

VP Performance Hits the High Notes Oct 2011

Just three weeks after the Bandstand concert, The Marple Band returned to Cheadle and Marple 6th Form College (this time without their local counterparts, Hawk Green Band) to perform a challenging programme for the members of the Vice Presidents association.

Amongst the new pieces played were Suppé's overture, The Beautiful Galathea, and A Disney Fantasy by the late Goff Richards. The band's newest member and ex-RAF musician, Matthew Hill, showcased his talents with a fantastic performance of the technically demanding euphonium solo, Napoli, which he played from memory. Other soloists on the night included Principal Cornet, Jim Murray, and Rachael Ward on Flugelhorn. The Trombone Section (Mark Singleton, Dave Jones and Colin Ingham) also gave a rousing performance of the trio, Frolic For Trombones.

As ever, the VPs proved to be a very appreciative audience and a good night was had by all. The band are now heading back into the rehearsal room to prepare a brand new Christmas programme for their busy round of engagements over the festive period.

Brighthouse Soloist supports Joint Venture Oct 2011

Marple Band's third and final outing for this year's Marple Festival came in the shape of the Bandstand concert at Cheadle and Marple Sixth Form College on Friday 30th September. This event was a joint venture between The Marple Band and their sister band, Hawk Green, which showcased the bands' talents whilst raising awareness for the Charlie's Bandroom Dream project.

The first half of the concert featured The Marple Band who opened with French Military March. A varied programme followed which included a performance of John Williams' Liberty Fanfare, an accomplished cornet solo from Caroline Andrews and the Salvation Army favourite, Marching Onward. The band were also pleased to welcome guest soloist and former Marple Band member, Lucy Murphy (who now plays for Brighthouse and Rastrick), to perform the flugelhorn solo, Marianne. The first half of the evening drew to a close with a speech from local councillor, Sue Ingham, on the origins and progression of the Bandroom project. During the interval, the audience were invited

to watch a short film detailing the work which has been undertaken so far.

Hawk Green Band performed the second set of the evening which included another stunning Flugel solo from Lucy Murphy entitled Eyes Of A Child and a performance of Goff Richards' test piece, Hollywood, which the band have been rehearsing for the Fleetwood contest on Sunday 2nd October.

A combination of hot studio lights, heavy band uniforms and an unseasonal heat wave meant that the bands were definitely feeling the heat and after putting it to an audience vote, it was decided that the members of Hawk Green could complete their performance without wearing their jackets!

The two bands joined forces at the end of the night to perform a foot tapping, flag waving Pomp & Circumstance and then the grand finale featuring the Bandroom campaign's theme song, Shine.

All Hail for the Ale!

Sept 2011

The 8th day of the Marple Festival saw a number of Marple Band members donning their lederhosen at Marple Cricket Club to perform as the Bierkeller Band for the Real Ale Festival. Fronted by the band's very own Dave Jones (Trombone) as his alter ego, Herbert Von Bismark, they performed an extensive programme of traditional bierkeller

Bavarian Beauties



music including Baden Bei Wien, Gruss Aus Innsbruck and Beer Barrel Polka to name a few.

The enthusiastic crowd welcomed the audience participation as they raised their glasses during several rousing choruses of the drinking song, Ein Prosit, during each of the band's sets. Two volunteers tried their hand at yodelling during She Taught Me How To Yodel whilst three others showed off their musical skills on the watering can, the garden hose and trombone in The Music Man.

Not even the temporary power cut which plunged the marquee into complete darkness could dampen the spirits as principal Cornet, Caroline Andrews, lead the band in an impromptu performance of The Floral Dance!

After some more drunken schunkling, the evening drew to a close with stirring performances of The Dambusters and Aces High.

Rain Soaked Performance Shines On Sept 2011



The Marple Band returned to the precinct to entertain the crowds as part of the annual Marple Food and Drink Festival on Saturday 17th September. The band performed three sets whilst the shoppers perused the stalls of local produce set up by Marple's resident bakers, grocers, pubs and restaurants. Crowd pleasing brass band standards such as The Londonderry Air and Lincolnshire Poacher were played alongside several marches and other light music. Solos were provided by Principal Cornet, Jim Murray, who performed I Hear You Calling Me, and Rachael Ward (Flugelhorn) who played Rodrigo's Concerto De Aranjuez.

