

Judith Potter's Scrapbook

brass banding memories in the Forest of Dean



Yvonne Smith (Lydbrook Band) & Judith Potter (Cinderford Band) c. 1959

**compiled by
Gavin Holman
May 2019**

Judith Potter appeared on the brass band scene around 1949 when, at the age of six, she gave a cornet solo at the annual supper of Coleford Town Band. The band's conductor, Evan A. Jones, taught Judith, and her grandfather, H. Poulton, was one of the pioneers of Coleford Band.

She lived with her parents, Mr & Mrs E.G. Potter at Lyndale, Berry Hill, Coleford. Her father worked in the local mines.

The press cuttings of this event, together with many others covering her time with bands up to the early 1960s, are pasted into her scrapbook. She was a member of the National Youth Brass Band between 1956 and 1962, and played cornet with Coleford Band, Berry Hill Band, and eventually becoming principal cornet of Cinderford Town Band, leading them, at age 19, when they qualified for and competed at the National Brass Band Championships, Championship Section Final at the Royal Albert Hall on 20th October 1962. Conducted by Cecil Chappell, and drawn number 12, they were sadly not placed – the honours that year going to the CWS (Manchester) Band.

She had impressed the correspondent reporting on the earlier West of England Championships at Bristol in May 1962, which qualified the band for the Finals:

“...Two points behind came Cinderford, who after being twice unplaced, have become the first Forest of Dean band to win the right to mix it with the mighty on the great Albert Hall platform. Associated with this performance was one of the highlights of the contest – the girl, the cornet and the mute. A study in nonchalance, I call it. Playing principal cornet was the girl sitting there with one nyloned-leg stretched out to the rung of the chair in front, charming us with her faultless playing, but what gave us the ‘willies’ was her attitude to the mute, placed beside her, on the floor. Then, while others groped about, our lady of the cornet, knowing precisely where it was, calmly and gracefully slipped the bell of her cornet over the pointed end of the mute and up it came, then down again to the same position. Would she miss it the second time? No, not a chance – the repetition was just as confident. I conclude these remarks with ‘Thank you, Miss Cinderford, for an impressive example’”

The following items are scanned from her scrapbook, more or less in the order she pasted them in. Sadly, most having been sellotaped to the book, some are not as legible as we might like, but it provides a snapshot of life among the brass bands of the Forest of Dean.

Cornetist-aged Six years

A FEATURE of the evening was a cornet solo by little Judy Potter, aged six years—probably the youngest valve instrument player in the country.

Only child of Mr. and Mrs. Ned Potter, of Berry Hill, she is being taught the cornet by Mr. E. A. Jones—at her own request and is determined to make good. On her early showing she should achieve this success.

Her grandfather, Mr. H. Poulton, was one of the pioneers of Coleford band.

CORNET PLAYER— AGED 6

Judy Potter, aged six years, probably the youngest valve instrument player in the country, played a cornet solo at the annual supper of Coleford Town Band.

Mr. Evan A. Jones (the band's musical director) is teaching her and as soon as she is ready she will take her place in the band.

Naturally mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. E. Potter, of Berry Hill, will have to accompany her.



JUDY POTTER, six-years-old cornetist who hopes shortly to join Coleford band (Photo: Coleford Photographic Studios Ltd.)

Girl, Aged 6, Wants to Play in Band

Judy Potter, aged six years, probably the youngest player in the country, played a cornet solo at the annual supper of Coleford Town Band on Saturday.

Mr. Evan A. Jones, the band's musical director, is teaching her and her aim is to take her place in the band.

Mr. Jones said that an all-out campaign would shortly be launched to raise £1,250 for a complete set of new instruments and about £160 for new uniforms. The present instruments were bought at "scrap metal prices" and the uniforms consisted of lots bought second-hand from two Forces of Dean bands who sported practically the same style of dress.



Coleford Band Dinner, 1949



ONLY ONE

BERRY HILL Silver Band will now be represented by two of their young members at the National Youth Brass Band course at Cromer on August 11-19. In addition to Peter Hartley (euphonium), who gained admission at Manchester a month ago, Judy Potter, the 13-year-old cornetist, gained a place at an audition at Bath on Saturday.

Mr. L. Davis, conductor of the Wessex youth band, was the examiner, and Judy was the only girl instrumentalist out of 12 entrants and gained the distinction of being the only one selected.

She is the only child of Mr. and Mrs. E. Potter, of The Meend, Berry Hill, and has been a member of Berry Hill band for two and a half years; previously she was a member of Coleford Town band.

