

The Farndon Bandsman

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Farndon & District Brass Band

Anniversary Celebrations



A huge amount of effort went into the planning for the Gala Concert to mark the Band's 120th anniversary, and despite a few early challenges, it was a truly memorable evening. The event which was held at St Mary's centre, Chester on Saturday the 14th October featured several guest players, as well as the Ladies Choir Entourage and an audience of around one hundred. Pictures from top right clockwise

The Band on stage. Entourage and their MD Steve Roberts. Cat Williams Tenor Horn, playing the first of several solos on the night, Sue Frencham, Kari Kerr and Amy Leather playing Trumpets Wild. Amy Leather on cornet playing Buster Strikes Back. Flugel Horn, Soloist Catherine West, playing The Waters of Tyne, with husband and Assistant MD Arial West in the background. Our very special Anniversary cake.



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Farndon Beer Festival



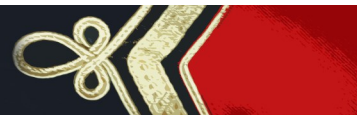
The third Farndon Beer Festival took place on Sat 9th September at the Farndon Community Club, and was very well supported. The heavy rainfall during the morning before the festival opened did nothing to dampen the event, and in the afternoon the sun made a welcome appearance and by the evening it was quite balmy. As well as music from Farndon Band, the crowds were entertained by Cliff Jenks (aka A Bit of Buble) and local band The Sweetest Thing later in the evening. The event offered 8 real ales and 2 'real' ciders all of which were sponsored by local businesses.

New housebuilder Taylor Wimpey also sponsored the Prosecco stall. In addition to the Pimms & Prosecco stall, a new item this year was a Gin Stand ! Featuring 6 different gins including a locally brewed Farndon Rhubarb Gin !!!! Food was provided by way of a Hog Roast and BBQ with Pizzas being sold later into the evening. As always it was a great 'village' event - bringing everyone young and old together for some fun.

The Community Club has a varied programme of events including Bonfire & Fireworks on Sat 4th November. A Beaujolais Nouveau Night on Sat 18th November. Also a Farndon Snowball event on Sat 2nd December which includes a 3 course dinner, glass of fiz with music from Indigo £30 ticket. Finally, Friday 15th December Farndon's European Market with stalls, goulash, frankfurters, mulled wine and carols from Farndon Brass Band. All details on www.farndoncommunityclub.com.



Above left, band MD Kelvin Redmile conducts the band on the stage. Above top, The exterior of the club. Above middle a general view of the main hall showing some of the stalls and the band playing their second spot. Above, the sun wasn't shining, but it didn't stop everyone supporting the bars and stalls and getting into the festival atmosphere. Below, members of the band particularly keen to support the Craft Beer Bar during the break and sample their speciality beers.



Brothers in Arms



Well it's a long story, but it all started with a pot of pate! Mum Michelle Hughes, who runs Llangollen Farmhouse Pate, had a stall at a fundraising event at Bellis Brothers Garden Centre where the Band were playing. Eldest son Harry, now 20 years of age, was interested in being involved with the band, and introduced himself to our secretary Phil Mason. That chance meeting resulted in him playing with the band for a couple of years before he joined the Royal Marines School of Music. He is now just a year from his passing out.

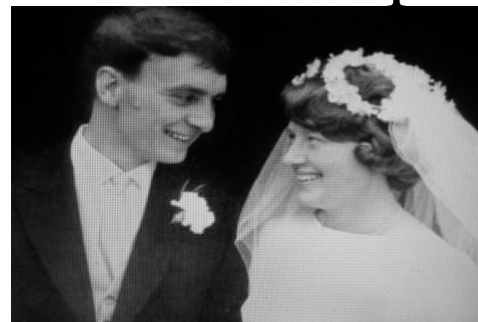
His younger brother Ryan, who like his brother, has been rehearsing with the Band for some time, recently brought a cake and a card to a rehearsal to thank the band for their support during the time he spent with us, and announce that he will soon be leaving us to take on a new challenge. Following auditions with the Royal Marines School of Music, Portsmouth, Ryan has now also been offered a place in the Royal Marines Band School. His instrument categories will be Euphonium and Cello, and he did incredibly well to claim one of only 24 places awarded annually. His entry date was mid-September when he began the arduous phase one initial military training at the Commando Training Centre Royal Marines, Lympstone.

