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Matthew Horne  
Vice Chairman Mark Harvey  
Secretary Andrew Norton  
Musical Director Nigel Cooper

Essex Police Band newsletter number 2

February 2016

#### EDITORS NOTES

2016 already?—It only seems a short while ago that I was thinking about the October newsletter! Anyway can I take this opportunity to wish you all a rather belated Happy New Year and hope that it brings all that you would wish for yourself and your families.

On behalf of the band I would like to thank all of you who supported us at our events during the last six months and it was a pleasure to speak with a number of you and get your feedback. We always welcome your comments on our programme content and performances so that we can continue to provide you with concerts that you enjoy. Our music library continues to grow and now has nearly 1,800 items in it and we hope that some of the newer purchases will find a place in your list of favourites along with the well established brass band standards that have stood the test of time.

I hope that those of you who are connected to the internet have visited our website: [www.essexpoliceband.org.uk](http://www.essexpoliceband.org.uk) and hopefully noticed that we now have a 'Reviews' button which will reveal reviews of our recent events. At the moment the majority of them are written by band members but we would very much like to include comments from members of our audiences, so come on all of you budding reviewers let me have your entry and I will do my best to get it included.

As many of you will know, this year the band celebrates it's 50th birthday and we shall be marking the occasion with a celebration dinner in March at which current members and many past members will be present. I will include some photographs and a report on the event in the next issue of Up Beat.

I mentioned in the last issue that you may be able to help us reduce our postage costs by receiving your Up Beat by email and if you can please let our Band Secretary, Andrew Norton know at [andrewnorton181@btinternet.com](mailto:andrewnorton181@btinternet.com)

#### EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

##### **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm**

Spring Concert with Vox Choir held at Crowstone St George's URC, Crowstone Road, Westcliff-on-Sea SS0 8LH

Tickets: £8 from [info@southendvox.com](mailto:info@southendvox.com)

##### **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June**

Doddinghurst Celebration for Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday

##### **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June**

Herongate Wood, Herongate

##### **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July**

Chelmsford Cathedral, Essex Police Choir

##### **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> July**

Royal Flower Show, Sandringham

Further information for these events will be published on our website as it becomes available.

## OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT HELD ON 21ST DECEMBER

'Twas the night before, the night before, the night before Christmas and not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse... Until the Essex Police Band started playing at their annual Christmas concert at the Marconi Social Club.

The first half featured a selection of famous film music starting with Troika and a March entitled, Aces High. The band then played a selection from Les Miserables, Nigel, our conductor, particularly enjoyed the film version (he might have mentioned this once or twice before...) followed by the beautiful theme tune from As Time Goes By, featuring Graham on Flugel. The next piece was a debut for us, Barbarian Horde from the film Gladiator - not good news for anyone on the front two rows, earplugs definitely needed! Bringing it a little more up to date the band also played highlights from the Disney phenomenon that is *Frozen*, not much chance of anyone building a snowman this Christmas though!

As always the second half was a little more relaxed and had more of a party atmosphere with the band donning some Christmas jumpers, tinsel, fairy lights and the traditional Christmas Sombrero! It included a range of traditional and not-so traditional Christmas music from a vocal arrangement of Silent Night featuring Wendy Norton to an audience sing-a-long with White Christmas. Other highlights included a bass trombone solo, Frosty the Snowman played by Andy Norton, Let it Snow, and my favorite, The Snowman.

I think I speak for most of the band and audience to say a great night was had by all and everyone left feeling a little more Christmassy than when they arrived.

Thank goodness we didn't have to clear up the party poppers and balloons before we went home!

The collection at the end of the evening was to raise money for the Essex Air Ambulance, a very worthy cause and the evening raised £400 to help with the running costs of this vital service.

*Emma Best - Tenor Horn*



## BRAINTREE ARTS CENTRE WITH BRAINTREE MALE VOICE CHOIR 5TH DECEMBER

Well-placed on the Arts Theatre stage, Nigel Cooper. MD of the Essex Police Band, quickly established a beautifully-modulated sound. T Jay Mackenzie's syncopated solo and Les Mis, in which percussion and the almost vocal bass section shone, revealed the musical visitors' scope.

The band's 2<sup>nd</sup> Set got the pulses racing and it was bass trombonist Andrew Norton's novelty number, Frosty The Snowman that stole the show. 3 choir members threatened to do the latter too, when they made very able contributions to an uplifting samba.

For me, the band's highlight was their sensitively played Wagner. Nigel prefaced it with a deserved tribute to BMVC'S long-serving accompanist, Hilary Morgan. Thomas Duchan, who has succeeded her, played throughout as if to the manner born.

Excellent timing, thoughtful programming and 2 carols sent the audience home very satisfied indeed.

*Pat Rudkins - Braintree & Witham Times*

## OTHER CONCERT REPORTS IN BRIEF

Once again the band performed fanfares and incidental music at the South Essex Campus Graduation Ceremony held on October 20th at The Cliffs Pavilion, Southend-on-Sea.

It was good to meet up again with the Gwent Police Choir who were guests with us at the Essex Police Choir's Annual Charity Concert held in Chelmsford Cathedral on 24th October.

The event was a sell out and the capacity audience certainly showed their appreciation of the excellent programme given by the band and both choirs. Items in the programme included Gwahoddiad performed by the male members of the choirs and Morte Christe joined by the ladies and band for the last chorus. The final item was a combined performance of Highland Cathedral together with two pipers from the Essex Caledonian Pipe Band and it received a standing ovation.

The band was invited to participate in a Remembrance Concert held at the Salvation Army Hadleigh Temple Corps on 7th November. It is an annual event that traditionally enjoys tremendous support and this year was no exception. A concert which included items by Hadleigh Temple Band, Songsters and ourselves was followed by a Drumhead Service which set an appropriate seal on a very moving occasion.

Another popular event in our calendar was the Great Waltham Church Festival of Trees which we have had great pleasure in attending over recent years and it was held on 28th November. It's always a great delight to see the various local groups giving their all to entertain a capacity crowd in the surroundings of their lovely Parish church and it must rate as one of the best family events of the year in the area.

*Rob Hall's review of this event can be seen on our website*

## A SILVER BUGLE TO MARK 50 GOLDEN YEARS WITH THE BAND

You may remember that in the last edition of Upbeat we mentioned that John Poston, one of our Founder Members was suffering with poor health and unfortunately he has been unable to take part in the band's activities since that time. On 3rd October his son held a party to celebrate John's 86th birthday and we took the opportunity to make a presentation to him of an engraved bugle. The inscription celebrates and marks his commitment to the band for what will be 50 years on 4th April this year as a founder member. John has now been made an associate member of the band and is always assured of a warm welcome if he is fit enough to attend practice at any time in the future.

The photo shows John with Band Secretary Andy Norton on the right and Michael Spalding on the left, both of whom are also long serving members of the band in our trombone section.



Up Beat edited by Ted Hawkes

Please send contributions for the newsletter by email to [ted@tedjac.plus.com](mailto:ted@tedjac.plus.com) or [andrewnorton181@btinternet.com](mailto:andrewnorton181@btinternet.com) or by hand to any band member



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