FOUR CUPS

BERRY HILL band, under their conductor (Mr. Harold Hartley), were particularly successful at Chipping Norton Band Festival on Saturday, winning four cups and £10 10s.

They were first in the march on the stage, second in the open test piece and received a cup for the best band with 20 players or under on the march, and drummer Leslie Mosely received the cup for the best drumming and deportment.

On Sunday morning the band, under deputy conductor Neville Edmunds, paraded Berry Hill district displaying the cups.

IN THE BAND

Following their successful course with the National Youth Brass Band at Cromer Judy Potter and Peter Hartley, of Berry Hill Band, have already received an invitation to attend the Easter course at Wallasey, Cheshire.

Both these players occupied very good positions in the band; Judy was among the 18 solo cornet players, and Peter among the solo euphoniums—no mean achievement in a band of some 108 members—most of whom came from first and second section bands.

Elmscroft band contest winners



At the fourth annual contest for bandmen at the Elmscroft Community Centre on Saturday, the open septet competition was won by Cinderford. In the picture above of this winning septet are, from the left (back row) David Hale, Terry Morgan, Cecil Chappell and Bill Meek; (front row): Haydn Harris, Judith Potter and Stan Jones.

The open quartet contest was won by Lydbrook

(picture below). In the group are, from the left (back row) N. Barnett (conductor) and Rupert Hodges; (front row) Ken Harman, Yvonne Smith, and Lyndon Baglin.

Yvonne Smith and Judith Potter were the only girls to enter the Junior solo contest. Yvonne took first place and Judith was the runner up.

In the adult slow melody Lyndon Baglin was the winner.



ELMSCROFT Community Association, Gloucester has the happy knack of turning any event which takes place there into a pleasant social occasion. Such was the case for the fourth annual Solo, Quartette, and Septet contest which took place at the Centre last Saturday.

The hall was thronging with competitors and supporters, and the whole atmosphere caused one to think that this was a cheerful get-together of a large number of people sharing the same absorbing interest.

Banding is like that, and in varying measure, this spirit prevails all over the country. One of its most encouraging features is the large number of young people, of both sexes, who take part in contests.

Mr T. J. Powell, a composer, and adjudicator at numerous championship band contests, adjudicated at this contest.

Mr. Powell was here in the same capacity four years ago. Entries reached the grand total of eighty-five, and judging went on from 1.30 p.m. to 10.30 p.m.

The standard of playing must have been good to enable the judge to say after this Herculean task that "he was pleased with the standard, particularly among the juniors."

He complimented the organisers of the contest because "it maintained, and showed an improvement in supporters."

Impressed with the arrangements of the whole event he went on to say that "other organisers of such contests in the country have a job to maintain their standard."

My criticism

Before I go on to mention the winners I will add my note of criticism.

In my opinion the event warrants the hiring of a first-class piano, the one used on Saturday was not good enough. No doubt the adjudicator's ear was intent wholly upon the musical instruments being played by the competitors but I, and probably a good number

of other listeners, try to enjoy it as a complete musical performance.

Therefore, when a particularly good entrant played his piece it was marred for me by the piano which, incidentally, was not in pitch.

Nine hours of listening to an indifferent piano is asking a good deal of a sensitive ear.

For the rest, I must add my praise for this very pleasant, very worthwhile contest, I only heard a number of entrants in the Air-Varie solo section, and much of this was delightful.

The awards

The awards were: Junior slow melody, first prize and A. V. Stirland cup, Yvonne Smith; cornet (Lydbrook), Miss Smith won this class last year; 2. Miss J. Potter, cornet (Cinderford); 3. D. Wintle, soprano (Coleford). Special cup for youngest competitor, D. Price, horn (Yorkley).

Adult slow melody: 1, and J. H. Parry cup, Lin Baglin, euphonium (Lydbrook); 2. K. Harman, cornet (Lydbrook); 3. tie between P. Hartley, euphonium (Berry Hill) and A. Jacob, cornet (Oxford).

Ar varie solo: 1, G. Davies, cornet (Oxford); 2, N. Cowley, trombone (Morris Motors); 3. F. E. Cowley, cornet (Swindon); Quartette: 1, Glevum trombones (Gloucester); 2. Severn Tunnel; 3, Berry Hill.

Open quartet: 1, Lydbrook Silver; 2, Swindon BR "A"; 3, Glevum trombones.

Open septet: 1, Cinderford Town; 2, Ross-on-Wye.

Organisers of the contest were Messrs. F. J. Beckingham, L. W. Pitman, H. J. Newitt, G. Maxfield, N. Barnett, P. Hopkins, G. H. Beckingham, and R. H. Hill.

