



# GWYB NEWSLETTER AUTUMN / WINTER 2017



St Andrews Church, Moredon – Swindon SN25 3DF

Hopefully everyone had an enjoyable summer break and are ready for a busy term ahead!

We are already planning and looking forward to our annual Christmas Concert at Christchurch and our carolling sessions in and around the local shops and community. These are major fund raising opportunities for the band so, as always, we really do appreciate your help and support especially at what is already a very busy time of year.

## Rehearsal Times:

**Please note rehearsal times will be changing from 7<sup>th</sup> October 2017. New times will be:**

Percussion Ensemble	- 9.00 – 9.45
Rising Stars	- 9.50 – 10.35
Youth Band	- 10.45 – 12.15

Please ensure players arrive in time to actually start rehearsing at the specified times.

## Rehearsal Dates:

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

- **30<sup>th</sup> September** - Rehearsal at Lawn Manor Academy (formerly Churchfields School)
- **14<sup>th</sup> October** - No Rehearsal
- **28<sup>th</sup> October** - No Rehearsal (*Half Term*)
- **9<sup>th</sup> December** - Last Rehearsal before Christmas break or potential carolling
- **6<sup>th</sup> Jan 2018** - Start of new term

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

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

## Upcoming Engagements:

Details below of events already booked but again please keep an eye on the website for up to date information.

- Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November** - Christmas Carols at Haydonleigh School
- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December** - Carolling at Dialog (*small group*)
- Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December** - Christmas Concert @ Christchurch, Old Town (*All bands inc GWYB Percussion Ensemble*)

**9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> December** – Potential carolling dates at M&S Orbital, Outlet Village and other locations **TBC**

Please help promote these events to friends, family, work colleagues etc. 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!

## New Players

Welcome to anyone who has recently joined the band. It is great to see new faces but we always need more! We provide free instrument loan and have tutors on hand to help so if you have a friend who you think may be interested then please bring them along on a Saturday morning to watch or maybe just have a go.

We are always grateful for more adult helpers/tutors too so do inform us if you know anyone willing to help.

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 general advertising to increase awareness of the band.

## Annual General Meeting:

This will be held on **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 12.15pm** 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 appreciated. New committee members also always welcome!

## Welfare / Safeguarding:

As part of our responsibility for all band members during rehearsal, it is essential that we know who is in the building at all times. Therefore we will be introducing a Register every Saturday morning. Please ensure that everyone signs in and out when they arrive/leave the building. This register would be used in case of any emergency so it is important that it is kept up to date.

### **Brunel Brass News:**

Brunel Brass are especially busy this year now they are in the Championship Section. This does in turn have an impact on GWYB as many members of Brunel are also tutors/helpers on a Saturday morning so please bear with us! We wish them well in upcoming contests.

### **Instrument Audit:**

We need to undertake an Instrument Audit so that we know who has what instrument and the serial numbers for our records. We will attempt to get this information from everyone at Saturday rehearsals during this term.

### **Exam Success**

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

### **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!).

### **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.

We do 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:** Don't forget to register and use Easyfundraising when you do your online shopping as you could be collecting free donations for Great Western Youth Band on a regular basis. It's easy to use – 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, M&S, John Lewis, Aviva, Thetrainline, Thomas Cook – it doesn't cost you a penny extra! Please sign up and give it a try! Ask friends and family to help too, especially when doing Christmas shopping online!

**Gift Aid:** 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 for this term are £25 per term for one child and £40 per term for two children. Any additional children are free. *Please note there will be a small fee increase from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 and this will be communicated later in the year.*

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                      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**