

Dates for your diary

Day / Date	Event	Time
Saturday 12th November	Remembrance Concert, Bedworth Civic Hall	7pm
Sunday 13th November	Remembrance Day Parade, Wigston	From 10am
Thursday 15th December (provisional date)	Christmas Concert—St Thomas' Church (TBC)	7:45pm
Sunday 18th December	Shearsby Church	6pm
For up to date details please visit our band websites: www.wigstonbrassband.com		

Got an event coming up and would like some musical entertainment?

Feel free to contact The Wigston Band to see what we can do for you! With competitive rates, high quality musicians and a wide repertoire of music you are sure not to be disappointed!

The Last Word...

"If you're not going forwards, then you are going backwards—there's no such thing as standing still!"
Words of wisdom by Garry Sleath



THE WIGSTON BAND
Registered Charity No. 1126781
THE WIGSTON ENTERPRISE BAND



Registered Charity No. 1126781
THE WIGSTON HORIZON BAND



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Email: wigstonbrassband@gmail.com

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Horizon Bands:
0116 2716993
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Contact the Website and
Bum Notes:

0116 2780195
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Bum Notes

A Fond Farewell...

This autumn The Wigston Band are wishing our Musical Director and friend, Garry Sleath a fond farewell on his retirement.

After 18 years as MD Garry has decided it is time to put his baton away and spend more time exploring the world and spending time with his family.



Garry always knows how to get what he wants from the band!

The band has had difficult times to overcome, but also many successes—with Garry at the helm we always knew things would work out in the end! A highlight of the band's time under Garry's leadership must be the times when the band made it to the National Finals in 2005 and 2013. Garry is the only conductor in the band's history to take the

band to 2 National Finals and the first since 1970! This achievement in itself proves the wonderful musicality, skill and passion that Garry has for both music and the success of The Wigston Band.

When speaking to the past and current members of the band they all spoke fondly and often amusedly of their memories of times with Garry. Our principal euphonium, Dave Harrold was very keen to remind me of the time when he was asked to play a ridiculously difficult solo and even though he had a very understandable negative reaction, Garry just responded with "Well I knew you liked a challenge!" Garry was always



Pleased to qualify for The Finals!

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A quick mopping up is essential!

striving to encourage and ensure the members of the band we stretching themselves and improving.

Back in 2011, Garry's

hard work leading the band, but also finding members and players for jobs was given the recognition it truly deserved when Garry was voted the 'Bands Person of the Year'. Garry was rather shocked but also flattered to be given this award as he never really considered before that it could be given to a non-playing member of the band! I know the band will miss the effort put in by Garry (lets hope the front row wont get their sweat shower anymore!) as well as his insistence that we strive for perfection in everything we played.

A key concert in The Wigston Band's calendar for a few years now has been the remembrance

concert at Bedworth Civic Hall each November. Each year, this proves to be a very exhausting yet enjoyable night for Garry who conducts both The Wigston Band and Hinckley Area Schools Orchestra. This year the concert is to be held on Saturday 12th November and Garry has decided that this is

to be his grande finale with The Wigston Band. We would like a spectacular audience for Garry's final outing with the band, so



A true bandsman!

contact Bedworth Civic Hall (024 7637 6707) to watch this momentous part of the band's and Garry's history.



Garry did have hair...once upon a time!

The Wigston Band would like to thank Garry Sleath for all of his support, perseverance and commitment to all members. We wish him very happy and restful retirement. We will fondly miss him but he certainly deserves it!

n Brewery

Guest Reporter: Matt Davis

extract from a piece called Glorifico Aeternam, Latin for Eternal Glory, which is just how Leicester City's triumph will be remembered! The hard work the band put in paid off, as they too took home a third place finish!

However, the stars of the show were left until last. Sporting their own Leicester City theme, the Horizon Band gave a performance that will remain in the memories of all who saw it for a long time! Not content with playing some of their favourite pieces, such as the Grand Old Duke of York, the hymn Eudoxia, and Rockship, to a really high standard, they showed their other talents. Everyone got a chance to announce one of the pieces, and some danced, marched, and blasted off from space. Highlights included Harry doing the robot and breakdancing, and Rhiannon surprising everyone with her committed performance as

the ghost, even spooking the adjudicators. Luckily Abi, who was refereeing the performers whilst Pat kept everything smooth on stage, sent the ghost off before there was too much trouble! This excellent performance couldn't be ignored, and the adjudicators did something unprecedented. Enterprise and Horizon have had a monopoly on the most promising player prize since its introduction at Wood Farm, but in an exciting move, the whole Horizon Band gained most promising player! Fantastic news for the whole band and they enjoyed deciding how to split the pencil and bottle of valve oil provided by the trade stand!