At the start of the second set, the band lifted the spirits of the festival goers during a torrential downpour with a tongue-in-cheek performance of Singin' In The Rain! Despite the bad weather, the crowds remained to listen to the rest of the programme. It seemed fitting that the sun came out just as the band played their final piece: Shine.

Prizes for Pub Performances Aug 2011

On Sunday 21st August, Besses o' th' Barn performed at the final concert of the Summer Brass Band series at the Ring o' Bells pub in Marple. Many bands had appeared there over the last three months including the All Star Brass whose performance raised over £600 for charity.

*Most Entertaining*

However, a secret adjudicator had been in the audience's midst throughout the concerts and had been charged with selecting which of the bands had given the best performances

based on musicality and entertainment. The title of 'Most Musical Performance', went to the Fairey (Geneva) Band whilst The Marple Band were awarded 'Most Entertaining Performance'. Each of the two bands received a glass trophy and £100 prize money (contributed by the pub's landlord, Mark Singleton, and a generous local resident).

Gary Parker (Faireys) and Caroline Andrews (Marple) were on hand to collect the prizes on behalf of their respective bands. Picture shows Caroline Andrews and Rachael Ward with Prize.

Marple Wows Woodley Aug 2011

The Marple Band played to a near capacity crowd at Woodley Civic Hall on Sunday 31st July.

*Woodley Civic Hall concert*

It had been many years since The Marple Band had performed at this venue but now with a full band, we were well prepared to do so again. The concert was a great success with the audience members, made up of

family, friends and local people from the Woodley area. Caroline Andrews was the Principal on the night, playing the cornet solo, 'The Watermill'. Other soloists were Rachael Ward (Flugelhorn) and Frank Wood (Euphonium). Two trios were performed by Caroline Andrews, Ian Moffett and Hayley Tuite on cornet followed by the Trombones (Mark Singleton, Dave Jones and Colin Ingham).

It's a good job the band has recently purchased some new arrangements of Christmas music as the Civic Hall were so impressed, they have asked us to come back and play a Christmas Concert which we are very much looking forward to!

Caine Is Able July 2011

Last Sunday (3rd July), the band performed to a capacity crowd at the Ring o' Bells pub in Marple. Our first summer concert was conducted by our very own Solo Horn player, David Caine, as the band's regular conductor, Bob Wyatt, had only just returned from holiday. Amongst the music played, was a Trombone trio, TWO cornet trios, a cornet solo and a Euphonium solo. Half way through the second half, things came to a halt as an audience member fainted and an ambulance was called. We're not sure whether it was the heat or just sheer amazement at the speed we played 'Grand March From Aida'!

Marching Onwards July 2011

The Marple Band hadn't taken part in the Whit Friday band contests for many years, so it was with the greatest of pleasure that in June 2011, a full band went out in the Tameside area and performed the contest march, 'Bramwyn', to the gathered crowds. Conducted by Justin Matthews, we played 7 venues including Ashton FC, Carrbrook and Heyrod to name a few. Out of the 51 qualifying bands, we came 22nd with 94 points - 1 point behind Besses O' th' Barn. We had been classed in the 3rd Section and were the forth 3rd section band overall.

*Cornets on parade***Up, Up and Away!** July 2011

Since it was first held in 1962, the modern Marple Carnival has been a major event in the local calendar. The Marple Carnival Committee work hard each year to make sure the Carnival is a great success. Every year, the committee choose a theme for the fancy dress parade - this year's being 'UP UP AND AWAY!'. That gave plenty of scope for the floats and costumes. The massed bands of Marple (The Marple Band and Hawk Green Band) combined to lead the way through the crowds on that sunny Saturday afternoon.

