



## Just a Note Issue 5

# ANDOVER TOWN BAND

Welcome to yet another ATB Newsletter. The past 4 months has been an extremely busy period for Andover Town Band, with a mixture of carolling, concerts and contests. The band is playing at various venues around Andover in the coming months, with a really special concert scheduled by the Andover Town Council at the Lights Theatre on 30<sup>th</sup> June. For further details please read on! As always many thanks for your support, we all look forward to entertaining you again soon.

### **Christmas Cheer ...**



The lead up to Christmas saw the band playing on over 12 occasions, entertaining the shoppers at many of the Andover Supermarkets and visitors to the town centre at the Time Ring. Some of the money raised will go towards purchasing 2 baby basses, so that the Youth Band can raise the next generation of bass players! The band was also delighted to play at a special carol concert on behalf of Testway Transform at the Weyhill Village Hall. Perhaps the highlight was the main Christmas Concert held at John Hanson School, with ATB in fine form playing to a good sized and appreciative audience. The festive mood was enhanced by a rather special nativity play (by the younger members of Prospects), a visit from Father Christmas himself, and an extra special guest, Frosty the Snowman, who had learned a few extra dance moves this year!

### **ATB Training Band win 5 Trophies**

On the 28<sup>th</sup> January ATB entered the Wessex Youth & Training Band Contest held at the Trafalgar School at Downton. The ATB Training Band consisted of members of the Youth Band and Prospects, supplemented by the ATB tutors. The band delivered a very enjoyable musical performance which found favour with the adjudicator, placing the band 1<sup>st</sup> in the Training Band Section, and best overall band on the day. More trophies were to follow including youngest player of the day (Erin Young aged just 7), best hymn tune and best soloist, with Jan Walukiewicz giving a stunning delivery of the operatic aria *Nessun Dorma* on the euphonium. Special mention must also go to the Chris and Chris double act for their enthralling xylophone duet, *The Two Imps*.



### **West of England 4th Section Runners-Up 2012**



On 10 March the ATB Contest band travelled to Torquay to compete in the 4<sup>th</sup> section of the West of England Regional Championships 2012. ATB were up against a huge field of 24 other bands, each playing the well-known English Folk Song Suite (Ralph Vaughan Williams). The band were really quite satisfied with their performance, but were later absolutely thrilled to be awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place. However this is not the end of the story, as the band has now qualified for the National Finals to be held in Cheltenham in September. Also the band has gained promotion to the 3<sup>rd</sup> section next year. This is a fantastic achievement considering the band is still only 16 months old!



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### ***ATB to be proud owners of a new Bass Drum!***



The Hampshire County Council (courtesy of Councillor David Drew) has very generously allocated a grant to ATB which will enable the band to purchase a much needed Bass Drum. This is an essential piece of kit for a brass band and we are sure you will enjoy hearing it in forthcoming concerts!

### ***Best of British Concert***

One of the highlights of the year will be the concert at 7.30pm on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June at The Lights Theatre, Andover. The concert has been organised by the Andover Town Council to celebrate the Jubilee. The band will enjoy performing your favourite patriotic music, with the usual flag-waving numbers. Tickets are available from the Lights box office (01264 368368) priced at just £6 a ticket! The concert will be raising funds for the Andover Street Pastors who patrol the town centre on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings to bring practical help and support to the Andover revellers. This concert is likely to be a sell-out so you are advised to organise your tickets asap.



### ***Action for Children Concert review***



The roof of the Methodist Church on Bridge Street was well and truly raised by ATB on 17 March. The concert was organised to raise funds jointly for the band and the Action for Children Charity. This charity supports and speaks out for the UK's most vulnerable, disadvantaged and neglected children and young people, for as long as it takes. A capacity audience was treated to repeat performances from the prize winning ATB Training and Contest Bands. The second half featured the ATB Community Band playing a truly diverse selection of music ranging from the driving rhythms of 'Pound the Streets' from Paul Lovatt-Cooper, to a foot tapping selection from the musical Grease, culminating in the fantastic arrangement of Riverdance.

### ***Education Matters***

The Award Scheme at ATB continues to teach and educate our musicians throughout the year, at all levels from beginner to the advanced player. Many musicians are making really good progress and achieving the levels to join Prospects, make the transition to Youth and Community Bands, and the more advanced levels. For the first time ever, the highest award that could be achieved, the Platinum Award has been presented to Jan Walukiewicz. This is in recognition of Jans outstanding contribution to banding at all levels, demonstrating outstanding leadership through tutoring, conducting and performing.

### ***Easyfundraising***

ATB continues to raise about £100 a quarter through Easyfundraising. If you do not already buy goods from the internet through Easyfundraising, please consider doing so, and help raise even more money for ATB, at no cost to yourself. Over 2000 popular retailers can be found, including Argos, M&S, John Lewis, Debenhams, HMV, Vodafone, DELL, The Body Shop, PLAY.com, Interflora, Comet and many more. Thank you to everybody who has helped ATB raise this money, and please continue to use the link <http://andovertb.easysearch.org.uk>



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### ***Please stay in touch***

ATB hosts a fantastic website, with the content being continually updated – please visit us at [www.andovertownband.co.uk](http://www.andovertownband.co.uk) ATB also has a good presence on Facebook, with up to date comment on the bands activities. The band has a very busy year ahead, with the key dates listed below.

Event	Where	Date	Time
Cornet Fanfare	Wherwell	29 April 2012	10am
Pageant	Wherwell	12 May 2012	2.30pm-7.30pm
Farmers Market	Time Ring, Andover	20 May 2012	10am-12pm
Andover Bus Rally	Andover	3 June 2012	TBC
Best of British Concert	The Lights Theatre, Andover	30 June 2012	7.30pm
Band Tour	Italy	24 Aug – 1 Sept 2012	All week!
4 <sup>th</sup> Section National Finals	Cheltenham Racecourse	22 Sept	All day
Autumn Concert	Wherwell Church	13 Oct	7pm
Remembrance Service	Over Wallop Church	11 Sep	morning
Wessex Contest	Weymouth Pavilions	1 Dec	All day

### ***theMouthPiece.com: Paddy Flower's World Rankings***

The popular brass band forum, theMouthPiece.com has a ranking system for all bands in the world, based on contest results. ATB first entered the ranking system at position 938, back in October 2011. The success at the Weymouth Contest saw the band rise to position 786, and the recent runners-up position at the 4<sup>th</sup> Section of the West of England Regional Championships saw ATB rise an incredible 83 places to 703<sup>rd</sup> in the world!

### ***And Finally ...***

If you know of anybody else who would enjoy staying in touch with Andover Town Band please encourage them to contact Friends of the Band at [friends@andovertownband.co.uk](mailto:friends@andovertownband.co.uk)