The accompanist was Mr. G. H. Beckingham.



Coleford Town Band, c. 1950

Success for young Glo'shire musicians

BANDSMEN from all over the Midlands made Gloucester their venue on Saturday when they attended the fourth annual solo, quartette and septet contest held at Elmscroft Community Centre.

Since its inception the contest has aroused country-wide interest and each year its entries increase.

Bandsmen from Gloucestershire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Oxfordshire and other places in the Midlands took part this year.

There were members of the Morris Motors Works Band competing in the solo sections as well as members of the two Swindon BR Bands.

The adjudicator was Mr. T. J. Powell, bandmaster of Mellingerhills Works Band, Cardiff, who was making a welcome re-appearance.

At the end of the contest Mr. Powell said: "I am much impressed by the support which this contest receives.

"Considering the difficulty experienced by some contestants, he thought that at Elmscroft there was a constitution which had a very bright future.

Forest of Dean musicians featured prominently in the prizes.

One of the best performances of the event came from cornetist C. Davies of Morris Motors Band. He went through nightmare of triple tonguing, to give a truly memorable rendering of variation on "Rule Britannia."

Results were: Junior Slow Melody (open to juniors up to 16 years): 1, Yvonne Smith (Lydbrook); 2, Miss J. Potter (Cinderford); 3, D. Wintie (Berry Hill).

The award for the youngest competitors went to ten-year-old D. Price, of Yorkley, playing a horn.

Adult Slow Melody: 1, Lin Baglin (Lydbrook); 2, K. Harman (Lydbrook); 3, P. Hartley (Berry Hill) and A. Jacob (Morris Motors).

Air-Varie solo: 1, G. Davies (Morris Motors); 2, N. Cowley (Morris Motors); 3, F. E. Cowley (Swindon BR).

Quartette: 1, Glevum Trombones (Gloucester); 2, Severn Tunnel; 3, Berry Hill.

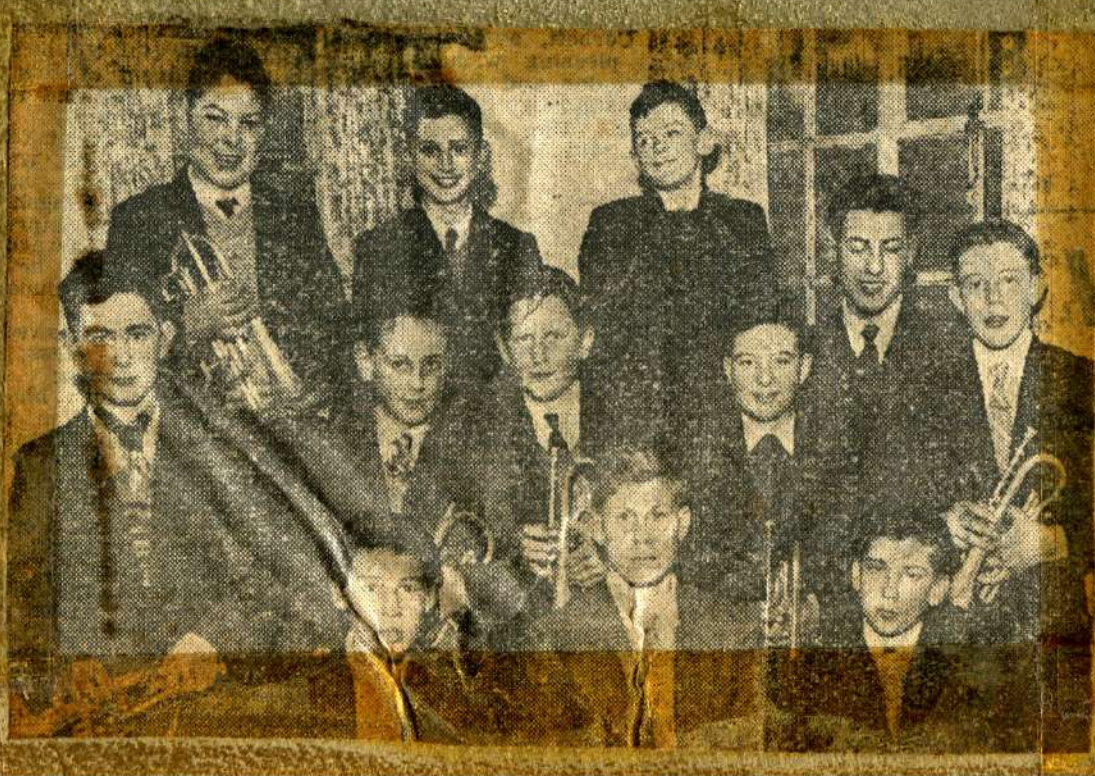
Open quartette: 1, Lydbrook Silver; 2, Swindon BR "A"; 3, Glevum Trombones (Gloucester).

