

Got a story, poem, report or announcement about any creative skill? Contact Anthea Beaumont, Tel. (01793) 762517 or e-mail: antheabeaumont@tiscali.co.uk



HSB Christmas 2007 concert at Gorse Hill

Highworth Silver Band – 153 years old and still going strong

Established in 1855 as the Highworth Odd Fellows Band with five founder members, the band's first engagement was on the 12th May 1856 at Hannington for a peace demonstration – possibly in connection with the end of the Crimean War.

The band was able to keep going through the Second World War when rehearsals were held in the upper rooms of the Fishes Inn in Highworth. In 1960 the band bought new uniforms from Burtons at £10.00 per uniform (now just a jacket costs £275!).

In June 1964 the band purchased the Wesleyan Chapel as a rehearsal room which ended the band's long association with the Fishes Inn. Four years later, in 1968, Bill Gray took over as bandmaster. He had been associated with Highworth Silver Band since 1947 and in December 2007 the band celebrated with him his 60 years as a bandsman when Bill mentioned that he had not missed playing at a remembrance service in his 60 years of playing.

The band is continuing successfully with currently 25 members playing at Swindon Town Gardens, village fetes and other occasions. The ages of the band range from 24 years to 77 years and they rehearse at the Wesleyan Chapel every Thursday evening from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. Any interested players are welcome to attend any rehearsals, especially trombone and percussion players.

Band secretary Allan Williams has been playing cornet with the Silver Band for just three years,

having returned after a break of 48 years. Call him on (01793) 782194 if you are interested in becoming a band member, or if you would like the band to play at a function you are planning such as a wedding or a birthday celebration. The band is always happy to perform at events, for a reasonable fee.

Writers wanted!

Highworth Link is keen to publish poems and short stories by local writers. Get in touch with Anthea.

A night to remember

The audience who attended the Highworth Choral Society Spring Concert on 26th April enjoyed an evening of superb music with extracts from Karl Jenkins' deservedly popular choral suite, 'The Armed Man' and John Rutter's 'Requiem'. As a grand finale the choir sang the Hallelujah chorus from Handel's 'Messiah' – this time without the background of fireworks! Undoubtedly the star of the evening was Louise Lloyd, the soprano soloist. Louise started in music at the age of four with the Kentwood School of Music and was a student at Warneford School before going on to New College Swindon. After studying at the Birmingham Conservatoire she is now doing postgraduate studies at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. She has a developing career in opera, including roles for the British Youth Opera and Longborough Opera. Last April she sang in Symphony Hall, Birmingham, with the Canoldir Male Voice Choir. She has sung with the Choral Society before: in the European premiere of 'Misa Cubana' in 2003 and in Haydn's Nelson Mass last year.