



# GWYB NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN 2016

St Andrews Church, Moredon – Swindon SN25 3DF



## Farewell to John!

As many of you will by now be aware, John Winterflood is stepping down as Musical Director and Conductor of Great Western Youth Band and Brunel Brass at the end of this year. John has been instrumental in setting up the band and making it what it is today, which is a very successful community band, encouraging youngsters to play and grow their skills. We will be very sorry to say good-bye to John but wish him lots of happiness as he and his family set off for their new life in Spain.

Going forward, Alan Campbell will be conducting the Youth Band with a new conductor for Rising Stars to be announced shortly.

We will be celebrating John's time with the band but final details have yet to be agreed so we will keep you informed!

This year also sees the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the band and long may it continue!

## Rehearsal Dates:

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

- **Saturday 22nd October** - No Rehearsal (half term)
- **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December** - Last rehearsal before Christmas break
- **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2017** - Start of new term

## Upcoming Engagements:

Key dates for your diary:

- **15<sup>th</sup> October** - Concert at Royal Wootton Bassett Academy involving Youth Band (*not Rising Stars*), Percussion Ensemble and Brunel Brass alongside RWBA Swingband
- **2<sup>nd</sup> December** - Small group required for carolling at Dialog in West Swindon
- **10<sup>th</sup> December** - Christmas Concert (*final details to be confirmed*)
- **11<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> December** - Carolling dates at M&S Orbital (*times to be confirmed*). This is our major fundraiser of the year so it is important that everyone gets involved, even if you can only help out at one event.

We do appreciate there is a lot going on in December but we would like to maintain our usual commitments for fundraising and really do value your help and support!

## Annual General Meeting:

This will be held on **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 9.45am** at St Andrews Church.

This is a great opportunity to hear about what we've been up to this year, where the fundraising has been allocated/spent and our plans for next year and beyond.

It is important that we have a good representation of parents at the AGM so your ideas and attendance would be most welcome. New committee members always welcome!

## Exam Success

Congratulations to the following band members for passing recent exams:

- |       |   |                        |        |   |                  |
|-------|---|------------------------|--------|---|------------------|
| Rowan | - | Grade 6 Soprano Cornet | Wilbur | - | Grade 2 Trombone |
| Lily  | - | Grade 1 Cornet         | Cofi   | - | Grade 2 Baritone |
| David | - | Grade 2 Cornet         |        |   |                  |

If you are taking or have passed exams recently please let us know. The next round of Trinity exams is in November so watch this space for more success stories!

## Player / Band Photographs:

We are always looking for up to date photographs so if you have any photos or recordings of the band / your children that you would be happy to put on the website, please email them to Paul Austin.

## **Brunel Brass:**

Brunel Brass has been busy over the past few months rehearsing hard to compete in the National Championships. This includes tutors and many members of the Youth Band so very well done to everyone involved.

Congratulations to Rowan (Soprano Cornet), James P (Trombone) and Fraser (Cornet) who have recently moved up to Brunel Brass.

Also, the following players have moved up from Rising Stars to Youth Band:

- Jack (Cornet), Cofi (Baritone) and Wilbur (Trombone).

## **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.

## **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.

## **Website / Facebook:**

Our website is taking shape and 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!

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.

## **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:** With Christmas fast approaching and many of us doing our shopping online, 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. You can buy from lots of different shops, such as Amazon, Debenhams, M&S to name but a few, plus lots of travel and insurance companies.

We have just received our first cheque for **£161.00** which is fantastic and such a simple way to help raise much needed funds. We currently only have 17 people supporting us via Easyfunding so please sign up and give it a try!

**easyfundraising**  
.org.uk

## **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
Musical Director	– John Winterflood	Welfare Officer	– Claire Foulds
Player Representative	– James Phillips		
Committee Members	– Alan Campbell, Tracey Fordom, Dave Whetham, Mike Clarke, Carynne Walton & Venice Marriott-Webb		

**GWYB Chair Person - Paul Austin**

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