

Multi-talents auctioned for voluntary groups

COUNCILLORS and officials are rolling up their sleeves after volunteering their services in the name of charity. Arun leader Gill Brown will be in the driving seat as a chauffeur, chief executive Ian Sumnall will help his tree surgeon son clear up a garden, and council chairman Graham Tyler will cook a meal for a guest at his home.

Many others volunteered their time to be auctioned off at Mr Tyler's civic celebration on Sunday, at the Shoreline Conference Centre, Bognor Regis. More than 250 people attended, including councillors, community leaders from across West Sussex, and Arun Council for Voluntary service members, and £1,250 was raised by the auction of talents, to be divided by voluntary groups across the district.

Mr Tyler is championing the role of volunteers during his year in office and the event was organised to celebrate the vital role volunteers play in the community and all the good things happening within Arun district. He asked people to donate their time instead of money, to underline the value of volunteering.

Councillor Mark Butler was auctioneer for the afternoon, which also featured music from the Arun Young Musicians' Festival players, and a Last Night of the Proms - style concert by the 34 piece Littlehampton Concert Band, who donated their time free of charge for the event.

As printed in the Littlehampton Gazette on Thursday, November 1, 2007



Last Night(s) of Proms with pomp and patriotism

Union Jacks were waved vigorously in the capacity audiences as Littlehampton Concert Band staged not one, but two Last Night of the Proms concerts at the Windmill Entertainment Centre.

Both audiences were treated to a wide selection of music the first half of the concert, including pieces from Disney's Anastasia, a selection of tunes by George Gershwin and an unusual work by Jay Bocook describing musically the events of Pearl Harbour, called At Dawn They Slept.

Steve Winter, a music teacher at Littlehampton Community School, showed off his talent on the trombone as he performed the jazz standard, Misty, from memory. Equally entertaining were the clarinettists who donned sombreros for an exciting piece, Mexican Holiday.

After the interval, everyone enjoyed the traditional fun and atmosphere of the proms, as Bridget Pyle led the singing for the traditional pieces such as Jerusalem and I Vow to Thee My Country, with the audience also in fine voice.

Sir Henry Wood's Fantasia on British Sea Songs was the highlight, featuring the individuality of French Horn player, Ian Rainger. Laura King then impressed with her unique take on the famous clarinet cadenza, in which she improvised various TV themes.

The finale, Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1, saw both audiences on their feet, waving flags furiously and singing along to Land of Hope and Glory. There's another chance to see the concert on Saturday, October 13 at East Preston Village Hall. Tickets are on sale from Hedgers newsagents.

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New Date

LITTLEHAMPTON Concert Band's Last Night of the Proms concert will play a second evening after tickets sold out days after they went on sale.

This popular annual concert, to be performed this year on September 15, will now also show the night before at the same venue, The Windmill Entertainment Centre.

The band's musical director Bob Haselip said: "To sell out this early is unprecedented. This is such a special concert for us and it is great that so many people enjoy it. Putting on a second performance will hopefully ensure that no one is disappointed and even give other people the chance to experience the fantastic proms atmosphere."

Anyone interested in booking tickets, £7, should call the Windmill box office on 01903 722224.

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Special Birthday hits the right note

Music was no problem at a special party as Littlehampton Concert Band celebrated its 19th birthday. To celebrate the occasion, the band held a free concert at the Woodland Centre in Rustington for 150 people. New items, such as Philip Sparke's Yorkshire Overture, were mixed with traditional favourites and the band also played a variety of more modern music, including a medley of Queen songs.

Tunes from the musicals Grease and Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat ensured that Saturday night television shows were not missed. Marilyn Mulcock played a Telemann Sonata on the treble recorder and the two youngest members of the group, Alex Barnes and Tim Pickering, performed a saxophone duet.

Alex also picked up the band's Young Player award, the Squires Cup, for his talents with trumpet and saxophone, both of which he plays in the band. The award was originally donated by Arun councillor Tony Squires at the previous birthday concert to encourage and award excellence for young players.

