



Stourport-on-Severn Band Buddies

Buddy Bulletin 5

February 2018

Happy new year to all of our Band Buddies!

Lots of news to catch up on since the last bulletin, especially exciting news this weekend! SoSBB



Internationally famous musician, Dr Bob Childs visits Stourport band

Stourport-on-Severn Brass Band was privileged to welcome the internationally celebrated musician and conductor, Dr Bob Childs to a rehearsal and tutorial on Saturday 3rd February.

Having recently been promoted to the Second Section of the Midlands Brass Band Championships, SOSBB has been preparing for the Area contest in March. Then a chance meeting at a family wedding recently brought one of the band's players and Bob together and when an invitation was extended for him to come along to a rehearsal, he accepted.

The day at Stourport began with a morning's rehearsal where Bob shared his expertise to advise the band on various aspects of its musical performance. The afternoon involved a musical tutorial where the band put down their instruments and Bob picked up his euphonium, demonstrating various techniques and exercises for players to take into their daily practice, to improve their own abilities.

With experience of leading the world's most famous bands, Bob's response when asked how he found Stourport Band was inspiring. He commented: "I really enjoyed the day. I enjoyed working on a piece where the band has already done the hard work, know their piece well and we can talk about adding style and 'that something' that takes music to the next level. I particularly enjoyed working with Oli and sharing conducting skills. Stourport is a great, friendly band that made me very welcome."

Reflecting on the day, Oli Wilson, Musical Director at Stourport Band added: "What a great start to 2018. It was a delight and privilege to welcome Bob to our rehearsal. I am very proud of the band, who rose



to the occasion. We all took so much learning from the day and for Bob to share knowledge and anecdotes about his unique career was truly tremendous. This was a day in Stourport band's history that we will never forget."

Robert Childs (Bob) was born in the small Welsh village of

Crickhowell and joined his first band, Crosskeys Silver, aged 9. Moving to Tredegar Town Band shortly



afterwards, Bob won a coveted place in the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain, where in the summer of 1974 he met his future wife, Lorraine Hartley. Bob's playing took him to the post of solo euphonium at Tredegar Band, whilst at that time, working by day at the Ebbw Vale Steel Works. Robert joined the GUS footwear band and in 1977, was asked to join the famous Grimethorpe Colliery Band on solo euphonium. This was a first stepping stone to a long career of playing, conducting and teaching, writing and adjudicating, which took him around the globe with the most famous bands in the world, including Brighouse and Rastrick Band, Cory Band and Black Dyke Mills Band. Bob currently teaches at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff.



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Hello to all of our Band Buddies!

Further updates since Christmas.

SoSBB

Concert dates for your diary in 2018

It's only February but we already have quite a full calendar for 2018. Here are some dates for your diary:



Sunday 11 March: All Day
Midlands Area Championships

Saturday 9 June: 7.00 pm
Concert, Civic Centre, Stourport with
St John's Primary School

Saturday 17 June: 2pm—4pm
Concert at Droitwich Lido Park

Saturday 7 July: Times to follow
Persore Midsummer Festival of Brass

Saturday 14 July: 8pm—10pm
St Kenelm's Day, Romsley

Sunday 15 July: 2.30pm—4.30pm
Concert, Stourport Riverside Bandstand

Saturday 2 September: 2.30pm-4.30pm
Bandstand, Priory Park, Malvern

Saturday 22 September: 7.30 pm
Concert at Civic Centre, Stourport with
Cradley Heath Male Voice Choir

Saturday 27 October: Times to follow
Wychavon Festival of Brass

Saturday 11 November
Lighting of the Beacon, Clent

Further details will be available in future
Buddy Bulletins—or check out our
website: www.stourportband.co.uk/
events

Christmas Concerts

Our Christmas concerts and events were concluded with the fabulous concert at the Civic Centre, Stourport with Stourport Choral. With the usual appearance of our busy festive friendly Santa with gifts for the children, a programme filled with Christmas favourites from *White Christmas* to an unusual version of '12 Days of Christmas', a great evening was had by all.



Band Awards

For a number of years, the band has recognised the SOSBB 'Band Player of the Year', appreciated for making the greatest contribution to the band musically or in other ways. For the year 2017, Oli Wilson, Musical Director announced the recipient as Adrian Mackwell, recognising his wealth of banding experience that he has shared with the band, musical ability and stamina.

Oli also announced a new award this year: 'Most improved player', for the player who has made the biggest musical strides and most effort to improve. Recognising his warm smile, drive to encourage those around him as well as flexibility to take on a new part and perform well, the successful recipient of this new award is David Alcock (pictured). Well done to both players!



Contact details

If you would like to book the band for an event, please contact us at: secretary@stourportband.co.uk
For more information about our Band Buddies scheme, please contact us at: buddies@stourportband.co.uk

We look forward to seeing you at our future performances.

