



# GWYB NEWSLETTER SPRING/SUMMER 2017



St Andrews Church, Moredon – Swindon SN25 3DF

Spring is here and the diary will be getting busy over the next few months. Well done to everyone who took part in the recent North Wilts Music Festival at the Oasis, including the Percussion Ensemble who sounded great. Also, a big well done to anyone who recently passed exams (more details below). Rehearsals will continue as normal but as events get closer we may extend some of the practice times so please keep an eye on the website for information. We are looking forward to some great events and, as ever, appreciate all your support at rehearsals and other activities.

## Rehearsal Dates:

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

- **13<sup>th</sup> May** - All bands (*previously only Rising Stars*)
- **3<sup>rd</sup> June** - No Rehearsal (Half Term / Lechlade Vintage Rally)
- **24<sup>th</sup> June** - All bands (*previously Armed Forces Day*)
- **8<sup>th</sup> July** - No Rehearsal (*afternoon concert*)
- **22<sup>nd</sup> July** - Last Rehearsal before summer holidays

Rehearsals may be extended to 12.30pm on certain Saturdays, especially when leading up to events.

***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, details below but again please keep an eye on the website for up to date information.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> June - Lechlade Vintage Rally

Please arrive at 11.45 and we will be playing from 12.30 – 1.30

*Youth Band Players only but all welcome to come along and watch.*

<http://www.northleach.gov.uk/event/lechlade-annual-vintage-rally-country-show-2017/>

### 11<sup>th</sup> June - John Coles Park, Chippenham

Youth band will be playing in John Coles Park but we would love it if all players from Rising Stars and Percussion would come along to support and then join them for a Family Picnic afterwards.

Band arrive at 2.30pm, playing from 3pm onwards

### 8<sup>th</sup> July – Concert & Afternoon Tea @ Christchurch, Swindon (*All bands*)

As part of Brass Fest '17, this will be our big end of term concert, incorporating Rising Stars, Percussion, Youth Band and Brunel Brass and will be held at Christchurch in Old Town. The concert will begin at 3pm, lasting approx 2 hours with cream teas served during the interval. Please encourage friends and family to come along and join us for what promises to be a very enjoyable afternoon. More details will follow nearer the time.

### 15<sup>th</sup> July – Social

We will be asking band members for suggestions of a social event to take place on 15<sup>th</sup> July. Watch this space!

*\* Please note we are no longer doing Armed Forces Day on 24<sup>th</sup> June*

## Exam Success

Congratulations to the following band members for passing recent exams:

Christian	- Grade 8 Tenor Horn	Alfie	- Grade 4 Euphonium
Rebekah	- Grade 6 Tenor Horn	David	- Grade 3 Cornet
Robert	- Grade 1 Cornet	Jack	- Grade 3 Cornet

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 competed in the Regionals in Torquay and remain in the Championship section which is a fantastic result. They continue to be very busy and their next concert is on 20<sup>th</sup> May at Christchurch in Bristol at 7pm. They are also playing in John Coles Park in Chippenham, but on 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

## Percussion Kit / Instruments:

Band has recently had several pieces of percussion kit and several instruments repaired which does cost the band a lot of money. Please can we remind everyone to take good care of all equipment both during rehearsals and at home. We offer instruments free of charge but do expect everyone to take responsibility for them, look after them by keeping them clean and free from damage, so they can be passed onto other band members as appropriate.

### **Music Library:**

We are still slowly updating the music library and our aim is to keep a copy of all the music electronically. Hopefully you are all now receiving copies of music via email which will hopefully ensure that all the children are able to access the music to practice. We are always looking for willing helpers to speed up the process so please let us know if you can help. Alternatively, this would be a great opportunity for someone who has some spare time, maybe retired, and is happy to sort through all the music and put into order for us. Even if you can't help yourself, please inform us if you know of anyone who would be interested. Thanks.

### **GWYB Hoodies:**

Band T-shirts are provided free of charge to players and tutors. Follow this link if you would like to order hoodies or sweatshirts - <http://www.swrsports.co.uk/great-western-youth-band-45-c.asp>. Please see any of our committee members on a Saturday morning rehearsal if you do not already have a t-shirt or need to change size. Please return any t-shirts no longer required (washed and ironed please!).

### **New Players**

Welcome to anyone who has joined the band recently - it is lovely to see some new faces and we hope you are having fun. However, we are always keen to welcome more 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 please do let us know.

We are keen to get more publicity in local schools and groups to help promote the band and encourage new players - our nice glossy A5 flyers are now available so please feel free to take some if you think you can help with increasing awareness of the band.

### **Website / Facebook:**

Our website is still evolving and hopefully you will see more changes during the rest of the year. In the meantime it will be updated with current information about rehearsals and forthcoming events so please visit us regularly at [www.greatwesternyouth.com](http://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.

### **Fundraising**

If you have any suggestions for new fundraising ideas please let us know.

**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](http://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 Easyfundraising but have so far raised over £200 so please help increase this by signing up and giving it a try!

**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.

### **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 & Sarah Whetham, Mike Clarke & Sharon Hopkins		

**If you are unable to attend rehearsals please contact Paul Austin (details below)  
or for Youth Band please contact Alan Campbell on 07763 413977**

**GWYB Chair Person - Paul Austin / Email - [paulaustin204@btopenworld.com](mailto:paulaustin204@btopenworld.com) / Mobile - 07793 066030**