

Mayfield Band

Newsletter

Summer 2015

Music
at the
Middle
House

Fri 31st
July

See inside
for details



A year of collaborations

A lot has happened since our last newsletter, and the band has seen many changes and undertaken a wide variety of projects. Collaboration seems to have been the theme of the last year, and we have worked with a variety of people and village groups. The picture of the band shown above was taken at last year's summer "Proms" concert, the first one under the baton of Doug Blackford. It was a hugely successful concert, and for the first time we invited a bagpiper. Pipe Major Donald Brown, to join us. Our performance of "Highland Cathedral" was a triumph, and you can watch and listen to it on our website and facebook page. At Christmas, we linked up with The Wateryard theatre group and St Dunstan's church to produce the Christmas Truce concert, remembering the events of Christmas 2014 on the Western Front. Donald Brown again played alongside the band, with memorable performances of Flowers of the Forest and Lord Lovat's Lament, and we also accompanied local singers in a production that was both moving and uplifting. And in May this year, we provided the dance music for the Maypole dancers at the May Fair, which we reckon is a worldwide first! And then on to this year's Proms concert, of which you will find more inside.

Mayfield Youth Band

We welcome all ages and abilities, including beginners with no previous musical experience. We do find however that 7/8 is a good age to start, in terms of maturity, strength, and concentration.

It's a brilliant way to start playing music, because instruments are provided, so there is no major outlay.

Player news

Chile's gain....



Once again, we find ourselves losing another superb young player, hopefully only temporarily. **Saskia Salwey** has completed her A levels, and is now off on a gap year to Chile. Not only has she become a cornerstone of the band, but she also plays with various ensembles through the county music service. She has also achieved her grade 8 on trumpet, and grade 7 on piano. It has been a tough year for her in playing terms, as she has been one of only two solo cornet players, whereas a band should really have three or four. That means that she has had to do all the hard work as well as the fancy stuff, but she has risen to the challenge, and is a better player as a result. We wish you well on your travels Saskia. Presumably you will be taking your cornet with you to keep up the practice?

The Mayfield Cowboy, a Viking invasion, and a welcome return.



Eric Kemp, left, has been with us as a percussionist for just over a year now, and is a welcome addition to the band. He also plays with two other brass bands, and plays bass guitar with a blues band. In summary, his hobby is being loud! We are also pleased to welcome **Torstein Strandenes**. Torstein recently retired to Mayfield, but originally hails from Norway. He plays trombone and euphonium, but has had a 15 year lay off from brass due to work commitments, and is now getting back into the swing of things. Sorry Torstein, I didn't have a photo of you! Making a welcome return to the band is **Helen Reeves**, nee Pursglove (yes, another one!), who has taken up her cornet again after many years away, and has already set about making the bandroom a little more fragrant. Welcome back Helen.

Evans the polymath



Congratulations are due to "**TJ**" **Thomas Evans**, who at just 11 years old, has recently received a merit award from East Sussex Music Service, and secured a place in the East Sussex Jazz orchestra. On top of that, he plays with the Crowborough Youth Concert Band. He is a very promising young player, and with Saskia moving on, TJ will be taking on more responsibility in both the youth band and the senior band, where we expect great things of him in the years to come. He is also a keen footballer, a scout, a cellist, an actor, and an academic, having obtained a place at Skinners' Grammar School. Keep up the good work TJ.

Proms 2015

The Massed Bands of

Mayfield Band

Warbleton Brass Band



Having got a taste for collaborations, this year's summer concert featured the massed bands of Mayfield and Warbleton. Also involved was a choir from the Mayfield WI, marking their centenary year, and Donald Brown on bagpipes making a welcome return. With promotional work and ticket sales organised by the British Legion, and the logistical and technical side managed by St Dunstan's, this was a true village event.

The evening was a huge success, and the audience were enthusiastic and appreciative right from the opening march, "Castell Coch", evoking the spirit of the Welsh Valleys. An entertaining programme ensued, with Donna Summer (possibly a first for St Dunstan's!) at one extreme, and Edward Elgar at the other. Soloists Doug Blackford and Warbleton's Martin Buss were superb, and a sublime Horn section shone through in Buddy Holly's "True Love". The Radetsky March started to get feet stamping and hands clapping in the build up to the finale, and the WI were then caught out with a rendition of Happy Birthday when they were expecting Jerusalem, followed by the presentation of a fantastic cake made by Emma Scott. The evening was capped off with a virtuoso performance from Britannia herself, aka Sally Moss-Tallon, which was a lot of fun, and then the brilliant "Highland Cathedral" performed by Donald and the Band. The audience were eventually persuaded to leave, and everyone agreed that it was a brilliant and memorable night. Our thanks to all involved, especially to our friends at Warbleton Brass Band and their conductor Sian Buss, and of course Alan Parry, who made it all possible.

Music at The Middle House

Once again we will be playing in the beautiful Middle House gardens, weather permitting, on **Friday 31st July** at around 7.15pm. Come along for some great music from us, and great food and drink from The Middle House. Relax and unwind, and get the weekend off to a great start. Bring the family.



Youth Band News



Whilst many of our youngsters now also play in the senior band, it is important that they also continue to play in the youth group. It would be all too easy to get lost sitting at the back of the senior band, whereas in the youth band the players get more exposure to lead parts, and they get more guidance on their individual skills. Milly Bennett and Tara Waldman have now moved up into the youth band, and continue to progress well. Phoebe has moved up to Flugelhorn, and sister Ellie has moved back on to cornet from percussion. Thomas and Amy continue to progress nicely in the all important second cornet section, and TJ has been taking Saskia's seat in the front row, alongside

Claudia who is stepping into her sister's shoes with great composure, despite pressure from GCSEs.

In the beginners' group we have two young lads, Ralph Treherne and James Selby who are not short on puff, which Jenny, our long suffering youth band leader, is gradually channelling into something musical. Keep it up lads, and well done parents for your support. And to all those parents in the village that are yet to get involved, give us some serious thought. I know your kids do loads of other things, but kids need to be kept busy. They love it, and learning music is really just a form of play in the early years. Busy kids will be happy and successful kids.

Forthcoming engagements

Fri 31st July Middle House, Mayfield 7.15pm
Sat 12th Sept Crowborough Carnival 1.30pm

Contacts

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Youth Band

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Practice night Friday

Beginners	6.45 to 7.15pm
Youth/Training band	7.15 to 8pm
Senior Band	8- 10pm

Recommended listening

Brass Band Gala

A wide selection from the Fairey band, but I've chosen it for Holst's Moorside Suite, and Handel's Water Music, which works really well with brass. Value for money with 33 tracks for £7.99 as an iTunes download.

