

Derwent Valley Wind Band – Chairman's report 2009

The past 12 months have again seen the band continue the progress that we made during the past few years. It is encouraging that there continues to be new players joining the band and a number of players moved up from the training band during the year. It is encouraging to see players grow in confidence in the band and to come forward to take responsibility for solos. Overall the attendance at rehearsals has been very good.

The training band under the leadership of Kath Hoblyn has for the time being been stopped – there are a few reasons for this – the main one being that numbers were dropping and therefore Kath didn't feel it was justified to continue. If the demand is there for a training band we will review this and find some way of reinstating it.

The committee have met regularly during the year. As a committee we continue to review our procedures and we have tried sectional registers of attendance and I think this is the way forward and it is important that we get this working again.

With Kath Hoblyn leaving the band she has also left the committee. Kath worked hard for the band over a number of years on the committee and I would like to put on record my thanks on behalf of the band for this.

The band has played at a number of venues during the last year and has had very good response from our audiences. The Buxton performance was a highlight of the concert year. The Christmas concert was very well attended and there was some very supportive and encouraging feedback. We held our summer concert back at Ecclesbourne with wine and fruit juices at the interval which was well attended and enjoyed by both band and audience. Other highlights have been the concerts at Nottingham Arboretum and at Chatsworth in the summer.

The other very successful venture that we organised was the recording day which was well attended and the result was very encouraging. Special thanks to David again for getting such a good performance out of us and for capturing it so effectively.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to the band whether it be in turning up for rehearsals, setting up of equipment, transporting equipment to concerts, playing, conducting or being on the committee. We continue to be grateful for the work done by Peter Cowley in maintaining our website: www.dvwb.org.uk prior to its transition which is now finally imminent. I would like to give thanks to Mike Stanier and Tony Bowker for their continued support it is appreciated.

We would like to thank Jean Morton and Mike Morton for their help with sign up sheets, stands , etc.

Helen has continued to do a great job in organising the various concerts and again has been on the committee for a number of years. We expect that Helen will be stepping down from the committee at the start of next summer and we need some help in starting to move from Helen as concert organiser to a new person. Please don't assume that there will always be someone else to be on the committee – maybe its your turn?

Nick has done a good job for us again as treasurer and I would particularly like to thank him for his work in investigating the gift aid situation and in helping get the band registered for this.

Lat year we put up the finances and one of the changes that we have seen since September has been the introduction of a charge for the use of the room at Ecclesbourne in line with other

organisations using the facilities. Putting up the subscriptions, not paying for junior band conductor and the gift aid should balance this back out.

I would also like to thank David Curtiss who has managed to get some tremendous performances from us over the year – I know we all appreciate the work David does and the right balance he strikes in rehearsals.

I would like to thank all of the committee for their work this year.

We want the committee to represent your ideas and wishes as to the direction that the band should take and welcome all contributions and comments. The committee focus on the administrative and organisational aspects of keeping the band running whilst allowing David Curtiss as musical director to plan the repertoire.

There are still lots of things we can improve on – I have already mentioned the attendance register. Other things we need to be better at is in confirming attendance for concerts – this has sometimes caused problems with last minute withdrawals or just no shows on the day. We also continue to need a back up drummer – ideally this would be a member of the band playing another instrument and able to cover on drums if Sam is not able to make it.

Our continued progress and trying different things relies on people coming to join us on the committee and I would like to re-emphasise the importance of this

Tony Rawcliffe
Chairman
November 2009