



HITCHIN YOUTH BAND

NEWSLETTER!

Autumn/Winter 2011

School Visits

On 5th October a group of our volunteers (Dinah, Keith, Ian, Allan, Tony and myself) performed in assemblies at four local primary schools; Cockernhoe Endowed C of E Primary School, Wilshere-Dacre School, The William Ransom Primary School and Samuel Lucas JMI. Yet again, we were bowled over by the enthusiastic response from the youngsters, many of whom came to the front to have a go on an instrument. Many thanks go to the volunteers who gave up their day to promote our youth band. A huge well done should also go to Flo and Sam, both of whom performed with us when we visited their schools - very nerve-racking in front of their teachers and friends! You both did a great job - thank you.

Welcome to our New Players

Following the school visits we are delighted to welcome along Edie, Max, Sienna, Skye, Evan, Molly, Benjamin, Jorja and Euan. Most of these young people are starting to play for the first time and are working extremely hard each week, showing great commitment and determination. Great to have you all onboard - keep up the good work! Special thanks to Sam, Emily, Hannah, Keith and Dinah for all their work helping our new recruits each week. With so many new players Keith has done a great job finding instruments for them all too - thank you!

Afternoon Tea

On Sunday November 13th we held our very first 'Hitchin Youth Band only' job. It was a really enjoyable afternoon of music-making and cake - my two favourite things! Having asked members to perform their own items, I was so pleased to get not just a few solos, but ten items organised and performed by our members, plus our whole band pieces. What a wonderful showcase of Hitchin Youth Band talent. Massive congratulations go to all those who took part. I must also mention that our new drummer, Evan, did a great job after only two rehearsals! Unexpectedly, the event also raised a decent chunk of money for the band so thank you to all our supporters and those who donated cake and helped out on the day.

Contests

With many of our members rapidly gaining confidence in performing, I would like to encourage as many as possible to think about entering one of the following contests next year:

Watford: Sunday 4th March } Both contests have solo and small ensemble
 } categories, with different sections for different age
 Hatfield: Sunday 1st April } groups. There is an entrance fee for each section.

I can't recommend the experience of performing solos, duets etc. highly enough. These are festivals of music, aimed at bringing young musicians together and giving them the opportunity to perform in front of others. If you are interested in entering, please see me for more details. It would be nice to go down to these events as a team, so we can support each other. Closing dates for entries are 14th December for Watford and 10th February for Hatfield.

Christmas Holidays

We will NOT be holding rehearsals on the following Mondays: 12th Dec (Hitchin Youth Band are performing at Archers Court instead), 19th Dec, 26th Dec, 2nd January.
 The first rehearsal of 2012 will be on Monday 9th January.

Staff & Contacts

All of our staff are volunteers from the senior band. Please feel free to approach any of the team if you have any queries or concerns. Also, we do have our own up-to-date youth band page on the band website www.hitchinband.co.uk youthband@hitchinband.co.uk

Alice Bailey (band leader) 01462 423534	Adrian McCann - cornet
Dinah Birch (welfare officer) - cornet	Bob Berwick - cornet/horn
Keith Birch - euphonium/lower brass	Sam Huckle (1 st aider) - horn
Hannah Prince - cornet	Ian Miles - Eb bass
Emily Prince - percussion	

Dates for the Diary

DATE	VENUE	DETAILS
Monday 12 th Dec 7-7.45pm	Archers Court, Elmside Walk (off Bedford Road), Hitchin, SG5 1HB (behind Christchurch)	Performing to residents, including Christmas pieces.
Saturday 17 th December 7.30pm	St Mark's Church, Lancaster Avenue, Hitchin, SG5 1UR	Joint Christmas concert with senior band. Annual awards to be presented. Tickets available on the door.

All the best for a Happy Christmas & a Musical 2012!
Alice x

P.S. It's great to see Joseph back with us following his cricket injury. We must now wish Sam a speedy recovery following his knee injury. Should sporting activities be banned I wonder...!