



Stuart Evans

It is with great sadness that I have to tell you of the sudden death on 26 June of Stuart Evans, baritone player and honorary patron who played for the band for over 62 years.

Stuart started to play when he was eight years old (there are some lovely photos of him on the band room wall). He was part of the 1969 Band who qualified for the National Finals in London, part of the 1984 Band who qualified for the National Finals in London, this time playing at the Royal Albert Hall, through to being part of the Band who won the 2nd Section National Finals in Harrogate in 2004. He was a big part of the Band's success from the mid 1990s in its rise from the 4th Section to the Championship section. Stuart was a very fine baritone and after taking a short break from playing, returned to playing in our Concert Brass.

With a dry sense of humour and a ready wit, Stuart was never short of a quick line to make us all laugh.

Rest in peace, Stuart, we'll all miss you very much.



Stuart when he was made Honorary Patron in 2016

Concert Brass at Gotham

Gotham Memorial Hall is an impressive building and was opened as a permanent memorial to the men of Gotham who fell in the First World War. The hall contains rolls of honour to those who served, and those who served and died in both World Wars. So it was with great honour that Concert Brass accepted an invitation from Gotham Women's Institute to perform in this year, the centenary of the end of the First World War.

The concert began with the Salvation Army march, Star Lake followed by the Women's Institute anthem, Jerusalem. Other numbers from the first half were Porgy and Bess suite, Memory, The Time of my Life and the ever popular Ticket to Ride interpreted as a train journey.

Tenor horn player, Hannah Peak came to the front to play her first ever solo for Concert Brass giving a fine rendition of He Ain't Heavy. Not to be outdone, trombonist mum Jenny gave a solo performance of Crazy, made famous by Patsy Cline. A magnificent spread of cake and scones appeared at the interval which set us up for the second half. The band played Slaidburn, The Shepherd's Song, Baggy Trousers, Amazing Grace and Holst's Fantasia on Dargason.



Hannah Peak

It was appropriate that the band paid tribute to those who fought in the First World War. Under the rolls of honour, Ted Rea recited the poem In Flanders Field written by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae in 1915, to the accompaniment of music by Gavin Somerset.

And in what turned out to be his last solo for the band, Stuart Evans gave a most moving rendition of Roses in Picardy, one of the most famous songs of the First World War. For those of us who were there, it will be a memory that will last forever.



Stuart Evans

Hathern's Big Week

Hathern held its popular Big Week in June. This year it formed part of Hathern 2018 commemorating the visit of King Edward II in 1318, casting of the oldest church bell in 1618 and the end of the First World War in 1918. The first Saturday was Carnival and It's a Medieval Knockout and featured music from Concert Brass.

The second weekend was Hathern Open Gardens, and on the Saturday we enjoyed the second Proms in the Park. The Main Band, together with the Loughborough Theatre Groups Singers provided a programme featuring music from James Bond films and other favourites such as Miller Magic (Glenn Miller medley), You'll Never Walk Alone and the Dambusters March. It ended in good old flag waving style with the well known Proms finale.

We weren't blessed with the great weather of last year - at times dark clouds threatened a downpour - but thankfully that didn't happen. The audience weren't put off and there were more people than last year who turned up with their chairs, ground blankets and picnics.



**Concert Brass at
It's a Medieval
Knockout**





**The Main Band
at Proms in the
Park**



**Accompanied
by the
Loughborough
Theatre Groups
Singers**



**With the ever
popular Last
Night of the
Proms Finale**

Mike Wood, Principal Cornet

Mike has been Principal Cornet with the Band for many years. We asked him to tell us about his musical career.

"I started to play cornet when I was 13, joining Denton Brass Band, alongside this I was also learning trumpet at school playing in the Jazz Dectet. In those days I had two very good tutors, Jack Hansford, a traditional bandsman and Bill Burton who played trumpet for the Joe Loss Dance Band.

Brass bands were a big draw in Manchester at that time and when I left school I concentrated on my cornet playing. I became Principal Cornet at Denton after an apprenticeship of several years starting on third cornet. During this time I played with several third and fourth section bands, guesting whenever possible to gain experience and I was a member of Lancashire Youth Brass Band.



