



# The Farndon Bandsman

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

## Winners one and all



The venue for our annual band dinner and presentation evening was once again the Holt Lodge, between Wrexham and Holt. Numbers were slightly down on last year due to various reasons, but as always the food and service were of the very highest standard, and a great night was enjoyed by all who were able to attend the event.

In his speech following the meal, the chairman reflected on the previous year, highlighting various aspects of the year that he felt important. The tradition which he started several years ago of awarding his 'Chairman's Bottles' to four additional band members who he feels had contributed something special to the band in the last twelve months has proved to be very popular. In his words, "there can only be one winner of the Band Person of the Year, but we have many winners in our ranks who also deserve a reward".

The first to receive a bottle, but being under 18, a voucher to spend on himself, was young David Mellor. David still plays in the junior band but also regularly joins the full band on Thursdays. His dedication and attitude meant he did very well in the voting for the Band Person of the Year and it was for this reason he received the award. Mum Jackie, who is also the parents' representative on the committee, looked after the bottle on his behalf. Gill Wayne, was another winner of a bottle for her hard work this last year on the inventory paperwork for uniforms and instruments as well as rewriting everything to comply with the new data protection regulations.

Enjoy your bottle Gill, you have certainly earned it! John Reeves also received a bottle for his efforts this year as librarian, Chair of the Safeguarding Committee, and as an active player in the ensemble.

The final award of the evening was of course the Band Person of the Year. The entire senior band is invited to vote for the person they feel has contributed most for the band this last year. The winner was Band secretary Amy Leather. To readers of the newsletter, Amy is a well know member. Not only has she taken over the role of secretary but she supports the band, and this newsletter all the time. A winner herself of a Chairman's Bottle last year, this popular player has gone one better this year, despite only recently featuring on the front page following the birth of her new baby boy, Joss Edward Wilson Leather.

*Left, left to right, Gill Wayne, Jackie Mellor, David Mellor, Amy Leather and John Reeves.*

*Below, the various Chairman's Bottles, voucher and the Band Person of the Year shield, with a selection of the newsletters from the previous year*



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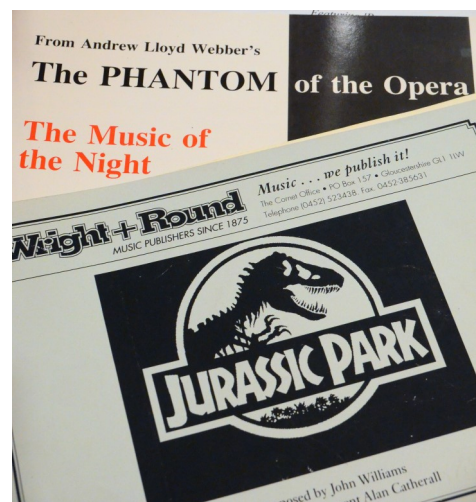




# Music from the Silver Screen

I was delighted when Arial West, our MD, started recently to introduce a number of scores from the great films into our pads for this season. As someone who was old enough to remember many of the great epic films of the 60s the reason was obvious, but I wondered what made him choose them for the band's pads, and this was his reply;- "When deciding what pieces the band should play, I often ask myself, what do the audience want to hear? A careful balance has to be sought, between playing music they will know, introducing new music they may like, and playing music of varied genres to suit everybody's individual taste, whilst still being interesting and enjoyable for the band members to play. For me a wonderful choice is film music.

Popular film composers such as John Williams and Hans Zimmer are often likened to, or said to be the modern-day Mozart and Beethoven, and write incredible music soundtracks, commissioning orchestras from all around the world to play them. Listening to a film score or prepared piece from a film is just like enjoying classical music but with the uniqueness of having the feeling/imagery of the film associated with it. Because genres of film vary greatly, so does the music, but they are all written to convey a certain picture in the mind of the listener or to bring out an emotion the composer wants you to feel. Because of this we can hear or play anything from a sweeping romantic melody to mischievous magical runs with intricate interweaving melodic lines, to dark intense chords and figures, all of which are written to form a connection between the film and the listener, and I find that fascinating. Some of these scores translate to brass band arrangements very well and bring a whole new set of varied pieces into the band room. Also, let's not forget all the pre-written music that has made its way onto the silver screen. This can bring a whole new dimension to otherwise straightforward pieces. (Saint Saens organ symphony used in Babe for instance). As well as being fun and often challenging to play, film music is well loved by players and audiences alike, and this is very important so that the band enjoys playing the music chosen and our audience enjoy our concerts when performed."



## Diary Dates

As the weather slowly starts to warm up with the vague promise of summer, the Band's programme of events starts to grow. You may want to make notes of some of these future jobs in your diaries. But please don't forget the full list of event can always be found on the Events page of our website which can be found at [www.farndonband.org.uk](http://www.farndonband.org.uk).

