**BWCB AGM 25 September 2019**

Apologies: Phil Paine

**Report from Chair**

The AGM gives everyone the opportunity to hear about the achievements of the whole organisation, which has continued to grow this year with the addition of The Choir.

This year the roles of each band committee have become more defined, especially for Concert Band. This has redistributed the workload within Concert Band, resulting in CB committee managing the week to week running of the band, allowing BWCB officers to concentrate on the overarching responsibilities of BWCB eg financial arrangements, contracts and ensuring we all following the same ethos under the BWCB umbrella.

Currently we are working on producing a BWCB library list, which will be shared in the members’ area. We hope that this will enable everyone to make more use of our music, allowing members to look through and make possible suggestions to conductors. I’d like to thank Lorraine for all her hard work on this, as it is proving to be a more challenging task than we thought at first.

BWCB fees cover 36 weeks; costs for additional weeks outside the published term dates are meet from band funds – there is currently a 2 week half term break and bands need to inform their members if they are meeting in this week and inform according.

**Report from Secretary**

I am just going to say a quick word about the Members’ Area of the BWCB website. This area is accessible to all members of BWCB using the password BWCB (upper case) 2008.

In here, you are able to find useful information such as minutes of Committee Meetings, performance notes from conductors and Youtube clips. Any information is uploaded by the webmaster, a link to the webmaster is on the front page of the Members’ Area. It would be appreciated if this information is passed onto the webmaster on a timely basis, so that everything is available in one place, rather than for example only on various email trails.

There are also sections in the Members’ Area for newsletters and emails, upcoming events and term dates.

It is hoped that the Members’ Area will provide a comprehensive source or all information for BWCB members.

**Report from Treasurer**

See financial statements.

**Report from Concert Band**

**After a successful family Christmas concert in December 2018, Concert Band has raised the bar yet further this year**, one which concluded with three 2-hour summer concerts adding focus to rehearsals with a core programme of continuously developing pieces, whilst adding a few quickly-learned new titles on the way resulted in an overall firming-up of fluency, expression, dynamics, intonation and tonal balance. This peaked in an extra 45 minute ‘best of’ show at The Lexicon Proms, where CB was able to enjoy the acoustical properties of the venue's new canopy for the first time, in front of a warmly appreciative crowd, giving the 2019/20 year a flying start.

**On band-management matters, CB has encouraged a broader take-up of those many jobs that need doing in order to keep the band running smoothly forward**. encouraging many contributions from band members willing to put even a little time into the running of their band. We are very happy to thank those members who have taken both these and far bigger tasks on, and would always welcome more support in particular in coordinating deps and concerts.

**Aims and focus for 2019/20 are for ownership and responsibility in each section to grow.** With a Christmas and Spring concert already in the diary we will aim for a similar number of summer gigs to end the year in as much of a positive way as 2018/19 has done, hoping that the focus and commitment seen this past year will continue to build our strength as a true Concert Band.

**Report from Second Wind**

Our autumn term began as usual with a play date at Guildford Castle bandstand. Later in the term we entertained young adults with learning disabilities with a selection of Christmas music, busked for Crowthorne’s Christmas shopping evening and at The Meadows shopping centre, and enjoyed a curry evening. Three sectionals were held during the term.

In the spring, we celebrated our 8th birthday and put on a lively concert alongside our friends from Masterclef at Wokingham Methodist Church. Five more sectionals were held.

In the summer, we played at Guildford Castle again, in Aldershot High Street for Victoria Day, our regular slot at Hurst Country Fayre, and at Forbury Gardens. There were four more sectionals.

We have continued to attract new members and have said goodbye to a few others who have moved away from the area or changed jobs. Our membership now stands at 46 but we still have spaces in some sections.

As floated last year, Friday blow began in September; this is an opportunity for those who are able to play during the day and is open to all-comers, not just Second Wind.

This year, we seem to have been tackling more challenging music and rehearsing in a bit more detail, in order to raise our game.

Future plans include playing at Dinton Pastures in December, a joint concert with Maestros’ Training Band in the spring, and for Horsell Scouts and Guides May Fayre in Woking, in addition to our regular gigs. We also hope to have a weekend tour next summer.

**Report from Beaufort Band**

Beaufort Band have had another successful year. We took part in the Woodley Music Festival in March this year and after much hard work were very pleased to receive the award of “Highly Commended”. In July we again returned to Birch Hill School in Bracknell and provided musical entertainment for their Summer Fete. We will soon start working towards our Christmas Concert which we plan to hold in Bracknell along with other music groups.

