

Winter 2023

Friends of Seindorf Beaumaris Band

Season's Greetings!

2023 has been a full year of events, with Beaumaris's Senior and Youth bands excelling at the National Eisteddfod and National Brass Band competitions. The town also enjoyed Seindorf Beaumaris Band's return to the Beaumaris Festival with a well-chosen and entertaining programme, and we also welcomed a visit by a special visitor from Norway.

In addition to making music, all the bands have played their part in various fundraising activities: Wine & Cheese, Cawl a Chên, Bingo, Craft Fairs. A big 'Thank you' to all who were able to attend any of them. A priority goal for the New Year is to raise sufficient funds to send the Youth Band to Palanga, Lithuania in Spring next year. As National Champions they will be representing Wales at the European Youth Brass Band Championships. A fantastic and deserved achievement, enabled by all those who support the Beaumaris Band family.

The 'Friends' are an important part of that support, and this year we have covered the repair costs of instruments including 2 Bb Basses (a four-figure sum that the band could not have otherwise afforded).

It was great to welcome in June friends from Norway as former Musical Director Gwyn Evans returned to the town with the *Tanager-Haland & Dysjaland Skolerkorps*. The band played in the castle before joining the Beaumaris Youth Band on Castle Square. The day ended with some games on the Green and a barbecue at the bandroom ... and for once, the rain stayed away!



Bands' News

Senior Band – by Musical Director Bari Gwiliam

The band has had a remarkable journey since April. From noteworthy contest achievements to captivating concerts, our musicians have showcased their talents with passion and dedication.

Contest results:

Eisteddfod Open Section: We are thrilled to announce our success in the Eisteddfod Open Section, securing an impressive 3rd place in both the joint championship and 1st section.

Forthcoming Events in December:

Gwe 8th & Sad 9th - 7.00pm – Canolfan Beaumaris Christmas Concert

Mon 11th – 7.30pm – Bangor Cathedral Emergency Services Carol Service - *Senior*

Thurs 14th – *Time TBC* - Llanfairpwll Carol Service - *Senior*

15th – 11-1pm approx. – Around Beaumaris Carols – *LSW-plus*

16th 6pm – Yacht Club, Beaumaris Carols - *Senior & Youth*

Sun 17th – 4.15pm – Llandegfan Church Carol Service - *LSW-plus*

Fri 22nd – *Time TBC* - Amlwch Port Carols - *Senior, Youth & LSW*

Bands will also be playing carols in Henllys Care Home and various shopping venues in the run up to Christmas.

National Finals of Great Britain: The journey continued at the National Finals, where our band shone in the 1st section, securing yet another 3rd place. Congratulations to all our talented musicians for their hard work and commitment.

Our musical journey extended beyond contests, with a series of mesmerizing concerts that left audiences enchanted.



We were delighted to be invited to participate in the Beaumaris Festival in May. That concert was followed by our own Summer concert in July and in October the Senior Band performed at the Isle of Anglesey Sports Awards, and we are proud to be providing music for the Emergency Services Carol Service on 11th December at Bangor Cathedral. (see *Forthcoming Events*)



Exciting plans are already in motion for 2024: In January we will be working with the Castle Players for their Pantomime Performance. March will see a Fundraising Concert in aid of the Youth Band's international competition in Palanga, Lithuania. We will again be performing at the Beaumaris Festival Concert in May.

A special shout-out to some of our outstanding musicians:

- Andy (BBb Bass) and Enfys (Bass Trombone): Your flexibility and dedication

in moving instruments for a recent contest truly make you proper Banders!

- Iestyn (Euphonium): Stepping up to the challenge, moving from the youth band to the senior band just before the finals, and delivering a remarkable duet in the test piece—well done!

Youth Band – from conductor Peter Cowlshaw

We are very proud to have won the National Championships in Stockport in May, where Osian Maloney also won the Soloist Award. Huge congratulations to his special achievement and all our young musicians.



The band repeated this success in August, winning the Youth Band competition at the National Eisteddfod. As Welsh Champions the band will now represent Wales at the European Championships in Palanga in Lithuania next spring.



