



ABERGAVENNY BOROUGH BAND

Registered Charity No. 512871

ANNUAL REPORT 2010

President Ray Hill

Chairman: Andrew Richards

Musical Director: Dave Griffiths

Treasurer: Philip Bull

Secretary: Gareth Havard

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Abergavenny Borough Band (Jan 2011)

1. FOREWORD – Mayor of Abergavenny Cllr. Norma Watkins

During my Mayoral Year I have had the pleasure of listening to the Borough Band on a number of occasions. Always they are professional, well groomed; prompt, polite and most importantly they are melodic and easy on the ear.

No wonder they are in demand. They play on a number of occasions for the Town Council throughout the year and are always supportive to us. The Town Council tries to reciprocate with some financial support on occasions and attending their performances when possible.

I am always impressed by the Junior Band; they are enthusiastic and have real talent. It is amazing to see the numbers of children and young people interested in playing with the Band. Long may it continue? There is a plethora of talent in both Bands.



*Cllr. Norma Watkins,
Mayor of Abergavenny*

The "Band" has become a real "institution" in this town - one that is always welcomed anywhere, anytime. Long may you continue to play and provide the pleasure you do for people. May the Borough Band/Town Council association continue and flourish ever further.

Norma Watkins
Mayor of Abergavenny

2. INTRODUCTION – Chairman Mr Andrew Richards

2010 has been a year of great change for the band and it is a credit to all members that we have continued to deliver our usual programme of events, social occasions and contests throughout. It is a vibrant and progressive organisation with members of all ages enjoying playing and learning music together.

The future of the Band lies with its young players and it is pleasing to see so many joining the band in 2010. The band is committed to developing its junior players and sees this investment of time and resources as vital to the future success and sustainability of the organisation. It is also pleasing to provide so many youngsters with a rewarding and worthwhile pastime, and in some cases, career.



Junior Band Tutor, Lana Tingay

The Youth Band Tutor is Lana Tingay supported by some members of the senior band who give their time freely to coach and pass on their knowledge and expertise in playing brass band music. I would like to thank all concerned for their hard work and dedication in giving our youngsters such a valuable skill.

The Senior Band has seen many changes this year with three players of many years service leaving us. We were sorry to say goodbye to husband and wife team Karen Harris (Cornet) and Jason Harris (principal Euphonium), and Lea Jones (cornet) who was also our librarian. These have been core members of the band for many years and we wish them well.

Other players with fewer years service but who have made valuable contributions to the band have also left; principal cornet Tim Baldwin and percussionist Jess Bowman, Tuba player Dave Meredith and wife Cheryl (Tenor Horn) and Terry Prosser who played BBb Tuba. The Band wishes all our former players well in their new bands.

The band has also seen a change of Musical Director with Gareth Ritter deciding to relinquish the position after three years. Originally taking the band temporarily for contests in 2008, Gareth soon became established as our MD and brought his own inimitable style to the role. His flair for choreographing our concerts took the band into the realms of the “Big Band” sound and introduced new musical experiences with vacuum cleaners, song and dance, and overall showmanship. Gareth was also responsible for the production of our first CD recording “Abercadabra” and a follow up Christmas CD with both Senior and Junior bands.



Musical Director, Dave Griffiths

So the band set about finding a new Musical Director and attracted several applications for the position. During the lengthy selection process we were helped by several guest conductors for the contests and concerts of 2010; Paul Holland, Steve Sykes, Jeff Jones and our own Lana Tingay. Eventually though we arrived at a decision and Dave Griffiths was appointed Musical Director taking the band to a creditable 3rd prize in his first contest at Ammanford.

In 2010 we also welcomed new players to the senior band; Principal Euphonium Heather McDown, Principal Cornet Glen Philp and percussionist Rachel Hayward. The band is actively recruiting for additional cornet and tuba players in 2011.

Such a busy organisation needs the skills and dedication of good Trustees to manage its affairs and organise the many events and competitions we engage in. I am very grateful to all our Trustees for their support for me this year and, on behalf of all our members, for the personal time and hard work each puts into the Band.

With over 2,000 items of music in our library it is essential that they are kept in good order. The band is very grateful to Gene Dullea for volunteering to take on the role of librarian in 2010.

I would also like to extend the Band’s thanks to our Town Council and the people of Abergavenny for their support in 2010. We are proud of our unique tradition as the “Town Band” and look forward to supporting and representing Abergavenny in 2011.