Overall, all three bands did the organisation proud, and came away with really promising results, and everybody had a good day out, especially those who got to sample the guest brass band ales on offer! We're already looking forward to our return trip next year!

Woodfarm

We were lucky to have all three of our bands taking part in this year's Wood Farm Brewery contest in May, and each did the band proud, coming away with one prize or another!

The first band on stage in the whole day were the Enterprise Band. After opening the contest in the traditional way with the National Anthem (also a handy way to warm up and get used to playing outside again after a long winter!) the band got into their programme. The band chose to play a wide range of



music, from the traditional march, hymn, and Luke's excellently performed (despite some stand issues)

trombone solo The Acrobat, to modern film, jazz and pop music, rounding off with their version of God Only Knows. An exciting and varied performance was enjoyed by the audience, and managed to beat some tough and competition, gaining a

brilliant third place finish!

There was a long gap now before the next of our bands took to the stage, giving those involved across the organisation plenty of time to listen to the competition, and enjoy the relaxed atmosphere at the contest! Everyone had lots of chance to play with all of the Enterprise member's dogs who had come along!

In the afternoon, the Senior Band had their turn. Taking a Leicester City theme, on the day they lifted the Premiership trophy, this could have backfired, as later on we discovered the adjudicators supported some of Leicester's rivals! Nonetheless, draped in City scarves and carrying their "clappers", the Senior Band began with the appropriately named Champions march. Nick's bass trombone solo followed Luke in being excellently performed and battling against the music stand, followed by the Senior Band's version of God Only Knows (the third time in the day the song had been heard, in its 50th anniversary) The programme was rounded off with an

Another Sad Farewell...

In the same week Garry announced he was to leave the band, our assistant musical director Colin was appointed to become the assistant musical director of Ratby Band, with responsibilities for the mid band and leading some senior band rehearsals in their organisation.

Colin has been a great member of the Wigston Band for nearly ten years, playing on first Baritone, and for the last few years, taking up the assistant M.D. role with the band. Colin has taken the band in both rehearsals and performances when Garry has been unavailable, as well as being a second opinion for Garry on musical matters when he has wanted to discuss them. Alongside this, he has taken many of the sectional rehearsals prior to contests, getting each part of the band to work as a strong unit.

Colin has long held ambitions to have his own band to



Colin Jones (centre) alongside senior band members

take, and to become a conductor, and we at the Wigston Band are glad for him that he has been able to find the right position, even if we are sad to see him go and lose someone of his quality both playing and as assistant M.D. We would like to place on record our huge thanks to Colin for his hard work and dedication to the band, and wish him the best of luck in his new role!

Guest Reporter: Matt Davis

Garry's last job with the band... pop along
and send him out in style!



200 CLUB

Here are the results from the recent 200 Club draws. Well done to all of the winners!

	1st Prize	2nd Prize
June	D. Spray (061)	C. Jones (085)
July	M. Hughes (114)	P. Hing (086)
August	Enterprise Band (060)	D. Spray (080)

To be in with the chance of winning some fantastic cash prizes, email Dave Spray for details about joining the 200 Club: wigstonbrassband@gmail.com

Notes from the Editor

Firstly I would like to apologise for the huge gap between issues of Bum Notes this year! I have been studying for a Masters in Education at Leicester University which means I haven't found the time to write up all our band news in between 10,000 word assignments! But, it is all done for now so normal service can be resumed! I would just like to thank Matt Davis for being our guest reporter in this addition to make sure all of the important news could get to you as soon as we could!

Secondly the band is going through a very exciting transition at the moment so if you know someone who would like to be a part of it then let us know!

If you would like to be added to the email list, then please email Abi at: wigstonbrassband@gmail.com



Ray Cunnington 1933 – 2016

It is with great sadness that I announce the passing of Ray Cunnington.

Ray was a stalwart in the brass banding world in the Midlands. He started playing in the Salvation Army as a boy then went on to play with City of Leicester. He then joined the Wigston Band and played with them for over 30 years. He was secretary for over 20 years and also mentored many young players taking them all over the Midlands competing in solo and quartet contests.

