height were pressing some 3 million discs a year in a converted chapel in Kensal Rise, North West London.



From the **BRITISH BANDSMAN**, 30th March, 1968.

"This new 12" disc consists of 11 items of a popular nature. Starting with the march Cottonopolis (Anderson) the Band next plays Lehar's Gold and Silver Waltz. Then comes a delightful fantasia on Dashing Away with the Smoothing Iron (Stewart, the nom-de-plume of the late Dr. Denis Wright). Siebert's Hawaiian Samba follows and the side finishes with 76 Trombones (Wilson).

The second side has Trumpet Voluntary (Clarke), Jealousy (Gade), a somewhat shortened version of the Blue Danube Waltz, Stardust, Thunder & Lightning Polka (arr. Wright) and the march Washington Greys (Grafulla).

The playing throughout is good but the performance of Stardust impressed me the most, completely refuting the contention often put forward that brass bands cannot do justice to this type of piece."



### New Instruments.

Monday, 30th December, 1968, the Band receive a new complete set of low pitch Besson Instruments. Hard work with the Fund Raising Committee climaxed with a 'no strings' gift of £3000 to the Band by a local industrial firm, made the whole thing possible.

Eric Bravington wrote in the BRITISH BANDSMAN: "We, at Hanwell, are grateful for this visible proof of the place we hold in the esteem of the local community."

Letter to Eric Bravington.

SKIPTON 2968

"Pohjola"  
EMBSAY,  
Skipton,  
Yorkshire.

23rd October 1969.

Dear Mr. Bravington,

I wonder if you might be interested in the enclosed newly published score ? (the parts will be ready within a few weeks). You will doubtless be able to discern its lineage in Holst's 'Moorside Suite' ! I would also like to mention Feldman's publication of my 'Three Impressions for Brass' if you do not already know this work. Both these suites are an attempt to write a more symphonic style of brass band concert music, and both have had Radio 3 broadcasts (two each) by the BMC Band and Black Dyke Mills Band.

Another matter we had some correspondence about earlier concerned the possibility of the London Philharmonic Orchestra programming one of my orchestral works, does this seem a likely proposition now ? You perhaps know that I have conducted the BBC Northern Symphony Orchestra in a performance of my First Symphony ('The British Symphony' series in 1967), and I would naturally welcome an opportunity to visit the L.P.O. if ever that might be feasible.

Yours sincerely,



Arthur Butterworth

## The 1970's.

### Contests

#### Area Champions

A brilliant performance of Berlioz's overture The Corsair, earns the Band a placing in the National Finals and their 6th Area Title as London & Southern Counties Champions.

To top this the Band go on to achieve 3rd prize in the Finals at the Royal Albert Hall on Gordon Jacob's fine piece "Pride of Youth".

Eric Bravington was the proud conductor on both occasions.

#### National Finals, Champion Band of Great Britain

1st. Grimethorpe Colliery, George Thompson, 95 points, drawn no.12

2nd. Ransome Hoffman Pollard, conductor Dennis Masters, 94 points, drawn no. 13

3rd. Hanwell, conductor Eric Bravington, 93 points, drawn no.8.

Adjudicators; Herbert Howells, Drake Rimmer & Eric Ball.



## Recording.

In 1971 an L.P. record is released under the title "Bandstand Brass" on the Stereo Gold Award Label, number MER 343, under the production management of Monty Presky of Damont Records, Hayes, Middlesex. (Copy available).

The programme (sleeve differs from label) is;

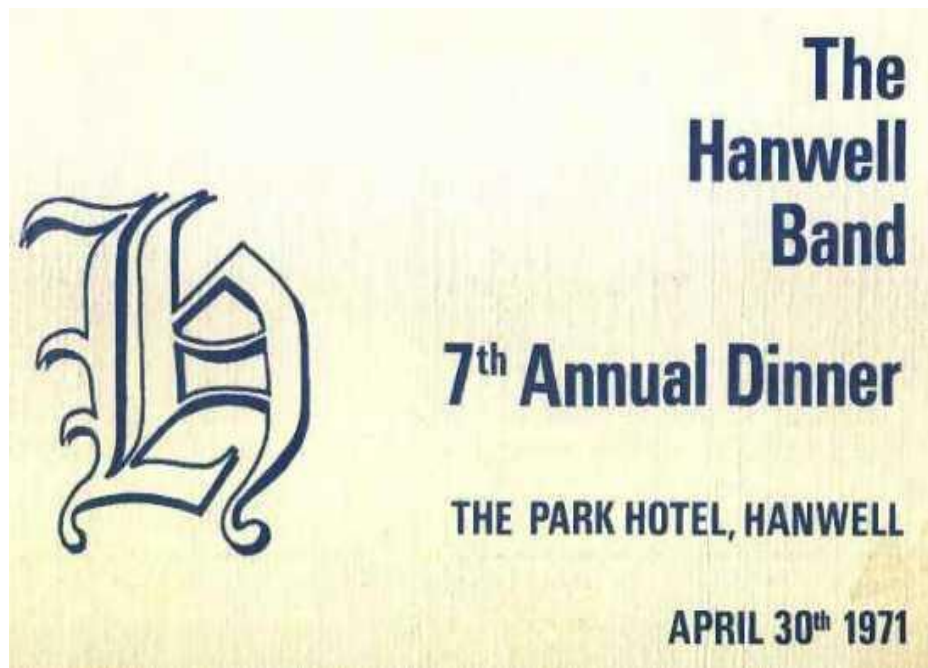
*The Washington Post, Sousa arranged by L. Muller*  
*Amparito Toca, Texidor arranged by Aubrey Winter*  
*Showers of Gold, Herbert L. Clarke, soloist David Allison*  
*Love Theme from Romeo and Juliet, Tchaikowsky arranged by Geoffrey Brand*  
*The Czech Polka, Strauss arranged by Frank Wright*  
*Hava Nagila, arranged by Edrich Siebert*

## Side 2.

*Marching Trumpets, Frank Seymour arranged by Edrich Siebert*  
*soloists; David Allison, Keith Spiers, Barbara Stone & Keith Dickens*  
*Meditation from Thais, Massenet arranged by Geoffrey Brand*  
*Violin soloist; Rodney Friend*  
*Rondo from Little Suite for Brass, Malcolm Arnold*  
*Pasa Doble, Alicante, Sylvio Ricardo arranged by Charrosin*  
*The Chit Chat Polka, Strauss arranged by Douglas Pope*

The album is re-issued in 1976 with a different sleeve under the title Blazing Brass.

Annual Dinner.



**THE HANWELL BAND**

President: Mrs HILDA WREN

Music Director: ERIC BRAVINGTON ARCM    Bandmaster: Mrs. BARBARA STONE LRAM    Secretary: RAY NORTON

The composition of the Band is as follows:

JOHN RUSSELL	..	SOPRANO
DAVID ALLISON	..	PRINCIPAL CORNET
KEITH SPIERS	..	SOLO CORNET
BARBARA STONE	..	"
KEITH DICKENS	..	"
PHILIP ENBLING	..	FLUGEL HORN
STEVEN RIDLER	..	REPIANO CORNET
GEOFFREY WEBB	..	SECOND CORNET
IAN LESTER	..	"
PAUL THOMAS	..	THIRD CORNET
ALAN GEORGE	..	"
ROBIN LOCK	..	"
DAVID STONE	..	SOLO HORN
FRANK BIRD	..	FIRST HORN
KEITH APPLETON	..	SECOND HORN
ROY BEELEY	..	"
JOHN LUCKETT	..	SOLO EUPHONIUM
ALLAN BRAY	..	SECOND "
CECIL DAVIES	..	SOLO BARITONE
ALAN FARAWAY	..	SECOND "
GEORGE GROOM	..	SOLO TROMBONE
RAY NORTON	..	SECOND TROMBONE
ALAN LAMBTOR	..	BASS TROMBONE
LEN BRYANT	..	E♭ BASS
DERRICK PARKER	..	"
LEN HEWSTEAD	..	B♭ BASS
BRYN HOWELLS	..	B♭ BASS
GEORGE LOCK	..	PERCUSSION

Change of Conductor.

Due to heavy schedules with the L.P.O., Eric Bravington hands the baton over to Bryan Birchall as Musical Director. Brian previously played Horn and Solo Baritone with Manchester C.W.S. Band before joining Hanwell on Solo Horn.

Top of the Pops.

From the **BRITISH BANDSMAN:**

"For what is believed to be the first time, a brass band has appeared on the TV programme "Top of the Pops" which has an audience rating of 23 million." Two consecutive appearances were made with the Band backing Peter Skellern on his record "You're a Lady". In two weeks the record rose from No.43 to No.8 in the charts. Planned rehearsals for the National Finals have had to be interrupted as the management of the Band had 24 hours notice with which to get the Band to the studios. The record went on to achieve 3rd position in the charts.

Annual Dinner.

Held at the Jolly Gardeners, Isleworth, the 9th Annual Dinner. Special guests include Peter Skellern, the arranger Andrew Pryce Jackman, and record producer Peter Sammes. A gift of a table lighter is made to Eric Bravington to commemorate his recent O.B.E.

That's Life.

The Band record the signature theme for one of the B.B.C.'s most popular television programmes: That's Life, with Esther Rantzen. In addition a week-end of filming with the B.B.C. Units sees the Band on hundreds of feet of film in all locations.

Advertisement.

The Band are seen in full view playing a special arrangement of "Happy Birthday" for a peak-time television advert for Champion Sparking Plugs Anniversary.

**1974.**

Early in 1974, Bramwell Tovey is appointed conductor. Bram is a freelance Tuba player with many of the leading London orchestras, and is Principal Conductor of the Concerti Allegri Symphony Orchestra.

Concert.

September 22nd. Dovercourt Community Centre;  
Programme;

Punchinello, Rimmer

The Corsair Overture, Berlioz

Showers of Gold, Clarke, soloist David Allison

Tenderfoot Trail, Peter Haysom

The Three Tromboneers, Mc. Farlane, soloists; George Groom, Ken Davies & Paul Applegarth.

Symphonic Suite, Lucas.

Interval

Bandology, Osterling  
Trumpeter's Holiday, Paige, soloists; Fred Croft, Steven Riddler & Keith Spiers  
British Sea Songs, Langford  
The Entertainer, Joplin  
Little Lisa, Warr  
And I Love You So, Maclean, soloist; John Lockett  
James Cook, Circumnavigator, Gilbert Vinter  
Ceramic City Festival, Stuart Johnson.

A similar programme is repeated at the **Battle of Britain Club** in R.A.F. Uxbridge on November 1st. with the following additions;

Una Voce Poco Fa, Rossini, soloist; David Allison  
Rainy Day, B. Tovey, Flugel horn soloist; Philip Embling  
West Side Story, Bernstein  
The Saints.

Contests.

At the **Hammersmith** Own Choice contest on February 17th. the Band are one of five competing in the Open Championship;

Results;

1st. Richmond (Watney) conductor Gywnne Price, (drawn 1st.) 194 points on Triumphant Rhapsody by Gilbert Vinter.  
2nd. Hanwell conductor Bryan Birchall, 193 points on the same music.  
3rd. Aldershot conductor George Prior, 192 points on Essay by Edward Gregson.

The other two competing bands are; Oxted, conductor R. Nicholson (on Prometheus Unbound, Bantock) & Teversal Collieries conductor A. Dinning (on Symphonic Suite, Lucas). Adjudicator; William Skelton.

TV Theme Music.

The band we were in & out of the BBC studios regularly. One of the TV shows we recorded a theme tune for was 'The Growing Pains of PC Penrose'. The story of a daft policeman and his adventures.

