



GWYB NEWSLETTER – WINTER 2017

St Andrews Church, Moredon – Swindon SN25 3DF



Happy New Year!

Welcome to 2017, an exciting year for the band as we move forward following John's retirement. We wish him and his family lots of happiness in their new home in the sun!

Thank you to everyone for all your support during the busy month of December as it was really appreciated. We will continue to ask for help throughout the coming year as the band cannot function without the fantastic support of parents and helpers and we rely on fundraising to enable us to provide music, instruments and various activities for the band.

The Christmas Concert was a great success (despite the miserable weather) and a huge thank you to everyone who turned out for the various carolling events in and around Swindon. We raised approx £2,000 from all these events.

Rehearsal Dates:

Rehearsals are normally held every Saturday but please note the following dates:

- **4th February** - Rehearsal at **Lydiard Park Conference Centre** (RS @ 9.00am / Youth @ 10.00am)
- **11th February** - No Rehearsal (Half Term) – see below re Open Day at Swansea
- **15th April** - No Rehearsal (Easter)
- **13th May** - Rising Stars Only
- **3rd June** - No Rehearsal (Half Term)

The website will be updated with any changes to these arrangements.

Upcoming Engagements:

We have quite a few events coming up over the next few months, some details below but please keep an eye on the website for up to date information:

- **11th February** - Invitation to the Open Day at Swansea Army band (further details to follow)
- **3rd June** - Lechlade Vintage Rally – time to be confirmed but possibly 1pm
<http://www.northleach.gov.uk/event/lechlade-annual-vintage-rally-country-show-2017/>
- **11th June** - John Coles Park, Chippenham – 3pm

Exam Success

Congratulations to the following band members for passing recent exams:

Christopher W	- Grade 1 Cornet	Holly	- Grade 5 Tenor Horn
Diarmuid	- Grade 1 Cornet	Willow	- Grade 5 Tenor Horn
Thomas B	- Grade 5 Euphonium		

Please let us know if you are taking, or have passed exams recently, as we love to hear about the children's achievements, even if not related to the brass instrument that they play within the band.

Brunel Brass:

Brunel Brass were also busy carolling over the Christmas period and have helped with the fundraising effort for the band. They are now busy preparing for a contest in Oxford on 28 February as well as the Regional Contest in March in Torquay. Congratulations to Will T who has now moved up to Brunel.

Music Library:

We are in the process of updating the music library and aiming to keep a copy of all the music electronically. This is a long process but by now you should be receiving copies of music via email which will hopefully ensure that all the children are able to access the music to practice. We are looking for willing helpers to speed up the process so if you are able to help then please let us know. We will be doing a mass sorting exercise over the weekends of the 21st and 28th January so if you are able to stay on the Saturday morning and help out it would be much appreciated.

New Players

We are always keen to welcome new young players to take up a brass instrument – we provide free instrument loan and have tutors on hand to help. We just need people willing to learn!

The band is also always on the look out for new adult helpers/tutors so if you know anyone who may be interested in helping please let us know.

Help Wanted!

- ◆ If any parents or children have skills or expertise in Marketing, Publishing or Design & Printing (or you know someone who does) we are in urgent need of some help producing new advertising material. Please speak to any of the committee members at rehearsals on a Saturday morning or via email if you are able to help in any way. We are also keen to get publicity in local schools and groups to help promote the band and encourage new players.
- ◆ We need someone to help sort out our Music Library – this would be ideal for someone who has some spare time, maybe retired, and is happy to sort through all the music and put into order for us. Again, please inform us if you know anyone who would be interested.
- ◆ If you have any suggestions for new fundraising ideas please let us know.

GWYB Hoodies:

Band T-shirts are provided free of charge but please follow this link for details on how to order hoodies and sweatshirts - <http://www.swrsports.co.uk/great-western-youth-band-45-c.asp>.

Website / Facebook:

Our website is still evolving and hopefully you will see more changes during 2017. In the meantime it will be updated with current information about rehearsals and forthcoming events so please visit us regularly at www.greatwesternyouth.com to ensure you have the latest information. Please also let us know if there is any other content you think we should include. Encourage friends and family to have a look too!

To help us keep the website up to date with current images, we would love it if you could forward any photos or recordings you have of the band / your children to Paul Austin via email. Thanks.

In this ever growing world of Social Media, we also have a Facebook page and encourage you to "like" and "share" events on there, all of which helps to promote the band. However, due to Child Protection, please be mindful when posting pictures of other band members on social media. GWYB cannot be held responsible for images posted by parents and family members.

Brass for Africa (<http://www.brassforafrica.org/>):

As an organisation, we will be supporting Brass4Africa (historically we have sponsored a child through the UGive2Uganda project) and will be paying a monthly fee to them to help support the development of brass music throughout Africa. If any band members have suggestions for fund raising events to support this we would be delighted to hear about them!

Gift Aid & Easyfundraising

Gift Aid: As most of you will know, we recover significant income from "grossing up" your donations and collections on an annual basis. However, please advise us if your personal circumstances change and we can no longer recover gift aid on your behalf.

Easyfundraising: Did you know that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be collecting free donations for Great Western Youth Band?

This website is really easy to use and manage. Simply register at www.easyfundraising.org.uk and quote Great Western Youth Band. Shop through the site to make purchases and a donation will be made to the band, paid quarterly. There are over 3,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, TheTrainline and Sainsbury's – it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

We currently only have 18 supporters on Easyfunding but have so far raised over £200 so please help increase this by signing up and giving it a try!

Membership Forms / Fees

Please always inform us of any changes to your personal details, e.g. change of address or telephone number (especially mobile) so we can keep our membership forms up to date.

Just a reminder, fees are due termly (x3) or if you prefer you can spread the cost monthly. Fees are £25 per term for one child and £40 per term for two children. Any additional children are free.

Online payment is preferred using the following bank details, but payment can also be made via cheque.
Sort Code: 30-13-35, Account No: 02767911 (Please include the name of your child as the reference)

Committee Members – below are the current committee members:

Chair Person / Treasurer	– Paul Austin	Minutes Secretary	– Zoe Phillips
Player Representative	– James Phillips	Welfare Officer	– Claire Foulds
Committee Members	– Alan Campbell, Tracey Fordom, Dave Whetham, Mike Clarke & Venice Marriott-Webb		

GWYB Chair Person - Paul Austin

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