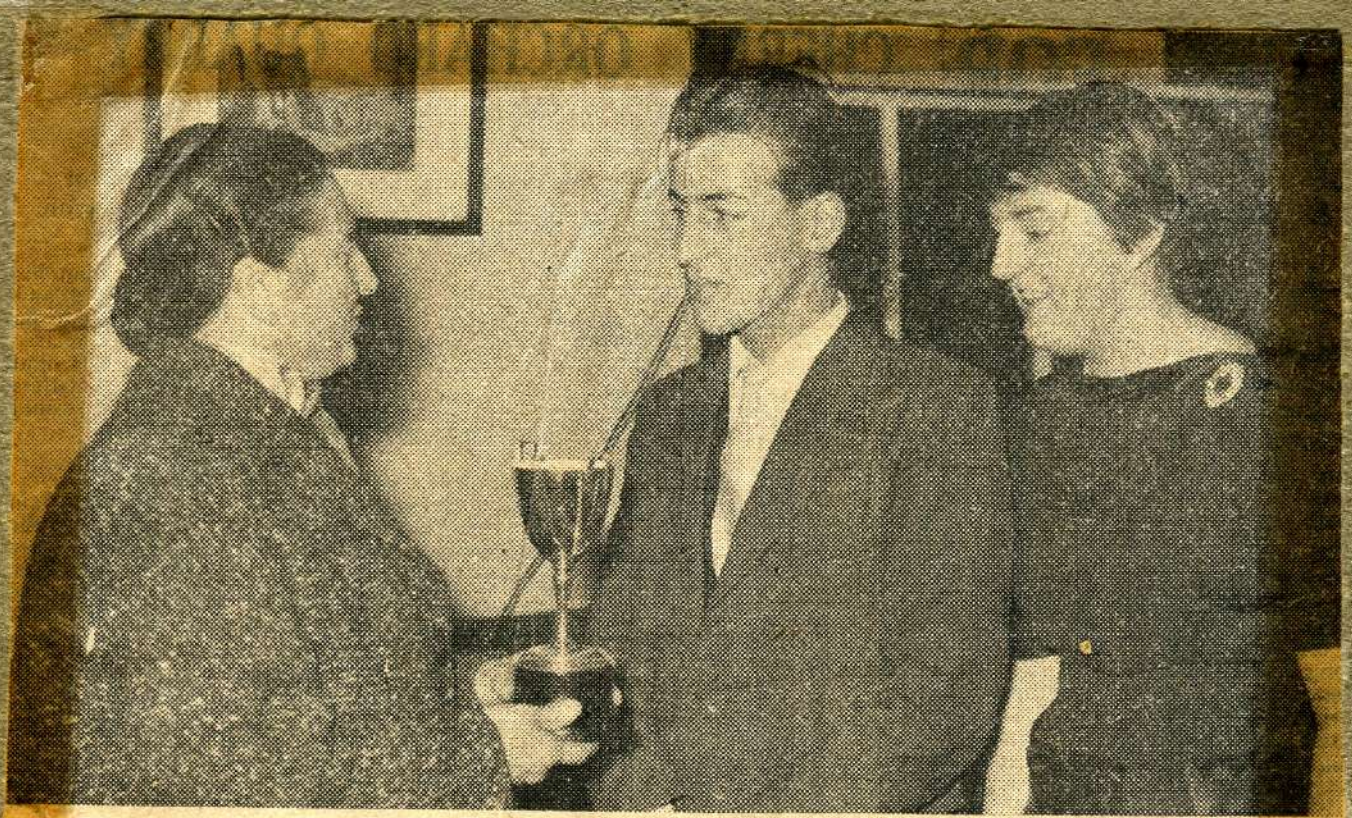
Open septet: 1, Cinderford Town; 2, Ross-on-Wye Town Band.

The contest committee were Messrs. F. J. Beckingham (chairman), L. W. Pitman (secretary), H. J. Hewitt, G. Marfield, G. H. Cockingham and R. H. 131.

The accompanist was Mr G. H. Beckingham.

(PICTURE IN PAGE 10)





Mrs. R. M. McMinn presents the "Stanley Joiner Cup" to Anthony Hartley (Berry Hill band) winner of the Junior Slow Melody contest Section 1 at the first annual solo, Air-Varie and open quartette contest organised by Lydbrook Silver Band and held last Saturday at Lydbrook school.