Osian Maloney also excelled at the Urdd Eisteddfod winning the Brass Solo Yr 10 & Under 19 competition with his extraordinary 'Carnival of Venice'.

At the North Wales Rally in November in addition to winning our section our players won four other trophies: Soloist, Percussion Section, Youngest Player and Best Hymn.

The Bands' Annual Awards were presented at the Summer Concert and we congratulate our young players on their success.

- Ray Brimecombe Award (Bandsman of the Year) - **Olivia Parry**
- Ruth Gwilliam Award (Most Improved Player) - **Sam Lindenbaum**
- Liz Howe Memorial Bursary - **Iestyn Seirio**



We look forward to a very busy 2024 with lots of fundraising to help us get to Lithuania, plus weekend workshops with professional mentors to help us represent Wales the best we can.

Junior and Intermediate Bands – by Conductor Maggie Evans

Both bands have been busy every month, with a break for August only.

In April both bands performed at a fundraising Coffee Morning at the Beaumaris Town Hall. It was a fantastic event, the hall was absolutely packed and everyone had a great time.



Congratulations to Sam Lindenbaum on winning the Brass solo at the Eisteddfod in May – a fantastic achievement. Congratulations also to Jemima Reeves for making it through to the National Eisteddfod in the same competition. The band are very proud of you!



In June the Intermediate band entered their **very first competition** at the Newtown March and Hymn contest. They only had five rehearsals to work on the pieces but their performance on the day was outstanding and they received the first prize award, so well deserved. They played a march and a hymn and two pieces from the Charlie and the Chocolate Factory film – Oompa Loompa and Candy Man. The adjudicator really enjoyed the performance and said 'the band really enjoyed themselves and it was an enjoyable programme'.



The Junior and Intermediate bands played at the annual Summer concert in July. They all work very hard in rehearsal and are a credit to Seindorf Beaumaris Band. The audience really loved seeing and listening to the junior band's programme, most of the band are under 8 years old but you wouldn't think so to hear them!

The audience also enjoyed the intermediate band's programme which had a surprise guest whilst playing the Doctor Who theme tune – yes, it was a life size Dalek that tried to exterminate a few people, lucky it only sprayed water, ha!

To finish off a very successful term the Junior and Intermediate band enjoyed a BBQ at the bandroom as a thank you for all their hard work!

September saw the start of a new term and new recruits. Most of the junior band have now moved up to the Intermediate Band and some of the

Intermediate Band have moved up to the Youth Band, it's so nice to see this progression.

The Junior Band have recruited **22 new players** which is absolutely brilliant. They have never played an instrument before but if you attend the band Christmas concert this year you will be in for a huge surprise.



In November, the intermediate band were proud to march with the Senior band at the Remembrance Sunday parade. It's a difficult thing to march AND play an instrument so the band concentrated on the marching this year. Hopefully next year they will be marching AND playing!

Both bands are now working hard on their programmes for the Christmas Concert. Hope to see you there!!



LSW

The LSW have had a good year as well. Along with the Intermediate Band, the LSW competed in the 'Marching and Hymn' competition in Newtown, winning the 'Unregistered Band' section. In early November they also won at the North Wales Rally in Ruthin. Admittedly, they were the only band in their section but Conductor Fred Evans was delighted with their performance! There was a double accolade as Nia Maloney won the unregistered Soloist Award, matching her son Osian's Soloist Award in the Youth section at the same event.



The LSW supported Beaumaris and the Band by providing traffic marshals at both the Mayor's and Remembrance Parades, with other (more lively!) LSW members marching.

The LSW mostly play for the sheer pleasure of it, but they also help with fundraising, running a Bingo Night and helping out at other bands' events.

The LSW have very recently been invited by the BBC to perform some carols live on Radio Cymru's 'Caryl' programme on 15th December! The show is presented by well-known Welsh singer, composer and broadcaster, Caryl Parry Jones, and is broadcast between 9.00 pm - 12.00 midnight.

Friends' website

Don't forget to visit the Friends of Seindorf Beaumaris Band's own website, where you will find up to date news and diary dates.

www.friendsofbeaumarisband.org.uk