The band's secretary, Jill Wellman, was the recipient on the second award of the evening, for her outstanding contribution to the overall running and organisation of the group. This award is in memory of trumpeter Dave Clifton and was presented to Jill by his widow Pat Clifton.

With two student sound engineers from Surrey University recording the performances, the evening was completed with a fast, furious and somewhat unusual version of the cancan, which had the audience on their feet and cheering for more.

The band's next performance will be at a Caribbean evening in one of Littlehampton's twin towns, Durmersheim in Germany, at the end of May.

Pictured, Alex Barnes receives the Young Player award from the band's musical director Bob Haselip.

As printed in the Littlehampton Gazette on Thursday, May 31, 2007

Bands' explosion of sound

What sort of music warms the cockles of your heart, gives you goose-pimples, tingles your spine or stirs the hairs on the back of your neck? Could it be Grand Opera such as Verdi or Wagner? The great Broadway show-stoppers perhaps? Or maybe the timeless anthems encountered at the Royal Albert Hall, Wembley, Glastonbury and the like?

Whatever your personal preferences, you need go no further afield than Worthing's wonderful Assembly Hall to experience all these and more. Three of our highly prized local concert bands, based in Bognor Littlehampton and Adur, provided a well-balanced programme involving more than 100 amateur musicians of all ages in the Massed Bands Extravaganza 2007.

This was the fourth such annual event, which each band organising whole show in turn - no mean undertaking! This year, Adur Band, with its charismatic conductor and MC Andrew Burchfield, chose to vary the format slightly, with each band taking the stage separately, joining together in proper formation only for the massed items.

The large audience was treated to a massive explosion of sound right from the start, with Carl Orff's gigantic Fortuna Imperatrix Mundi (aka O Fortuna) threatening to raise the roof of the Assembly Hall. Bognor Regis Band, with Andrew's twin brother Howard at the helm, then took over and entertained us royally with Ron Goodwin's Tall Ships and the well-known Fiddler on the Roof selection.

Littlehampton's Bob Haselip directed Philip Sparke's superb Tameside Overture, followed by a riveting performance of Peter Graham's toe-tapping Gaelforce. Adur Band triumphantly closed the first half with more popular items such as Guys and Dolls, Dixieland Jam (featuring some excellent jazz soloists) and the theme from Batman!

After a necessarily extended interval, the massed bands returned to fill the entire second half with some wonderful classic: Where Eagles Dare, In the Miller Mood (which intriguingly included Verdi's Anvil Chorus), Lloyd Webber's emotionally-charged Phantom of the Opera, the Dam Busters and one of Elgar's stirring Pomp and Circumstance marches.

Sadly, this was not the one with Land of Hope and Glory (could this be a contender for the 2012 Olympics?) where the whole audience could have joined in - but then, the roof might have been seriously in jeopardy!

No band concert in this area is complete without Sussex by the Sea, and here the audience did join in, with singing, toe-tapping and clapping, and enhanced the overwhelming feel-good factor experienced by all concerned. - Marilyn Dennis.

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Great mass production when bands combine

Musicians from Littlehampton Concert Band will be among more than 100 taking part in a Massed Bands Extravaganza next Saturday, February 24, at Worthing's Assembly Hall. The concert, which starts at 7:30pm, will also feature the musical talents of Adur Concert Band and Bognor Regis Concert Band.

A concert band is basically an orchestra in which all the string instruments have been replaced with enlarged clarinet and saxophone sections in a style that developed from military bands. Now in its fourth year, the extravaganza is seen by many as a highlight of the year for amateur musicians and will include many well-known numbers from films and stage shows.

The bands will be under the batons of twin brothers Andrew and Howard Burchfield, conductors of Adur and Bognor concert bands respectively, and Bob Haselip conductor of the Littlehampton Concert Band.

Tickets, £7, can be booked from the box office on 01903 206206.

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