At the Area Contest on March 17th. in **Watford Town Hall** the results were;

1st. Morris Concert, conductor Walter Rees,  
2nd. Hendon Band, conductor Don Morrison,  
3rd. Newham Band conductor Ron Cooper,  
4th. Hanwell Band, conductor Bryan Birchall,  
5th. Aldershot Brass, conductor George Prior.

Other competing bands in the Championship Section were; Aveley (Cyril Suckling), Drayton (C. Pike), Hemel Hempstead (D. Chapman), & Richmond (Gwynne Price).

The set test piece was Variations on a Ninth by Gilbert Vinter. The adjudicator was James Langley.

On Sunday, 3rd November 1974, George Thompson awards Hanwell first prize at the **Watford Contest** after a performance of Le Carnival Romain, giving Bram Tovey his first success with the Band.

Results;

- 1st. Hanwell, conductor Bram Tovey, 193 points on Le Carnival Romain, Berlioz.
- 2nd. Aveley, conductor Cyril Suckling, 190 points on Embassy Suite, Allan Street.
- 3rd. Aldershot Brass conductor George Prior, 186 points on Tournament for Brass, Eric Ball.

Other competing bands in the Open Championship Section were; Cawston conductor J. Royston (Shipbuilders, Yorke) Newham conductor Ron Cooper (Rhapsody in Brass, Goffin) & Hemel Hempstead conductor Cliff Jones (same choice).

The **Reading Contest** follows on November 16th.;

Results;

- 1st. Woodfalls, conductor Courtney Bosanko, 191 points,
- 2nd. Redbridge Youth conductor John Ridgeon, 189 points,
- 3rd. Tadley conductor Gordon Saunders, 187 points,
- 4th. Rogerstone conductor C. Buckley, 184 points.

Non placed bands are; Aldbourne (D. Keene), Aldershot (G. Prior), Hanwell (B. Tovey), Hampshire Youth (John Knight), Mellingriffith (H. White), Mid Rhondda (F. Prior), Pressed Steel Fisher and Yorkley Onward (Brian Howard).

The adjudicators were Arthur Kenny & Captain M. Lane. The set test was Le Carnival Romain Overture, Berlioz.

One week on and the Band are at **Leicester** in the De Montfort Hall;

Results;

- 1st. William Davis conductor Ian Bartram, 194 points,
- 2nd. Hanwell conductor Bram Tovey, 192 points,
- 3rd. Coaville conductor Jon Hall, 191 points.

Other competing bands are; Aveley (Cyril Suckling), Bedworth (Phil Cooper), Cinderford (C. Chappell), City of Coventry "B" (Albert Chappell), Desford Colliery (Ernest Woodhouse), Drayton (C. Pike), Harton & Westoe (R. White), Hemel Hempstead (Cliff Jones), Kibworth (Paul Wright), Lindley (James Hickman), Newham (Ron Cooper), Rochdale (Norman Ashcroft), Rushden Temperance (R.

Howard), Shirland (Doug Carlin), Shirley (Hugh Watkins) & Thoresby (William Lippeatt).

The set test piece was Rhapsody In Brass, Goffin. The adjudicator was William Relton.

## 1975.

### Wedding

22nd February, 1975. The wedding of Soprano Cornet Fred Croft and Cornet player Margaret Chapman is held at Greenford Baptist Church. A group from the Band provides the music which includes Wagner's Bridal March, the cornet solo Alleluja (Mozart) played by David Allison, and ending with Mendelssohn's Wedding March.

### B.B.C.

Pre - record of Friday Night Is Music Night, Tuesday, 4th. March for transmission on Friday, 28th. March.

The Hippodrome, Golders Green.

Band items; Bandology, Osterling, Spanish Flea, arr. Bram Tovey, Little Lisa, Warr & Napoleon Galop, Brianne.

### Recording.

On April 27th. the Band travel to Grosvenor Studios in Birmingham to record an L.P. on the Hollick & Taylor Label. (Copy available).

The programme recorded is;

*Toccata, Leighton Lucas*

*Le Carnival Romain Overture, Berlioz arranged by Frank Wright*

*Four Preludes for Tuba, Philip Greenwood, soloist Bram Tovey, conductor Bryan Birchall*

### Side 2

*Florentina March, Fucik arranged by Barsotti*

*Quid Pro Quo, Eric Ball, soloists; David Allison, Michael Blake & Steven Riddler (cornets)*

*Ken Davies, George Groom & Paul Applegarth (trombones)*

*Big Spender, Cy Coleman arranged by Philip Greenwood*

*Napoli, Herman Bellstedt, soloist David Allison*

*Fantasy on British Sea Songs, Langford*

Guest Soprano on the recording is Roy Roe. The album is made especially for the Band's first venture abroad, to Switzerland from June 18th. - 28th.

## Principal Cornets.

Following the departure of David Allison, Chris Joynes is appointed Principal Cornet after winning the Alex Owen Scholarship. At the end of the year his place is taken by Michael Blake who plays on their next contest appearance.

## Contests.

At the **Area Contest** in Watford Town Hall, March 16th. Journey Into Freedom by Eric Ball is the set test piece for the Championship Section.

Results;

- 1st. Hendon Band, conductor Don Morrison, 193 points
- 2nd. Morris Concert, conductor Walter Rees, 192 points
- 3rd. Luton Band, conductor Walter Hargreaves, 191 points
- 4th. Hanwell, conductor Bram Tovey, 190 points.

Other competing bands are; Aldershot (George Prior), Aveley (Cyril Suckling), City of Oxford (D. Lewis), Drayton (C. Pike), Hemel Hempstead (Cliff Jones), Newham (Ron Cooper) & Oxford Concert (Cliff Edmunds).

The adjudicator was William Relton.

## B.B.C.

Pre - record of Friday Night Is Music Night, Thursday, 15th. May for later transmission.

Maida Vale Studio 1.

Band items; Florentina March, Fucik, Napoli, cornet solo, Chicken Reel & Mock Morris, Quid Pro Quo, Eric Ball & Punchinello, Rimmer.

Live recording of Friday Night Is Music Night, Friday 25th. July. The Hippodrome Golders Green.

Band items; Old Comrades, Teike, The Girl I Left Behind Me, arr. Langford, African Waltz, arr. Greenwood, Showers of Gold, soloist David Allison, To A Wild Rose, Macdowell, March Cottonopolis, Anderson.

Pre - record of Friday Night Is Music Night, Monday October 27th. for transmission on Friday 31st. October.

The Hippodrome Golders Green. Band items; Liberty Bell, Sousa, I Will Drink The Wine, arr. Croft & Shepherd's Hey, Grainger.

## Concert

Greenford Hall, Thursday October 23rd.

Programme;

African Waltz, arr. Greenwood

Le Roi D'ys Overture, Lalo

Mancini Magic, arr. Street

Valse Brilliante, Windsor, soloist Chris Joynes

Spanish Flea, arr. Tovey  
Say Ye Who Borrow, Mozart arr. Street, Flugel Horn Phil Embling  
Quid Pro Quo, Eric Ball  
Shepherd's Hey, Grainger.

#### Interval

Cottonopolis March, Anderson  
Four Preludes For Tuba & Band, Philip Greenwood, soloist Bram Tovey, conductor  
Brian Birchall  
Lisbon Carnival, Vinter  
The Acrobat, Greenwood, soloist Stan Willis  
The Girl I Left Behind Me, arr. Langford  
Pel Mel, Hogarth Lear  
Hootenanny, Walters  
The Saints, arr. Langford.

#### Contests

Reading Festival, 15th November, 1975.  
Results;

- 1st. Burton Construction Newhall, conductor Ernest Woodhouse, 189 points
- 2nd. Hanwell, conductor Bram Tovey, 188 points
- 3rd. Luton Band, conductor Walter Hargreaves, 187 points
- 4th. Woodfalls, conductor Courtney Bosanko, 183 points.

Other competing bands; Aldbourne (D. Keene), Coalville (Jon Hall), Hampshire Youth (John Knight), Hemel Hempstead (Cliff Jones), Kibworth (J. Mason), Markham & District (D. Hendy), Newham (Ron Cooper), Oxford Concert (Cliff Edmunds), Ransomes (G. Tomlinson), Rogerstone (S. Mitchell), Sherbourne Town (A. Davies), Soundwell, (Arthur Kenny) & Tadley (Gordon Saunders).  
The set test piece was Le Roi D'ys Overture, Lalo. The adjudicators were Ken Dennison & Captain R. Ridings.

#### **1976.**

Barbara Mealing is appointed Principal Cornet and George Prior, Conductor of Aldershot Brass is guest conductor at the Milton Keynes Entertainments Contest in February. (The adjudicator is Eric Bravington !)

#### Contests

Milton Keynes Entertainments, 15th. February.  
Results;

- 1st. Tadley Band, conductor Gordon Saunders, 182 points
- 2nd. Oxford Concert, conductor Cliff Edmunds, 181 points
- 3rd. City of Oxford, conductor D. Lewis, 180 points.

Other competing bands were; Aveley (Cyril Suckling), Hanwell (George Prior), Hemel Hempstead (Cliff Jones), Leicester Foresters (E. Massey), Luton (Walter Hargreaves), & Rushden Windmill (W. Scholes).

The first movement of Rhapsody In Brass (Goffin) was played by all bands in their programme.

Bandmaster.

Alan Wilson, Soprano, is appointed Resident Conductor after the departure of Bram Tovey, following his appointment as assistant conductor of the London Festival Ballet.

Area Contest.

Seeing the need for a Professional Conductor to secure the area title again, the Band obtain the services of Ifor James, conductor of Besses o' the Barn Band, and Horn soloist of the Philip Jones Brass Ensemble.

The combination of Alan and Ifor is rewarded with a first prize on Vinter's Spectrum with Alan Wilson taking on Principal Cornet at the last minute.

Results;

- 1st. Hanwell conductor Ifor James, 186 points
- 2nd. Hendon Band conductor Don Morrison, 185 points
- 3rd. Luton Band conductor Walter Hargreaves, 182 points
- 4th. Aldershot Brass conductor George Prior, 181 points.

Other competing bands were; Aveley (Cyril Suckling), Cambridge (David Read), City of Oxford (D. Lewis), Drayton (C. Pike), Hemel Hempstead (Cliff Jones), Morris Concert (Walter Rees), Newham (Ron Cooper), Oxford Concert (Cliff Edmunds) & Southsea (Fred Monk).

The adjudicator was Arthur Kenny.

Departure.

Popular bandsman Bryan Birchall leaves Hanwell to assist Geoffrey Brand as Bandmaster at G.U.S. in Kettering. Bryan also takes on Solo Baritone.

B.B.C.

Live recording of Friday Night is Music Night, April 2nd. The Hippodrome Golders Green.

Band items; Galop from Suite No.2, Arnold, Dashing Away, Stewart & Jamaican Folk Suite.

Concert.

The Royal Academy of Music, Thursday, 3rd June 1976. Conductor: Ifor James, soloist: Philip Eastop, Horn.

Items include:

Spectrum, Gilbert Vinter

Chromascope, Paul Patterson  
Concerto for Horn, Edward Gregson  
Variations for Brass, Vaughan Williams.

Record.

At Lansdowne Studios the band were once again featured on backing tracks. The first of 2 sides were recorded with **John Christie**, Here's To Love and For The Peace of all Mankind, the second 2 sides were with **John Clive**, Hollywood Hero and Windows of Paris. Of the 4 tracks, Here's to Love was the only chart record and one which still gets heard each Christmas with it's backing tune of Auld Lang Syne.

Other records were made under the title of **The New World Brass Band** including "Theme From A New World" and "Love In The Park", both arranged and conducted by **Andrew Pryce - Jackman**, and produced by Jeff Jarratt and Don Reedman, through **Carlin Music Ltd.** And **Pye Records**.

