



## Just a Note Issue 2

# ANDOVER TOWN BAND

Welcome to the second Andover Town Band Newsletter. We have lots of exciting news to tell you about, what has happened in recent months, how ATB is evolving, future events and much more. We hope that you enjoy reading this – if you have any comments or questions please do get in touch with us via [info@andovertownband.co.uk](mailto:info@andovertownband.co.uk)

### ***Yuletide review***

This first ATB Christmas was an extremely special period in the bands history, and will be remembered for a very long time! ATB musicians played at a variety of events including Christmas Fayres, supermarkets, care homes, private birthday parties, formal concerts and town centre appearances. The generosity of the Andover public and businesses was quite overwhelming and substantial amounts were raised for band funds.



The most memorable day perhaps was Saturday 18th December 2010. Overnight Andover had experienced the heaviest snowfall for decades. The roads were impassable, yet the dedication and enthusiasm of ATB personnel resulted in a near full band struggling through the snow to play at the Time Ring in the High Street, to the obvious delight of the Andover shoppers. The evening concert at John Hanson School was in serious doubt, but the hardy souls that attended were treated to the bands first-ever full concert, featuring a beginners group, youth and community bands. The playing was superb; the younger children performed a fantastic nativity and even Father Christmas made it through the snow to present the band with a magnificent new baritone!



### ***Music for all***

ATB prides itself on providing a musical opportunity for anybody who wishes to play a brass instrument. We cater for children through to adults and from raw beginners through to the most advanced players. There is room for all at ATB! Lesley Wallace has taken on the role of ATB Development Officer, and oversees a well defined structure:

- **Individual lessons** are provided weekly, currently for 12 children and 6 adults (14 of which have started since January 2011). The team of 7 tutors are very experienced musicians who all also play with ATB, and thoroughly enjoy coaching the stars of the future!



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- **A Beginners Group** provides the students with their first experiences of playing in an ensemble. Alison Large leads this group, with substantial experience of tutoring at this level; and as a primary school teacher she knows all the techniques to motivate our younger musicians!
- **A Youth Band** provides a fantastic banding opportunity for children up to the age of 18. Steve Large, a highly successful Youth Band Conductor leads this group, overseeing the progression and achievement of our young players.
- **A Community Band**, which provides an opportunity for all musicians to enjoy making music together and is the core group of ATB, again led by Steve. The band already has a busy concert schedule in the forthcoming year, and looks forward to entertaining you at various events.
- **A Contest Band** has been established for the more advanced player who is looking for an extra challenge. Steve also conducts this band, and has a proven track record of success at regional and national competitions.

The future of ATB is in very experienced, well-qualified hands and has already grown substantially in just a few months! If you know of somebody who is interested in learning / joining, please contact us.

### **Generosity of ATB Friends**

ATB would like to sincerely thank everybody who has shown support by becoming a Friend of ATB. These donations have substantially helped towards the purchase of a number of instruments to enable an ever-expanding group of beginners to learn a brass instrument. Also a very impressive (and shiny!) professional standard York EEb Bass has been purchased to add to the engine room of the band! If you or somebody you know are interested in becoming a Friend of ATB, please drop us a line at [friends@andovertownband.co.uk](mailto:friends@andovertownband.co.uk) - we would be delighted to hear from you.



**The ATB music cupboard** is a little empty at present – if you would like to donate some money to go towards a piece of music, we have established a wish-list (ranging from £25 to £50). From your donation we can purchase the music and also claim gift-aid. If you would like to help us please ask via [info@andovertownband.co.uk](mailto:info@andovertownband.co.uk) to have the list emailed to you.

### **Notice of AGM**

The date for the Andover Town Band AGM has been set as 7.30pm, 15th March 2011 at the Mitutoyo Building in Andover. Anybody who has an interest in ATB and helping to shape its future is more than welcome to attend – we would be delighted to see you.

### **A xylophone, soprano cornet and 30 music stands!**



**Hampshire  
County Council**

A very strange combination you must agree, but all had been identified as key acquisitions for ATB and have been very generously financed by Hampshire County Council courtesy of Councillor David Drew.

ATB is eventually looking to own a full set of instruments, but these purchases had been identified early on as fundamental to the development of the band. ATB is very grateful to Councillor Drew for his support and enthusiasm in helping the band as it establishes itself.

### **Endorsement from the Andover Town Council**

ATB were represented at a Town Council meeting last November whereby the Councillors gave their full backing to the formation of ATB, and have offered very welcome and significant support as the band is becoming established. ATB is very proud to be associated with Andover and the newly formed Town Council, and looks forward to a very successful partnership.



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## West of England Regional Championships

ATB is delighted to be participating in one of the most important events of the brass-banding calendar. On Sat 12 March 2011 ATB will be competing in the 4th section at Torquay, performing the set test piece 'Prelude, Song and Dance' by John Golland. Rehearsals are going extremely well, with the bands conductor Steve Large at the helm. The experience of competing for the very first time will be a major achievement for all concerned at ATB, as the band will only be 5 months old at that stage! Not bad progress for such a 'young' band! We will let you know in due course how the ATB adventure to Torquay went.

## Social Event of the Year!

ATB is pleased to announce that at 7.30pm on 25th June 2011, at Chilbolton Village Hall, we will be hosting a Barn Dance, with a caller and live Ceilidh band. Tickets will be £8 per person, including food. This is sure to be a popular event, and tickets will be available to Friends of ATB. Please note tickets will be limited, so if you and your family would like to attend, please register your interest via [info@andovertownband.co.uk](mailto:info@andovertownband.co.uk) and we will reserve your tickets.

## Help raise funds for ATB for free

If you shop on line with retailers such as Amazon, M&S, eBay, Argos and many more, please sign up to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/andovertb> for free and use the links on the easyfundraising site to take you to the retailer, then a percentage of whatever you spend comes directly to us at no extra cost to yourself. There are over 2,000 retailers on their site, and some of the donations can be as much as 15% of your purchase – at no extra charge to you, but with a very welcome donation coming to ATB.

We've raised over **£130** with easyfundraising so far but we need your help to keep donations coming in. Sign up at <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/andovertb> and start making a difference...simply by shopping. Thank you for all your support so far!

## Events



The next concert is at the Methodist Church in Bridge Street, Andover at 7pm on 2 April 2010. The event will raise money jointly for the Methodist Relief and Development Fund and ATB. This promises to be a fantastic musical evening – please get your tickets from Jan Woodward on 01264 354193, Alison Large on 01264 32405; alternatively they are also available at Waterstones in Andover.

Below is a list of ATB events for 2011 (also available on the website at [www.andovertownband.co.uk](http://www.andovertownband.co.uk)).

What	Where	When
West of England Regional Championships	Riviera Centre, Torquay	All day, 12 March 2011
AGM	Mitutoyo Building, Andover	7.30pm, 15 March 2011
Concert in aid of Methodist Relief and Development Fund	Methodist Church, Bridge Street, Andover	7pm, 2 April 2011
Naomi House Charity Event	Highclere Castle	2-5pm, 4 April 2011
Testway Youth League	New Street Football Club, Andover	Timings TBC, 7 May 2011
Gardeners Market	Time Ring, Andover	10-12am, 8 May 2011
Farmers Market	Time Ring, Andover	10-12am, 19 June 2011
Barn Dance	Chilbolton Village Hall	7.30pm, 25 June 2011
Farmers Market	Time Ring, Andover	10-12am, 18 Sept 2011
Remembrance Service	Over Wallop	13 Nov 2011
Farmers Market	Time Ring, Andover	10-12am, 18 Dec 2011