Starting next month, on Saturday the 11th May at 12-30pm we kick off the summer with the very popular Marbury Merry Days. This year will feature the usual wide range of activities, but they will also welcome the Sir George Lisles Regiment of the Sealed Knot who

will be bringing to life the English Civil War period with drill displays, a skirmish and living history. One for the diary for sure! Saturday the 18th May the band travels to St John's Methodist Church, Whitchurch for a Concert with a Community Choir, starting at 7-30pm. Into June, and on Saturday 15th we return to Bellis Brothers Garden Centre in Holt to support their excellent Picnic & Proms fund raising event and once again the band are supported by the popular Holt Community Choir. So bring your picnics and enjoy a great evening. On Friday 21st June the band travels to St Mary's Church in Kinnerley for a concert, the start time for this event is 7-45pm.

## Don't Forget Our Website!



That's the best place to find all the latest information on future band jobs.  
<http://www.farndonband.org.uk>



# Yes Minister!



An appeal at the Annual Dinner for stories for the newsletter brought an instant response from Sue Payne, who informed the gathering that our current Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Matt Hancock M.P. was once a member of the Farndon junior band, and sent me this old snapshot as proof! Brian and Sue Payne went on to give us some of the details behind the picture.

“We think back around 1986 there was a junior band concert, possibly in the Farndon Memorial Hall. At the time both Robert and Catherine were in the band, as were our friends’ children, Emily and Matthew Hancock. Emily and Matt turned up at our house in their Farndon school uniform, which did not seem appropriate, so we dressed them in Holt School uniforms belonging to Robert and Catherine, as the photo shows!

Matt Hancock MP was appointed Secretary of State for Health and Social Care last July, previously holding the position of Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media. He was born in Cheshire, and was educated at Farndon County Primary School, then at King's School in Chester. He graduated from Exeter College, Oxford with a 1st in Philosophy, Politics and Economics.

He went on to earn an M.Phil in Economics at Christ's College, Cambridge, becoming a member of



the Conservative Party in 1999. After university, Hancock briefly worked for his family's computer software company, before moving to London to work as an economist at the Bank of England, specialising in the housing market. Mr Hancock is currently the MP for West Suffolk, having been

elected in the 2010 general election. Above left, a BBC stock picture of Matt Hancock outside No 10 Downing Street. Above, left to right, Matt's older sister Emily Hancock, Robert Payne, brother of current player Cat Williams, Cat Williams and a very young Matt Hancock on the right.

## St.Chad's Concert

On Friday 26th April for one of the first jobs of the new year, the Band, supported by the junior section, visited St. Chad's church in Farndon for a charity concert.

Once again the people from the village turned out and enjoyed the wide selection of music the band played. Musical director Arial West is pictured below, leading the band in the opening piece during the concert.







# Junior spotlight 100 Club



My name is David and I have been playing euphonium in the Junior Band for 3 years. I've been interested in brass bands pretty much all my life. The only time I ran away from my mum was when I was a year or two old at Grosvenor Garden Centre when I heard a brass band play.

In 2017 I was invited to practice with the Senior Band and I have practiced and performed regularly with them since 2018.

My best moments were at the Bellis Brothers Christmas concert in 2016 when I got the Junior Band Certificate of Achievement and in January this year I got one of the Chairman's bottles at the Annual Awards dinner, although being under 18 my prize didn't involve alcohol!

I love playing in a brass band and my little brother shares my interest. I have let him play my euphonium and he can produce quite a good sound for his age. He could be a future member of Farndon and District Brass Band although he idolises Arial, and is keen to be the next Musical Director!

*Above left, David having a few moments of rest during a recent rehearsal, and the photo below is of his earliest appearance with the Senior Band, playing the sleigh bells one Christmas.*

## Calling all readers!



Please send us any letters, comments, pictures or ideas for articles to our chairman at [tony.pugh@outlook.com](mailto:tony.pugh@outlook.com).



The 100 Club is now in its 20th year, and we are delighted to report that to date, with your support, has generated more than £32,000 to support the Band's activities. But please bear in mind that inflation, and the credit crunch, has taken its toll during this time, significantly reducing the current buying power of what the 100 club makes, which is roughly half of what it would buy when it started in 1999! Our fourth monthly draw of the 2018 / 2019 100 Club year took place at the Churton Village Hall on the 31st January. Again, 73 numbers held by 50 members of the 100 Club were entered in this draw and the lucky winner of the first prize went to number 35, held by Nick Tapp, which took the prize of £73.00. Gill Wayne collected the second prize of £36.50 when her 'lucky' number 13 came out next. Finally long term band member Sue Frencham picked up the third prize of £14.60 with number 70.

The fifth monthly draw of the 2018 – 2019 100 club season took place at the Churton Village Hall on the 21st February. In all 75 numbers held by 52 members of the 100 club were entered and the lucky winners were in first place Kari Kerr who collected the first prize of £75.00 with number 14. Another long time supporter Chas Rayment collected £37.00 second place with his No 85. Finally Roland Twydell was again in the prizes with his No 28 and collected the £15.00 third prize. The sixth monthly roll-up draw of the 2018 – 2019 100 club draw took place at the Churton Village Hall on the 28th March. First Prize went to No 64 held by Sharon Pugh who collected £114.00. The second prize of £38.00 went to No 25 held by Roland Twydell. Finally the third prize of £15.20 went to Paul Ivison and his No 40. Thank you again for your continued support.