Our other famous record was of course, The Floral Dance with **Terry Wogan** on vocals. Side 2 was a ballad entitled "Old Rockin' Chair". Both were once again arranged and conducted by Andrew and produced by **Mike Redway** of Redrock Music.

Released on the **Philips** label, it reached number **3** in the charts. **UPDATED** [Listen to it here.](#)

B.B.C.

Broadcast on 20th. July on Radio 3, **Among Your Souvenirs.**

Band items; Aberystwyth, Parry, Panis Angelicus, Franck & Early One Morning, Seymour.

**Pre - record** for later transmission, same programme.

Band items; Chanson De Matin, Elgar, Hyfrydol Hymn, Parade of the Tin Soldiers, Jessel & British Grenadiers, arr. Bill Rumford.

Conducted by Brian Birchall.

Concert.

The Hanwell Festival Series, 27th. September, conductor Alan Willson.

Programme;

Army of the Nile, Alford

Fingal's Cave Overture, arr. George Thompson

The Lazy Trumpeter, soloist Barbara Mealin

Fiddler On The Roof, arr. Street

Air & Rondo, horn soloist George Nicklin

Deux Grotesques, Picon

Spring, Grieg

The Girl I Left Behind Me, arr. Langford.

Interval

Prelude for An Occasion, Gregson

Force Of Destiny Overture, Verdi  
Angel Guard Thee, trombone soloist Stan Willis  
Chanson De Matin, Elgar  
Endearing Young Charms, arr. Langford, soloist Charley Brighton  
Blow The Wind Southerly, arr. Langford  
Waltzing Matilda, arr. Langford  
Hymn, Hyfrydol  
West Country Fantasy, arr. Langford.

Contest.

At the **National Finals** in October of that year, Ifor James is unavailable and Tony Randall is booked to conduct the band. A disappointing 17th. place out of 21 (though only 1 point below G.U.S.) is given by adjudicators Noel Cox, Eric Bravington & Rodney Bashford.

Below us in the table are; AMOCO, C.W.S. Manchester, Whitburn & Dalmellington. The test piece was the Wayfarer by Eric Ball.

Sunday, 7th November, Watford Town Hall. The Band achieves a four point win at Watford Own Choice with Eric Ball's "The Wayfarer" conducted by Donald Morrison, of Hendon Band.

Results;

1st. Hanwell conductor Don Morrison, 188 points  
2nd. City of Coventry 'B' Band conductor Edward Massey, 184 points, on John O' Gaunt, by Vinter  
3rd. Leicester Foresters conductor Robert Coates, 181 points, on Prometheus Unbound by Bantock.

Other competing bands are; Oxford Concert (Cliff Edmunds) on Journey Into Freedom by Eric Ball and Southampton Central (W. Buchan) no test piece details.

Concert.

Greenford Hall, 3rd December, 1976. Guest Conductor: Barbara Stone. Following this concert Barbara accepts the position of Musical Director to Hanwell. Previously she had been a member of the Solo Cornet bench and conducted the Band to a first at Leicester in the late 60's when Eric Bravington was unavailable.

Programme:

Jesus Christ Superstar, arr. Gentry  
Orpheus in the Underworld Overture, Offenbach  
Square Dance, Jim Parker  
Hailstorm, soloist Barbara Mealin  
Chicken Reel, Daly  
Little Serenade, Tomlinson  
South Pacific, arr. Wright.

Interval

Sousa on Parade, arr. Wright  
West Country Fantasy, arr. Langford  
Rondo from Concerto no. 4, Mozart, soloist John Lockett  
The Padstow Lifeboat, Arnold  
Waltzing Matilda, arr. Langford  
Hootenanny, Walters.

Television Broadcast.

December. The Band provide the theme music for the B.B.C. TV's Panorama programme. The programme featured Welsh Steel Mills and two versions are recorded. The Assistant Editor of the programme, David Harrison worked with the Band throughout.

1977.

David Allison returns as Principal Cornet.

Contests

Hammersmith Own Choice Contest.

Results;

1st. Aveley conductor Cyril Suckling, 188 points playing Variations for Brass, Vaughan Williams

2nd. Leicester Foresters conductor Robert Coates, 187 points playing The Frogs, Bantock

3rd. Redbridge conductor Ray Farr, 186 points playing Challenging Brass, Vinter

4th. City of Coventry 'B' conductor Edward Massey, 185 points playing John O' Gaunt, Vinter

Equal 5th. Hanwell conductor Barbara Stone, 184 points playing Variations, Vaughan Williams & Croydon Band conductor A. Jarvis playing Variations on a Ninth, Vinter

Adjudicator David Read.

Quartets & Septets

A few weeks later and a group of parties set out for **Horsham** Quartet and Septet contest where we fielded 3 quartets and 1 septet.

**Quartet A** was Keith Spears and Mick Blake (cornets), Dave Young (horn) and myself, playing **Quartet for Brass** by American Arthur Frackenpohl, and conducted by Alan Bray.

**Quartet B** was Stuart Kirk and Eileen O'Sullivan (cornets), Philip Cleave (horn) and Alan Bray (euphonium), playing Vinter's Elegy & Rondo and conducted by myself.

**Quartet C** were the basses, Len Bryant & Greg Hayes (E flat) with Len Newstead and Roy Beesley (B flat) playing **Introduction & Rondino** by Kenneth Cook, conducted by Alan once again.

For the septet contest we borrowed Bruce Gentry's arrangement of **Russlan & Ludmilla**, beating Aldershot on it ! The septet consisted of Keith Spiers, Stuart Kirk (cornets), Dave Young (horn), Alan Bray (baritone), myself on euphonium, Paul

Applegarth (bass trombone) and Len Bryant (E flat bass), conducted by Greg Hayes. Adjudicator **Walter Reese** gave the **A** quartet 3rd. prize and the **septet** 1st.

#### Area Contest

A second successive win at Watford Qualifying Round gives Barbara Stone her first invitation to the Finals with Hanwell. With a remarkable performance of Howell's Pageantry, the Band take a two point lead over Oxford Concert Brass.

Results;

- 1st. Hanwell conductor Barbara Stone, 182 points
- 2nd. Oxford Concert conductor Cliff Edmunds, 180 points
- 3rd. Luton conductor Lyn Morgan, 180 points
- 4th. Solent Youth conductor Wesley Garner, 178 points.

Other competing bands were; Aldershot (George Prior), Aveley (Cyril Suckling), Cambridge (David Read), Drayton (C. Pike), Hendon (Don Morrison) & Newham (Ron Cooper).

The adjudicators were Ken Dennison & Jon Hall.

#### Contests

Grays, Thurrock, April 24th.

A second place secured on Vinter's Variations on a Ninth.

Results;

- 1st. Aveley conductor Cyril Suckling, playing Pageantry, Howells
  - 2nd. Hanwell conductor Barbara Stone, playing Variations on a Ninth, Vinter
  - 3rd. Newham conductor Ron Cooper, playing Pageantry, Howells
  - 4th. Croydon conductor Alf Jarvis, playing Variations on a Ninth, Vinter.
- Adjudicator Derek Broadbent

#### Original Brass

Also at this time, **David Smith**, a good friend of the band formed the **Original Brass** using players mostly from **Hanwell & Enfield** bands but did include **Phil Humphries**, trombonist with the **Andy Ross Big Band**. Several concerts were given using David's fine arrangements.

One in particular was with saxophonist **Betty Smith** and band leader and arranger **Jack Peberdey** with the **Tony Lee Trio**. A recording was made featuring **Bobby Orr** on drums (Ex Ted Heath) and included the track Pete Kelly's Blues.

#### Lancing Bagnall.

A third place was won at the first ever Lansing Bagnall Brass Band Festival, Basingstoke, Saturday, 30th April.

Results;

1st. Burton Construction, 193 points  
2nd. Rochdale Band, 190 points  
3rd. Hanwell Band, 188 points  
4th. Lockwood Band, 186 points.

Other competing bands; Hampshire Concert, Tredegar, Aldershot, Hendon, Aldbourne, Rogerstone, Solent Youth, Shirley, Woodfalls & Newham.  
The adjudicator was Eric Ball. The set test piece was Variations on a Ninth, Vinter.

Silver Jubilee.

The Royal Albert Hall 12th June, 1977 The Royal Silver Jubilee Massed Bands Concert.

Black Dyke Mills

Fairey Engineering Works

Fodens Motor Works

Hanwell

Morris Motors.

Conducted by Harry Mortimer and Walter Susskind.

Programme;

Fanfare For A Dignified Occasion, Bliss

Yeoman of The Guard Overture, Sullivan

Prelude to Revelry, Jacob

Skye Boat Song, arr. Rimmer

Concerto for Cornet & Band, Dennis Wright, soloist Philip Mc.Cann

Comedy Overture, Ireland

Vivat Regina, Mathias.

Interval

Little Suite for Brass, Arnold

The Severn Suite, Elgar

The Dover Coach, featuring cornets

Grandfather's Clock, featuring euphoniums

Trombola, featuring trombones

Rhapsody on Negro Sprituals, Ball

Music From The Elizabethan Court, arr. Howarth

Fantasy on British Marches, arr. Langford.

B.B.C.

Live broadcast for Friday Night is Music Night, June 17th.

The Hippodrome Golders Green. Band items; By Royal Command, Walters, Trombola (soloists Graham Dutton, George Groom & Paul Applegarth), & Fandango, Perkins.

Concert

Bournemouth Town Hall, July 10th.

Programme;

Prelude to Pageantry, Ball  
Royal Salute, Ball  
Orpheus in the Underworld, Offenbach  
The Watermill, soloist David Allison  
Rhapsody on Negro Spirituals, Ball  
Air from Suite in D, Bach  
To A Wild Rose, soloist John Lockett  
Pageantry, Howells.

Interval

Jesus Christ Superstar, arr. Gentry  
West Country Fantasy, arr. Langford  
Melody & Caprice, trombone soloist Graham Dutton  
Fandango, Perkins  
Blow The Wind Southerly, arr. Langford  
African Waltz, arr. Greenwood  
Big Spender, arr. Greenwood  
Toccata from Suite Gothique, Boellman.

A Day at the Races.

August, 1977. The Band play an afternoon of music at Sandown Racecourse as guests of the Trafalgar House Group.

Record.

Wednesday, 14th September, 1977. Delaney Studio, Engineers Way, Wembley. Artist: Annie Aslam Producer: Roy Wood (Wizard) Arranger: Louis Clark.

National Finals

The band are drawn no. 8 and are unplaced on Gregson's Connotations. Eric Bravington receives an inscribed silver salver by Malcolm Williamson, Master of The Queen's Music, at the Royal Albert Hall, in the Spotlight on Service ceremony. A fanfare is provided on stage by cornet & trombone members of the Hanwell Band.

Hanwell Festival

October 16th. The opening service at St. Mary's Church, Hanwell, Preacher; The Abbot of Ealing.

Band items; Cwm Rhondda, Diadem, St.Clements, Eventide, Praise My Soul, Nimrod, Suite in D & All In The April Evening.

Contest

Watford Town Hall Own Choice, November 6th.  
Results;

1st. Hanwell, conductor Barbara Stone, 187 points playing Connotations, Gregson  
2nd. Towcester Studio, conductor William Scholes, 185 points playing Resurgam, Ball  
3rd. Kibworth Band, conductor William Scholes, 180 points playing Festival Music, Ball

Other competing bands; Enfield Co-Op (C. Randall), Southampton Central (W. Buchan) & City of Coventry 'B' (Edward Massey).  
The adjudicator was Dennis Masters and David Allison won the trophy for best cornet player.