Band Chairman, Andrew Richards

Our band continues in its tradition of being a valued and vibrant community organisation and a committed constituent of the Wales and UK Brass Band World. We look forward to continuing that tradition in the years to come. The real measure of our success lies not in silver cups and shields but rather in the growth of our membership, our contribution to the education of players and our value to the community we serve. This annual report will demonstrate that Abergavenny Borough Band is indeed a thriving and successful community organisation.

3. GOVERNANCE

3.1 The Abergavenny Borough Band (The Band) is an Unincorporated Association of members. It is governed by its constitution (dated July 2008).

3.2 In accordance with its constitution, the Band elects at its Annual General meeting, a management committee of Charity Trustees (the Committee) to manage the affairs of the Band for the forthcoming year.

3.3 The Committee has the power to co-opt in year to any vacancies and for any particular skills it requires for the effective management of the organisation.

3.4 The Committee meets monthly.

3.5 In 2010 the elected members of the Committee were:-

Mr Andrew Richards (Chairman)	Mrs Sharon Havard
Mr Gareth Havard (Secretary)	Mrs Diane Mogford
Mr Philip Bull (Treasurer)	Miss Jacqui Llewellyn
Mr David Mogford (Vice-Chairman)	Mr Colin Roberts
Mr Geraint Thomas (Band Manager)	Mrs Julia Aldous (<i>co-opted in year</i>)

3.6 The Band holds an Annual General meeting each year at which the Financial Report, Auditors Statement and Officers reports are presented and the Auditors appointed for the year.

3.7 The band operates a training band (mostly under 18yrs) under the direction of Lana Tingay. Other members of the senior band participate in coaching the training band members; Mr Colin Roberts, Mr Andrew Richards and Mrs Julia Aldous.

All tutors have CRB checks and the Band has a child protection policy in place. Lana Tingay is the Bands Child Protection officer and undertook child protection training through the NSPCC in 2010.

3.8 Holding Trustees

The property of the Band is vested in four Holding Trustees. These are:-

Mr Eric Powell
Mr Ken Hayward
Mr David Mogford
Mr Andrew Richards

4. PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

The stated objects of the Band are to educate the public in the Arts and Sciences, and in particular, the art and science of music, by the presentation of concerts and other activities.

Membership of the Band is open to all sections of the community and we have an active junior section for the training and education in music of young people. Junior membership is open to all under the age of 18yrs.

Beneficiaries include members of the public, local businesses, clubs, societies and schools.

5. OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES

The Band in 2010 participated in many events within the Borough of Abergavenny including; civic parades and functions, performances in the local parks, concerts and engagements with other local societies. The Band also participates in contests in S E Wales and other areas for the benefit of all members for the advancement of musical skills and expertise.

The Band also undertook several fundraising activities throughout the year which included street collections, paid engagements and fundraising concerts.

The Band launched its new website in 2010. www.abergavennyboroughband.org.uk

6. ACHIEVEMENTS

- Our Junior and Youth Bands -



Some of our beginners- just starting out in the brass band world

The greatest success of the youth band in 2010 has been our continued growth, especially through the large number of new recruits who joined us in September. Our ties with the local music support service enabled us to access many primary school children who were starting lessons on brass instruments. A special new beginner class was established and was attended by 17 students in the first week! And it has continued to grow. We are delighted that we now have more than 40 players who are either under 18 years old or are adult learners. Several new instruments have been purchased to help accommodate our swelling ranks.

The junior band had many opportunities to play in the local community during 2010. Highlights included a summer concert at Llanvihangel Crucorney Church, a hog roast for the Abergavenny Soroptimist Society and appearances at the senior band's summer and Christmas concerts.

The annual Greater Gwent Solos, Quartets and Ensembles competition took place in June. We fielded players in many categories, featuring particularly strongly in the quartets and ensembles sections.



Some members of the Junior Band

Although only one of our entrants finished on the podium in the solo categories, the number and quality of young entrants that we fielded bodes very well for the future. In the quartets and ensembles classes our youngsters came away with a huge haul of prizes, winning almost every category.

There was more ensemble success at the Abergavenny Eisteddfod when our quartet *Only Brass R Loud* took first prize in the 15-and-under instrumental group category. They were then invited to play at the gala concert in the Borough Theatre as one of the four best acts in the youth eisteddfod. The quartet also provided the entertainment for the Mayor of Torfaen's Civic Reception in September.

