



GWYB NEWSLETTER AUTUMN / WINTER 2018



St Andrews Church, Moredon – Swindon SN25 3DF

Welcome back after the summer break! As usual we are heading into a busy term and are already planning and looking forward to our annual Christmas Concert at Christchurch. We will also be doing our usual 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 value your help and support especially as we appreciate this is a very busy time of year for everyone.

Rehearsal Times:

Please note current rehearsal times:

Percussion	09.00 – 09.45
Rising Stars	09.30 – 10.30
Youth Band	10.30 – 12.30

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

Any changes to rehearsal dates and times will be posted on the website or via email.

Dates/Upcoming Events:

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

- **6th October** - No Rehearsal
- **27th October** - No Rehearsal (*Half Term*)
- **24th November** - AGM
- **1st December** - Last Rehearsal before Christmas break
- **7th December** - Carolling at Dialog (*small group*)
- **8/9th, 15/16th, 22/23rd December** – Potential carolling dates at M&S Orbital and other locations **TBC**
- **5th Jan 2019** - Start of new term

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

Please help promote any 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 so we're grateful for your support.

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

Annual General Meeting:

This will be held on **Saturday 24th November 2017 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 appreciated. New committee members also always welcome!

Regional Brass Band Championships – Torquay

We are looking to take the band to the South West Regional Brass Band Championships in March 2019. It takes place on the weekend of 9/10th March 2019 and the Youth band would be playing on the Saturday morning. Brunel Brass regularly competes in this competition and will also be playing on the Saturday.

A letter outlining further details will be sent separately.

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.

Please contact any of the committee if you know anyone who would like to help with fundraising/advertising to increase awareness of the band or, indeed, anyone who is willing to help out/tutor on a Saturday morning.

Continued overleaf....

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 £27.00 per term for one child and £45.00 per term for two children. Any additional children are free. If paying monthly, this equates to £6.75 or £11.25 per month respectively.

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)

****NEW** "Bonus Ball 59 Club"**

We will be introducing a new weekly lottery game from October. It will cost £1 per week and winners will be decided from the National Lottery bonus ball for the week. The more people who get involved, the bigger the prize fund! Watch this space for more details!

Exam Success

Well done to:

- Sophie & Robert for passing Grade 4 Cornet exams at the end of the summer term.
- Sapphire & Rhianna for passing Grade 6 and Grade 5 (respectively) Piano exams during the summer.

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.

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 updated regularly with current information about rehearsals and forthcoming events so please visit us 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.

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 Safeguarding/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

easyfundraising
.org.uk

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 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.

Committee Members – below are the current committee members:

Chair Person / Treasurer - Paul Austin Minutes Secretary - Zoe Phillips Welfare Officer - Claire Foulds
Committee Members - Tracey Fordom, Dave & Sarah Whetham

If you are unable to attend rehearsals please contact Paul Austin (details below)

GWYB Chair Person - Paul Austin – Email: paulaustin204@btopenworld.com or Mobile: 07793 066030