At the **Winston Festival** back at the Alexandra Palace, we entered 3 soloists, 2 quartets and an ensemble. This contest always drew good players and this years line up included **Gareth Pritchard** (cornet, Stanshawe), **Linda Nicholson** (cornet, Oxted) and **Eric Capron** (soprano, Luton). Adjudicator **David Read** placed me 2nd. in the slow melody section (Lento, Horovitz Concerto) but I have no record of the air varie entry.

The two quartets we entered were the **A team**; Keith Spiers & Mick Blake on cornets, Karen Williams on horn and myself, conducted by Barbara and playing **Quartet for Brass** by Arthur Frackenpohl.

**The B team** was Stuart Kirk & Eileen O' Sullivan on cornets, Phil Cleave on horn and Alan Bray on euphonium playing **Fancy's Knell** Vinter), conducted by myself. The results were the B team placed 3rd. with the A team **8 points** behind! The ensemble won 1st. prize playing **Bruce Gentry's** arrangement of the **Ruslan & Ludmilla** overture conducted by Barbara.

## 1978.

Early February was the usual date for the **Yeovil Entertainment's Contest** in which we competed.  
Results;

1st. Cory Band  
2nd. City Of Coventry  
3rd. Stanshawe  
Adjudicator Courtney Bosanko

Other competing bands; Camborne, Hanwell, St. Austell, Swanbrook, Tredegar & Woodfalls.

## B.B.C.

6 days later we are recording again on a live Friday Night Is Music Night with the **B.B.C. Concert Orchestra**.  
Band items; A Bridge Too Far, Addison, Cornet Trio (?) & Hogarth's Hoedown, Lear.

## Concert

2 days on and it's a concert with the Ealing Citadel Army Songsters, compared by **Robert Alexander** in aid of the Seoul (Korea) Boys Band.

Programme:

French Military March, Saint Seans  
Orpheus in The Underworld, Offenbach  
Air From Suite in D, Bach  
Trumpets Wild, Walters  
Hogarths Hoedown, Lear  
Feelings, arr. Saunders, horn soloist Karen Williams  
Rhapsody In Blue, arr. Huckeridge

## Interval

A Bridge Too Far, Addison  
I Wish You Love, trombone soloist Graham Dutton  
Entertainments, Vinter  
To A Wild Rose, euphonium soloist John Luckett  
The Floral Dance, arr. Broadbent

## Contest

7 days later and it's another **Horsham** contest for quartets & ensembles. Our friend Don Morrison kindly gave the **B team** 5th. (Euryanthe) the **A team** 1st. (Fancy's Knell) and the ensemble 1st. (Russlan & Ludmilla).

## Area Contest

Adjudicators George Thompson and Josef Horovitz award the Band first prize at Watford on 12th March giving them their third consecutive win, a hat trick of Area titles with a three point lead over Aldershot Brass, a friendly rival who had just joined with Hanwell at Twickenham Rugby Ground for a massed bands performance. The test piece was Bliss's Bellemont Variations.

Results;

1st. Hanwell conductor Barbara Stone, 190 points  
2nd. Aldershot Brass conductor George Prior, 187 points  
3rd. Luton conductor Lyn Morgan, 186 points  
4th. Morris Concert conductor Walter Rees, 185 points.

Other competing bands; Aveley (Cyril Suckling), Cambridge (David Read), Clacton (Robert Howard), Croydon (Alf Jarvis), Hemel Hempstead (D. Henderson), Hendon (Don Morrison), Newham (Ray Farr), Oxford Concert (H. Williams) & Solent Concert (Wesley Garner).

## Pontins

The Easter weekend was spent at **Pontin's Holiday Camp** for the qualifying contest on **Kenilworth** (Bliss) where **James Scott & Derek Broadbent** gave us a disappointing 7th. place.

Results;

- 1st. Cory conductor Bram Gay, 185 points
- 2nd. Woodfalls conductor William Buchan, 184 points
- 3rd. St. Dennis conductor Eddie Williams, 181 points
- 4th. St. Austell conductor Derek Johnston, 178 points
- 5th. Tredegar conductor W. Thomas, 177 points
- 6th. Lewis Merthyr conductor Nigel Seaman, 176 points
- 7th. Hanwell conductor Barbara Stone, 175 points
- 8th. Markham & District conductor John Pryce-Jones, 174 points
- 9th. Leicester Foresters conductor Robert Coates, 173 points.

Other competing bands were; Bath Spa (B. Buckley), Blaina & District (I. Roberts), British Rail Swindon, Calverton Colliery (B. Wilson), Cinderford (C. Chappell), Hogarths (Mike Cotter), Hymac Rhymney (C. Buckley), Ibstock (Allan Street), Mid Rhondda (S. Williams), Oxford Concert (H. Williams), Parc & Dare (I. Morgan) & Swanbrook (D. Stephens).

## Contest

April 15th. the Lansing Bagnall Championships.

Results;

- 1st. William Davis, 193 points
- 2nd. Carlton Main Frickley, 191 points
- 3rd. Webb Ivory Newhall, 190 points
- 4th. Hendon Band, 185 points
- 5th. Aldershot Brass, 182 points

Other competing bands; Luton, Aldbourne, Cinderford, Solent, Hanwell, Hampshire Concert, Oxford Concert, Hemel Hempstead, Bath Spa, Mid Rhondda, Woodfalls, Lockwood, Rochdale & Coventry School of Music.

Adjudicator Harry Mortimer, set test piece, Bellemonte Variations, Bliss.

## Concert

Saturday 13th May, 1978. The Lions Club of Maidenhead.

Soloists: David Allison, Cornet, Karen Williams, Horn, Graham Dutton, Trombone, Charley Brighton, Euphonium.

Hatch End High School, Wednesday, 17th May, 1978. **Guest soloist: Michael Hext**, Winner of the B.B.C. Television Young Musician of the Year competition.

Organised by Harrow Young Musicians with funds going to the Student Concert Band recording project.

Compere; Ray Norton, programme:

French Military March, Saint Seans

Simon Called Peter, Vinter

Feelings, Albert

Micheal Hext with Marion Hext on Piano; Bolivar, Cook

1st. Movement Trombone Concert, Jacob

West Country Fantasy, Langford

Intermezzo & Easter Hymn, Cavalleria Rusticana, Mascagni

Interval

A Bridge Too Far, Addison

Varied Mood, euphonium soloist Charley Brighton

Rhapsody In Blue, arr. Huckeridge

Micheal Hext and band; Rhapsody for Trombone, Langford

Pavanne, Gould

Floral Dance, arr. Broadbent

Orpheus in the Underworld, Offenbach.

Radio.

Bandstand, Radio 3, 3rd July, 1978.

First Broadcast performance of Concerto for Brass Band op.37 by Kenneth Platts

Best of Brass

The 1st. prize at the Area contest gave us an automatic entry to the new **Best of Brass** television contest. So on Friday June 9th. at the Assembly Rooms in Derby, we recorded our first programme against what was then the **Fairey Engineering Band** (Walter Hargreaves). Obviously, they went on and we went out.

Our programme was **Jesus Christ Superstar** arranged by Bruce Gentry of Aldershot. **Summertime** (Gershwin) featuring David Allison and arranged by David Smith and **Themes from a Wild West Movie** (Pryce Jackman). This was specially written for us by Andrew who was arranger for the recording with **Peter Skellern**, You're A Lady.

B.B.C.

Back on the radio again for Friday Night is Music Night, live on June 23rd.

Band items; Moonliner March, arr. David Smith, I Wish You Love, trombone soloist Graham Dutton & Galop from Orpheus in the Underworld, Offenbach.

A programme for **Listen To The Band** is rehearsed and recorded at the Hippodrome Golders Green.

With Hanwell are Newham and Aveley Bands, conducted by Roy Newsome with guest soloist Philip Mc.Cann.  
Programme;

Kingsize March, Newsome  
A Sullivan Fantasy, Langford  
Bees a' Buzzin, Siebert  
Carnival De Venice, Phil Mc.Cann with Hanwell Band  
Sleeping Beauty Waltz, Tchaikowsky  
The Shipbuilders, Yorke  
We've Only Just Begun, arr. Ashmore  
Paperchase, trombone feature, Stephens  
Star Wars, arr. Ray Farr  
Horn Pipe Suite, Cruft  
Russalka's Song To The Moon, Dvorak  
Alpine Echoes, Windsor, Philip Mc.Cann with Hanwell Band  
Great Gate at Kiev, arr. Howarth  
Carnival Day, Langford

#### National Finals

With the last performance of the day at the Royal Albert Hall National Championships, Hanwell are placed equal 7th with Cory Band on Eric Ball's arrangement of Bliss's Checkmate ballet suite. One point out of the frame and the Band's highest national placing since 1970.  
The adjudicators were; Cedric Thorpe Davie, George Evans & Albert Chappell.

#### Pontins Finals

Held at Prestatyn on November 6th.  
Results;

1st. Cory, conductor Denzil Stephens, 98 points  
2nd. Ancient Order of Foresters, conductor P. Wright, 93 points  
3rd. St. Dennis, conductor E. Williams, 92 points  
4th. East Lancs Paper Group, conductor M. Brownbill, 91 points  
5th. unknown  
6th. Hanwell conductor Barbara Stone, 88 points

#### Other competing bands;

C.W.S. Manchester (Trevor Walsmley), Lewis Merthyr (Nigel Seaman), Markham & District (P. White), Rochdale (Norman Ashcroft), St. Austell (Derek Johnston), Tredegar (W. Thomas), Wingates (David Loukes) & Woodfalls (W. Buchan).  
The adjudicators were Vivian Dunn & Arthur Butterworth, the set test piece was Judges of the Secret Court, Berlioz.

## Brass Ensemble

The Hanwell Brass Ensemble give a joint concert with the famous "Scholars" vocal group at St. John's, Smith Square on Sunday, 17th December, with Prunella Scales and Moray Watson.

Players: Bob Stradling, Sandy Pollack, Keith Spiers and Tony Buchan, Comets; Dave Young, Horn; Martin Harvey and Phil. McNulty, Trombones; Charley Brighton, Euphonium and Len Bryant, Bass Tuba.

## 1979

### "HANWELL BAND CHANGES GEAR"

From the British Bandsman.

"Hanwell will shortly appear in new livery, for after 88 years as a subscription band, Hanwell have accepted a sponsorship offer from Roneo Vickers Office Equipment Group. As from the 1st February the Hanwell Band will be renamed The Roneo Vickers Band.

The decision to change the name required some heart searching as Hanwell are very proud of the fact that as a subscription band they had maintained a consistently high standard. The first engagement as Roneo Vickers will be on B.B.C.'s Friday Night is Music Night, which comes live from Croydon's Fairfield Halls, 16th February."

Band items;

Those Magnificent Men, Goodwin, The Water Mill, soloist David Allison, Pavanne, Gould & Eleanor Rigby arr. David Smith.

Last Concert.

From the MIDDLESEX CHRONICLE, Saturday, 26th January.

"Many events are 'firsts', few are singled out as 'lasts'. Yet the concert at Cranford Concert Hall on Friday, 26th was an important 'last' for the Hanwell Band as from next week the name Hanwell will cease to exist."

Programme conducted by Barbara Stone.

Hungarian March, Berlioz

Simon called Peter, Vinter

The Water Mill., cornet soloist David Allison

The Shipbuilders, Peter York

Post Horn Galop, soloist Robin Lock

Feelings, Maurice Albert

Pavanne, Mourton Gould

Intermezzo & Easter Hymn, Cavalleria Rusticana

Interval

Those Magnificent Men, Goodwin

West Country Fantasy, Langford

Lark in the Clear Air, horn soloist, Karen Williams

Rhapsody in Blue, arr. Huckeridge

Varied Mood, euphonium soloist, Charley Brighton

Big Spender, arranged by Greenwood

Eleanor Rigby, arranged by Dave Smith

Finale from Checkmate, Bliss

Uniforms.

