



## Just a Note Issue 3

# ANDOVER TOWN BAND

Welcome to the third Andover Town Band Newsletter - as this edition is being written (July 2011) it is worth remembering that ATB has still only been in existence for 9 months. The band has already become an established group within the town of Andover (and the surrounding villages) and has been in great demand, playing at over 16 exciting and varied engagements since Nov 2010. The ATB group has already established an excellent reputation for enthusiastic performances, encouragement of younger players, and striving for high musical standards. Wherever and whenever the band has performed ATB has received many encouraging and positive comments from the Andover public and beyond. Thank you one and all for your support.

Once again we hope that you enjoy reading this newsletter – if you have any comments or questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with us via [info@andovertownband.co.uk](mailto:info@andovertownband.co.uk)

### **Next Concert**

ATB is busy preparing for the performance at the next concert 'Decades of Song and Dance' at the Elim Pentecostal Church in South Street, Andover on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm. Tickets are available from Alison Large (01264 324056) priced at just £5. This is sure to be a terrific evening of musical entertainment, so order your tickets now before they sell-out! Proceeds are to be shared between ATB and the Elim Church.



### **ATB compete for the first time**



In March 2011 ATB took the first tentative steps of establishing itself in the U.K. brass banding contest scene. The band travelled all the way to the sunny English Riviera to make its contesting debut, to compete at the West of England Regional Championships at Torquay. As 'new kids on the block' ATB entered into the 4<sup>th</sup> section, which had an enormous field of some 22 bands competing, including some very seasoned and experienced senior bands. Within its ranks ATB included over a dozen players aged 16 or younger, who seemed somewhat relaxed to the pressures that the older players may have felt!

ATB were drawn to play as the 20<sup>th</sup> band towards the end of the afternoon. Musical Director Steve Large crafted a very good performance of John Golland's 'Prelude, Song & Dance', which attracted many favourable comments. A nervous wait for the results revealed that the band had achieved 7<sup>th</sup> position out of 22. The band can be justifiably proud of the result after just 6 months existence, having beaten 15 bands! ATB is already looking forward to the challenge of returning to compete next year.

### **First town concert a Sell Out**

On Sat 2 April 2011 ATB performed its first formal concert in the Andover town, to a capacity audience in the Andover Methodist Church in Bridge Street. Interest from the public was such that it was literally standing room only at the back of the church! The concert featured the 4 main groups of ATB – Prospects, the Youth Band, the Community Band and the Band which performed at the recent competition at Torquay. The playing from all groups was superb, with a special highlight being the younger players in the Prospects ensemble. A post-concert celebration was held in a local curry house, attended some 20 or so players who let down their hair, following the excitement of the concert.





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### ***What else has been happening?***

ATB were delighted to be asked to play for the Rotary Club at a fund raising black tie dinner event held at Harrow Way school back in March. In April ATB set off to Highclere Castle to play for another fund-raising event held by Naomi House. The Easter Egg hunt was a real hit with the younger (and not so younger) band members! Next, in May ATB performed at the new Co-op distribution centre built on the outskirts of Andover, for a family fun day.



During well-earned breaks, the band took great delight in fully participating in the fun events that were on offer! On two occasions the band has entertained the shoppers at the popular Farmers and Gardeners Markets held in the town centre, drawing large crowds of appreciative listeners. In June it was off to the sunny Wherewell Fete, where sun cream and plenty of water were the order of the day. A unique opportunity arose in June, whereby ATB played at a private function in Winchester as the support act to Italian rock 'n' roll star Matthew Lee, who is quite an incredible musician destined for worldwide fame one day! Towards the end of June saw ATB playing at an 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party in Hurstbourne Tarrant. The last event of June had the musicians, family and supporters gathering for a fantastic evening of fun at a Barn Dance organised by the band. Luckily having two left feet does not seem to have any relationship to musical ability!

