

Our Hidden Treasurer

Once again this year the band returned to the Holt Lodge for their annual dinner and presentations night which as always falls in late January. It has proved to be a very popular choice with the members, and once again we took over the Orchard Suite for our function, which was attended by thirty past and current members of the band, who enjoyed their slightly delayed festive celebrations. The evening offers the chairman the opportunity in his speech after the meal to reflect on the events of the previous year and he closes by presenting the various awards.

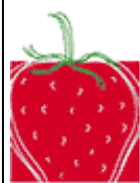
For the main presentation which is for the Bands Person of the Year, every player in the main band has the opportunity to vote in a secret ballot for the person they feel has contributed the most to the band that year. This year the very popular winner of the Bands Person of the Year secret ballot was the band's treasurer Kari Kerr, (pictured right). Kari who plays front row cornet was previously the winner in 2009 and has been the treasurer for several years.

In addition to the main Bands Person of the Year award, several years ago the chairman created additional unofficial presentations called Chairman's Bottles. These four additional presentations are presented to members he felt had also contributed something special to the band, but may not have won the main ballot. The bottles have been a very popular addition to the evening. The first recipient of a 'bottle' was Anne Reay. In actual fact her bottle was in reality a large bar of chocolate, as she does not often drink alcohol. The second winner was Roland Twydell who plays with and supports the Junior band and organises the 100 Club. The Rev. Chris Deakin also collected a bottle for his contribution to the band over the year including his much appreciated public speaking performances at several band events. Finally Deb Mason, wife of the band secretary who shared her award with her husband Phil for their joint contributions.



Pictured above, Kari Kerr the winner of Bands Person of the Year 2016. Below left are the winners of the Chairman's Bottles from left to right Rev. Chris Deakin, Roland Twydell, Chairman Tony Pugh, Anne Reay and Deb Mason who shares her award with husband Phil. Below the diners at the Band's Annual Dinner and Presentations Evening in the Orchard Suite at the Holt Lodge.

This year's winner of the Junior Bands Person of the Year was presented by our president Michael Trevor-Barnston at the Christmas Brass event.



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Band Chairman's Highlights



On a recent family break to Iceland the band's chairman and his family were treated to a spectacular display of the famous Northern Lights on a trip near the capital Reykjavík. They were very lucky to enjoy perfect weather conditions as well as a period of higher than normal activity during their trip. In fact the very next evening back in Reykjavík, they enjoyed another display over the city for free! The photograph was taken by a photographer from the company, BusTravel Iceland who organised the trip. Left to right, Gaynor Pugh, twins Katie and Sarah Pugh (who both previously played in the band), and Tony Pugh, band chairman.

Diary Dates

The job of planning the jobs and event for the year ahead falls to our secretary, Phil Mason, who has worked tremendously hard to ensure we have a rich and varied programme for both the playing members and the band's supporters. Unfortunately this means that on occasions we have to decline some jobs we would love to do due to clashes with dates. Organisations that we work with now fully understand the challenges we face in this respect, and are increasingly booking a year in advance to ensure their requirements can be met, which can be really helpful. Owing to the ever changing nature of bookings made so far in advance it is essential to check the very latest situations with all bookings on our website which can be found at www.farndonband.org.uk.

Our jobs for this year start on Sat 8th April with a concert at St Pauls's Church, Vicarage Lane in Helsby for Ellesmere Port & District Lions. It will feature the full band and starts at 7.00 until 9.30pm. On Sat 20th May the full band returns to Bellis' Garden Centre in Holt for their

Picnic & Proms event for Nightingale House Hospice. The doors open 5.30 for a 6.00pm start. The Junior band kick off their programme for 2017 at Tattenhall Worm Festival which is held at the The Park adjacent to Tattenhall Primary School on Sat 10th June starting at 12.00 until about 3.00pm. On Wed 14th June the Juniors are out again for another concert at The Rock Chapel in Farndon. The concert is 6.30 for a 7.00pm start.

The full band travel to St Peter's Church field in Hargrave & Huxley on Sat 24th June for the Happy Days event. The starting times are to be confirmed. In a change to the traditional booking for this next event, on Sat 8th July the St Chad's Rushbearing event will feature the Junior band. The Juniors will assemble at the Vicarage for a 2.00 start. On Sat 26th August the full band have a provisional booking for the Rossett Village Festival which again will be held at Darland Sports Centre, Darland School. The Band will play from 2.30 – 4.45pm if confirmed. Another provisional booking for the full band for the Beer Festival at Farndon Community Club Sat 9th Sept.

100 Club Results

Because of the packed Christmas edition there are some outstanding 100 Club results to share with you. The 100 club continues to raise vital funds for the band and attracts a good number of followers for each monthly draw.

The winners of the December monthly draw, which was the third of the 2016 - 2017 period, took place at Churton Village Hall at the rehearsal on the 15th December. In total 85 numbers held by 54 members of the 100 club were entered in this draw and the lucky winners were as follows.