The 'traditional' Hanwell blue and gold changed to Roneo's Company colours of Pink and Silver. Two sets were purchased at no cost to the Band. One set for stage presentation (Pink) and one set as travelling uniforms (maroon and Grey).

Contest

At the Wembley Contest on February 25th. we are awarded a disappointing 8th. place out of 16 entries by adjudicators Roy Newsome & George Evans. The set test piece was Sinfonietta by Erik Leidzen.

Area Contest

March 18th. Watford Town Hall.

Results;

- 1st. Cambridge, conductor David Read, 187 points
- 2nd. Solent Concert, conductor Wesley Garner, 185 points
- 3rd. Roneo Vickers, conductor Barbara Stone, 184 points
- 4th. Morris Motors, conductor Walter Reese, 183 points
- 5th. Newham, conductor Ray Farr, 182 points

Other competing bands; Aldershot (George Prior), Aveley (Cyril Suckling), Betteshanger (John Gould), Clacton (Robert Howard), Hemel Hempstead (D. Henderson), Hendon (Don Morrison), Luton (Lyn Morgan), Oxford Concert (H. Williams) & Southsea (A. Slaughter).

The adjudicators were James Scott & George Evans, the set test piece was Variations by Vaughan Williams.

Contest

The following week we play the same test piece again at the **Lansing Bagnall Contest** and are unplaced in both that section and the entertainment contest section.

Annual Dinner.

The Roneo Vickers Band first Annual Dinner, 2nd June, 1979. The Red Lion Hotel, Hounslow.

B.B.C.

Friday Night is Music Night recording in Maida Vale Studio 1 for future transmission.

Band items;

Simoraine, Barraclough, We've Only Just Begun, arr. Ashmore & Superman, arr. Ray Farr.

## Swiss Tour

Following the successful tour in 1975, the Band return to Ruti in Switzerland for a tour which included concerts at the Ruti Festival, Interlaken, Solothurn and Stein, giving seven concerts.

Personnel;

Musical Director, Barbara Stone

Principal cornet, David Allison, Solo cornets, Bob Stradling, Sandy Pollack & Keith Spiers

Soprano cornet, John Noall, Flugel Horn, Stuart Kirk, Repiano cornet, John Blake

2nd. cornets, Richard Moakes, Mick Blake, 3rd. cornet, Geoffrey Webb

Horns, Graham Chivers (solo), Karen Williams (1st.) & Dave Young (2nd.)

Baritones, Cecil Davies (1st.) & Greg Hayes (2nd.)

Trombones, Martin Harvey (solo), George Groom (2nd.) & Phil Mc.Nulty (bass)

Euphoniums, Charley Brighton (solo) & John Luckett

Basses, Len Bryant & Alan Spiers (E flat), Vic Condon & Len Newstead (B flat)

Percussion, George Lock & Andrew Cummine

Compere, Ray Norton, Librarian, Roy Beesley

Concert programmes.

### **Interlaken July 9th.**

Star Wars, John Williams arr. Frank Bryce

The Marriage of Figaro Overture, Mozart arr. Bernard Hazlegrove

Trumpet Eclair, Ray Woodfield, soloist David Allison

Rhapsody on Negro Spirituals, Eric Ball

Pavanne, Faure arr. Gordon Langford

Eleanor Rigby, Lennon / Mc.Cartney arr. David Smith

Sailing By, Ronald Binge

Variations for Brass Band, Vaughan Williams

Interval

A Bridge Too Far, John Addison arr. Frank Bryce

West Country Fantasy, arr. Gordon Langford

Siciliana & Giga, Handel arr. Gordon Langford, Horn soloist Graham Chivers

Rhapsody in Blue, George Gershwin arr. Eddie Huckeridge

Varied Mood, Ray Woodfield, Euphonium soloist Charley Brighton

Feelings, Maurice Albert arr. Gordon Saunders

Big Spender, Cy Colman ar. Philip Greenwood

Finale from Checkmate, Bliss arr. Eric Ball

### **Solothurn July 10th.**

Supeman, John Williams arr. Ray Farr

Allegro Vivace, Mendelssohn arr. Derek Ashmore

Spanish Eyes, Keampfert arr. Ray Woodfield, Cornet soloist David Allison

The Shipbuilders, Peter Yorke

The Girl With The Flaxen Hair, Debussy arr. Micheal Brand

Ritual Firedance, De Falla arr. Allan Street  
The Shadow of Your Smile, Webster arr. Dennis Wilby, Flugel soloist Stuart Kirk  
Les Francs Juges, Berlioz arr. Frank Wright

#### Interval

Simmoraine, Clive Barraclough  
Cavalleria Rusticana Selection, Mascagni arr. Wright  
The Lark In The Clear Air, arr. Gordon Langford, Horn soloist Karen Williams  
Miller Magic, arr. Denzil Stephens  
Blaydon Races, arr. Gordon Langford, Euphonium soloist Charley Brighton  
Music, John Miles arr. John Blake  
Mars from the Planets, Holst arr. Norman Richardson

#### **Stein July 11th.**

As programme for Interlaken plus;  
Russalka's Song to The Moon, Dvorak arr. Gordon Langford, Cornet soloist Bob Stradling  
The Earle of Oxford's March & King's Hunting Jig, arr. Elgar Howarth  
March Prelude, Edward Gregson  
Danse Macabre, Saint Seans arr. Eddie Huckeridge  
Endearing Young Charms, arr. Gordon Langford, Euphonium soloist Charley Brighton  
The Battle Hymn of The Republic, arr. Derek Broadbent

#### Change of Conductor.

With the resignation of Barbara Stone, Bryan Birchall returns once again to conduct the Band at various concerts until the arrival of **Frank Renton** as Musical Director in October of 1979.

#### Football Match

The band (conducted by Charley Brighton) are invited to entertain the crowds at half - time at Brentford Football Ground by programme editor Eric White. The band were regular visitors there before 'canned' music was installed.

#### Versatile Brass

A 10 piece group from the band conducted by David Smith give a concert in Newmarket in aid of the Newmarket Hospital Fund.  
Sadly, David Smith passed away on December 1st. 2002.

#### Contest

Reading Festival, November 17th. Set test piece, Connotations by Edward Gregson.  
The band are un-placed by adjudicator John Berryman.

Concerts.

October 28th. Jubilee Brass ! A concert with Aylsham Band to celebrate their Golden Jubilee at St. Andrew's Hall, Norwich, conducted by Bryan Birchall.

Dovercourt Community Centre, November 18th. conductor Bryan Birchall

Addlestone Centre, 1st December, 1979. Conducted by Ray Farr.

St. John's Smith Square, December 16th. 10 piece brass ensemble conducted by David Smith with **The Scholars** vocal group.

As usual, many Old Age Pensioners' Charity Concerts are given towards Christmas, in the locality, a tradition in Hanwell.

## **1980.**

Contests.

The first contest of the year is at Hammersmith.

Results;

1st. Hendon Band, conductor Don Morrison, 191 points playing Journey Into Freedom, Ball

2nd. Ancient Order of Foresters, conductor P. Wright, 190 points playing the Corsair Overture, Berlioz

3rd. Roneo Vickers, conductor Frank Renton, 188 points playing Journey Into Freedom, Ball

Other competing bands; Ibstock (Beatrice & Benedict), Aveley (Blackfriars), Hemel Hempstead (Beatrice & Benedict), Swindon (ditto), Oxford Concert (ditto) & Cambridge (Volcano).

At the **Wembley Contest** a few weeks later, we are placed 14th. out of 16 entries by adjudicators Eric Bravington & Albert Chappell on the set test piece, Beatrice & Benedict Overture, Berlioz.

The **Area Contest** on the same piece holds no reward either as adjudicators Jon Hall & Roy Newsome place Morris Motors 8th. Roneo Vickers 10th. & Hendon 11th.

A few weeks later we play the same piece yet again for the **Lansing Bagnall Contest** where we are placed 12th. out of an entry of 21.

The S.C.A.B.A contest in May moved to Hove Town Hall.

Results;

1st. Solent Concert conductor Wesley Garner playing the march Mephistopheles, Douglas and Journey Into Freedom, Ball

2nd. Aldershot Brass conductor George Prior playing the march Challenge, Broadbent and Variations On A Ninth, Vinter

3rd. Roneo Vickers conductor Frank Renton playing the march Knight Templar and Symphony of Marches, Vinter

Aldershot won the march prize.

Soloist Goes West

Euphonium Charley Brighton leaves the band to join the **Sun Life Stanshawe Band** on principal euphonium. **Mario Tagliaferro** takes over in London.

Annual Dinner.

30th August, 1980, The Colne Valley Passenger Boat Trip, leaving Uxbridge, 7.30.

Contests

At the **Romford** Solo & Quartet Contest held in Marshalls Park Upper School, on Saturday September 27th. **Beverley Vaughan** (tenor horn) wins the Air Varie section with **Shirley Gardiner** (euphonium) coming 2nd.

Shirley wins the open Slow Melody section, and the Duet section with **Mario Tagliaferro** (euphonium).

The quartet win their their section and both Beverley & Shirley win prizes in the Open Sight Reading section and Open Own Choice.

The adjudicators are Ted Buttress and Peter Wilson.

Appointments

**Eric Bravington** returns as Musical Director.

**Lynda Nicholson** is appointed principal cornet.

Concert

Salvation Army Southall Citadel, conductor Eric Bravington.

Programme;

Concert Prelude, Sparke

Pel Mel, Hogarth Lear

Whispering Brass, Haysom

Concertino, Wood, horn soloist Beverley Vaughan

Capriccio, Sparke, soprano soloist John Noall

Pageantry, Howells

Interval

Radetzky March, Strauss

Thunder & Lightning Polka, Strauss

Introduction & Allegro Spiritoso (tutti item)

Vivat Regina, Matthias

Fiddler on the Roof, arr. Street

Pomp & Circumstance March, Elgar.

## **1981.**

Change of Conductor.

Philip Sparke is appointed as Resident Conductor

Broadcasts

**Among Your Souvenirs**, Radio 2, May 5th. conductor Eric Bravington.  
Programme; Entry of the Gladiators, Fucik & Gold & Silver Waltz, Lehar.

**Bandstand B.B.C.** Radio 3, May 23rd. conductors Eric Bravington & Philip Sparke.  
Programme; Concert Prelude, Sparke & Music From The Elizabethan Court, arr. Howarth.

**Friday Night is Music Night**, July 31st. conductor Eric Bravington.  
Programme; Radetzky March, Strauss, Calypso, Bourgeois & Midnight Sleighride, Prokofiev.

Contests.

Watford Own Choice;

1st. Luton, 187 points  
2nd. Hendon, 186 points  
3rd. Roneo, 184 points  
Adjudicator Geoffrey Brand.

More prizes followed with a 4th at Reading. Numerous broadcasts are undertaken with both conductors and a varied programme of music.

## **1982.**

Contests

Watford Own Choice;

Results;

1st. Roneo, conductor Eric Bravington, 178 points playing Symphony of Marches, Vinter  
2nd. Newham, 177 points  
3rd. Thames Region Brass, 175 points playing Symphony of Marches, Vinter

Adjudicator Barbara Stone.

Watneys Festival, Watford Town Hall

Results:

1st. Solent Concert conductor Wesley Garner, 189 points  
2nd. Leyland Vehicles conductor Richard Evans, 187 points  
3rd. Roneo Band conductor Eric Bravington, 185 points  
4th. William Davis conductor John Berryman, 184 points.

Burgess Hill Entertainments Contest, May 23rd.  
Results;

1st. Roneo Band, 197 points  
2nd. Aldershot Brass, 189 points.