Shine On Brass June 2011

On a wet Bank Holiday Monday (are there any other kind?) the brass bands of Marple gathered on a field in Marple Memorial Park to launch their 'Let it shine' campaign. As the concert commenced the heavens opened and the arrangement of Take That's 'Let it shine' was accompanied by an almighty downpour. 'Singing in the rain' may have been more fitting on this occasion but the newly arranged 'Let it shine' piece lifted the spirits of the crowd and the grey clouds.

The 'Let it shine' appeal has been formed to help raise funds towards a new home for the brass bands of Marple and to bring a youth band back to the town. In addition, part of the funds will be allocated to the charity 'Help For Heroes'.

David Johnson of the Royal Marines Band arranged the leading piece for today's concert which was followed by a programme of pieces around the 'dreams' theme to support 'Charlie's Bandroom Dream' campaign including Forgotten Dreams, I Dreamed a Dream and Angels, to name a few!

The concert, conducted by Hawk Greens Neil Hewson was also supported by the Mayor of Stockport who released hundreds of 'Charlie's Bandroom Dream' balloons up into the air. Once the rain died down the audience swelled in numbers and was joined by our MP Andrew Stunell.

VP Concert

15th April

Moderately well attended event this. The VP concert took £558 and we are, as ever, very grateful to Eileen Murphy (Band President) and the VPs for their support.

Good programme of music including solos by Jim Murray (Macushla); Rachael Ward (Georgia on My Mind); Frank Wood (Nessun Dorma); the cornet trio (Trumpets Wild) played by Caroline Andrews, Ian Moffett and Jim Leggatt. Trombone Trio - (76 Trombones) - Mark Singleton, Dave Jones and Colin Ingham.



The band will be back at the school (along with Hawk Green Band) on 30th September for its BANDSTAND concerts as part of the Marple Festival. (We follow Black Dyke but we don't need to mention them)

Over the Edge?

April 2011

At the Area Committee meeting, the local councillors agreed to grant us outline planning permission for two apartments. We expect to get formal notification within 14 days then we just have to find a buyer! The sale will be handled by Gascoigne Halman in Marple Bridge. If we can sell this plot, our whole project can be advanced by many months.

Funds raised on Open Day

April 2011

The OPEN DAY at the Park Keeper's Cottage, last Saturday raised around £370. A considerable number of interested members of the public had a look around our plans to turn it into a headquarters and rehearsal room for The Brass Bands of Marple. Very promising but still quite a way to go to get the money for the rehearsal room extension itself. Further reading about the project can be found here.



Open Day at the Park Keeper's Cottage
March 2011

The Brass Bands of Marple have secured a 99 year lease at a peppercorn rent on the Park Keeper's Cottage in Marple Memorial Park.

Starting from 1st April 2011, planning permission to renovate and extend the building has been granted. Why not come along to our OPEN DAY at the Park Keeper's Cottage, on Saturday 9th April between 10am and 3pm. Come and see what the cottage is like now and have a look at our plans to turn it into a headquarters and rehearsal room for The Brass Bands of Marple.

First concert at Forces Club March 2011

The first concert of the year went well on Sunday 27th March 2011 at the Social and Forces Club in Marple. Playing to an audience made up of friends and family the band raised funds just short of £200. Not bad considering the final of 'Dancing on Ice' was on (and who would want to miss that!).



A well diverse programme was chosen by Bob Wyatt the band's musical director which featured Caroline Andrews (principal on the night) then joined by Ian Moffett and Jimmy Leggat for the Trio feature, Rachael Ward - Flugel, Frank Wood - Solo Euphonium and the Trombone section of Colin Ingham, Dave Jones and Solo trombone player Mark Singleton.

Letter of Thanks

January 2011

The Band now have a certificate of thanks from the Children's Adventure Farm Trust and a letter from Help for Heroes.

The proceeds of our Remembrance Sunday Charity Concert were donated to them.



BECOME A VICE PRESIDENT

We rely on the support of our Vice Presidents to help us in our mission to:-

"promote and foster the enjoyment and understanding of Brass Band Music for the benefit of the public and in support of other charities."

As a reward for your generosity, we put on two concerts per year – one as close as possible to St. George's day in April and the other in October. Minimum £10 annual donation.