On the right is Miss J. Potter (Cinderford Band) who came third.

Lydbrook Band Contest a great success

Lydbrook Silver Band last Saturday held their first solo, Air-Varie and Open Quartette Contest.

These were held at Lydbrook Council Schools and, although booked to start at 1 p.m., 12.30 saw a start being made by the 40 soloists and 15 quartettes who were competing. And so Mr. Harry Heyes, of Birmingham, the adjudicator, with Mr. Harold Hartley, the official accompanist, started on the job, which with a brief interval for refreshments, continued until 9.50 p.m. when the last quartette, Pillowell, finished their piece.

The support given by the public from early in the afternoon until the end must have been most encouraging for the promoters. Entries came from Swindon, Oxford, Bristol and South Wales as well as the Forest of Dean.

The varied pieces played gave the appreciative audience a feast of music throughout the day. Mr. J. Phelps and Mr. A. Price, hon. secretary, thanked all those who had donated cups, medals, prize money, music etc. Mr. Harry Heyes in his final adjudication said the quality of the competitors had been very good indeed, and he hoped that the event would flourish; it gave encouragement to the organisers.

The prizes were presented by Mrs. McMinn, wife of the president. Dr. R. M. McMinn presented the cups, medals and other prizes to the winners.

PRIZES

In section 1 junior slow melody, up to 16 years, "Stanley H. Joiner" cup, A. Hartley, Berry Hill, with 180 marks, also a medal and 10/-; second prize, D. Brand, City of Oxford, 178 marks; third prize, J. Potter, Cinderford, 174 marks. L. Parker (City of Oxford) won the medal for the youngest competitor and J. Butson, of Yorkley, had the highest marks for competitors under 12 years of age.

The adult slow melody attracted 25 competitors playing six different instruments. All the winners were members of the Morris Motors Band as were also the "Air Varie" winners.

The final contest for quartettes saw

yet another victory for Morris Motors Band, their "A" quartette conducted by G. V. Brooks, winning the "Sidney Littler" Challenge Cup and cash prize (£3) with 190 marks and Morris Motors "B" the second prize with 187 marks. Pillowell Silver, conducted by F. T. Watkins with 185 marks, and Yorkley Onward, conducted by E. Annetts with 184 marks won third and fourth prizes respectively.

40 years and now head of a good band



Mr. Barnett on parade with his band.

The annual meeting of Lydbrook band took place on Sunday morning. The chairman (Mr. [unclear]) welcomed the president (Dr. R. M. McMinn).

The auditor (Mr. Max Woodhouse) reported that finances were very satisfactory; he made comparisons with previous years and felt the band was in a sound condition.

Mr. Neville Barnett (musical director) reported this was his 40th year in brass bands, having started as a cornet player and later becoming the conductor. During this long period he had many happy hours coupled with some disappointments; he felt proud of the achievements of the band, for there was a good team spirit amongst members, who had been most faithful.

The band was not in the prizes, but they came very close to the winners; in all the band had won in open contests and solo and quartette contests 12 firsts, seven seconds, six third prizes, 13 challenge cups and many medals. He congratulated the soloists who had done so well during the year, the President and Mrs. McMinn for their interest and help, also all officials for their work.

ACTIVITIES

The secretary (Mr. A. W. Price) gave details of the band's activities during the year and thanked members who had helped

him out during his enforced absence. The visit to London to take part in the national finals was a special feature of the year and would be remembered by all.

Several old players came back into the band to help out on these special occasions, and Lyndon Baglin, the celebrated euphonium player, who left to join Manchester C.W.S. band, had now come back into the area, had attended practices on several occasions and would, no doubt, be willing to help out where possible.

The President said he thought the band had done very well during the year and thanked Mr. Barnett for his kind remarks. He congratulated Mr. Barnett on his 40 years' banding and said he looked fit for many more. He had brought great pleasure to many in that period and wished him good luck in the future.

He was very pleased to see the young players doing so well; it would be on those the band would rely in the future and he thanked all members for their loyalty and confidence in their leader. He felt the band could look forward to the coming season with the knowledge that it could again be another successful year. He thanked all officials for the work put in and wished all a happy time in 1964.

All the officials were re-elected to serve during the coming year.

CINDERFORD BRASS BAND'S GREAT WIN

JUBILANT Cinderford Town bandsmen jumped to their feet with excitement when it was announced that they had won the Daily Herald Western Area (Second Division) contest at the Colston Hall, Bristol, on Saturday.

