

**'TIS THE
SEASON...**

**EDITOR'S
NOTE**

Welcome to another edition of the Elland Silver Band newsletter *Notes*, where you can read about all the exciting things we've been up to over the last few months. Check out the calendar on the back page to find out when and where you can join us...

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Elland Silver Band

Notes

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MONDAY 30 NOVEMBER

Royal Recognition!

Elland Silver Band receives national volunteering award

Saturday 13th Nov '10

Elland Silver Band have received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in a special presentation at the Halifax Minster.

Vice Lieutenant of West Yorkshire Mr John Brennan represented the Queen at the band's 'Help for Heroes' charity concert, where several hundred people had turned out for the event.

Having enjoyed a sample of the organisation's musical talent, courtesy of the youth senior bands, Mr Brennan showed every pleasure in greeting its representatives, shown right.

Mr Jim Shepherd (centre-right), Musical Director of the senior band, was presented with an exclusive commemorative crystal, whilst Peter Greenleaf (far left), the band's Chairman, shows off a special certificate signed by the Queen herself.

**Now go to page 5 >>>
To read all about a very special royal garden party...**



Left to right: Band Chairman Peter Greenleaf, Conductors Samantha Harrison and James Shepherd, and Band Secretary Kathleen Harrison.

The prestigious national honour, equivalent to the MBE for voluntary organisations, recognises Elland Silver Band's outstanding contribution to the local community through its many years of musical tuition for all, its support for local and national charities through the gift of music, and for sustaining the traditions and heritage of brass bands.



The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

And an individual accolade for Sam!

Samantha Harrison, Principal Cornet with the senior band and Musical Director of the Elland Silver Youth Band, has been awarded a **Calderdale Council Good Citizen Award**. Having started playing, at Elland, at the age of 7 Sam has since devoted a considerable portion of her life to the band, and in particular to the youth contingent that she herself founded, where she has taught almost 300 young people to play music. The honour signals a family hat-trick as Sam represents the third generation bestowed with the honour, grandfather Ken and mother Kath also having received the award in the past.

Guests at Gateshead!

Saturday-Sunday 20-21 Nov, Sage Centre, Gateshead

Following their stunning victory at the Blackpool Entertainment Contest in February, the Youth Band were offered an amazing invitation to perform at another world-famous venue, reprising their winning production of Bizet's *Carmen* to entertain the audience before the announcement of the day's Brass in Concert champion.

The juniors were so eager to take to the enormous stage that in fact they went up North a day early, performing in a special afternoon concert. Their musical selection on this occasion included some of their old favourites such as *The Nightingale* and *March from the Jazz Suite* by Shostakovich, as well as some new additions to their repertoire!

So what memories will those involved take from this experience? Well, here's a selection of quotes to give you an idea...

Dulcie Fieldhouse, Euphonium-player:

'My favourite part (of the weekend) was being on stage and playing to all the people that were watching us. You could see most of the people sat right at the front... but you couldn't see everyone, how many were there because it was so big. I think the *Carmen* was best because everyone seemed to enjoy it most, in the band and the hall.'

Anna Liddell, Cornet-player:

'We were very nervous but it went really well. We got to spend more time all together with the band so it was good fun. Plus, I got to hear the famous bands, Black Dyke and Fodens.'

Charlotte Horsefield (aka. 'The Noisy One'), Trombone-player:

'I liked the night-time at the hostel because we could all mess about and have fun. And when we performed at the Sage; I was nervous about speaking on stage but it was fun. I think Blackpool will be fun.'

Robert Fox, Chaperone and Honorary Compere Extraordinaire:

'I did once play my french horn at Bridlington Spa, which could seat 5,000, but being the only person on stage [at the Sage] was quite nerve-wracking!

I think the juniors were a real credit to the band. What was really good was the way that everybody worked together... I personally loved Joe Silsden's face. He was getting such a buzz out of playing percussion on that stage, I was captivated by his face because he was so happy. I think that's what summed it up for me, but the feedback from *everybody*, you know as you walked around... they were all talking about the youth band, after a whole day of Championship standard senior bands!

