

Ratby Co-operative Brass Band

Christmas 2007 Newsletter

Welcome to our latest edition – it's almost December already, and Ratby Bands are getting busy with the festive spirit! Read on to find out where your favourite bands will be over the Christmas period. We hope to see you soon.

Ratby Gets Youth and Junior Bands and a New Beginner Band for 2008

Our teaching goes from strength to strength, with a new band and an appeal for learners – read on to learn more.

The Youth Section of Ratby Co-operative Brass Band has done so well that we're forming an extra band! The current Youth Band will be re-named the **Junior Band**, and will continue to teach players of all ages whose ability is between Training and Mid Band levels.

And a new **Youth Band** will be created, limited to under 19's, with a plan to compete at the British Open Youth Band contest next year at Pontins, Prestatyn, conducted by Ratby Musical Director Michael Fowles.

The class of 2007 has moved up and on and now it's time for a new intake.

We're delighted to announce that not only has the **Beginner Band** got a grant for new instruments, but conductor Geoff Newman is looking for new learners too. He has around ten students already, but could take ten more. Do get in touch, even if you spoke to him earlier in the year, just to confirm your place.

Call Geoff on 0116 238 6954 for more details.

These are exciting times at Ratby, proving that the organisation's dedication to teaching and sharing music with youngsters and learners of all ages is really taking off. We wish every good luck to the Ratby Junior, Ratby Youth and the new Ratby Beginner Bands (and of course to the Ratby Mid and the Ratby Co-operative Brass Bands).

Concert Programme, 2007-08

1 Dec	6.00	Youth Section Carol Concert, Ratby	B/T/Y
2 Dec	6.00	All Saints Carol Concert, Somerby	S
7 Dec	7.30	John Brunt Concert, Kirby Muxloe	S
8 Dec	10.00	Carols at Glenfield Co-op Superstore	Y/T
9 Dec	2.00	Carols in the Park, Hollycroft, Hinckley	M
9 Dec	7.00	Band Christmas Concert, Desford	All
13 Dec	7.00	Carols at Beaumont Leys shopping centre	Y/T
14 Dec	7.00	Carol Concert, Kirby Muxloe	M
15 Dec	10.00	Carols at Marks & Spencer, Fosse Park	All
16 Dec	10.00	Carols around Ratby village	All
16 Dec	6.00	St Stephens Carol Concert, Ratby	Y
16 Dec	6.00	Blaby Baptist Chapel Carol Service	M
18 Dec	7.00	Carols at Beaumont Leys shopping centre	Y/T
20 Dec	8.00	Carols at the Black Horse, Aylestone	M
22 Dec	7.30	An Evening of Christmas Music, Ratby	M
23 Dec	11.00	Carols at Marks & Spencer, Fosse Park	All
12 Jan	7.30	New Year Concert, Ratby Church	S
9 Mar		Midland Regional Contests, Bedworth	M/S

B – Beginner, T – Training, Y – Youth, M – Mid, S – Senior Band
For more details, call **Malcolm Pounder** on **0116 238 6749**

The Christmas Season has already started with a bang at Ratby – the Senior Band recorded a Carol Concert in October for BBC Radio Leicester – and raised £1,018 for the Ruby Rainbows appeal into the bargain. Listen out for transmission dates to hear yourself singing along!

The must-sees in a busy December are the Youth Section **Carol Concert**, the Mid Band's "**Evening of Christmas Music**" and your chance to see all five bands on stage together at the **Band Christmas Concert** at Bosworth College, Desford. See left for dates, and (as ever) book your tickets through Malcolm Pounder, 0116 238 6749.

And of course don't forget that staple of New Year – the Senior Band's annual concert at Ratby Church on 12th Jan 2008.

Congratulations, Good Luck *and* Commiserations ...!

Congratulations to Mid Band player Julie Allsobrook on the birth of Erin Elizabeth (very well done!), and ...

Good luck to Mid Band player Melissa Clarke who is expecting a baby during the Christmas concert weekend (we'll be thinking of you!), but ...

Commiserations to Mid Band conductor Geoff Newman who is having to find replacement players for the interim!! No really – all **best wishes** to both families, and we look forward to welcoming new players into the fold!

The True Spirit of Ratby Band

This issue we wanted to give you some background on players with true Ratby spirit. First of all, a family affair with Jo Coulton, daughter Harriet and sister Sally. And then two rising stars – horn player Katey Sephton and trombone player Lizzie Trzcinska – who have been learning at Ratby, but both are off to pastures new :

Jo, Harriet and Sally

Sisters Joanne and Sally Coulton joined Ratby Senior Band in 1991 (Jo – percussion, Sally – cornet). Jo's highlight was winning the 1997 Area, and playing at Birmingham's Symphony Hall in the Finals. She took a break to have Harriet, and then twins Elizabeth and Victoria.

But in Ratby Band tradition, as soon as Harriett was 8 (same age as mummy) she followed into the Beginner Band playing Aunty Sally's cornet. Already promoted to the Training Band, Harriett is very proud to have played at the Centenary Concert at De Montfort Hall.

And Jo couldn't keep away either – she is now in the Mid Band, so they've played in four of the five Ratby Bands. Well done to both, and we look forward to welcoming Elizabeth and Victoria too in a few years.

Lizzie

I was 6 and absolutely fascinated by the trombone, so mum bought me a second hand one and got me lessons.

Within 8 weeks of learning to play, I was told about Ratby Brass Band, which sounded like good fun and a good opportunity, so I went for a trial and got in.

I had a brilliant time in the Training Band with Lyn, and looked forward to practices and concerts. I was promoted to Youth Band, with Becky. This was good fun and we were taken to brilliant places. Everyone was friendly and helpful, and I made a lot of friends.

Katey

I started playing the Cornet 12 years ago and as soon as there was a beginners class at band I joined.

At the grand old age of 7 I decided I wanted to play the biggest thing possible – the tuba !! But I couldn't pick one up let alone blow anything out of it so I was given a Tenor Horn and wouldn't give it back!

I've moved my way up through the bands, and my time with the Mid Band has been the most fun and enjoyable!!

Last September I went to Liverpool Hope University to do a degree in Design, specialising in jewellery. My campus specialises in creative and performing arts, so I intend to keep up my music. But as soon as terms finish, I will be back at home raring to come back and play, and hopefully there will still be a place for me !

After hard practice 2 years ago I was asked into the Mid Band. I was exceedingly happy and accepted straight away. But this year I was offered Leics Arts Wind Band place, a wonderful opportunity for me. It has a demanding schedule, I have extra school work but I don't want to let people down so I am reluctantly leaving Ratby.

It will be very sad to leave and I will miss it greatly, as it has been a large part of my life. But I look forward to reapplying to join Ratby band as soon as I can. I would like to thank everyone who was so kind and helpful towards me, and made my time at Ratby so enjoyable.

See you at the :

Youth Section Carol Concert, Ratby – 6 pm, 1st December
Band Christmas Concert, Desford – 7 pm, 9th December
Carols around Ratby village – 10 am, 16th December
St Stephens Carol Concert, Ratby Church – 6 pm, 16th December
An Evening of Christmas Music, Ratby Church – 7.30 pm, 22nd December
New Year Concert, Ratby Church – 7.30 pm, 12th January 2008

For more details, call Malcolm Pounder on 0116 238 6749