For the Cinderford Band it was a double triumph. Their achievement not only represented the culmination of months of hard work and assiduous practice, but also a determination to get the better of the disappointments of last season when the band went right through without an award.

For Musical Director Ceel Chappell it was a personal and well merited reward.

Cinderford faced stern opposition from seven other bands, including three from the Forest—Yorkley, Lydbrook and Drybrook—and others from as far afield as Cornwall.

Their 186 points gave them a clear lead over Drybrook, placed second, with Yorkley coming fourth.

First Forest win

It is understood that Cinderford is the first Forest band to have won the Second Division. It means promotion to the championship class next year, and a trip to London this autumn to compete in the National Brass Band finals.

Already the band are getting down to the task of rehearsing the excursion and it will be essential that they should have support and backing from the town.

Test piece at Bristol was Sam Wood's "The Yorkshire Ridings." The adjudicator, Mr. Eric Ball, emphasised that it was a difficult piece and he congratulated the competing bands on the way they had tackled it.

Full strength

For the first time for several years Cinderford Town went on to the stage with a full band of 24.

It was possibly the youngest band that has ever repre-

sented Cinderford in a major competition, the youngest player being a lad of 12, and the "veteran" was only 44.

There was one girl in the band Miss Judy Potter, aged 16, of Berry Hill, a member of the Youth Band of Great Britain. Playing cornet, she gave an outstanding performance.

Other successes

In the fourth division, Berry Hill Silver Band, conducted by Mr. H. Hartley, came first to win the "Daily Herald" Area Challenge Tribute and a cash prize of £12.

The R. A. Lister Silver Band from Dursley, conducted by Mr. C. Williams, came third in this division. The band was awarded the "South West Brass Band Association" Shield.

Fourth place, and the F. H. Penrose Challenge Cup went to the Severn Tunnel and District Silver Band, conducted by Mr. F. C. Harding, from Chepstow.

The test piece in this division in which there were 13 bands competing, was the overture from "The Merry Monarch" by Donald Bridger.

ROBERT MORGAN GETS A FIRST

Robert Morgan, Lydbrook band's 16-year-old cornet player, was again successful on Saturday when he competed in the Desford (Leicestershire) Colliery Welfare Band Competition.

He came first out of 34 entries, winning the open slow melody contest. He received the Conservative Rose Bowl and £2 10s. in prize money.



Cinderford Band competes in the championship section of the National Brass Band championship of Great Britain tomorrow (Saturday).

Cinderford Town Band—top of the second division



Cinderford Town band, who won first place in the second division of the area competition of the National Brass Band Championship, the first Forest band to accomplish this feat.

Cinderford Town Band spot pitfall in Test-piece

The main event in contesting is the "Daily Herald" Area Finals, held in the spring of each year. This contest, organised by the "Daily Herald", is, to the bandsmen, a very important one as success at an area contest privileges the successful band to go forward to the London finals held in the Autumn of each year, and compete with other area finalists, thus giving the band the chance of being champion for the whole country in their section.

The bands are graded on merit of playing ability into four sections: fourth, third, second and Championship, and it is well worth recalling the Band's achievements in the West of England Area Championships since the first attempt in 1952.

1952 4th prize, 4th section
1953 3rd prize, 4th section
1954 1st prize, 3rd section
1957 3rd prize, 2nd section
1959 1st prize, 2nd section

For the first time in the history of Forest Bands the cup for first place in the second section was brought back to the Forest by the Cinderford Town Silver Prize Band. With it went a cheque for £25. In doing this the Band have qualified for the championship class.

The adjudicator, Mr. Eric Ball, made a point of congratulating the Band on their excellent performance and said he was extremely pleased that they were able to overcome the pitfall in the piece.

This has only been achieved by the wholehearted co-operation of the entire

band, and the team spirit they acquired while rehearsing for this contest should not be allowed to flag, for, if it is maintained, there is every possibility that they can pull off a "double" by winning at London in October.

Although the band is now gaining in strength there is still room in some of the sections, so if anyone is interested in joining the band or learning a brass instrument there is a class held every Tuesday at the Double View School where young learners can have tuition from the Musical Director and the Deputy Bandmaster, so don't hesitate to go along.

The band is holding a jumble sale on Saturday, June 6th, at their headquarters, the Swan Clubroom; this is to be preceded by a victory march by the band in the Town. An open invitation is offered to the public to come and support the champions of the West.

On Saturday, June 20th, the band is playing at the Dilke Memorial Hospital Garden Fete, and on June 27th at the Ruardean Contest.