Ray worked tirelessly for the Leicestershire Brass Band Association where he was chairman for many years. He also served on the Midlands Area Committee. He attended British Federation Brass Bands meetings.

One of Ray's favourite jobs at contests was in the registration room with his wife Pat. Ray liked this job as he could speak to all the players and offered many a comforting word to both young and older players just before they played on stage. One of his last jobs in the band world was as section controller at Butlins Mineworkers Contest. He travelled from his home in Truro to Skegness to cover this brass band task!

Ray retired to Cornwall where he then went on to play with St Column Band until ill health stopped him. Ray sadly suffered from ill health for some time, he passed away in his sleep. He now joins his wife Pat who passed away 11 years ago. Ray leaves a daughter Jane who has carried on his role at Butlins.

A memorial service will be held at All Saints Church Wigston Magna on October 14th at 11.00. Ray requested no flowers but donations be made to The Wigston Band.



Squeezed into South Wigston Congregational Church. This also happened to be the final concert The Wigston Band would perform on home turf under MD Garry Sleath before his retirement.

The Wigston Band is always looking for new members or different concerts to play at. If you are interesting in joining our organisation or would like to find out more about the musical entertainment we can provide you then feel free to contact us!



Contact The Wigston Band Organisation

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www.wigstonbrassband.com

A Summer of Fun!

Guest Reporter: Matt Davis

The Wigston Band has always been lucky to take part in many wonderful summer performances, and this year was no different!

Our earliest summer job was in mid-June. Enterprise and Horizon have performed at the University of Leicester Botanic Gardens in the past, and now it was the senior band's turn! It was for a very special occasion too, and the band (and indeed the whole country) were celebrating the Queen's ninetieth birthday. A packed crowd had brought their fold up chairs, picnic blankets and hampers along, and whilst Alex got his marquee ready with the rest of the trombone section just in case (also providing plenty of pre-concert entertainment for the audience, and the rest of the band) the rain held off and the early evening sun shined on the band! The first half featured numbers from our successful Wood Farm programme amongst others, whilst the second half contained many patriotic favourites, including Crown Imperial and Dambusters, before a chance to get the vocal chords going in a proms-

style singalong! The band have looked forward to going to Melton Park for many years now, as, come rain or shine, there is always an audience there to support us! This year was no different, even if the weather couldn't decide what it was planning to do anyway! A slight hiccup did seem to have happened before we began, as Paul, band librarian, responsible for all of our music and bringing any for our guest players at performances, realised there was one pad missing – his own! Fortunately there were copies of his music that he could see off and read, so at least that didn't become a problem!

A new and exciting place for the band to play was at Twycross Zoo! Our stage was set between the monkeys and the lorikeets, the appreciative audience enjoyed the range of music we played. Pieces that we performed especially for the occasion included parts of the Carnival of the Animals, and as we expected a younger audience there, we had to perform our Frozen medley! The band played

exceptionally well, despite the weather conditions, with such heavy wind that the musical medley "Breezin' Down Broadway" may well have become "Gales Down Broadway!" Putting the band next to the lorikeets certainly kept the birds entertained, as every time the band struck up, so did a loud if tuneful chorus of birdsong!

The next day, the Wigston Band returned to the beautiful Hollycroft Park in Hinckley, with one of the largest Bandstands/Stages you're likely to find! Even though we had performed at Twycross the day before, playing three sets instead of our usual two, anybody who attended both would have seen the range of music that we can both play and have ready, as we performed many pieces not heard at Twycross Zoo, including several parts of the Carnival of the Animals, the beautiful I'll Walk with God, and Dave's impressive and at times humorous (see his face after his very lowest notes!) solo of Believe Me If All Those Endearing Young

Charms! The audience certainly seemed to appreciate what we had to offer. The band had a great time playing all sorts of different pieces across the two days, and indeed the whole summer!

Moving on into the Autumn, The Band enjoyed playing 'at home' at South Wigston Congregational Church. It was interesting trying to squeeze the full compliment of players between the organ and pews but we managed it just about! The audience loved a wide range of music including a horn feature from Disney's Hercules played by Matt, Abi and Rachel. As well as this, Matt Davis' arrangement of 'God Only Knows' got another outing—we think this is firmly becoming one of Garry's favourite pieces!

Make sure you keep an eye on our diary pages and website to see what upcoming concerts you can come to soon!