### ***Superstars of the future***

Through the ATB Education scheme, participating players are making superb progress. Congratulations to all who have worked hard and achieved the following, within the past six months since Jan 2011:

- Prelim stage; 10 musicians have achieved the standard required to join the Prospects beginner band:
- Cross-overs; 4 musicians from Prospects have achieved the standard required to play part-time with the Youth and/or Community Band:
- Full time Youth Band / Community Band: 2 players have reached the standard to join these bands on a full time basis
- Advanced awards; 3 players in the Youth/ Community bands have achieved a higher level award, including one Gold Award (well done Jan!).



### ***Breaking news***

There is a very strong rumour that ATB may well be venturing abroad for its first overseas tour to Italy next year. Details and arrangements have yet to be confirmed, but this would be a really exciting adventure for ATB. Viva Italia!

### ***Band for hire***

ATB has a flexible approach to provide musical entertainment for many types of occasion, so if you know of an event that needs a band please put our name forward to the organisers, or suggest they contact us to discuss the possibilities.

### ***Learn to play***

ATB would be delighted to hear from any person of any age who is interested in learning to play a brass instrument. Lessons and an instrument would be provided, so please contact us to discuss the possibilities. Please contact [info@andovertownband.co.uk](mailto:info@andovertownband.co.uk)

### ***£300 easy money!***

ATB has 22 people registered with Easyfundraising, and between them have managed to raise a magnificent total of over £300, by making purchases via Easyfundraising, and using the Easyfundraising web search tool. To sign up please see below.



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### **Help raise funds for ATB**

Please visit [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/andovertb](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/andovertb) to find out how you can donate up to 15% of your online purchases to Andover Town Band!! You can now support your chosen cause for free when shopping online with over 2000 popular retailers, including Argos, M&S, John Lewis, Debenhams, HMV, Vodafone, DELL, The Body Shop, PLAY.com, Interflora, Comet and many more. You can also raise funds for ATB when you search the Web with easysearch - the best results from Yahoo!, Bing and Ask.com in one simple search <http://andovertb.easysearch.org.uk>

### **Events**

Below is a list of ATB events for next few months – this list is always being updated, so please see the website [www.andovertownband.co.uk](http://www.andovertownband.co.uk) for the very latest events and details.

<b>Event</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>When</b>
Summer Concert	Elim Pentecostal Church, South Street, Andover	7pm, 16 July 2011
Longparish Village Fete	Longparish	1-3pm, 3 Sept 2011
Café Culture	The Lights, Andover	Evening, TBC
Farmers Market	Time Ring, Andover	10-12am, 18 Sept 2011
Autumn Concert	TBC	TBC
Remembrance Service	Over Wallop	13 Nov 2011
Wessex contest	Weymouth Pavillions	All day, 26 Nov 2011
Farmers Market	Time Ring, Andover	10-12am, 18 Dec 2011
West of England Regional Championships	Torquay Riviera Centre	All weekend 10/11 March 2012

### **ATB officially awarded Charity Status**

Last month ATB received notification from the Charity Commission that the application to register ATB as a Charity has been successful. The primary charitable object of ATB is: *TO PROMOTE, IMPROVE, DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN PUBLIC EDUCATION IN AND APPRECIATION OF THE ART AND SCIENCE OF MUSIC, PARTICULARLY BRASS BAND MUSIC IN ALL ITS ASPECTS.*

As an aside ATB could benefit from financial opportunities only open to charities, but also the running of ATB will be seen as transparent and accountable to the ATB Trustees, ATB members and the Charity Commission itself. Also, ATB has also become VAT registered which has its own financial benefits.

### **Friends of the Band**

ATB raises money in a variety of ways to pay for the running of the bands, including sponsorship deals, subscriptions from members, collecting from public performances and paid-engagements. If you would like to help the band by making a donation as a Friend of ATB we would be delighted to hear from you; please contact us at [friends@andovertownband.co.uk](mailto:friends@andovertownband.co.uk)

### **ATB on Facebook**

If you use Facebook, why not look up Andover Town Band? The pages are constantly being refreshed with news, photos, videos, forthcoming events and the odd bit of gossip!