

Friends of

Spring 2023

Seindorf Beaumaris Band

And we're back ...

It has been a while since the last newsletter was published and so this is a longer-than-usual edition so we can catch up on the last 3 years. The interruption was due to the pandemic and lockdowns, but as you will read in the News Catchup the Youth and the Senior Bands kept on going and have had considerable successes. The Youth band are National Performance Champions and the Senior band have risen from Section 3 to competing in Section 1. The Junior band have a new intake of enthusiastic young musicians and the Intermediate band is going from strength to strength.

Sadly the pandemic prevented Seindorf Beaumaris Band's centenary celebrations in 2021, a great shame as there is certainly much to remember and cheer over such a long and illustrious history. This is the oldest photo the band has - if you can put a name to any of these bandsmen or if you have anything that might be of interest, please let the band know.



Seindorf Beaumaris Band 1921

Another serious effect of the COVID interruption has been the effect on the bands', and indeed the Friends', fundraising activities. The success of the bands rests upon the stalwart efforts of the whole Seindorf Beaumaris Band extended 'family' which raises the funds to keep such an important local resource going. The bands are planning various fundraising events and we hope to continue to have your valuable support. We want to widen the circle by recruiting more Friends and resume fundraising, supporting and publicising activities. Meanwhile, thank you to all current Friends for your continuing support.

Fundraising is so important because while the bands' activities were curtailed over recent years, unavoidable expenses continued. The opportunity was taken for some much needed repairs, carried out on the band room in 2021 and 2022, some of it structural and urgent.

Forthcoming Events:

Saturday 29th April 2023 10.30 am – 12.30 pm
Coffee Morning
Organised by Junior and Intermediate bands
Beaumaris Town Hall

Friday 19th May 2023 7.30 pm
Concert by Beaumaris Senior Band
Bulkley Hotel

Friday 26th May 7.30 pm (time TBC)
Beaumaris Festival Concert
Canolfan Beaumaris

Friday 7th July 2023 7.00 pm
Summer Bingo
Bandroom Beaumaris

Saturday 15th July 7.30 pm
Summer concert – all bands
Canolfan Beaumaris

New website

To help the Friends spread news of the band, support it and raise funds, we now have our own website: www.friendsofbeaumarisband.org.uk

We will still produce Newsletters periodically but news will be published on the website first, news of the band but also about the Friends as well, and if you become a 'subscriber' you will be able to comment and add to the news yourself. The website will also have a complete list of the band engagement schedule, an archive of older news and copies of previous newsletters. Something we hope will become a great help to the Friends is a specific list of band-supporting or fundraising activities with a 'sign-up' facility so we all can see where we can help the most.

It is early days in the website's development but please have a look, and contact us for a login to become a subscriber.

Band News

Congratulations



March has seen two successful competition performances by the Senior and Youth Bands. On the 18th the Senior Band came second in the Welsh Region First Section competition in Swansea, qualifying the band to compete in the National Brass Band Championships in September.

The following weekend saw the Youth band triumphing in Stockport, where they became British Champions in the Performance Section of the National Youth Brass Band Championships of Great Britain, with Osian Maloney being awarded the best soloist award.

Norwegian Visit

Gwyn Evans, former Musical Director of Seindorf Beaumaris Band, is bringing his Youth Band from Norway to visit us in Beaumaris in June. Dates and

details of when you can see and hear them will be published in due course, but it is safe to say it will be wonderful to see Gwyn again and enjoy hearing his band play.

Junior Band Recruitment

In the News Catch-up we note that recently four young former members of Seindorf Beaumaris Band were at the Albert Hall competing as members of some very prestigious bands. Beaumaris does a fantastic job of introducing young people to music making and developing their talents, and it all starts with the Junior Band.

The Junior Band is doing well but there are empty seats and room for many more members. Please spread the word and encourage young children to come and have a go. We know what wonderful things they can experience.

News Catch-up

The Covid 19 lockdown interrupted the Bands' activities and the activities of the Friends of The Band. Despite this, quite a lot has happened since the last newsletter ...

2020

Back before the pandemic stopped the world in its tracks, Bari Gwilliam took over the reins as Senior Band Musical Director at the beginning of 2020 and the band promptly won the Third Section of the Welsh Championships in Swansea. According to the adjudicator, "Beaumaris was in a class of its own". Katherine Gaunt won the instrumentalist prize on the baritone.



Section 3 winners at Swansea 2020

This success followed on from great success at the North Wales Solo and Ensemble contest where band members (junior to senior) won twelve prizes and Beaumaris won Band of the Day.

Sadly the Lockdown prevented the Youth Band from displaying their talents in the European Championships in Lithuania.

In August 400 members of 31 choirs and 13 brass bands took part in the "Pont y Glaw" project for the Eisteddfod AmGen creating one piece of music over Zoom, coordinated from the Beaumaris Band studio (see [links](#) on Facebook and Friends website). Rehearsals also resumed in the summer, socially distanced on Beaumaris Green,

but continuing lockdown restrictions meant that only Bari could represent the band on Remembrance Sunday and there was no Christmas Concert in December. However, a wonderfully moving and entertaining film, "Fred's Christmas" recalled previous concerts. (<https://www.facebook.com/beaumarisband/videos/784170305774741>)



Social Distance on the Green

2021

After the 3rd (and last?) lockdown, socially distanced rehearsals resumed *again* in May, in the Church, Canolfan and school. This was to good effect as at the end of May, the Senior Band won Section 3 of the 'Whit Friday Marches' virtual contest, organised by Foden's band.

In August there were successes at the National Eisteddfod 2021 with wins in Sections 2 & 3. This was followed by the Senior Band achieving second place in the National Championships in Cheltenham, securing promotion to the Second Section.



Cheltenham 2021

Once again the Christmas Concert was cancelled due to too many band members succumbing to Covid. However virtual recordings were made of all the bands' performances (*see various links on FB*).

It had been a busy year; 3 concerts, 3 parades, several coffee mornings and countless events, 2 Second Section wins and then promotion at the National Championships. Congratulations to all involved!

2022

The Senior Band started the year fantastically well by becoming Second Section Champions in the Regional Championship competition held in Swansea.



Swansea 2022

Back at home, in early May the bands came together to march out for the first time since Lockdowns began, proudly leading the town Beating the Bounds. And another post-lockdown first was the Summer Concert in July, much enjoyed by all.

July also saw the band going from strength to strength, winning Section Two in the National Eisteddfod. Further success with a third place in Section Two at the National Brass Band Championships in Cheltenham, meant promotion to the First Section 2023.

It was great to see four ex-Baumaris members playing in the National Finals in the Albert Hall for other bands.

At the end of the year, bands enthusiastically came together at the fireworks and the first live Christmas Concert for three years, as well as the normal Carols around the town and Anglesey.



Carols in Llangoed



A busy 2022