Everyone in the band was delighted with the news, (and the cake) and want to wish Ryan, and his brother Harry, all the very best for both their future careers.

You may not instantly recognise the young married couple in the picture on the right, but it is no other than secretary Phil Mason and his lovely wife Debs, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 2nd September.

Before marrying, Deb lived in Spurstow near Tarporley while Phil lived at Farndon on the banks of the river Dee, hence the long association with the Band. In fact they actually met at a friend's party in the village. During a game of 'murder' they were found hiding in a cupboard! They were married on a fine sunny day in September 1967. The marriage service was conducted by Canon D. Tudor-Jones at St Wenefrede's Church in the Parish of Bickley and Cholmondeley, Cheshire. Miss Flack, the organist, was rather hard-pressed to get to grips with the pop song of the day they had chosen - which ironically has recently come back into fashion - 'A Whiter Shade of Pale'. The newly-weds flew to St Helier, Jersey, where they spent 7 days on

Golden Couple



the island based in a modest 3-star Hotel and travelled the island in style aboard a Lambretta scooter. A great start to married life indeed, and a partnership that has stood the test of time, producing two great children, Neil and Joanne and four terrific grandchildren, Lauren, Jake, Issy and Owen.

Congratulations to you both from everyone at Farndon & District Brass Band.

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>





Pleased to meet you - Amy Leather



The subject for this 'pleased to meet you' is Amy Leather. When the committee recently appealed for someone to take on the job of minutes secretary, and even though she probably has less free time than many, she offered her services straight away. All her emails come with a joke at the end and she has become a wonderful addition to our excellent team.

Amy was originally from a farm in Northumberland. As a baby she was the model for a Lenor magazine advert. Her mum was friends with a photographer who wanted babies for the Lenor campaign. The start of a career in modelling you would think, but alas no! She vomited all down the model's back, and even more upsetting, they referred to her as a 'him' in the advert! Possibly the reason she is not keen on having her picture taken now!

She started playing the cornet when she was nine, and mainly did orchestral stuff at school and sixth form. Eventually when she went to vet school, she joined the Edinburgh University Brass Band, where she met future husband Tom, a history teacher and tenor

horn player. She has since played with Ellington Colliery, the local band where her parents live in Northumberland. Also a period with Nelson Band, whilst working in Lancashire, before joining us here in Farndon. She also occasionally plays the piano, but just for her own amusement. Remarkably, the trusty American made, long cornet she plays today in band is the same instrument her mother bought for her from a local shop in Northumberland, second hand, when she was just nine.

As well as banding, Amy used to do a lot of fell running with Tom before having daughter Beth, collecting several prizes over the years. Occasionally she is still able to run, but with a young child, it's more difficult for both of them to get out to the hills together. Although for her 30th birthday last July, she and Tom managed to run the length of the Sandstone Trail, all 34 miles of it, in one day, supported by lots of friends meeting them along the way with encouragement and refreshments!

The couple moved to Tilston when Beth was 9 days old as it was closer to where Tom works, and closer to the in-laws. In January 2016, when little Beth was just three months old, Amy searched the internet for a local band. As she explained, she was desperate to do something where she could be herself and not just 'Beth's mum'. Happily Beth was a good sleeper from the start, which allowed Amy to come out in the evenings to band, before rushing home to feed her again!

Some random facts about her.....

Amy was part of the 'Swahili Club' at university, and speaks a little Swahili, and has been to Kenya a couple of times, specifically to the



West Pokot region which is very remote, two days from Nairobi.

She has been paragliding three times, and loved it.

She has also met Brian May!

She revealed to me that she doesn't believe in kingfishers! So I asked her what she would do if ever a Kingfisher came in for treatment and she said that they hadn't had any kingfishers at work just yet, probably because they don't exist!



Above left, Amy at the business end of a patient, Above top, having a mad moment in work and above Amy as we usually see her in band with her trusty cornet.

