

MAYFIELD BAND

Music for life | Brass is Best | Age no problem

Musical Youth

Pictured right is our current crop of brilliant youngsters, from beginners through to more experienced players who now play with the senior band

A cut above

Playing a brass instrument is physically demanding, and really not the first thing you want to be doing after a tiring day at school. So the kids that diligently do their daily practice are a class apart from their peers, and their discipline and motivation now will stand them in good stead in later life.

A life in music

As well as developing strong personal attributes, the hard working members of the youth band will also have the gift of music for life. Even if they never pick up an instrument again after leaving us, they will be better listeners. More probably though, it will be in their blood, and wherever they end up in the world they will be able to join a group of like minded individuals to keep alive our great tradition.

Pictured right: the band at St Thomas's Church fete



Challenging times

Life in a 21st century brass band is all about managing change. There was a spike in the popularity of brass back in the sixties and seventies - think Terry Wogan, Peter Skellern, and a coal industry - which is now reflected in the age profile of many bands; there are players of retirement age, and quite a few younger players of school age, but not so many in the 20 to 60 age range as the younger players are now less likely to take their playing through into adulthood due to the pressures of modern life and an increase in the alternative ways of spending leisure time. So we rely heavily on our youngsters, who with a bit of hard work will be decent players by their mid teens, but as they often leave us once they are eighteen, the make up of the band is constantly changing. Sitting back is therefore not an option, and we face a constant challenge.





New to Mayfield? Never played music before?

Well lucky you! You are in a small village which is blessed with its own brass band, which will

- Provide you with an instrument and teach you to play in a happy and safe group environment
- Teach any age, from 8 to 80
- Introduce you to a whole new world of music

In these days of homogenous pop, and a narrow range of broadcast music, brass arrangements provide a wide and refreshing new range of music for you to play and appreciate. And it's so much more fun to learn and play with a big group, rather than plonking away on a piano or guitar by yourself at home where the motivation will be harder to find.

We play at a variety of events, with many outdoor summer performances, and three or four concerts every year. If you fancy giving it a go, contact Simon at simon@mayfieldband.co.uk or call 872007. Further details at www.mayfieldband.co.uk or on our Facebook page.

Breaking new ground

The Mayfield May Fair is now a well established feature of village life, spearheaded by a young and creative group of villagers. It is a unique event, as it has become a mini maypole dancing festival, which is something you will be hard pressed to find elsewhere. The band has always played at the event, and a small group of our younger players who also play traditional folk instruments have provided the music for the maypole dancers. However, they have now moved on, so this year we took the decision to have a go at playing for the dancers with the full brass band. We worked closely with our local schools, and it all worked out extremely well. Not only do we think we are now probably quite unique in playing for maypole dancers, but we also pioneered a brand new dance, the Twister, which you can see on our website or Facebook page.

Other new ventures this year were playing in the slightly surreal performance of Satie's "Vexations" at the Mayfield festival, and Carol singing at the back end of last year with the MayZing singers at our village pubs. Both fantastic village events, and very much in the best traditions of Mayfield.

Pictured below: Trevor Scott leads the band at the May Fair