Our young players have continued to represent us in various ensembles both locally and nationally. The band is very well represented in the Greater Gwent Youth Brass Band, Intermediate Brass Band and various other music service ensembles. At a national level Emily Humphries and Evan Roberts took part in the annual National Children's Brass Band course and concert at Nottingham in July. Emily subsequently entered and passed auditions for both the National Youth Brass Band of Wales and the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain and will attend the summer courses of both bands during 2011.

Many of the region's youth bands were subjected to inspections by the Gwent Music Support Service during the year. The inspector's report on Abergavenny contained nothing but praise and we remain proud of our reputation as one of the best youth bands in the Greater Gwent area. The youth band now enjoys the support of several dedicated tutors from the senior band and is sure to go from strength to strength in 2011.

- The Senior Band -

The Band entered five contests in 2010 finishing 9th in Porthcawl, 5th in the regional contest at Swansea, 7th at Ebbw Vale and 3rd in Ammanford.

The highlight of the year was the visit to Menorca at Easter. The first Welsh Brass Band to visit the island we played in a tiny church, at two parades on Good Friday and Easter Sunday, on a cruise around Mahon harbour on a glass bottomed catamaran, on an island and at a private house where lemons and oranges grew in the orchard. And not only that, on Easter Sunday, Band Secretary Gareth Havard and his wife Sharon were granted the rare privilege of an audience with the Bishop of Menorca who gave God's blessing to all in the 'Gateway to Wales.' A total of 46 players, family members and supporters of the Band left Abergavenny to fly to Menorca in the Balearic Islands during the Easter break.

September 11th 2010 saw the Abergavenny Borough Bands Annual Dinner held at the King of Prussia, Abergavenny. The evening was well attended and the band formally welcomed new MD Dave Griffiths. Tributes were also paid to the Junior Band for their hard work during the year, and to Lana Tingay for the hard work she put into the Bands trip to Menorca this year. This was indeed a memorable and successful event for the band and one which took an enormous amount of time and effort to organise.



Emily Humphries & Richard Ward play a duet in Menorca

There were three awards on the evening.

Bandsman of the year (voted for by the band members) was awarded to Lana Tingay.

Young Player of the year was shared between Evan Roberts and Christian Dullea.

The Band was also pleased to acknowledge Jacqui Llewellyn's 30 years service to the Band with a long service award.

The Annual Concert was a great success and the band welcomed guest conductor and former Flugel player, Jeff Jones. Also joining us on stage was compere David Hayward and guest artiste Elizabeth Tiley. The concert theme was a night at the movies and the band performed a wide selection of themes and music from the "big screen" culminating in the theme from Zulu with narration from David Hayward.



Gilwern School Choir

was a sellout at Abergavenny's Borough Theatre. The audience enjoyed a rich programme of festive music from the band but the show was stolen by the wonderful performances from the children from the choir and the junior band.

The band played at several concerts during the year including a summer wedding at the beautiful Glanusk estate in Crickhowell, Abergavenny Steam Rally, at the Brewery Yard, the Mayors installation and civic parade, the annual festival of remembrance in Ebbw Vale and parade in Abergavenny.

Gilwern School Choir joined the band for the annual Christmas concert in December which

7. NEW INSTRUMENT APPEAL

In 2009 the band launched an appeal to raise funds to replace many of its older and less serviceable instruments. So far we have been able to purchase two refurbished Baritones and a refurbished Euphonium and two new York BBb tubas, a new Prestige Euphonium and a new Yamaha Flugel Horn. Several new instruments have also purchased for the youth band including a compact BBb Tuba, Baritones, Horns and Cornets.

Since its launch the appeal has raised over £26,000 and will continue in 2011 when it is hoped we will replace the EEb Tubas and Horns.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Band wishes to thank the following organisations for their valued support in 2010.

The Mayor and Town Councillors, Abergavenny Town Council
Trustees of The Jane Hodge Foundation
The Oakdale Trust
William & Christine Eynon charity
Ty Cerdd

9. PLANS FOR 2011

The Band intends to intensify its efforts to fundraise in order to undertake instrument repairs and replacements and for the refurbishment of the Band Room.

The band is committed to contesting and will enter the Wales Association competitions, regional competitions as well as those in other areas. We will encourage the further development of the youth band, individual young players and engage with young people through our concerts and functions.



Back: Evan Roberts, Emily Humphries – Front: Glen Philp, Diane Mogford