

# Mayfield Band

The summer weather is keeping a low profile, but we're not. That's not what Brass is about

Issue 3, Summer 2013



## Dates for your diary

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup><br>June | <b>Tea and Tunes</b><br>Free open air concert,<br>2.30pm, Court Meadow         |
| Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup><br>June   | <b>Eastbourne Bandstand,</b><br>Last Night of the Proms<br>8pm                 |
| Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup><br>June  | <b>Eastbourne Bandstand</b><br>Traditional afternoon<br>concert 3pm            |
| Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup><br>July | <b>Last Night of the Proms</b><br>Mayfield Memorial Hall<br>7.30pm. Pimm's bar |



## Tea and Tunes

In a new venture, we are staging our first open air concert, in recent years anyway, which will take place on Court Meadow, outside the Bandroom, on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June at 2.30. It's an informal affair, and it's free, so just turn up, and enjoy the great music, the lovely views over the Sussex High Weald, and the glorious sunshine!!! We will have some seating available, but you may wish to bring your own deckchair or blanket to sit on, just to be safe. Tea and cakes will be served in the interval, and if you want a taste of what playing a brass instrument is like, you will be welcome to have a go on one of the instruments during the break. This will be very much the band at home, so do come and chat to us about what we get up to, and come and see some of our archive photographs in the bandroom. If the weather lets us down, you can check to see if the concert is still on by calling 872007, or 07919810765, or by checking the big poster outside the school on the day.

## All the fun of the Fair

The band provided the non-brass accompaniment for the maypole dancers at the May Fair. Ollie Rudge on accordion, Alice Rudge on fiddle, and Sophie Rudge on mandolin. Hear more of them at <http://soundcloud.com/say-old-man>



## End of an Era

### The Fuller/Scrace family move on, after service spanning 27 years

From left to right, Roy Fuller, Julie Scrace, Katherine Scrace, and Emma Fuller, will all be retiring from the band at the end of this year. Roy and Julie joined the band 27 years ago. Roy originally joined as a euphonium player, but in 1994, following the retirement of Ken Rich, he was invited to take up the baton, and became Musical Director. Since then, he has led the band to numerous contesting successes, evidenced by the dozens of certificates that adorn the bandroom walls, and at the same time as striving for the highest standards of performance, he has

always ensured that playing is never a chore. He has also composed and arranged many fine pieces for the band, and he will not only be sorely missed, but will also be a tough act to follow. Julie is our principal cornet, and players of Julie's quality and stamina are few and far between. She plays a pivotal role in the band, and is an excellent role model to the youngsters. Until recently, she also regularly sang with the band, particularly at occasions such as Last Night of the Proms concerts on the bandstand. She was band secretary for more years than she will care to

remember, and so between them, Roy and Julie's contribution has been massive. Their daughters have also decided to move on now, as life and work takes them in other directions. And so we lose a very fine bass player in Katherine, and a highly talented percussionist, trombonist and euphonium player in Emma. They have all been fantastic servants of both the band and the village, and we wish them all every happiness, and send them off with our deepest gratitude. We also hope that we may tempt them back for the the odd guest performance.

### Keeping the Band in order

We have unearthed this lovely old document from the archive. It reads;

“An agreement made this 20<sup>th</sup> day of April in the year of 1923, between the Band Committee of St Dunstan's Club, Mayfield, and Percy Akehurst, whereby it is agreed that a suit of uniform shall be provided and supplied to him, as

a member of St Dunstan's Band, on the understanding that he promises to remain an active member of such band for a period of two years from above date; except in the event of leaving the district, or any other legitimate cause acceptable to the band Committee, as a reason for terminating his membership before



the required period of service, when the uniform must be returned to Mr

Grisham. Also that he shall take such proper and reasonable care of the uniform as will assure his smart appearance at all times. He shall obey the instructions of the Band Master as the responsible representative of the Band”



## Congratulations to Saskia Salwey on passing her grade 7 cornet exam with merit

Grade 7 represents a very high standard of musicianship, which only comes through much hard work and dedication. She is also working towards her grade 7 piano. Well done Saskia., and sorry about the picture.



## Adults – any adults, regardless of experience – you can do it too

There are three of us in the band that are adult learners, having started in our thirties/forties, and two that are coming back after a long absence. At the moment, we practice with the Youth Band, as well as the senior band, but there has been talk of starting a “community band”, a more social band to encourage more adults into playing, particularly those that don’t fancy being outplayed by an eight year old! So watch this space, or get in touch if you’re interested.

## HELP!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

For a number of years now, we have been suffering from a lack of players. We seem to have hit an unlucky patch with our senior players, with a steady stream of retirements and people moving on, and with our junior players, it is difficult to retain them beyond the age of 18 when life takes them away into the big wide world. Add to that the fact that we are just a small village, surrounded by small towns that have their own bands, it makes it pretty well impossible to find experienced players. And of course we live in a part of the world where brass bands are not embedded in the culture in the same way as they are in other parts of the country. In reality, our numbers have been well below that required for a full band for some time, and the departure of Roy and family means that we now face some very difficult times.

So the challenge is now on to rebuild the band to it’s former glory, and we need every member of the community to help, because whether you realize it or not, this band benefits every single one of us, either directly or indirectly.

Think about it. If you enjoy our music, the benefit is obvious. If you are not particularly into brass music, you will have enjoyed, perhaps subconsciously, the ambience that we have created at fetes and fairs. You will have enjoyed seeing us marching on carnival night, back in the years when we had enough able players to march (although it should be noted that two of our players did march in the last carnival, supporting Heathfield Band). You

will have enjoyed the colour that we added to the May Fair procession. You will have appreciated our contribution to the Remembrance Sunday services – imagine having no buglers for the Last Post. Or for that matter, having no band to lead the songs at the Jubilee celebrations.

And if you absolutely can’t abide our music in any shape or form, you cannot fail to appreciate that we are providing an opportunity to all village youngsters to do something worthwhile with their lives, that teaches them the value of teamwork, discipline, concentration, and good behaviour. That in turn adds to the smooth running of the village, as our youngsters have an involvement in, and respect for the community.

And of course our services are available to adults as well, offering a facility to learn how to play music, including the loan of an instrument (and of course uniform – see above) at minimal cost, and on your doorstep.

So I make no apology for repeating that this band is a remarkable and precious thing for a small village to have, and it is in everyone’s interest to help us. It never ceases to amaze us that so many people in the village do not know of our existence. So your task now is to tell all your neighbours and friends about us, and about our current plight, and if you know anybody that has played any instrument, at any level, but does not play now, then send them along, because I can guarantee you that they regret that they ever stopped. And don’t take no for an answer!



## Our Youth Band continues to flourish and produce fine young players

The great thing about brass bands is that players take on responsibility very quickly, and gain playing experience not generally available in school ensembles. For example, Saskia (see above), at the age of just 15, is already taking on the role of principal cornet in the senior band on some occasions, so it's a really great way to learn. And of course we provide an instrument, which is a major saving for the Bank of Mum and Dad. We practice on Friday nights, with a beginner's class at 6.45, and then the Youth Band from 7.15 to 8pm. The more advanced juniors then stay on for senior band practice at 8pm.

### Contacts

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Or visit our website at

**[www.mayfieldband.co.uk](http://www.mayfieldband.co.uk)**

The bandroom is located at Court Meadow, adjacent to the Memorial Hall. Senior band practice is on Fridays from 8 – 10 pm. You are welcome to visit at any time.