No doubt you have seen the photograph of the Town Band in their new uniforms and I think you will agree from their smart appearance that there is something impressive about a band in uniform, both in music and dress.

Here is a toast to the band for their well deserved success.—"Well played".

SEMI-TONE

The Winning Smile



Mr. Chappell took over the musical directorship some ten years ago and during this time has put a great deal more personal effort into the task of preparing the band for the various contests entered than even the bandsmen themselves realise. Without this untiring devotion it is fairly certain that the Band would have been less successful.

Through the medium of this paper may the Band Committee, Ladies' Committee and the Band offer Mr. Chappell their most sincere gratitude for his excellent services, and they trust they may be favoured with his continued guidance in the future.

Cinderford first Forest band to win this section

Two local brass bands have won the chance to compete for the National Brass Band Championship in London next autumn against leading bands of their class throughout Britain.

This opportunity follows their success at their qualifying round at Bristol on Saturday when Cinderford Town Band were awarded first prize (£25 and a cup) in the Western Area Second Division contest—the first Dean Forest team ever to win this class—and Drybrook & District Band the second prize (£12 and a trophy).

Cinderford Town Band scored 186 out of 200 points for their performance of the testpiece, the Suite "The Yorkshire Riding", conducted by Mr. Cecil Chappell, who has been in the band since boyhood. Sharing the exciting win was 16-year-old cornetist Judy Potter, the first girl ever to play in the Town Band in its 60 years' history.

Two 15-year-old schoolgirls, Heather Meek and Ruth Willett, played in Drybrook & District Band, who received 182 points, becoming second division runners-up for the fourth time in five years.

With their substantial success at Bristol behind them, the Cinderford and Drybrook instrumentalists will be looking forward to their big date in London. As finalists on October 24 they will be bidding for the Daily Herald National Second Division Championship against more than a score of rival brass bands from England, Scotland and Wales.

YORKLEY

Yorkley Onward Band, conducted by Mr. E. Annetts, were placed fourth (178 points) on their first appearance in the second division contest.

Lydney Town Band withdrew from the fourth division contest which was won, for the second time in three years, by Berry Hill Silver Band, with the day's highest total of 187 points.



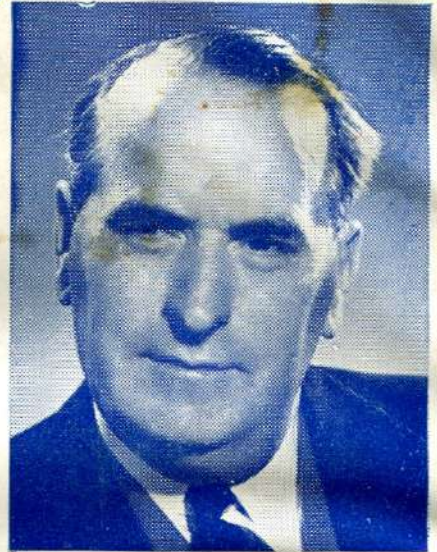
Yvonne Smith (Lydbrook Band) & Judith Potter (Cinderford Band) c. 1959

La Forza del Destino

(THE FORCE OF DESTINY)

Overture

Programme Note by
Frank Wright



When in 1875 Giuseppe Verdi appeared at the Royal Albert Hall—built only four years before—to conduct his *Requiem*, *La Forza del Destino* had been in existence for fourteen years. Composed after *Rigoletto*, *Il Trovatore* and *La Traviata*, it is a masterpiece of Verdi's full maturity. The opera was commissioned for Russia in 1861 and had its first performance at St. Petersburg in the following year. London was not to see it until 1867.

The story, which may be briefly told, is one of the gloomiest in the whole field of opera. We are taken hand-in-hand with hatred and death through a plot crowded with horror. One by one the principals are dispatched until, at the final curtain, no important character is left.

Hero kills heroine's father. Father's dying curse falls upon heroine. Heroine's brother, mortally wounded by hero, kills heroine. Hero hurls himself over cliff.

The overture, Verdi's greatest, is as well known in the concert hall as it is in the opera house. Based on themes of the opera it contains a wealth of beautiful music.

It opens dramatically. Six loud, monotonic Fs, in bare octaves—the ominous silent pauses heighten the effect—form a kind of hollow fanfare that is full of foreboding. The first subject at the *Allegro agitato*—it is really a “ motto ” theme—with its recurrent, rising semiquaver figure, given to tenor horns, evokes a feeling of robust, restless energy. Much use is to be made of this telling passage and its derivatives later in the work. The fanfare is repeated and, after a reflective, melancholy melody, *Andantino*, taken from the great duet, *Thy Menaces Wild*—the motto is here used as part of the accompaniment—the flugel steals in with the first tender phrases of the pathetically beautiful *Holy Mother, Have Mercy*, against a tremolo background and with the motto used as a *basso ostinato*.

