



Spring Newsletter

Dates for your diary...

Help for Heroes Concert

Sevenoaks Community Hall, Sevenoaks
7.30pm Saturday 25th June 2011

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Picnic at the Castle

...with Darenth Valley Youth Concert Band
Eynsford Castle, Eynsford Village
Afternoon Sunday 10th July 2011

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1812 Fireworks Concert

Swanley Park, Swanley
7.30pm Friday 26th August 2011

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Remembrance Sunday

The Vine, Sevenoaks
10.30am Sunday 13th November 2011

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Christmas Celebration

St. Nicholas Church, Sevenoaks
7.00pm Sunday 4th December 2011

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Christmas Concert

The Mick Jagger Centre, Dartford
Afternoon and Evening Performances
Sunday 18th December 2011

It only seems like a few weeks ago when we were all together singing Christmas carols and putting up with John's dodgy cracker jokes.

We hope you enjoy this brief update on what the band has been doing since the beginning of the year and what we plan for the year ahead.

BASBWE London 2011 - March 27

The British Association of Symphonic Bands and Wind Ensembles (BASBWE) hosted its first London Festival for nearly two decades on Sunday, 27 March 2011 and we were proud to be invited to play a role in the occasion.

The festival was held in Bromley and attracted some of the biggest names in the wind band world including renowned clarinettist Linda Merrick and composers Philip Sparke, Martin Ellerby and Nigel Clarke. The day featured a series of masterclasses, workshops and performances, and culminated in a Gala Concert in the evening.

This was a great day for our band and a rare opportunity for us to meet other wind musicians and to hear their bands in action.



New Recording

In October 2009 the Eynsford Concert Band finalised its fourth recording – a CD entitled 'Heritage' – featuring five works by living British composers and taking its name from the specially commissioned piece by Nigel Clarke entitled 'Heritage Suite'.

Heritage is now available for download from [iTunes](#), costing £7.99.



A CD copy costs £10 and is available at our performances. It is also possible to order copies by sending an email to enquiry@eynsfordconcertband.co.uk



We have therefore commissioned a new one to be built for us which is starting to take shape nicely. We hope that this will be available by the end of June (or sooner if we can), so please check www.eynsfordconcertband.co.uk on a regular basis and be one of the first to see our new site in action!

New Website

Regular visitors will have noticed that the Eynsford Concert Band website has been looking a little 'static' for a while now. For this, we apologise.

By the end of last year, it was clear that our old website just wasn't going to be able to support us going forward.



As you may know, each year we choose a local charity, or one of special interest to members of the band, to support and raise funds for. Our chosen charity for 2011 is Coram, which, since 1739, has helped countless orphans and disadvantaged children.

Coram acts every day to support the UK's most vulnerable children. Their work addresses what matters most to children: to feel loved; to feel safe; to feel confident enough to make choices; to believe in a brighter tomorrow.

Founded by Captain Thomas Coram, a philanthropist who wanted to provide care for children left dying on London's streets, Coram is believed to be the UK's first ever children's charity.

Over 270 years later, Coram continues to make a real difference to children. Their adoption service has one of the highest success rates in the country and 98% of parents on their family support programmes say that their work brings positive change.

If you wish to learn more about Coram you can visit their website www.coram.org.uk.

On behalf of Coram, thank you all for your continued generous support.

Andrew Mattison, Principal Clarinet

For your event

The excitement and beauty of our music can transform your event into a very memorable occasion.

We are happy to play anything from Bach to Big Band, with music that will appeal to young and old alike.

If you would like a spectacular finale to your evening, then few things go down as well as a fireworks display!

If you would like further information, then please contact Paul Gould on 07506 679015 or by email at

enquiry@eynsfordconcertband.co.uk

Players needed

We are very pleased that the Band is close to having a full complement of players. However, we continue to have vacancies in the French Horn, Percussion and String Bass sections.

If you know anyone who would like to join us, then please ask them to contact Paul Gould on 07506 679015 or by email at enquiry@eynsfordconcertband.co.uk

'All good things come to an end'

After more than 8 years of leading our band to new heights of achievement and challenging us with new musical direction and performance opportunities, we were all sad to hear that John has decided that 2011 will be his last as our Conductor.

As the band searches for someone to take his place (tough boots to fill to say the least,) John promises us that he won't be going far and we may see him help with the odd concert here and there.

John "Hutch" Hutchins

Although John and I both served in the band of HM Irish Guards this is not where we met; Hutch took the queen's shilling just after I had left the Guards.

In 1993 ECB were arranging a tour to Canada and needed an extra trumpet player. Someone suggested this up and coming young lad in the Irish Guards band, John Hutchins. Thankfully, he agreed to come on the tour - little did we know how this relationship would develop! John was an instant hit with the band (especially the girls...) and soon became a close friend to all. Hutch left the Army to study at the Royal Academy of Music but continued helping out in the trumpet section when he could. As he was about to leave the Academy, John mentioned to me that he was unsure where he was going to live and was having trouble finding accommodation. I suggested he come and stay with us for a month or two and just like that Hutch became a part of the family. The kids, David and Sarah, loved having him around despite the occasional unlocked bathroom and the shattering of Sarah's belief in Father Christmas. Hutch met his wife to be Sam and, two years later, moved out.

In 2003 we lost our musical director, Chris Mowat, when he took up a position at Cardiff University. By this time Hutch had developed into an accomplished trumpet player and teacher. Naturally, he was in great demand. Despite this, he somehow managed to find the time to take on the role as our MD. Second only to our founder, Robin O'Connell, John has held the position of conductor longer than any other. During this time he has taken the band to new levels and has always strived to construct innovative and challenging programs. John has decided that the time is right to move on. I am sure that he will miss being our MD but with his busy schedule and young family it is understandable that something has to give. Although John is stepping down at the end of the year I have no doubt that he will wander back from time to time, whether he is conducting or helping out in the trumpet section (subject to a successful audition, of course!).

I know I speak for the entire band when I say that we will miss Hutch immensely; he has given a great amount over the years to the development of the band and has been a friend to so many. It has been such a privilege to see him develop into an outstanding musician and we wish him and the family all the best in the future. It has been an absolute pleasure.

Brian Bennett, Tuba

Become a Friend

Get regular updates via email, including advance notice of performances, charity events and social occasions plus first choice of tickets before they go on sale to the general public.

If you would like to become a Friend, then let us know by sending an email to friends@eynsfordconcertband.co.uk