Concert

High Wycombe Salvation Army, June 19th. Conductor Philip Sparke.  
Programme includes Crown Imperial, Walton, Rhapsody In Brass, Goffin, Music Hall Suite, Horovitz and Pageantry, Howells.

Broadcasts

**Among Your Souvenirs** Radio 2, May 20th. conductor Eric Bravington.  
Programme; Nights of Gladness, Ancliffe.

**Bandstand** Radio 3, October 4th. conductor Eric Bravington.  
Programme; Provence, Kelly, Symphony of Marches, Vinter & Symphonic Suite, Lucas.

**Listen To The Band** Radio 2, December 3rd. conductor Eric Bravington.  
Programme; 633 Squadron, Goodwin, Whispering Brass, Haysom, The Watermill, Binge, Stars & Stripes, Sousa, Morgenblatter, Strauss, Elegy, Vinter, Eleanor Rigby, arr. Smith & Allegro Spiritoso, Senaille.

New Appointment.

Walter B. Hargreaves is appointed as Prof. Conductor with Philip Sparke, due to Eric's increasing illness.

Bravura Brass

Beverley Vaughan forms a group which is conducted by **Philip Sparke** and raises £150 towards the National Youth Brass Band funds.  
It features;

Lynda Nicholson (Hendon)  
Helen Pollard (Wantage)  
Nicola & Beverley Vaughan (Roneo)  
Phil Embling (Luton)  
Paul Ellison (Roneo)  
Ray Meadham (Roneo)  
Mario Tagliaferro (Roneo)  
Paul Gould (Oxted)  
Ian Bousfield (Yorkshire Imperial)  
Matthew Hackett (Croydon)

## Contests

At the Watford Own Choice Contest the results are;

- 1st. Clacton on Sea, Robert Howard, 193 points
  - 2nd. Newham, Melvin White, 190 points
  - 3rd. Roneo, Walter Hargreaves, 189 points.
- Ajudicator Roy Newsome.

## Soloist Returns

Former solo euphonium player Charley Brighton returns on B flat bass tuba and forms the Roneo Tuba Ensemble.

## Solos and Quartets.

At the association's Winston Contest, the Tuba Ensemble (Euphonium, 2 E flat Bases and B flat Bass) are awarded first prize out of 14 entries, The Duet Championship is also won by Mario Tagliaferro (Euphonium) and Elaine Wolff (Cornet).

Eric Bravington.

In August of 1982 the tragic news was received of the passing, in a Sue Ryder Home, of Eric Bravington, at the age of 61. The news shook the entire Music World and the Band immediately set about making plans for a memorial occasion for a man who gave Hanwell so much and who became a national figure in brass bands.

The Eric Bravington Memorial Cup.

With the kind permission of Messrs. Boosey & Hawkes and Pamela Bravington, the Band were able to secure a challenge cup to be presented at the Royal Albert Hall following the National Championships. The award would be to the Best Instrumentalist of the Youth Section and will be known as the "Eric Bravington Memorial Cup".

## Contests

### **Reading** results;

- 1st. Aldbourne, D.V. Keene, 189 points
- 2nd. Roneo, Philip Sparke, 186 points
- 3rd. Woodfalls, Frank Renton, 185 points
- 4th. Luton, D. Baron, 182 points.

The set test piece is Salute To Youth by Gilbert Vinter. The adjudicator is Denzil Stephens.

At the **Folkestone Contest** on October 17th. the band are unplaced by Trevor Sharpe after playing Journey Into Freedom, Ball.

## On Tour

The week-end of the 27th./ 28th. November sees the Band on a tour of Holland and Belgium carrying the Roneo Flag. The highlight was the Evening Concert following the Belgium Brass Band Championships, with Harry Mortimer as guest conductor and Ian Bousfield as trombone soloist.

Programme;

Conducted by Philip Sparke;  
The Roneo Fanfare, Sparke  
Superman, Williams  
Orient Express, Bennet  
Rhapsody for Trombone, Langford, Soloist Ian Bousfield  
The Music Hall Suite, Horovitz  
Midnight Sleighride, Prokofiev  
Finale, Baba Yaga and the Great Gate of Kiev, Moussorgsky.

Part two, conducted by Harry Mortimer;  
Introduction to Act III Lohengrin, Wagner  
Napoli, Belstedt, Soloist Lynda Nicholson  
Pavane, Faure  
The Berne Patrol, arranged Howarth  
Rule Britannia, Hartmann, Soloist Mario Tagliaferro  
Journey Ino Freedom, Eric Ball  
Pomp & Circumstance March no.1, Elgar.

## Guest Soloists

Lynda Nicholson & Charley Brighton appear as guest soloists with the Canterbury Youth Band, conductor David Cutting, December 4th.

## **1983.**

A priority on the Band's New Year list is a new rehearsal room.  
The answer came with the move to Hayes and the Botwell Brotherhood Central Hall.

New Conductor.

Auditions are held following the resignation of Philip Sparke and Ian Johnson is chosen. Having gained the G.G.S.M. and P.G.C.E. he is a teacher at the Whitgift School in Croydon, and a former solo cornet with the Cambridge Band.

## Hanwell Returns

With the financial position of many companies throughout the country worsening, the sponsorship of the Band by Roneo Ltd. ceases and the Band returns to being Hanwell once more. The financial backing received from Roneo was indeed generous and the Band will always be extremely grateful for the assistance which enabled an almost complete re-equipment of the Band.  
The Band and Roneo Ltd. part the best of friends.

## Area Contest

A very close 2nd placing at the qualifying round at Watford on March 11th. gives Ian his first appearance at the Finals and Hanwell their 20th, having won the occasion 9 times previously.

The Test Piece is the controversial "Images" by John McCabe and the fine performance cements the relationship between Band and conductor.

Results;

1st. Hall's Oxford conductor Michael Brand, 193 points

2nd. Roneo conductor Ian Johnson, 192 points

3rd. Newham Band conductor Melvin White, 189 points

4th. Hendon conductor Don Morrison, 188 points

Adjudicator Derek Bourgeois.

Concert.

Ian's first concert with the band is a celebration concert with Harry Mortimer, Lyn Morgan and the Hanwell & Luton Bands at the Beck Theatre in Hayes, It's the Centenary of Luton and the concert draws a capacity crowd.

Programme;

Conducted by Lyn Morgan

Festive Prelude, Bulla

Marriage of Figaro Overture, Mozart

Pavanne In Blue, Huggens

Allegro from Bassoon Concerto, Mozart, euphonium soloist Dave Scott

Blaydon Races, arr. Langford (tutti item)

Theme from Shaft, arr. Morgan

Conducted by Harry Mortimer;

La Reine De Saba, Gounod

Greensleeves, arr. Langford

Slavonic Rhapsody no. 2, Friedmann

Interval

Conducted by Ian Johnson

A Bridge Too Far, Addison

Pirates of Penzance Overture, Sullivan

Hogarth's Hoe Down, Lear

Say Ye Who Borrow, Mozart, Flugel horn soloist Phil Embling

Cornet Carillon, Binge (tutti item)

Ritual Fire Dance, De Falla arr. Street

Conducted by Harry Mortimer

Force of Destiny Overture, Verdi

Air from Suite in D, Bach

Overture 1812, Tchaikowsky.

### Burgess Hill Contest

Following this success the Band show their metal in the Entertainments side of contesting with a 9 point win in Sussex. Beverly Vaughan, the Band's Solo Horn player wins the Best Soloist award.

### Concert.

Saturday, 11th June, 1983, the Barn Theatre, Oxted, Surrey.

Guest soloists include Gracie Cole (Cornet) and Beverly Vaughan (Horn). Beverly had recently left to gain a place at Salford College in Manchester.

The Band's own soloists are featured including Lynda Nicholson, Elaine Wolff (Cornets), Mario Tagliaferro (euphonium) and Charley Brighton (B flat Bass). A number of Ian Johnson's fine brass arrangements are used.

### Massed Bands

The Royal Festival Hall, July 7th.

### The Foden O.T.S. Band

The Hendon Band (Don Morrison)

The Newham Band (Melvin White)

The Hanwell Band (Ian Johnson)

with guest conductor Howard Snell and soloists Don Lusher & Maurice Murphy with the Locke Brass Consort conductor James Stobart.

At the 2pm afternoon rehearsal the massed bands are rehearsed by John Hudson. Jack Peberdy rehearses and conducts his new arrangement of 'Oranges & Lemons' and a new composition, Follow The Band, A Song For London.

Also featured is Fanfare For London by 16 year old Andrea Tringham. Compere; Tony Myatt from Capitol Radio.

### Contests

At the **National Finals** on October 9th. the band are drawn no.15 and with 188 points, are pleased with a 9th. placing out of 18 bands.

The test piece was Ballet for Band, by Josef Horovitz.

The adjudicators were David Willcocks, Roy Newsome & Eric Ball.

### **Folkestone** Own Choice Contest;

Results;

1st. Newham conductor Melvin White, 191 points

2nd. Hanwell conductor Ian Johnson, 189 points

3rd. Southsea, 186 points

Adjudicator E. Gray.

### **Watford** Own Choice gave us another 1st. prize.

Results;

1st. Hanwell conductor Ian Johnson

2nd. Nassington conductor John Berryman

3rd. Clacton conductor Robert Howard

Adjudicator David Read.

At the **Reading Contest** on November 19th. the band are unplaced by adjudicator Arthur Kenny on the set test piece A Festive City by Eric Ball.

On November 27th. however 1st. prize is won at **Leicester**.  
Results;

1st. Hanwell conductor Ian Johnson  
2nd. Dobcross conductor Les Beevers  
3rd. Andrews Heat for Hire conductor David Hirst.

The adjudicator was Geoffrey Witham and the set test piece was Triumphant Rhapsody, Vinter.

Recording.

On December 10th. & 11th. the Band record an L.P. on the Kestrel Label in St. Judes Church, Hampstead. (Copy available).  
The programme recorded is;

*A Festive Prelude, Stephen Bulla*  
*La Bamba, arranged by Ray Woodfield*  
*Goodbye to Love, Carpenter arranged by Ray Farr, soloist Marilyn Wolff*  
*Swiss Rock, Rossini arranged by Brian Halls*  
*Triumphant Rhapsody, Gilbert Vinter*

Side 2

*March to the Scaffold, Berlioz arranged by Ian Johnson*  
*Czardas, Strauss arranged by Ian Johnson, soloist Linda Nicholson*  
*Calypso, Derek Bougeois*  
*One Voice, Barry Manilow arranged by Ian Johnson*  
*The Wasps Overture, Vaughan Williams arranged by Ian Johnson*

That's Life

The link with Esther Rantzen's popular TV programme is renewed and the Band appear on the series with the march The Avenger by Rimmer, and Koenig's Post Horn Galop. The galop is not played on the post horn but the lavatory !  
An ex Marine bandsman had learnt the art whilst in service. The Band were in fine form and the show had two repeats on Radio 4's "Pick of the Week".

As we go to press, the Band are making final preparations for the special Charity Concert in memory of Eric Bravington, to be held at Ealing Town Hall.  
The Guest Conductor will be Harry Mortimer, and a link with past successes will be made with performances of Wagner's Rienzi Overture, Dean Goffin's Rhapsody in Brass, and Gilbert Vinter's Challenging Brass.

Proceeds are to be shared between the Sue Ryder Foundation and the Malcolm Sargeant Cancer Fund.

Augmented by its valuable concert and contest work and B.B.C. broadcasts the Band surely are on their way once again to achieving National Honours.

Former cornet player with the band, Ian Mills dies, February 23rd. 2007.

