

## **Eynsford Concert Band – Young Musicians - Open Afternoon Workshop**

On Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, the Eynsford Concert Band brought together 20+ young musicians ranging in age from 9 to 17 from around the Sevenoaks District and the wider Kent area to join the band in an afternoon rehearsal workshop as part of the band's Young Musicians Academy.

Young woodwind and brass musicians from Kent Music and local schools were invited to come along to the open rehearsal with the intent of encouraging younger musicians to become members of the band, and to help develop their interest in the benefits that music can make whether it be as a hobby or as a full time career. The workshop was held at the Bat & Ball Community Centre and we were grateful to Sevenoaks Town Council for supporting this event by way of a grant which greatly helped towards the cost of putting the workshop together and enabling the event to take place.

Under the watchful eye of the bands conductor Mike Smith BA (Mus) LSRM, the younger musicians sat along side the 'older' band members and we played though and worked on music from Vaughan Williams' English Folk Song Suite (which some members of ECB had been playing on and off for 50+ years) and was the first time some of the younger musicians had seen the music to music from the film trilogy Lord of the Rings. It was a great experience for some of the younger musicians to take the lead and play the solo's as and where required and for the rest of the band to hear the new young talent that there is around.

For the band it was good to see so many young players integrated within the band through every section from flutes, clarinets, oboes, to horns and trumpets. It was one of the few rehearsals where the band had a full strong horn section !.

We hope that following this workshop some of the younger musicians will have caught the 'bug' to come along more regularly to our Tuesday night rehearsals and hopefully ingest some youth into the band to keep live music performances and the Eynsford Concert Band going for years to come !