The first Prize of £85.00 went to No 42 held by Joyce Kehlenbeck. The second Prize of £42.50 went to No 14 held by Kari Kerr, the treasurer of the band. Finally the third Prize of £17.00 went to No 2 which was one of Roland Twydell's numbers.

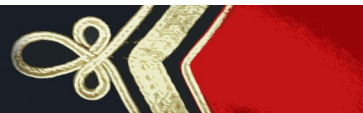
The January draw, the fourth of the 2016 to 2017 period, was made at one of the band's first rehearsals of the new year at the Churton Village Hall on the 26th January.

This time 86 numbers held by just 54 members went into the hat and the lucky winners were as follows.

Jennifer Lloyd scooped the first prize of £86.00 when her No 74 was drawn out of the hat. The second Prize went to No 36 held by Sharon Pugh and was for £43.00. The third Prize of £17.20 went to No 6, and Catherine Williams.

February's draw, the fifth monthly draw of the 2016 – 2017 was held at the rehearsal at Churton Village Hall on the 23rd February. This month 80 numbers, held by 52 members of the 100 Club were entered in this draw & the lucky winners were as follows.

Sue Frencham collected the first prize of £80.00 with her draw number 65. Second Prize was won by No 4 held by Catherine West who collected £40.00. The final third prize of £16.00 went to No76 which was held by Roland Twydell. And finally don't forget the maximum £50 Roll-Up for members who have been subscribing for the preceding 6 months is March.



Practice Makes Perfect

Following the busy winter period, the rehearsal nights of the early months of the new year at Churton Village Hall represent an ideal opportunity to prepare the band for the Spring and Summer periods when there are many more jobs.

I spoke to the band's musical director Kelvin Redmile, for his thoughts on how he approaches this important planning period for the band.

He told me, "When preparing the band for the new year ahead the music selection is the priority for me as musical director, and in choosing music I try to understand and review each player's commitment to the band. All players, depending on their family and work commitments, offer differing level of attendance and practice, but even though whose attendance and commitment is

good there can still be various pressures and stresses in their life. So I look at a player's attendance, their likely commitment, circumstances and their musical ability. It is also important to try to appreciate a player's musical limitations but also recognize that I can often help them exceed their own expectations with the correct selection of demanding music, and hopefully the application of such musical and leadership skills that I have. Of course everyone's purpose for being in the band is primarily to enjoy themselves by playing interesting and challenging music which they enjoy and hopefully the audiences will enjoy listening to as well. So out of that, comes my choice of music, that choice is made to stretch the ability of players without demoralising them. To make sure we play music they thoroughly enjoy, and finally to balance that with what will go down well at the various events we play at. I always say to the band, "If you have enjoyed the practice, then go home happy. If you haven't, then do come and see me so we can talk about how we can change things, so that you do enjoy it".

It is a difficult challenge but Kelvin and Arial manage to keep everyone involved while preparing the band for a wide variety of jobs each year.



Above, Kelvin Redmile puts the band through its paces. Below, tea boy, and chairman Tony Pugh on duty in the kitchen. Bottom a general view of a rehearsal. Below left, Arial West, the band's assistant musical director, is pictured working with the band on a new piece. Arial will be the subject of pleased to meet you, in the next issue.



Calling all readers!

Remember this is your newsletter.



Please send us any letters, comments, pictures or ideas for articles to our chairman at tony.pugh@outlook.com.



Ken Burningham, pleased to meet you



In this edition of the Farndon Bandsman thanks to our 'pleased to meet you' item we get to meet one of our regular players, Ken Burningham.

Now it's not too unusual for a person to be a part of a brass band for twenty years, but it is if you are only thirty two years old! Yes this year Ken celebrates his twentieth year with the full band, and even before that he was playing with our training band for a couple of years. He has been a regular on the 'back row' at Farndon & District Brass Band playing a number of instruments but mostly his E flat Bass.

Ken was born in Holt, but has since moved to Farndon with his new wife Claire. She was also a regular member

of the band for many years, and after a bit of a break has recently returned to her seat in band for some rehearsals. She was also able to help our Music Librarian John update the band's library of music, which was quite a daunting I.T challenge.

To get some pictures of him for the newsletter, I travelled to meet Ken at Woodside Golf Club in Holmes Chapel where he has worked for ten years. During his two spells at the club he has risen to the position of Course Manager. I met him at what he calls his 'office', which was his huge workshop and a very impressive collection of greenkeeping machinery next to the driving range at the club.

He initially trained at the Reaseheath College at Nantwich on one of their horticulture courses, and explained to me that all the work done on the course is done in house under his supervision.

This dedication comes at a cost, and particularly at this time of year he works very long hours to keep on top of things, but Ken is very happy in his job and loves the outdoor life which even extends to him dealing with all his emails out on the course in his tractor. The bonus for the members is that they usually know where to find him for a chat!

More recently as the band has increased its profile on social media, Ken along with Kevin Conyers, have worked very hard across the website, Facebook and Twitter to increase our following.

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>