Banding became an obsession and if I wasn't rehearsing or playing in a concert (usually smoky working men's clubs on a Sunday lunchtime), I was at one of the local Band Clubs in Glossop, Dobcross or Boarshurst to watch and listen to other players hopefully learning something new. It was during this time that I met Norman Ashcroft. Norman had been principal cornet of Fairey Aviation Band and to this day is recognised as being one of the great players of the banding world. I auditioned for Norman and he agreed to take me on as a pupil. Norman was the conductor of Tintwistle Band at this time, to progress I left Denton and joined Tintwistle.



Bandsman of the Year 2016

I had a great time at Tintwistle starting at the bottom of the front row, then progressing to the top chair. The band was at a very high standard winning many contests and it was a great time for me. I can even recall the day we beat Hathern in an entertainments contest - it's still talked about by the seniors in Hathern Band! After 15 years with the band it was time for a move and I came down to Leicester with my work. The local band was Ratby, I went along and joined and this is where I met Dave Newman.



The Cornet Section with Mike on the left

I progressed up the row to the end chair. My wife also joined at the same time, however she wanted a change after several years and decided to join Hathern. I followed shortly after.

I have been with Hathern for over 20 years and sat as Principal for most of this time. I have only ever kept my interest with bands that have a traditional brass band culture and given me a challenge. Over the years, Hathern has certainly delivered!

I believe that I have now served my time on the end chair and for the future of the band it is best to move over for the younger ones. I am going to move to the horn section on the Flugel, which I haven't played for years. I am delighted to be swapping chairs with Dru Sparks who has been appointed as the new Principal Cornet and wish him well. I am looking forward to the new challenge and the new sounds, my only problem is, who is going to count the rests for me?"

Two First Class Acts



Dru



Tom

Congratulations to Tom Dyer-Hill on getting a First Class Honours Degree in Chemistry from Queen Mary University, London and to Dru Sparks on getting a First Class Honours Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Coventry.

Tom is off to study Medicine for four years at the University of Warwick, Dru has started as a Design Engineer at Triumph Motorcycles.

Dru has even more to celebrate (though appreciating the hard work to come) having been appointed as Principal Cornet with the Main Band at the age of 22.

Both Dru and Tom, who plays trombone, both started in the Training Band and are fine examples to our youngsters just starting off on their banding journey.

LBBA Spring Solo/Quartet/Duet Festival

The LBBA Spring Festival was held at Loughborough Endowed Schools on 15 April and proved very successful for Hathern Band. In the 11/12 year group Slow Melody, Ashton Peat took first prize and Brady Herring came third. George Baum came third in the 16 to 18 years sight reading and took first prize in the Open Percussion. Not to be outdone our main Band bass section came third in the Open Quartet.

Everyone did very well and although some of our youngsters didn't win a prize, the competition provided good experience. So congratulations to our winners and to all who took part including Sam Edwards, Inigo Tristante, Zoe and Bayley Elliott, Tia Pedrola and Jake Ruddy. Well done!



Ashton

Brady

Back to School Once Again

A group of our musicians visited Ashton's school, Holywell Primary School in April to play for the children and give some of them a go on an instrument. It was great that Ashton joined with the senior members to play in front of his friends. School visits have resulted in a number of recruits to our Training Band. More are planned for the Autumn Term.

Please Come and Join Us!

If you're not already a patron, could you consider joining their ranks and help Hathern Band continue its success into the future? It costs a minimum of £25 per year, less than 50p a week.

We would be most grateful for your support.

Birstall Gala

The Main Band played once again at Birstall Gala on 30 June at the start of the heat wave. With the sun shining directly onto the stage, it was very difficult to keep cool and read the music! A varied programme included a number of tunes popular during the First World War. Also we were delighted to welcome our friend, soprano Jenny Saunders who sang *Somewhere* and *I Got Rhythm* as well as leading the singing of *Jerusalem* and *Rule Britannia*. International soloist Jenny recorded with us on our *Pasture Lane* CD (What, you haven't got it?? It's brilliant! Only £10 from Lesley!)



After the band played the medley of Irish tunes, Gael Force, Dave told the audience that, as there was no dancing to that number, he hoped for more when the band played Offenbach's *Galop Infernal* from *Orpheus* and the *Underworld* - better known as the *Can-Can*. Well, what an invitation to the ladies of Birstall and you can see they didn't disappoint!