The other surreal experience for me - because I'm a bit of a brass band groupie, and I'm kind of overawed by the David Horsefields and other legends of the banding world - was walking into the gents' toilet and finding myself stood next to someone famous, or seeing them sat only a few seats away in the audience or just walking past with a cup of coffee. That, for me, was a really nice thing about that weekend: people I've heard of but never met, all mingling and enjoying the experience together.'

The band would like to say a huge THANK YOU for the many donations they received towards transport and accommodation costs for this event. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Introducing...

**Janice Davison—
Flugel Horn**

My playing career started in the local military band in my home town of Manurewa in New Zealand, playing Bb bass parts on clarinet when I was 12. After teaching myself on cornet, I was given a soprano one night, but didn't have formal lessons until my early twenties when I was put in touch with an extraordinary teacher by the name of Frank Rawbone of the Salvation Army. Under his tutelage, and rather a lot of input by Monsieur Arban, I won the title of National New Zealand Soprano Cornet Champion the next year. Unfortunately, that was 27 long years ago!

Frank continued to have a rather large influence on my life, as he returned to England a few years later, and I decided I wanted to go

This season Elland Silver Band welcomes two new players to its ranks in the Senior Band. Here they introduce themselves and describe their musical journeys prior to joining us...

too, to experience brass banding. I persuaded my then husband (didn't ask my baby son), and we arrived in England 23 years ago this November.

After a subsequent divorce, Frank even introduced me to my current husband, who had recently been divorced from Frank's daughter! Now I have dragged him up to Yorkshire to further my experience of music-making in the brass banding heartland. This time my son was able to give me his blessing, and he is now making his own way in his chosen musical style in the south of England.

Hardraw Scar Contest!

Sunday 12 September, Hawes, North Yorkshire

Elland Silver Youth Band are once again celebrating after another success at the famous Hardraw Scar Brass Band Contest.

A full crowd packed the natural amphitheatre to see the Juniors crowned winners of the contest's 4th and Ungraded Section for the second year running. They were also awarded "Best March" for their performance of *Mephistopheles* by Shipley Douglas, and 16-year-old trombonist Daniel Eddison scooped the "Best Soloist" prize for his rendition of *DL Blues*.

The band presented a varied programme of music featuring several of the band's younger players in

La Mourisque, followed by the trombone solo and then their march. The hymn tune *I Know Thou Art Mine* and finale *The Old Rugged Cross* were the icing on the cake, once more featuring the trombone section and Eb Bass.

The band has certainly had a momentous year, taking five first places in five contests, plus numerous other section and soloist awards: this triumph takes their haul to 16 trophies since January 2010!

The contest also marked the last official engagement for long-serving members Philip Varley (Principal Cornet) and Owen Hicks (Flugel Horn). Phil and Owen have

both been members of the band for the last 10 years and have been instrumental in the band's success. Owen is now studying Medicine at Cambridge and Phil is at Huddersfield Uni doing Engineering. The band wishes them every success with their future studies.

From the Adjudicator's comments:

"Tight ensemble, controlled sounds throughout band... Refined... Great tempo and rhythmic detail... Dynamics contrasted in fine style... Cornet shows flair... **Warm and rich sound for such a young band...** Stylish flugel horn... lovely relaxed feel for the music... A great finale to a terrific programme."

Our Youth and Training Bands are always open to new members aged 7+; for further info please contact Mrs. Kathleen Harrison, our Band Secretary (see page 4)

Janet Wiffen—2nd Trombone

I started playing trumpet at the age of 11. At that time the peripatetic teacher at Guiseley School was Wilfred Heaton. I didn't know until years later, but he was very involved in the brass band movement and I couldn't have had a better grounding. I was taken to many brass band concerts as a teenager, but my favourite was always Black Dyke Mills; my hero was of course Jim Shepherd, then principle cornet. The brass bands I listened to back then had quite an influence on me, as has been proved later in life. I joined Yeadon Old Band when I was 15 and continued for a time on 3rd cornet. For some reason I stopped playing once I began working: but we all do stupid things at that age!

