

Newsletter Autumn 2012:

A warm welcome to our new players. We are delighted to have been joined by Natalie Tan on Eb bass, Izi Dragonetti on bass trombone, Christabell Pidduck on percussion and Guy Niblett on cornet, all played at the finals. We have also recently been joined by Scott, Rebecca and Sharon Ingram. We welcome you all and hope you will enjoy many years playing with the band.

SUMMER

We gave four concerts over two dates on Bournemouth band stand and also played at the Wilton jubilee flower festival, St Marks school, Downton school fireworks and Wilton rotary club car boot sale. Despite some battles with the weather, all engagements went well.

Our main focus over the summer, was the preparation for our first appearance at the National Finals held in Cheltenham on 22nd September. The test piece, A British Isles Suite, arrived in June and proved to be an interesting and enjoyable piece to rehearse and play. It provided some challenges, in particular equipping the band with mutes for horns and baritones and a vast array of percussion. We are very grateful to Aldbourne and Hyde bands for their assistance with these items. Rehearsals progressed and included preparing for our Proms concert on 8th September. This year we moved the venue to the Methodist church in Salisbury which provided a superb setting for a spectacular evening of music. The concert featured guest mezzo soprano Nina Alupii-Morton, our Junior band conducted for the first time by Laura Hillman and the usual Last night of the Proms favourites. It also gave us the opportunity to perform the test piece in public for the first time and this was extremely well received. The following week we welcomed Derek Broadbent for a training weekend as our preparations built to a climax.

CHRISTMAS

As we look ahead, we are coming up to our busy Christmas period which is so important for fund raising. This years Christmas concert takes place on Sunday 16th December in the Michael Herbert Hall, Wilton starting at 3pm. We will be joined again by Broad Chalke school choir and the Juniors will be taking part. This is a charity concert with all proceeds in aid of the Factor 50 cancer charity.

We also have a number of important carol playing engagements in and around Salisbury and need everyone's support, players and collectors, to ensure we raise money to support the bands activities.

TORQUAY

We will also be planning ahead for the West of England contest in Torquay on Saturday 9th March. The test piece is A Devon Fantasy by Eric Ball. We will again be staying in the Premier Inn on Friday and Saturday nights and have booked Derek Broadbent for a training weekend on 2nd and 3rd March. We really want to qualify again for the National Finals, and have a great opportunity. The West of England committee have agreed to reduce the size of the fourth section and as a result five bands have been promoted, including the three bands that beat us this year. This gives us a great chance to do well and puts us in pole position for promotion next year, 'COME ON TEAM!'