Here's a list of most of the ex - Hanwell players I remember during my time,

Sadly, George Groom passed away on January 4th. 2003 at the age of 81. He was principal trombone for many years.

**Cornets;** *David Allison, Mick & John Blake, Stuart Kirk, Robin & Eileen Lock, Steve Riddler, Fred & Maggie Croft, John Noall, Chris Joynes, Kevin Edwards, Elaine Wolff, Barbara Mealin, Wayne Duncan, Clive Calver, Linda Nicholson, Tom Sladen, Charlie Quantrill, David Rose, Janine Tunks, Ray Munday, Bob Stradling, Karen Shackleton, Alan Wilson, Sandy Pollack, Geoffrey Webb, Keith Spiers, Laurie & Nicola Vaughan, Grainger Rock & Richard Moakes.*

**Flugel Horns;** *David Southern, Phil Embling & Terry Williams.*

**Tenor Horns;** *Brian Birchall, Dave Young, George Nicklin, Ian Lester, Frank Bing, Roy Beesley, John Edmunds, Lynda Vel, Phil Cleeve, Karen Williams, Tina Seale, Alan Mann, Richard Hughes, Marilyn Wolff, Beverley Vaughan, Graham Chivers & Steve Cutting.*

**Baritones & Euphoniums;** *Cecil Davies, John Lockett, Mario Tagliaferro, Phil Thrift, Ron Wilson, Susan Vel, Paul Miller, Alan George and Alan Bray.*

**Trombones;** *Stan Willis, Martin Harvey, Ray Meadham, Alois Muller, Graham Dutton, Ken Davies, George Groom, Ray Norton, Nigel Allery, Ewan Mc.Morris, Darren Muir, Paul Applegarth & Phil Mc.Nulty.*

**Basses;** *Paul Ellison, Len Bryant, Linda Hobbs, Len Newstead, Dennis Goddard, Bryn Howells, Barry Child, Charles Kirk & Gregg Hayes.*

**Percussion;** *Richard White, Brian Tibbels, Vivien Childs, Jeff Worrell, Mark Rogers, George Lock & Andrew Cummine.*

#####

## **Letters Section**

Charley,

I have been trying to put together recordings of The Hanwell Band in the '50's - '60 for my wife (and me!). Her maiden name is Butland, daughter of Laurie Butland (Tenor Horn) and has been trying to find a recording of "Bach - Suite No.3" that he was soloist on. Are you aware of a recording please?

Also, I have been trying to track down a couple of recordings - "Bold As Brass" - Keepoint MLPB which is shown on the website as "Recording Available". We would be very interested in this and would appreciate what we need to do to get/borrow it

please. The other recording I cannot track down is "The National Brass Band Festival Recorded Live at the Royal Albert Hall" - Pye Records NPL18200. Any information on this one would be appreciated.

Your website has some nice photos. One that really struck us was Reading 1966 and Dad is clearly seen in the bottom left hand corner. A very big smile on his face, for obvious reasons! Neither of us recall seeing that before and it brought back lovely memories. If you can be of any help it would be very much appreciated.

PS Dad's awards are with her brother and we have asked if we could have a look at them again. Please let me know if they are of interest to you.

Very best regards,

Steve Ettridge (on behalf of Linda Ettridge),

Recent letters received from friends and relatives of past Hanwell members.

Two former members of the band have passed away in the last year or so. Soprano cornet player **Fred Croft** (67) joined Hanwell in the early 1970's from Carlton Main Frickley Colliery Band.

He also formed a popular ten piece group within the band using mostly his own arrangements and set up Pro-Brass in Kentish Town. A group from Hanwell lead by the then MD Bram Tovey, played at the wedding of Maggie and Fred.

**Frank Bing** joined Hanwell in the late 1940's under George Thompson. He was solo horn when the band were runners-up to Fodens at the 1950 National Finals. A long serving and much respected Chairman of the band he was still playing (timps) when the band were placed 7th. at the RAH under Barbara Stone in the late 1970's.

Best wishes, Charley Brighton

*Mike Edwards has been in touch;*

Have just been onto your recently updated website and came across Alan Fippard's recollections of Arthur Buckland. Buckie, as Alan has stated, was quite a character and it brought to my mind another instance of Arthur's antics. Members of the band were travelling by coach in either 1959, 1960 or 1961 to the prestigious Morris Motors Solo and Quartet Contest in Cowley, Oxford and I think Arthur had come along as a spectator (he was playing 2nd Baritone at that time).

The coach stopped at a hostelry on the A40 at Stokenchurch for liquid refreshment and after this we re-joined the coach and continued the journey to Cowley. The coach had gone a few yards when somebody realised that Buckie was not on board and the coach stopped two or three hundred yards down the road. We looked back and saw Buckie hobbling along the A40 frantically waving his arms. It turned out that he had been in the 'Gents' at our time of leaving!

I hope you will think this recollection worthy of inclusion on your excellent website, best wishes, Mike Edwards

*Karen Weaver (Shackleton) writes;*

Dear Charley, I've just been looking at your excellent Hanwell Band website again, prompted by the fact that last weekend I met someone who also played with Hanwell but at a different time to me. I played back row cornet with the band from 1982 - 1984 whilst working in London straight after uni, and I even did a stint as band secretary (I was Karen Shackleton back then).

Philip Sparke was conductor when I first joined and then Ian Johnson, and Linda Nicholson was principal cornet. Elaine and Marilyn Wolff were amongst the many other great musicians in the band at that time, quite inspiring for me at a time when

women hadn't really got too far in northern bands (I'm from Rochdale). I remember you being on B flat bass at that time. I then moved to Nottingham for a few years where I played with Hathern Band before moving up to Harrogate in North Yorkshire for a new job, where I've been ever since. For various reasons I then stopped playing but 25 years later have just started again this year, joining a small village band in Nidderdale, the Summerbridge and Dacre Prize Silver Band. I got chatting to the 1st trombone player (Ian Craghill) and it turns out he also played in Hanwell, whilst he was at Kneller Hall. He says Eric Bravington was the MD when he was there.

I have very happy memories of my time at Hanwell and was always very grateful to Linda and also Mario who gave me lifts everywhere until I got my own car. Being a London based band meant playing at some great venues - various Royal Parks, Royal Festival Hall etc etc and also doing various BBC jobs including Friday Night is Music Night, Listen to the Band and That's Life (on the same episode as a young Boy George if I remember correctly). We recorded an LP whilst I was there which I've still got somewhere.

Probably the highlight was getting to the national finals and playing at the Royal Albert Hall, which was a fantastic experience. My last contest with the band was the Tetley's Leeds Town Hall contest which we won (I still have a great black and white photo of us celebrating). I was sorry to find that the band no longer exists so it is great that you've got a full history written up and with lots of people still adding to it with their memories and stories.

With best wishes, Karen Weaver

*Alan Fippard has been in touch who has many happy tales of banding with Hanwell.*

Hi Charley,

Thanks for replying to my earlier note. I would like to give you some background info to give some point of reference.

I am 75 years old and currently a full time carer for my wife who has vascular dementia. I started to play the cornet at about 12 years old and had to give up playing (euph for Bisley Band) some 4 years ago due to suffering detached retinas in each eye (luckily Moorfields managed to save my sight). I came to play the euph via the trombone & baritone. I discovered brass bands when I joined Featherstone Road Secondary Modern School. I wanted to play an instrument and as it happened my father worked with a Scot named Sandy, who played 2nd. cornet for Hanwell Silver Band, who offered to teach me to play. When I had mastered the C scale I joined the school band (Kenneth Cook was our music teacher & conductor).

As I improved, Sandy took me along to band practice at Hanwell, and I was allowed to sit in at rehearsals. I was eventually accepted into the band playing at engagements & subsequently contests. Whilst at school I became very friendly with Bert Osborn & Terry Dewhurst, the two principal cornets for the band, who I later introduced to Hanwell (Bert also became my Best Man when I married in 1958). That sort of leads into my life with Hanwell, however, at my age, looking back over his period, one finds that the chronology becomes a bit tricky! Whilst I can remember 100s of incidents, events, people, etc., on reading your transcribed history, I find that the unconscious sequence I held in my mind (probably wrongly) jars with the researched events you describe.

For instance, I always thought that my first contest was on December 5th. 1953 (my 15th birthday) at Bletchey. However I also remember playing Rhapsody in Brass at Brighton, winning for the third year running, and that was in the summer of 1953!

Also I thought I left the band in the Spring/Summer of 1962 but I also remember recording that first LP record Hanwell made, which was late 1962, plus I remember playing Force of Destiny at a contest which was in 1963, so I probably left just after that. At this time Ted Walker (bass trombone) & I were good friends and we had both moved to live in Bracknell (in late 1961) but found the travelling too expensive & time consuming so we left Hanwell & joined St. Sebastians in Wokingham.

I would be more than happy to relate more incidents/events of the extremely happy years I spent with Hanwell, but as I bored you long enough I will take my leave. I am sending by separate email some updated titles for a couple of photos.

There are many players that passed through the band that I happily remember, not that I can remember all their names but included; Johnny Lockett, Ces Davis (Euphoniums) Frank Bing, Ray Norton, George Groom, Charlie Leatherby, Billy Keen, Laurie Butland, George Lee, Len Bryant, Len Atter, Tommy Collins, Mike Edwards, David Noad, Roy Beesley, Percy Pitkin, the girls Dot Kilvington & Barbara Stone, later came the Williams brothers (Terry on flugel & Brian trombone), Brian Burchall, Dave Allison & Ted Walker.

Best wishes, Alan Fippard

Dear Charley,

It's been a long time but I wonder if you remember my dad Roy Beesley. I thought perhaps you would like to know that my dad Roy passed away on Friday 18 May 2012 in The Northern General Hospital in Sheffield.

My dad had had a stroke before Christmas and unfortunately he was no longer able to live independently. We brought him to Sheffield to be closer myself and my sister Philippa (Edith our mum died in 2002).

My dad was still very much interested in the band and still listened to brass band music on the radio, tape cassettes and DVDs. I even have the black vinyl copies of the few records that the band recorded and somewhere

a 45rpm of "You're a Lady". It was his life and as you know also a big part of ours, travelling around the London parks in the summer etc.

Could I ask that if you are in touch with any of the former members of the Hanwell Band that perhaps you would be kind enough to let them know about dad.

Kind regards, Lynn Ravenhill (nee Beesley)

After seeing "Brassed Off" on the television it rekindled my interest in brass band music. Surfing the internet I came across the Hanwell Band, which was my introduction to brass bands. I was the coach driver on the Switzerland tour.

I still remember the trip with fond memories. What a great bunch of people to be with. Bram Tovey was the conductor and as I recall Steve Riddler was the "class clown". I still have the autographed copy of the LP they gave to me.

I have now retired and moved to France and it's nice to know that the band is still going from strength to strength.

Best wishes to all past and present members.

Peter Westbrook

We are sorry to hear of the passing of Brian Birchall. Brian played Flugel Horn, Tenor Horn & Baritone with the band through the 60's & 70's as well as being a fine Bandmaster.

Ray Norton (1924-2009) passed away in January 2009. He played trombone for Hanwell from around 1953-70 and still remained very much involved in the running of the band for many years afterwards. Son of Walter (who's father was Bandmaster at Bridgwater SA from 1920-55), the family moved to Lewisham in 1919. Ray later became a member of the Lewisham Concert Band prior to joining Hanwell.

He was also a member of the prize winning trombone quartet of George Groom, Tom Evans, Ray & Jack Hill.

