

The Hetton Silver Band

HISTORY OF THE BAND

The Hetton Silver Band, in its present form, was founded on 1st April 1887. Over the years the Band has had many successes. In 1994 they were Third Section winners of the National Mineworkers Championships held in the Winter Gardens, Blackpool. Also, in the same year they were Third Section winners of the Camerons' sponsored Brass Band Competition held in Hartlepool.

From 1994 to the present day, the Band has been under the baton of the very well known and highly respected local Musical Director, Mr G Kitto MBE and competes at many local and national competitions in the Third Section of the Brass Band League.

The Band has recently been awarded a grant from the Arts Council of England which is supported by National Lottery. The grant was for £44025.00 and will enable the Band to fully equip it's Members with brand new instruments. This has been fantastic news for the Band as the majority of the instruments being played today are over 25 years old, and many are in need of replacement.

Through the success of the Lottery Grant the Band is currently able to offer several individuals the opportunity to learn to play and join the Band. At each rehearsal the young musicians and beginners are given the opportunity to learn the art of playing a Brass Instrument. On many occasions they can be seen performing in local concerts and contests alongside the Senior Band Members.

The Band's Committee is currently working on a project which enable their Rehearsal Building's facilities to be improved. In particular the Building is to be made completely accessible and have facilities which cater for people who are wheelchair users. With money raised from the Band's concerts during 1999, and pending a successful application for a grant from the Foundation For Sport and the Arts, the Band hopes to achieve this goal early in the year 2000.

The Band hopes to carry on attracting people who would like to learn to play, or who simply would like to just come along and listen. If you would like to learn to play a brass instrument or you can already play and would like to consider becoming a Member of the Band, then please approach any Senior Member who will provide you with further information. Alternatively you can contact the Band's Secretary, Julie Buckingham on telephone number 0191 5260892.

The Band's rehearsal building is situated in South Market Street, Hetton-le-Hole. The Senior Band rehearses every Thursday evening from 7.30pm until 9.15pm, and every Sunday morning from 10.30am until 12.00 midday.

Since this article was written the Band's Rehearsal Building has been dismantled and transported to Beamish Museum where it will at some time in the future be re-built as part of the Museum's 1913 town.