



Just a Note Issue 6

ANDOVER TOWN BAND

Welcome once again to the latest ATB newsletter. The band has been exceptionally busy over the past couple of months, entertaining crowds and audiences on a wide range of occasions in Andover and across Hampshire. The band's reputation for producing high quality and entertaining music continues to grow, with more and more requests for the band to play at various fetes, concerts and events. The next period holds some exciting times for the band, with highlights including a week-long trip to Italy and an appearance at the National Brass Band Championship Finals at Cheltenham. We hope you enjoy this newsletter and we all look forward to seeing you all again soon at a forthcoming event.

ATB Open Evening

On Thursday 19th July at 6.30pm the band are holding an Open Evening at the Mitutoyo Building (West Point Business Park, Joulé Road, Andover, SP10 3UX). You are all most welcome to come along and meet the band at a rehearsal; especially if you are interested in learning to play a brass instrument. ATB offers a free instrument and weekly lessons, whether you are 7 years old or 70! So please don't be shy – come along to let us help you reach your potential, enjoy quality music making and form some life-long friends.



The Wherwell Pageant

ATB were very privileged to be invited to perform at the Wherwell Pageant on 12th May 2012. The Pageant, a spectacular Celebration of Wherwell Abbey in words and music, was created by June Boyce-Tillman assisted by Mary Grey. The production involved many performers from a variety of groups, including Craig Morgan Robson, the King Alfred Singers, the Spotlight Singers, the Wherwell School Choir, the Wherwell Singers and of course the Andover Town Band. Each group had separately rehearsed their contribution, with all performers coming together at the final rehearsal on the afternoon of the Pageant. The performance was set in the beautiful grounds of the Wherwell Priory, with the proceeds going to the Wherwell Church.

Best of British Concert

The Lights Theatre in Andover recently hosted a fantastic evening of patriotic music making by ATB, organised by Cllr Barbara Long on behalf of the Andover Town Council. All the proceeds from the ticket sales were donated to the Andover Street Pastors. The first half incorporated a performance of 'Going the Distance' as part of the 'Brass the Baton' Olympic initiative, whereby a baton is passed between brass bands from concert to concert across the UK in the lead up to the Olympics.



The second half of the concert saw the band members donning Posh Frocks and DJs, to play traditional Proms music, including a rousing version of Jerusalem, the Dam Busters march with a Lancaster bomber fly past, the Fantasia on British Sea Songs with enthusiastic flag waving all round, culminating with Pomp and Circumstance, with the usual audience antics. This truly was an evening to remember for audience and band alike!



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ATB grateful recipients of Grants

In recent months ATB have been very fortunate to be supported financially with extra grants coming from a number of local organisations. The Masons through The Norman Gate Lodge donated £250 and supported an application to the 'Masonic Tom Langton Fund' which produced a magnificent total grant of £500. The Andover Rotary Club has been very generous with their support and donated a sum of £500. These monies will help ATB to continue to fulfil their charitable aims. The band's principle sponsor, Mitutoyo has also very generously donated a one-off payment of £1000, to put towards the trip to Italy this August.



Jubilee Weekend

As part of the Queens Jubilee Celebrations ATB were out and about entertaining the crowds at the Andover Bus Rally, before dashing across to play to the monkeys at Marwell Zoo! The following day the band performed at the 'Jubilee on the Gratton' at Sutton Scotney. The band also entertained the crowds by participating in the Tug of War competition – even beating a team of Fire Fighters!

ATB – The Best band in the country

ATB can claim to be the best band in the country when it comes to fundraising through Easyfundraising. The Mad for Brass organisation (see www.mad4bb.com) have recognised the band's top-place achievement for the first quarter of 2012 and have very generously awarded a prize of 4 Paul Lovatt-Cooper pieces of music. PLC is one of the most exciting contemporary brass band composers, and the band will enjoy rising to the challenge to prepare these pieces for concert work in the future.

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 www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/andovertb

ATB at Race for Life raises over £1000

The ladies and girls of ATB (gently 'persuaded' by chief motivator Kelly) recently rose to the challenge of Race for Life, at Winchester. Following a gruelling training regime over the past few months, they all ran with real enthusiasm and large doses of energy (especially those with shorter legs)! Incredibly the ladies and girls managed to raise over £1000 in sponsorship money for Cancer Research UK – a really fantastic achievement. A special mention must go to Olivia aged just 7, by far the youngest in the ATB team, who completed the course to be awarded her finishers medal to rousing cheers at the finish line!



Education Matters

The education team led by Lesley Wallace is visiting several primary schools during the remainder of the summer term to promote the band and what it has to offer in teaching brass instruments to local children, with the aim of gaining some new recruits. To reinforce the importance that ATB places on high quality education, a tutor workshop has been organised with the ABRSM in October, so that the tutors are kept up to date with all the best practise and techniques. This reinforces the desire within ATB to strive for excellence in every way possible.



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ATB preparing to perform on the National Stage

Having qualified to compete at the 4th Section National Finals of Great Britain, in Cheltenham in September, ATB have just started work on the set test piece, "*A British Isles Suite*" composed by Jonathan Bates, a horn player with the famous Black Dyke Mills Band. The piece is a new composition fresh off the printing press, and portrays the poetic and musical traditions of the British Isles. ATB will be competing against the qualifiers from the 8 regions, and it will be a real test against the best bands in Great Britain at this level.

Please stay in touch

ATB hosts a fantastic website, with the content being continually updated – please visit us at www.andovertownband.co.uk ATB also has a very good presence on Facebook (search for Andover Town Band), with up to date comment on the bands activities, and now also updated with videos of recent performances. Why not 'Like' us on Facebook to make sure you never miss news regarding the band. ATB has a very busy period ahead, with the key dates listed below.

ATB Diary

Event	Where	Date	Time
Open evening	Mitutoyo Building, Andover	19 July 2012	6.30pm
Band Tour	Italy	24 Aug – 1 Sept 2012	All week!
Wherwell Proms	Wherwell	8 Sept 2012	pm TBC
4 th Section National Finals	Cheltenham Racecourse	22 Sept 2012	All day
Autumn Concert	Wherwell Church	13 Oct 2012	7pm
Farmers Market	Andover Time Ring	21 Oct 2012	10-12 am
Remembrance Service	Over Wallop Church	11 Sep 2012	morning
Wessex Contest	Weymouth Pavilions	1 Dec 2012	All day
Farmers Market	Andover Time Ring	16 Dec 2012	10-12 am

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