Hi Charley,

I had the privilege of playing trombone with the Hanwell Band from 1972 to 1973. I decided to search the web today to see if the band is still going. I am saddened to hear of the passing of Ray (I used to sit next to him). In the picture under "Change of Conductor" – I am the trombone player listed as "unknown bass trombone". I am an Australian, and went to London to live for 3 years (1970 to 1973). I still have great memories of playing in the band, and consider it a great privilege to have sat amongst such great players. I am currently playing euphonium with the Waverley Bondi Beach Band, also known as Bondi Brass

Please keep me informed of any updates.

Kind regards, Peter Kelly

Dear Charley, My name is Robert Bravington. I am the distant Australian line from the Bravingtons involved in the Hanwell Band.

My dad Fred and I would like to find out more about the Hanwell Band and where we can find copies of their performances.

I read that you wrote a book on the history of the Hanwell Band and would love to know where we could get a copy.

Kind regards, Robert and Frederick Bravington.

Robert Bravington

Dear Charlie, last weekend I was at the Royal Northern Festival of Brass. I feel sure it would be of interest to old Hanwellians that Fodens Band directed by Bramwell Tovey concluded their programme by paying a tribute to Ray Norton by playing the hymn tune 'Abide With Me'. There was absolute silence at the end until finally Bram left the stage.

Bramwell paid tribute to Ray by saying what a wonderful teaching experience it had been to work with Ray at Hanwell. Bram and I had quite a chat about old times together at Hanwell."

Grainger Rock

I came across your excellent website whilst surfing the net for some information on the late Eric Bravington. In my life of 70+ years, Eric was one of the finest persons I have met; he was not only a brilliant musician but a great human being. Fortunately, I met him several times in the late 60's & early 70's, either at contests, or when I was able to attend rehearsals at the Red Lion whilst on business trips to London.

As mentioned on your website, he became Music Director in 1959. At that time, the band's contest performances were no more than average & as my old friend Len Atter has stated, the contest results for the next 3 years were brilliant. I like to think that one of the reasons for this was that the 'big end' personnel did not change during this time.

I joined Hanwell in early November 1954 upon completing my National Service in the Royal Marines Band Service. Initially I joined as a trombone player but, to say the least, there was a surfeit of trombonists in the band at that time & accordingly I switched to Bb Bass in early 1955. I stayed in this position until I left the area upon my marriage in late July 1962.

For the majority of my time, I was Assistant Secretary to Reg Bravington whom, as you are aware, was Mr Hanwell for 40+ years. To begin with, Len Bryant was the other Bb Bass player, but he switched to Eb Bass circa 1956/57 when Arthur Buckland found he could no longer attend regular rehearsals due to his ill health. My colleague for the rest of my time with the band was Len Atter with whom I keep in touch every Christmas.

The main purpose of this Email is to provide the site with further information on the band during my 8 happy years with them & to correct some items which I think are questionable or inaccurate. I hope that you will accept these comments in the spirit in which they are made, as I fully appreciate the mammoth task you must have had in collating all this data for placing on the website.

Wherever possible, I have given reasons to support my comments. Fortunately, I still have a pretty good memory & am a lively septuagenarian!!

Well Charley, I think that is all I can contribute on the marvellous Hanwell Band's history. Please feel free to use whatever parts of this diatribe you feel could be of use to your brilliant website. I apologise for the length of this Email, but I had a lot of happy memories to recall & preparing it has kept me out of mischief for a few hours!"  
Best Wishes, Mike Edwards

The Hanwell / Keeppoint records connection.

"I'm fairly sure I was personally responsible for John Keel's foray into the commercial field. I think I approached him as band publicity officer, but it could have been vice versa.

Hanwell was enjoying quite a purple patch. From my first contest (RAH 1957) to June 1961 (after which we got a string of seconds) in 27 outings we had 14 firsts, 5 seconds, 2 thirds, and 2 fourths - the other 4 results show there must have been adjudicating aberrations even back then!

At contests in the South of England John Keel was normally to be seen just in front of the stage with his single microphone machine, recording every performance for sale to the respective bands. Although accepted as being fully blind he must have had some level of vision as he frequently peered at his equipment literally from two inches away. The recently-surfaced Reading records must surely have been of that type, as we were certainly not aware of them being offered commercially.

John Keel was a big, dare I say shabby, man with an unkept beard. I have two humorous recollections of him. When we decided to talk about a studio recording, he invited Mary and me to his South London home to do so over an evening dinner. We were starving by about 11 pm when the meal finally materialised - the most fantastic cheese souffle, and you know how I am with cheese! Boy, I was hungry when I got home in the early hours, but at least Mrs Keel had driven us there in their recording van.

The other memory is of how he rang me at work between producing the 'Here's Hanwell' and 'Bold as Brass' records, when he was working on a disc by East Ham Borough (ancestor of Aveley & Newham, and the only London band to come near us at that pre-Hendon time). It was to be of solely Eric Ball compositions, and John wondered if I could think of a suitable title. My off-the-cuff suggestion, since they

were our rivals, that it should be called "It's All Ball's" obviously didn't find favour, as it appeared as "East Ham Plays Ball".

Probably just as well!

Obviously through John's connections, our two studio recordings were each made in one-Sunday sessions at the RNIB hall in Great Portland Street. I think there were only two minor splicings, otherwise we played the dots from top to bottom a couple of times and John and Eric Bravington between them chose their preference. On the earlier one we included Quo Vadis (Drake Rimmer), probably still in our minds after beating Cory into second place on it at Gloucester. It's the one Mary claims to have "played" on, having been drummer's mate (passing sticks and so on) - in those days the idea of six percussionists drowning the brass would have had us rolling on the floor, and we only used a kit-drummer.

The second one is named after the band's signature march, Bold as Brass. Although I can't vouch for it, the story is that this march was offered to us by fellow West Londoner Thomas Chappell as The Hanwellian, just before my time, but the band said "Thanks, but no thanks" until later we decided we'd like it after all, only to find that by then it had been published under its revised name. John's recording, considering his personal disability and the primitive equipment available, is pretty good, but rather harsh and I'd advise any listener to modify the treble sound.

The picture of the band on both covers was taken after a Sunday afternoon job in Bishop's Park, Fulham, by the Thames; if you wonder what we were playing at the time, I'm afraid it was only a sustained chord in an empty enclosure.

Any developments on this saga will be read with interest."

Regards, Len Atter.

"Thanks to a kind friend, I now have mp3 files of two of Hanwell's winning performances, recorded live at the Reading Contest, held in the old Town Hall. They are the 1964 performance of 'Themes from the New World' conducted by Eric Bravington and the 1966 recording of Symphony of Marches conducted by Geoffrey Brand. Email me if you would like copies of these."

Charley Brighton

"I do enjoy keeping up with the Hanwell history. Although I can be called ancient (79) I still am engaged playing in the Salvation Army with The Central North Divisional Band and am secretary and Flugel with Central North Fellowship Band.

Since being in the North I have played for Warburtons Bakery, a Championship band in Preston, Blackburn and Darwen for three contests and finally with Wingates as Librarian/Secretary only to be taken ill rather quickly and leaving after a short time.

Occasionally I meet ex Hanwell stars, Bramwell Tovey on several occasions and Cec Davies, Steve Riddler, until he left for warmer climates. Good to see you are staying in the news, hope Sue is well. Pleased to say Marion is."

Grainger Rock

"The Mr Williams referred to in the early years was my great grandfather, Alfred Augustus Williams. He lived in Green Lane and then Westminster Road. He worked at Hanwell Asylum for 46 years where he started the Asylum Band. He also had a dance band that played at "The Feathers" in Ealing Broadway around 1900.

I understand that he was a versatile musician, playing cornet, fiddle, double-bass and piano. He died around 1934. My knowledge comes from my father and his aunts, my great aunts – Miss Williams (known as Daisy) who was a school teacher in Hanwell until her retirement in 1948 and the widowed Mrs Hazell (known as Bessie) who was

a respected dressmaker. Both remained in the house in Westminster Road after their parents had died.

I have a few biographical details of Alfred. His father served in the Army, a Lancashire regiment and Alfred was born in Australia around 1857. His parents had both died by the time he was 12 and he and his sister were shipped back to England to live with relatives in Hampstead.

Alfred joined the Army at the age of 14 and served as a Bandsman for 5 years. At the age of 19 or 20 he married, left the Army and moved to Hanwell.

I have cuttings from the Middlesex County Times and West London Gazette concerning his retirement and funeral but on neither does the date appear and the dates mentioned don't necessarily tally. The fact that he was born in Australia and with no knowledge of his father's name or rank, it is difficult to confirm his date of birth.

I appreciate that this is sketchy but hope it helps put a bit of flesh on the bare fact of his name."

Sue Maiden (nee Crowson)

"Whilst doing some surfing research on my family history, I came across the web site of the Hanwell Silver Band. My father, John Herbert Kitchin, was a member playing the Eb bass between 1930 and about 1954.

His brother Leslie (drummer) and father John Herbert or Herbert John (cornet ?) were also associated with the band, and at one time I believe my grandfather was the librarian for the band. If you have any information, records, recordings of this period, photos etc. I would be absolutely delighted to hear from you. I was really pleased to see a photograph on your website which featured my father and which I did not know existed.

I have several photos including one of a recording session at the BBC and a 78 rpm recording of the 1951 Championship.

As a piece of additional information, I know that in the 1943 film "Major Barbara" my father and some other bandsmen (Hanwell Silver?) were featured in the climax of the Royal Albert Hall Scene".

John Kitchen

"I have always understood that my grandfather played in the Hanwell Silver Band. I also believe he is in the photo for 1921, where he appears to be in the back row in the 5th or middle position. He was born in 1875 so would be 46 at the time.

He served in France during the 1st. W.W. and his name was Henry Gunn (Harry). He lived in Glenfield road, just off Northfields Avenue and would regularly drink in the Foresters, his local.

I have a portrait photo with him wearing a moustache and looking very much like the bandsman in your booklet "The Hanwell band".

He seems to have travelled around the south coast playing and on his return would bring back miniature pots of the Goss type with the town coat of arms. There is one of the British Empire exhibition at Wembley in 1921".

Norman Wearing

"My father, Tom Elsdon, played cornet and was Bandmaster with the band for a number of years in the late forties and early fifties. I have the photograph of him standing beside Eric Bravington that you show on your site. I have many memories of accompanying my father to concerts in parks and halls.

I also remember attending the Royal Albert Hall and Belle View with Dad in the days of the Daily Herald contests. I have a number of concert programmes from that time which might be of interest to you. Dad found the journey from Grove Park, South East London to Hanwell (Boston Manor) for practice too far to travel, and became conductor and bandmaster of the Bromley (Kent) Home Guard Association Silver Band, which was an easier journey. Again I followed him, by now playing cornet myself, onto bandstands in south east London and Kent. Tom died, still with Bromley, after a short illness in 1965. He was also teaching brass instruments in a local LCC evening institute. I can tell you that he always remained very proud of his association with the Hanwell Band and followed their fortunes as well as it was possible in those days. I believe he wrote a march called "Boston Manor" for Hanwell.

I also remember him arranging orchestral scores and laboriously scribbling band parts by hand on to reams of manuscript.

Two names stick in my mind from the photo. George (or Alf ?) Garlick, cornet, and the bearded baritone player whose surname I am sure was Rutter".

David Elsdon

"I am still (at nearly 77) helping the Young Peoples Band at High Wycombe Salvation Army. The Hanwell Band came to High Wycombe I note from your book, on June 19th 1982. We were raising money to take our band on a trip to the Ruhr Valley in Germany. After a superb concert the band announced that all expenses would be waived.

The folk will never know what this meant to us and on the kids behalf I shall be forever most grateful. Some of the boys and girls had a lot of difficulty raising their own expenses as of course the trip could not be financed with Army funds. I Hope this is of some interest and thanks for the interesting reading".

Trevor Steventon

Musician Dave Woods writes that his grandfather was a founder member of the band.