



# The Farndon Bandsman

*The Quarterly Newsletter of the Farndon & District Brass Band*

## Band Secretary Scoops Band Person of the Year



Phil Mason the very popular secretary of the band has scooped the Band Person of the Year prize for a third time this year. The award, which is the result of a vote by the band members for the person that they feel has contributed most to the band in the

year. Phil who is the longest serving band member, previously held the position of chairman, is currently the band secretary and has often been described as “the heartbeat of the band”. As well as the main winner of Band Person of the Year, a number of other members were presented with ‘Chairman’s bottles’ to mark their contributions during the year. The band would also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy Christmas and New Year.



## New Band Newsletter launched in New Year

This month the band have launched a newsletter to keep everyone up to date with the activities the band are involved in. It is hoped that it will fill the gap between the website and our Facebook pages, and could appeal to those who may prefer to see a printed version. It is hoped to produce the newsletter quarterly, depending on the demand. Electronic copies will also be sent out to organisations who have worked with the band over the year.

In this issue we reveal the winner of this year’s Band Person of the Year and look back at several of the band’s more memorable events including this year’s new format Lantern Parade with the Christmas Tree Festival as well as the annual Christmas Brass Concert at Bellis Brothers. We also look at the winners of the Junior band winners of this year’s awards.

## Remembrance Day at St.Chad’s



The Band were delighted once again to be a part of the Remembrance service at St Chad’s church Farndon.

This Year the cornet solo before the two minutes silence was played by Sue Frencham, pictured above.





# Farndon Christmas Tree Festival a Great Success



Farndon and District Brass Band joined forces with St.Chad's Church Farndon to play at their first Christmas Tree Festival this year. In previous years this date marked the lantern parade between the villages of Holt and Farndon, but this year changes to the support the local police were able to offer meant that the event had to be changed to a two centred event. The band joined the celebrations at St. Chads on Saturday 5th December for the switch on of the tree in the Church. This was followed by a selection of carols to the packed church before the band and supporters walked to the tree in the village to switch on that tree too. The event then moved to the Manor Park Care Home in Holt to play a selection of carols to the residents. Finally the band and supporters walked to The Cross in Holt to play their last selection of carols.

Pictures from TOP;- The Band on the altar at St. Chad's surrounded by their lanterns to play for the Christmas Tree Festival switch on to a packed church. LEFT - the church congregation joins in with the Christmas carols after the tree switch on. BELOW LEFT - the band playing carols outside the Manor Park Care Home in Holt. The residents thanked the band and said that they really enjoyed the visit by the band and their supporters. Finally BELOW the band complete their playing at The Cross in the middle of the village.







## Christmas Brass at Bellis Brothers

Farndon & District Brass Band returned once again to Bellis Brothers for the very popular annual Christmas Brass concert. The main band which was conducted by musical director Kelvin Redmile, was again supported by the Junior Band.

The concert was a mixture of popular carols by the Main and Junior Bands and an entertaining festive reading from Rev. Chris Deakin. The event was held as always in the restaurant at Bellis Brothers Garden Centre and was very well supported. The pictures from TOP - show a wide view of the



Band at Bellis Brothers Christmas Brass lead by by our musical director Kelvin Redmile.

LEFT - a solo performance during the first half by Catherine West. BELOW LEFT - Rev. Chris Deakin gives a selection of short humorous Christmas readings which proved to be very popular with young and old alike in the audience.

BELOW - a shot of the second row cornet players during the second half of the concert.

The Band would once again like to thank Joan Bellis who is a vice president of the band and her staff at the Garden Centre for their help in staging this event and making everyone involved with the band feel so very welcome.

Also we would like to thank Sue & Brian Payne for their help in the promotion and running of the event once again this year.





## A New Year Message from the Chairman



At this special time of year I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for another very successful year. Special thanks must also go to the hard working committee for their efforts in planning and staging the high numbers of engagements we have managed this year. It has been a pleasure to be a part of such a happy and creative group of people. Happy Christmas and New Year from your head teaboy, Tony.

## Bookings for 2016

Saturday 30th January, the band's Annual Dinner and Awards at Holt Lodge, 7-30pm. Sat 21st May, Picnic & Proms at Tarporley Baptist Church, 5:00pm start. Sat 11th June, Picnic & Proms at Bellis Bros. Garden Centre, Holt starting at 6:00pm. Saturday 25th June, Tattenhall Village Fete & Parade starting at 12:30pm. Sun 3rd July and Thu 16th July the band has a Private Booking. At the time of this first newsletter all times and dates are provisional. As new bookings are made by Phil the band secretary, they will appear on the band's website [www.farndonband.org.uk](http://www.farndonband.org.uk).

Or you can follow anything to do with the band and its activities by following the band on its Facebook pages.

## Junior Band Person of the Year Winners

Junior band musical director Janet Barraclough used the occasion of the Christmas Brass Concert at Bellis Brothers to announce the winner of Young Band Person of the Year and Certificate of Achievement winners. After the Junior Band finished their playing just before the interval Janet introduced the winners to family and friends in the audience.

Pictured right with Janet Barraclough is Lewis Hennessey who won Young Band Person of the year. The award is made on the contribution the player has made to the band and not just their musical ability. It was felt that the contribution made by Lewis this year merited the award. He was presented with the large shield which he holds for one year, a small shield which he keeps and a certificate.



Three other players who made significant contributions to the band in the last year were presented with Certificates of Achievement and are pictured below. Left to right are Grace Crowe, Bethan Lloyd, Janet Barraclough, Lewis Hennessey and Bethan Cooper. The Junior Band has again had a very successful year under the leadership of Janet and has played in a number of events. The members continue to climb steadily and now enjoy nearly the same number as the main band. Should you or anyone you know want to become involved as a player or supporter of the Junior band, please contact a member of the band, you would be made most welcome. They rehearse on Wednesday evenings (during term time) at Churton Village Hall from 6-30 pm to 8pm. And you can get more information from the Farndon & District Brass Band's website which can be found at <http://www.farndonband.org.uk>.

