



GWYB NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2018

St Andrews Church, Moredon – Swindon SN25 3DF



Happy New Year!

A belated happy new year and welcome to the first term of 2018!

Thank you to everyone for 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 another great success and a huge thank you goes out to everyone who turned up for the various carolling events in and around Swindon. We raised approx £1,500 from all these events in addition to some donations from various local companies. All this money will be ploughed back into the band.

We'd like to congratulate Chris McMullin and his wife Pippa on the birth of their baby girl Charlotte ("Lottie") in December. Chris will be back conducting the Rising Stars in February but in the meantime Alan, Matthew and Janet will continue to cover this between them.

Rehearsal Dates

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

- **3rd February** - Percussion & Rising Stars only at Lydiard House Conference Centre
(no youth band rehearsal due to Brunel Brass Residential weekend)
- **17th February** - No Rehearsal (Half Term)
- **31st March** - No Rehearsal (Easter)
- **21st April** - Rehearsal in preparation for Warwick Competition on 22nd.

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

Some of the upcoming Saturday rehearsals will also include players from outside the GWYB organisation but who are joining us for the North Wilts Youth Band entry to the National Youth Brass Band Championship Competition in Warwick on 22nd April (see below).

Upcoming Engagements

Details of upcoming events – more may follow!

- **22nd April** - National Youth Finals in Warwick (further information to be sent out separately)
- **2nd June** - Lechlade Vintage Rally – time to be confirmed but possibly 1pm
<http://lechladecollectorsclub.co.uk/>
- **10th June** - John Coles Park, Chippenham – 3pm (Youth Band)
- **14th July*(TBC)** - Summer Concert at Christchurch, Old Town (all bands)

North Wilts Youth Band

This group has been set up to enable players to participate in the upcoming National Youth Brass Band Championships in Warwick in April. This will not affect GWYB other than for a few extra rehearsals leading up to the competition. It is a great opportunity for our younger players to be able to participate in a competition which we would otherwise not be able to enter due to the ages of the necessary players.

Please look out for a separate email coming soon with more information and permission slip.

Fees – Increase from January 2018

Just a reminder, fees are due termly (x3) or if you prefer you can spread the cost monthly. With effect from 1st January 2018 fees will be £27.00 per term for one child and £45.00 per term for two children. Any additional children are free. I'm sure you will all agree this represents excellent value for money for you to have peace and quiet for an hour on a Saturday morning!!

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)

Remember, 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.

Exam Success

Congratulations to the following band members on passing recent exams:

Willow -	Grade 6 Tenor Horn	Rowan -	Grade 7 Soprano Cornet
Lily -	Grade 3 Cornet	Jack -	Grade 4 Flugel Horn
Thomas-	Grade 3 Cornet	David -	Grade 4 Tuba
Henry -	Grade 5 Cornet	Robert -	Grade 3 Cornet

Please let us know if you are taking, or have passed exams recently, as we love to hear about your successes, even if not related to the band.

New Players

Welcome to anyone who has recently joined the band. It is great to see new faces but we always need more! Please bring your friends along to any Saturday rehearsal if they would like to see what goes on and join in the fun! Don't forget, we provide free instrument loan and there are plenty of tutors available to help.

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 readily available so please feel free to take some if you think you can help with general advertising to increase awareness of the band.

Website / Facebook

We aim to keep our website as up to date as possible with latest news and information about rehearsals and forthcoming events but please let us know if there is any other content you think we should include. Please visit us regularly at www.greatwesternyouth.com to ensure you have the latest information. Encourage friends and family to have a look too!

We would love it if you could forward any photos or recordings you have of the band / your children to Paul Austin via email so we can upload them to the website. 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.

GWYB Hoodies

Band T-shirts are provided free of charge but please follow this link for details on how to order hoodies and sweatshirts if you wish to purchase these separately.

<http://www.swrsports.co.uk/great-western-youth-band-45-c.asp>.

Fundraising

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

easyfundraising
.org.uk

Now is a perfect time to get involved with Easyfundraising, especially if you are planning to book your next holiday online. Many travel firms (including Tui, Expedia, Booking.com etc) make a donation, at no expense to you! It's easy to register and use and also includes shops such as Amazon, M&S, John Lewis, to name but a few. Click on the link today www.easyfundraising.org.uk, quote Great Western Youth Band and give it a try! Ask friends and family to help too!



We are grateful for all donations, however large or small. If you know any companies who would be willing to make a donation to the band, match fundraising or even sponsor the band in some way please do let us know as without this support the band cannot continue to offer such amazing opportunities for players.

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.

Committee Members – below are the current committee members:

Chair Person / Treasurer	– Paul Austin	Minutes Secretary	– Zoe Phillips
Player Representative	– Owain Walton	Welfare Officer	– Claire Foulds
Committee Members	– Alan Campbell, Tracey Fordom, Dave Whetham & Sarah Whetham		

**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 / Mobile – 07793 066030