**Report from Choir**

BWCB Choir started in September 2019. Rehearsals are held in Holy Trinity Church, Bracknell on a Thursday evening. For the first five weeks the Choir will be run on a trial basis to judge the degree of interest in the venture. If successful, following the October half term holiday Choir members will pay a termly fee to cover all costs. After the first two rehearsals we have had approximately 30 attendees each session, so very much hope that the Choir will be able to continue on a permanent basis.

**Report from Breakaway Brass**

Breakaway Brass have had quite an eventful and successful year. In September 2018, for financial reasons, Breakaway Brass moved to rehearse at Crowthorne Baptist Church. We had an average of 10 members in the band. This proved very successful – very sociable and friendly. Over Christmas 2018 we had several gigs including Holme Grange, our usual carols evening for Barkham, Peacocks Farm Christmas Market and a carol evening in the pub. In addition we went over to play carols for a new housing development in Binfield. Several of these proved quite profitable.

Many of us took part in the Big and Brassy event in April which successfully brings together many of the smaller brass bands in the area for a workshop day and a concert in The Princes Hall, Aldershot, the following day. It is a great experience and great fun.

During the Summer we had several gigs including playing at the Lexicon for a Community Day Event when the wind and rain nearly blew band, stands and music away. However, in glorious sunshine, we played at St. Brendan’s Care Home in Crowthorne and at Lynwood Retirement home for their Summer events and in front of Camberley Library during CAMFEST.

The band has been growing throughout the year with several new members and some original members returning. We have doubled in size and are starting September 2019 with 20 members. We have moved to rehearse in St. George’s Church, Owlsmoor, while Crowthorne Baptist Church undergoes renovation and a building extension project.

The next term has lots in store for us. We are planning a small concert in Crowthorne Baptist Church on Sunday 27th October. We have been asked to play for the switching on of the Crowthorne Christmas Lights at the end of November and to play for Sandhurst Churches Together singing carols at the Meadows in December. Lynwood Retirement Village have invited us back to play for their Christmas Village sherry party and we are also doing our usual Barkham gig. We are working with Crowthorne Churches Together and may be playing carols for the new housing developments in Crowthorne on our Tuesday rehearsal nights in December.

In July, one of our new members spotted some brass band music being sold on ebay by a band which had folded. He decided to bid for it and got it for us very reasonably. The 300+ scores were brought down from Preston in two journeys and we have spent the summer sorting and cataloguing them. The music is in 4 large filing cabinets and is being stored in a member’s garage. We have after sorting, 282 original pieces and another 268 which are photocopies – 550 sets altogether. We are enjoying playing some of these new pieces – we are spoilt for choice.

We are a very friendly and sociable group (even celebrating the forthcoming marriage of two of our cornet players, Sophie and Stuart, at last week’s rehearsal) and we are always happy to welcome new band members. In particular we need tenor horn players, if anyone fancies taking up tenor horn! Some of our gigs are profitable and so we are in a good position financially and have been able to buy new music and the music from ebay which will last us for a very long time!

**Report from Liquorice Allsorts**

LA have had a very busy year. We had our first LA tour to the Midlands over the weekend of 20 to 21 October 2018. We played 4 venues in 2 days: Dobbies Garden Centre at Atherstone to the North East of Birmingham, Heart of the Shires Craft Village near Northampton and two National Trust properties, Packwood House and Canons Ashby. At Packwood House we played to an appreciative audience in their Barnyard and at Canons Ashby a concert in their Priory Church. The latter was very well attended with all pews filled.

Following this we played our Christmas repertoire at Holme Grange Craft Centre, Marks and Spencer in the Lexicon and Glebelands Care home in Wokingham.

In 2019 we have performed at St Mary’s Church in Shinfield for one of their regular lunchtime concerts, Sunny Saturday in Wokingham, Holme Grange Vintage Day as well as various garden centres, care homes, day centres and school fetes. We have now expanded our repertoire to tailor the pieces played to the venue and audience. For example, over the last year we have bought pieces especially for the enjoyment of the residents of care homes who are able to sing along to music from Old Time Music Hall, World War 1 and World War 2.

The next year promises to be equally busy, we are off on tour again to the Midlands, in two and a half weeks’ time.

**Re-election of Officers**

There were no new applications for BWCB officers, so the current officers were re-elected:

Joint Chairs- Jacquie Champion, Kate Tunstall

Treasurer – Paul Foster

Secretary – Vicky Mathers