Some 33 years later my family and I were invited to attend a concert given at Guiseley School, as my Mother had died and left some money in her will to Aireborough Soroptimists. They had decided the money should be given to Guiseley Music Centre, so in return the Centre offered to put on a concert for the Soroptimists. The money had gone to buying a tuba and some much needed music. My family sat on the front row and we listened to a short tribute given to my Mum before being entertained by various bands belonging to the music centre. Towards the end, the brass conductor told the audience that there was a spare trombone in the cupboard if anyone was interested; I decided to give it a go. The following Saturday I turned up for the trombone and a music lesson. That was 4 years ago: I have fallen in love with making music again, and it's good to be back in the saddle.

I'm enjoying playing trombone and have joined a wide range of groups and bands to gain experience. I have taken Associated Board Exams Grades 3, 4 and 5; I stopped at grade 5 because I wanted to concentrate on playing and not get too hung up on scales and arpeggios! At present I play with Otley Brass Band, and am a mentor for their training band, Wharfe Brass. I still attend Guiseley Music Centre on a Saturday morning for their concert band.

Didn't we have a Lover-ly Time The Day We Went to Buck House!

Thursday July 22nd 2010 - this was the momentous day that Elland Silver Band's MD James Shepherd, treasurer Kenneth Billington, Youth Band MD Samantha Harrison and secretary Kathleen Harrison had been looking forward to for weeks—a royal reception! Read on about this experience of a lifetime...

The sun shone on the highly-polished car—kindly arranged by Calderdale Community Transport—as it set off on the long road down to London.

The journey went very smoothly, thanks to our excellent driver, punctuated only by a stop for breakfast and another just outside London for a quick change of outfit. Jim and Ken both looked smart, the latter sporting his Elland Silver Band walking-out blazer, while Sam and Kath donned matching purple frocks. All that remained was to add a frilly hat worthy of the Queen herself before continuing on their way.

On arrival in London the car swept on down Constitution Hill to its designated disabled parking place—directly opposite Buckingham Palace! There were long queues of people, all dressed in their very finest: ladies in glamorous dresses and beautiful hats, men in smart suits, others wearing the uniforms of the various organisations they represented.

After the inevitable photo-shoot outside the famous golden gates, the party set off to join the rest of the crowds waiting to enter, but a word from Kath in one of the police officer's ears saw them put in their proper place: at the head of the queue, first through the gate!

At 2.50pm the gates finally opened. There were helpers ready and waiting inside and Ken was chuffed when one young man in a soldier's uniform came to assist him, telling him of the places where his tours of duty had taken him - even Afghanistan - while he steered Ken towards the gardens.

Awaiting them was a thrilling sight—hundreds of chairs and tables set out, staff waiting to serve, even a camera-man. Soon it was time to partake of the delicious afternoon tea. There was a variety of finger sandwiches and sweets, including little chocolate cakes with tiny crowns painted on, and all washed down with iced tea and fruit juice. Entertainment was provided by two military bands, so of course our quartet eagerly set to 'adjudicating' the performance. What a privilege to enjoy it sitting in the magnificent palace grounds!

Soon the Yeomen of the Guard, in their splendid uniforms, took to their posts around the grounds. At 4.00pm the National Anthem sounded and the Queen appeared, moving amongst the crowds—it was quite an emotional moment, bringing a tear to Ken's eye.

Once Her Majesty had passed by, the Elland party also moved on. Sam and Jim went off to visit the one room open to the public in the palace, returning awe-inspired by what they had seen: they said it was beautiful, and that they had also seen Michael Winner, the film director! There was also time for Jim to speak to one or two of the bandsmen and, lo and behold, he knew one of the lad's grandfathers—this brass band world is very small!

At 5.15pm the gang moved to line up, as directed, by the swimming pool for the return of the Royal Party. Alongside the Queen were the Duke of Kent, the Duke of York, and also the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester. Ken was absolutely thrilled when the Duke of Kent spoke to him, having noticed his Elland Silver Band badge—he asked



“Sam and Jim returned from exploring the palace awe-inspired, having just seen Michael Winner!”

Ken about being a musician before shaking his hand, an event Ken would talk about for a long time!

Meanwhile the Queen nodded and spoke to several of the disabled visitors. Then she unexpectedly approached Kathleen, asking how she had managed with her electric wheelchair on the gravel pathways. Taken aback, Kath was for once momentarily stuck for words - but then returned to form with a not altogether fitting response:

‘Very well Ma'm; I put it on ‘Tortoise’, then switch to ‘Hare’ and I'm off!’

