

KSSB

AGM June 2014

Chairman's Report.

Change seems to be a constant feature of these Annual Reports and this year is no different. However I am pleased we have risen to the challenges that have beset us and grasped the opportunities that have come our way.

As I see it the Band continues to thrive and develop. We continue to attract new players, and "grow our own" beginners and although people come and go we have a very healthy core of active players.

I know that Ian intends to report on the comings and goings of players in his report so I will leave that to him.

I should just mention a couple of events.

It was a great sadness to us all that Peter Stockhill died this year – but wonderful that the band was able to play at his funeral. May he rest in peace.

I should also underline that I was pleased (on behalf of the Band) to be able to offer Honorary Life membership to Ronnie to acknowledge his 30 plus years of loyal service. I hope Ronnie can continue to play with us for years to come as and when his health permits.

We have had a very busy year indeed and I am able to report a very long list of events.

3rd July we played at Peter Stockhill's funeral in Appleby.

6th July Maulds Meaburn Village Fete

7th July Cosby Garret Garden Fete

20th July at the Nateby Inn

17th August Stober Hall Round the World Tour!

18th August Christian Head Vintage Tea Party

24th Aug Vicarage Tea Party

30th Aug Local Links Summer Event

1st Sept Aisgill Crash Memorial Service (on TV!)

7th Sept Beer Festival Kirkby Stephen

29th Sept Autumn Concert

10th Nov Remembrance Day

11th Nov Armistice Day (Last Post)

29th Nov Christmas Lights Switch on

8th Dec Light a Life Service at the Methodist Church

14th Dec Christmas Concert

16th Dec Winton Carols

17th Dec Tebay Services all day!

18th Dec Tebay Services all day!

19th Dec Auction Mart Carols

20th Dec Carols Outside the Coop

21st Dec Collecting Water at the Cloisters!

22nd Dec Stobers Carols cancelled because of a bug!

22 Dec Carols at Christian Head
24th Dec Fat Lamb Carol Service
25th Dec Christmas Day Circuit
15th April Spring Concert (SWFTC!)
18th April Good Friday Playing Walk of Witness
8th May Workshop at Warcop PS
17th May Langwathby May Celebrations
9th June Kirkby Stephen PS Workshop

It hasn't all been work, we also had our Annual Bowling outing with the Bowling Club on Aug 16th and an Annual Dinner on Nov 2nd when we were highly entertained by Ernie Viv and their gang! Who could forget Viv's version of Miss Piggy?!

I have been delighted with the way Ian has led the band musically . I feel that we are being challenged to improve in a gentle but insistent way and that the band has responded to Ian's coaching. Ian has my (and the rest of the committees') full confidence and I hope you will endorse my recommendation that Ian continues to lead us in the coming year.

Moya has looked after our finances in her usual efficient way and will report on this fully shortly. I would only trespass on Moya's turf to remind you that I was successful in obtaining a grant of 1000 pounds from Cumbria County Council which paid rather more than a third of the costs of purchasing the two timps with which Viv now embellishes our playing. I must also give credit to Judith who on her own initiative mounted a table top sale and a quiz which further enhanced the bands finances. We purchased a new Eb Bass this year which punched another hole in the finances so we need to rebuild the funds. The more we play the more money we make – each concert raises 500 to 600 pounds so well done everybody for their efforts.
You won't need reminding that we continue to collect income from lets to the scouts and rent from the bowling club that where we own the land.

I am again grateful to your hard working committee for helping me to keep the show on the road.

Heather has acted as minute secretary, Judith as Librarian, and Moya as Treasurer and Webmaster. I note that Moya does not wish to continue on the committee and thank her on behalf of the band for the hard work she has put in over the last few years on our behalf. Ruth has done an absolutely splendid job as Bandmaster and I wonder how we could now ever manage without her. Ruth has also loyally helped out with beginners and her support has been invaluable. Grace has helped look after uniforms, and John has also played a very important part as a committee member, as the first contact in child protection matters, as a support to Ian in helping with arranging, and as a coach to prepare our Intermediate group for concerts. I am also grateful to John for taking on the administrative task of looking after the Silver Lotto which is slowly growing and adding another "revenue stream"!

Other non committee members have again taken on important roles. Gordon has kindly been looking after our instrument store, Tina has been helping with publicity, and William continues to act as head groundsman and Ruth has taken over Ronnie's role and is acting as undergardner!

A loyal group of regulars (they know who they are!) continue to do a slot in the cleaning rota which helps to keep the band hut fit for habitation.(more help here would be appreciated)

A group like ours can only survive if lots of people do their bit to help out and I am pleased to see how active our players are. I am also grateful to those friends and family of band members who get roped in to help as friends of the band. We very much appreciate their help. We are in need of yet more help and would like to hear from anybody who feels they could help with cleaning or with building maintenance.

I need to take this opportunity to make sure that you are all aware of the new Child and Vulnerable adult protection policies that we adopted this year.

A copy of the guidelines has been posted on the notice board and John is happy to make these available by email to anyone who wants one. We plan to have these available to download from the Web site as well. If you are likely to be making music or socialising with junior players outside of main band sessions it is your responsibility to make sure you are aware of them. We have adopted an all inclusive approach to what constitutes a band session so please make sure you have read them. The contact person for issues on this is John.

You should note that we have a list of "approved people" to work with young people and any band session with young participants should include an approved person in attendance. If you wish to be added to the list of approved people you should speak to John.

Hand in hand with this is a new policy on photographs. Basically we assume that members of the band (junior or otherwise) have given their permission for us to use photographs and video to publicise the band unless people have opted out. Please read this for yourself.

The beginners group have dwindled down to not very much! This is partly a result of success in promoting beginners to the main band , and partly because youngsters often loose interest after an initial burst enthusiasm. I am hopeful that the recent workshops we ran in Warcop and Kirkby Stephen Primary Schools might produce another crop of potential players.

A few of us still turn up for an extra practice every Thursday at 7.00pm and anybody at all is welcome to these. We normally just run through the pieces that we have been playing on the Monday. Its an opportunity to spend a little more time on areas that you might be finding tricky.

Members sometimes use the bandroom for individual or group practice in addition to the Monday and Thursday nights. The committee has decided to ask for a contribution of 2 pounds per hour (not each – for the group) to help to offset our costs. We also ask that where possible that these sessions take place in the smaller back room so that the number of heaters used is less and our electricity bills are lower.

As we move on to the rest of the meeting I again remind you that the band survives on goodwill and volunteering. The committee too much work to do and not enough people to do it. If you can possibly spare the time then you should be asking for ways in which you can help!