Hathern Band Forthcoming Engagements

- Band on the Banks
Sunday 19 August, 3:00pm, *Quorn Banks, Main Street, Quorn*
- Patrons' Evening
Saturday 23 September, 7:30pm, *Hathern Community Centre*
- RAF's 100th Anniversary Concert
Saturday 27 October, 7:30pm, *Braunstone Civic Centre, The Kingsway, Braunstone*

AGM

Musical Director, Dave Newman's Report

It may seem an odd thing to say, after we came last in the Area Contest, but I am very happy as to where the Band is at the moment.

The system we have in place for the development of young players is bearing fruit, thanks in no small part, to the efforts of those helping at Training Band, also those giving individual lessons, and of course Chris Groom at Concert Brass. We are now seeing a clearer line of progress, and are seeing quicker movement into bands as players progress.

On this point we could still do better. We all have skills we can pass on, and I would ask you all if there is a little of your time which you could spare to help young players, as you were helped when you were beginning your banding life.

There are one or two changes coming up in Senior Band, which will, I hope, see us progress in the future, with young players taking a leading role. Players we have taught and nurtured. This is exactly as it should be, and the only way to have a stable future, as many other bands are discovering to their cost. So overall a year of small but significant progress for which I would like to thank everyone connected with the Band, from Lesley, the players, the officers, helpers and supporters. As one of the signs on the wall says, "Hard work will always overcome natural talent, when natural talent doesn't work hard enough."



Dave with Training Band and helpers.

Our future!

Other reports from the AGM. Concert Brass Musical Director, Chris Groom said, "Two players have moved up to Senior Band, and that's how it should be. We've had a shuffle round and have some cracking youngsters coming through. The band all seem very happy. I really enjoy my Thursday nights and I hope the band does. Thank you to everyone who helps."

Treasurer Brian Fletcher reported that in 2017/18 our income did not cover expenses. However during the year we had increased expenditure on building maintenance including new internal and exterior lights, electrical testing, fire extinguisher refurbishment and a new instant water boiler- expenditure that will not be repeated for several years. We also purchased new uniforms. We received £3567.70 in grants and donations which included £1000 from the Freemasons' Grand Charity and £928.65 from Hathern Parish Council towards the new lighting.

Brass and Voice

Our popular concert with Loughborough Male Voice Choir was held in Hathern Church on 19 May. This year proceeds went to ProstAid, the prostate cancer charity which funds two dedicated specialist nurses in Leicester hospitals. Each half of the concert had a section from the choir, followed by band numbers. At the end of each half choir and band came together to perform Flower of Scotland and Bridge Over Troubled Water. Choir numbers included Calon Lan, the Welsh hymn, no famous as a rugby anthem, Gwahoddiad another Welsh hymn which started out as an



American one, and from further afield Tshotsholoza, This was a song sung by mixed groups of miners in South Africa. The choir also sang the haunting Let it Be Me which some of us of a certain age remember as an Everly Brothers hit (younger readers please ask parents or grandparents.) It started out as a French song Je t'appartiens (I Belong to You).



The band started with The Great Little Army March commemorating the British soldiers in World War One. The programme included some of the Band's recent standards including the cornet duet Pie Jesu. On this occasion we were delighted to welcome Tom the Vet (Tom Wallage) back as a guest who joined with Ken Powell to perform the piece. Handel's Music from the Royal Fireworks started the Band's second set. This was written at the behest of George II in 1749 for the fireworks display celebrating the signing of the Treaty of Aix-la-Chappelle. In contrast the Band also performed Sinatra's Here's That Rainy Day. Another great Brass and Voice.

Tom Wallage and Ken Powell

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Concert Brass at Loughborough Queen's Park



A hot summer's afternoon in a park, the audience sitting round an Edwardian bandstand listening to the strains of brass band music. It's a quintessential British scene and one we enjoyed on 22 July in Queen's Park, Loughborough. Concert Brass provided the music and treated us to a varied programme, repeating some of the numbers heard at the Gotham concert. "When do you think it's going to end?" my friend said to me in the second half. I said there were a few more pieces to go. "No," she said, "whenever is this heat wave going to end?"



Ted Rea Reciting "In Flanders Field"



Jenny Peak Playing "Crazy"