



Chairman Deputy Chief Constable
Matthew Horne
Vice Chairman Mark Harvey
Secretary Andrew Norton
Musical Director Keith Manners

Essex Police Band newsletter number 3

September 2016

EDITOR'S NOTES

2016 has been a year of changes for the band but I am happy to say that membership still remains as strong as ever. Our biggest challenge has been to face the withdrawal of funding by Essex Police which for reasons that I'm sure we all understand have made it necessary. It has meant that we have had to introduce member subscriptions for the first time in the band's 50 year history to help with our running costs. Income received from our booking fees helps to meet the majority of our annual expenses and we are pleased that the band still attracts good audiences at its concerts. We really appreciate the support we have been given in the past from you, the Friends of The Band, and we look forward to seeing you at some or indeed all of our events in future.

GOODBYE NIGEL

I am sure that all of our members and supporters have appreciated the commitment that Nigel has made to the band over the last 4 years. He has decided to leave us to pursue his ambitions in the world of brass band contesting and we wish him every success for the future.



Here is his farewell letter to the band:

It has sincerely been an absolute honour and privilege to be the MD of the band and wear the police uniform for the last 4 years. It is hard to believe that it is nearly 4 years (especially when I originally thought I'd only last 4 months!!) but I feel that this is the time for me to stop. I have been conducting 2 bands since before Christmas and this is becoming increasingly time consuming and draining and I wish to cut back while I am still enjoying conducting - I can't think of anything worse than a miserable MD. Additionally, with my new job, I am increasingly having to find other MDs when I can't conduct and this year I am unable to do Sandringham and the Garden Party, both of which I feel are key places for the band and the MD to be seen at.

I am intending to keep conducting the East of England Co-op Band through to the Championship Area Competition next year and the decision to do this instead of EPB was very hard but I have never made a secret of my interest in conducting in competitions (and my debut in March didn't put me off).

I want to thank you all for your incredible support throughout my time as MD
- it has been a real privilege

Nigel

AND WELCOME BACK KEITH

After a 4 year break Keith Manners is returning to take up his former position as our Musical Director. For those of you that do not know Keith a brief resume of his musical experience is as follows:



Keith's interest in music began at the age of 7 when he learned to play the Euphonium with the Salvation Army. As well as studying Cello and Organ and being a member of the Essex Youth Orchestra, Keith progressed through the Youth Band to become principal Euphonium and Soloist of the Southend Citadel Band and at the age of 17 was appointed conductor of the Youth Band.

For over eleven years Keith conducted bands at summer music schools in Anglia, Coventry, Kent, Essex as well as being guest conductor in schools across Europe where he was responsible for the training of young people in brass playing

In 1984 Keith relinquished his position as Principle Euphonium of the Southend Citadel Band to "take up the baton" as Bandmaster, a position he held for over 30 years.

Membership of brass bands includes 5 years as a member of the Household Troops Band and 10 years as a member of the International Staff Band, the Salvation Army's premier brass band. During this time he visited many countries including Europe and the USA. Concert work in this country has included annual festivals at the Royal Albert Hall, Royal Festival Hall and two memorable occasions when he was privileged to meet the Queen at Buckingham Palace.

As well as being Musical Director for a number of musicals, Keith has composed and arranged a large number of brass and vocal compositions many of which have been published.

Keith was previously Director of Music of the Essex Police Band for nearly 10 years and returns to take up the baton again in September 2016.

Essex Police Band 50th Anniversary Dinner

1966 is well documented for several notable events including something to do with a World Cup. A lesser known but other notable event was the formation of the Essex Police Band. Therefore this year is the bands 50th Anniversary.

This is a memorable event worth celebrating for many reasons, firstly the lasting friendships and longevity of the band but also worthy of celebration is the foresight of the original members and the formation of a band which although supported by Essex Police has also remained independent. This independence and plain speaking constitution has led to what we have today, a cohesive and friendly band with solid memberships and commitment.

On Friday 4th March 2016 current and former members of the Band assembled for a dinner and dance at the Channels Golf Club at Little Waltham nr Chelmsford.

Over 70 attended which included founding members, John Poston and Mick Spalding with John Waddington unable to attend. Former Musical Directors, Bob Coxon and Keith Manners were also present and Bob had an added bonus in that the music on the night was provided by a North Essex ensemble known as The Sweeting Swing Band. Many of the members of this group were taught by Bob and in his history he has performed with many of them. Nigel Cooper the current Musical Director was also in attendance and owing to his wife being unwell his daughter kindly stepped in and escorted her father bringing added glamour to the party.

The Chief Constable Stephen Kavanagh kindly found the time to attend and his presence was greatly welcomed by the band and indicates the continuing support that the Band continues to enjoy from its association with representing Essex Police. A former Chief Constable and avid supporter of the band, Sir Robert Bunyard also attended and it was pleasing to see that he still holds the band and its members in high regard.

Unusually for such a large scale catering event the food was excellent and the attention and coordination by the staff in getting the food out in a timely manner added to the overall success of the night.

Andy Norton the Band Secretary gave a speech that was perfectly timed and appropriate. He of course made reference to Paul Webb who is his arch Nemesis on the Baritone section or is that Blofeld from the Bond Movies. He thanked past and present members for their contributions to the Band and thanked the Chief Constable for his continued support.

One of the evening's highlights for my wife was witnessing Mick Spalding dancing. We suspected that he did have a Michael Flatley hiding in there somewhere but she noted that he was actually not bad.

The wine flowed and a convivial atmosphere meant that the night rushed by, before we all knew it midnight was approaching. The Sweeting Brass played a selection of music much of which mirrored our own repertoire. This familiarity with the music and the musical ability of their Vocalists added to the overall ambience.

The smiles on faces and the meeting of old friends brought the evening to a close on what can only be described as a complete success and testament to the ethos of the Essex Police Band, friendship.

Mark Harvey (Vice Chairman)



Congratulations Lisa and Graham

The happy couple pictured here on their wedding day in May. Imagine the surprised look on their faces when they discovered that they had both had the same idea for a wedding present to each other.... a new cornet for Lisa and Flugel for Graham.

Rumour has it that the Flugel will never play flat so Lisa will be keen to find out how it stands up to what may be the ultimate challenge!

We all wish you both a very happy future together and that you always stay in tune with each other.

Dates For Your Diary

September

Sunday 4th

Castle Park Bandstand,
Colchester playing 3-5pm

December

Saturday 3rd

Christmas Tree Festival,
Great Waltham Parish
Church
Starts at 7.30pm

Monday 19th

Band Christmas Concert,
Marconi Club, Beehive
Lane, Chelmsford
At 7.30pm

Please visit our website to keep up to date
with the current Events Diary page

Up Beat edited by Ted Hawkes

Please send contributions for the newsletter by email to
ted@tedjac.plus.com or andrewnorton181@btinternet.com
or by hand to any band member



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