Her Majesty nodded, then walked on to the next person, at which point Sam was heard to say, ‘Mother! I can't believe you said that!’ Kath was nevertheless thrilled with the encounter, a memorable end to a wonderful day.

So, there was another long journey to start on, back home to Yorkshire, though with plenty to discuss on the way, and for a long time afterwards too. As Kath can be heard to say, ‘Didn't you hear, we had a Lovely Time The Day We Went to Buckingham Palace!’

**The Bandroom
Dewsbury Road
Elland**

Interested in playing? Contact Kath (see p4) about coming along to a rehearsal...

Training Band & Beginners: Friday, 6.30– 7.30

Youth Band: Saturday Morning, 10-12

Senior Band: Monday & Thursday Evenings, 8-10

BAND CALENDAR

DATE	BAND	DESCRIPTION	VENUE	START/ FINISH
SUN 13 FEB	YOUTH	YOUTH ENTERTAINMENT CHAMPIONSHIPS	WINTER GARDENS, BLACKPOOL	ALL DAY
SUN 6 MAR	SENIOR	YORKSHIRE AREA CHAMPIONSHIP	ST GEORGE'S HALL, BRADFORD	TBC, AFTERNOON
SAT 12 MAR	ALL	PRESENTATION NIGHT & PARTY	RASTRICK BOWLING CLUB	TBC
SAT 19 MAR	SENIOR	EVENING CONCERT	TBC	TBC
SAT 26 MAR	YOUTH/TRAINING	MUSIC FOR YOUTH AUDITIONS	HEATH TRAINING CENTRE, H'FAX	TBC
SUN 10 APR	YOUTH	NATIONAL YOUTH BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS	RNCM, MANCHESTER	ALL DAY
SAT 30 APR	SENIOR	EVENING CONCERT	TBC	TBC
SUN 8 MAY	ALL WELCOME	ANNUAL SLOW MELODY	BANDROOM, ELLAND	10.30AM ONWARDS
SAT 14/21 MAY	SENIOR/YOUTH	CONCERT WITH SOLOIST	BRIGHOUSE CIVIC HALL	7.30PM
SUN 12 JUNE	SENIOR	PARK CONCERT	ILKLEY BANDSTAND	2.30-4.30PM
FRI 17 JUNE	SENIOR	WHIT FRIDAY MARCHES	SADDLEWORTH	3.00PM
SUN 19 JUNE	YOUTH/SENIOR	MARCH CONTEST	HEBDEN BRIDGE	AFTERNOON

MERCHANDISE

www.ellandsilverband.co.uk

Next time you're attending one of our many engagements, please take a look at our growing range of souvenir items, usually on offer during the interval. The most recent additions to the collection are a fabulous limited edition **Elland Silver Band Calendar** (nearly sold out so grab one fast!), which would make a perfect gift alongside our **newest recording**, *Breezin' Down Broadway!*

CDs (£10 each)

BREEZIN' DOWN BROADWAY
AND ALL THAT JAZZ
HARLEQUIN

DVDs (from £5 each)

ON STAGE - Hardraw Scar Contest, 2009; Todmorden Park concert; Birmingham Symphony Hall; Halifax Parish Church concert (1 hour)
THE ENTERTAINERS - Action Medical Research Entertainment Contest, Blackpool 2009 - 'Adventures at Sea' programme (45 mins)
CARMEN - Action Medical Research Entertainment Contest (winners), Blackpool 2010 - programme adapted from Bizet's opera (45 mins)
ADVENTURES IN BRASS - National Youth Brass Championships, Manchester 2010; selection from Salendine Nook concert (1 hour)
MASSED BRASS - Elland Senior Band together with Diggle Band, jointly conducted by Jim Shepherd, at Northowram Parish Church (1 hour)

All our DVDs are £5 each when purchased in person (from our bandroom during rehearsal or at any band event), OR £6 incl. P&P (from ellandbandmusic@hotmail.com)



Contact Details

For further information about Elland Silver Band - joining, supporting or booking us - please contact our Band Secretary:

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