The vigorous three-eight *Allegro* is also mainly concerned with the motto in yet another guise. With a despairing phrase of touching simplicity from *Thy Menaces Wild*, played by tenor horn and echoed by cornet (muted) and soprano, the mood changes abruptly. There is no time to linger at the resumption of the *Allegro*—a bright, lyrical tune, characteristically Verdian (from the closing scene of Act 1), with a bouncing triplet accompaniment.

Then follow an exciting interlude, begun quietly, with an animated iteration in trombones and 2nd and 3rd cornets; a “ chorale ” (here cornets and trombones are adjured to play orchestral-wise—*sans vibrato*); a short development on the motto theme—the upward, bass octave-leaps will be noted—and a gigantic descending scale culminating in a phrase, in full panoply, of *Holy Mother*. After a short silent pause the music again sets off apace with a buoyant, free-style triplet variation on the lyrical tune from Act 1, the motto being woven into the texture by euphoniums as a counter-melody. An exhilarating *piu animato*, in which some brilliant scale passages add a touch of splendour, brings the work to an exultant conclusion.

For all its kaleidoscopic changes, the work is finely unified by closely woven thematic links. A model of ingenuity, the overture provides a mine of fascinating study.

★ ★ ★

THE COMPETING BANDS

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BLACK DYKE MILLS BAND

From Queensbury, Yorkshire. The National Champion Band defending its title today. In July 1860, after five years as a brass band, won the first National contest at the Crystal Palace, and was runner-up in the 1862 contest. Since 1945 has captured the *Daily Herald* National Championship six times, scoring a hat-trick of victories in 1947-48-49, and winning again in 1951, 1959 and 1961. Has also been North Eastern Area Champion Band eight times.

BLACKHALL COLLIERY BAND

From West Hartlepool, Co. Durham. Formed in 1926. Was the first band to win the Northern Area Championship (1945), and became Area runner-up for the fourth time this March at Sunderland. Today makes its fifth bid at the National Finals.

BRIGHOUSE & RASTRICK BAND

From Brighouse, Yorkshire. The present band dates from 1881, but there was a Brighouse brass band in existence in 1860 which competed in the first national contest at the Crystal Palace. In the post-war series of North Eastern Area contests has won the Championship title seven times, has been runner-up five times and came third this season. Won the *Daily Herald* National Championship in 1946, and has also been in the National prize list on six other occasions. Bids at the National Finals for the sixteenth time today.

CAMBORNE TOWN BAND

From Camborne, Cornwall. Was re-formed in 1896 from a band established in 1840. Has won the West of England Area Championship nine times in three groups of hat-tricks, in 1948-49-50, 1952-53-54, and again in 1956-57-58. Became Area runner-up this season for the second time. Has previously competed twelve times for the *Daily Herald* National Championship in London.

CINDERFORD TOWN BAND

From Cinderford, Gloucestershire. Originally founded in 1895, the present group was re-formed in 1945 after disbandment during the last war. Won the West of England Area Third section contest in 1954 and the Area's Second section contest in 1959, taking part in the National Finals those years. By winning third prize in the Area's Championship section contest this season qualified to play at the senior National Final today for the first time.

CORY WORKMEN'S BAND

From Pentre, Rhondda. Formed in 1884. By completing a hat-trick of Welsh Area Championship wins at Swansea in May, became the Area's senior title holder for the seventh time. Has also been Area runner-up on three occasions. Before taking part in today's National Championship contest, had previously competed in ten Finals, winning second prize at the 1948 contest.

COWPEN AND CROFTON WORKMEN'S BAND

From Blyth, Northumberland. Known as Blyth and District Band when founded in 1906. Set up a record last year when it competed in the *Daily Herald* National Championship contest as the first to play in the four Finals in successive years—Fourth section (1958), Third section (1959), Second section (1960), Championship section (1961). In Northern Area events won the Fourth section in 1958, the Second section in 1960, and this season took the Area Championship section title for the first time.

CROSSLEY'S CARPET WORKS BAND

From Halifax, Yorkshire. Established in October, 1950, at the Dean Clough Mills, qualified the following year for the National Fourth section Final. Competed in the top National Championship contest in London for the first time in 1955, as the runner-up that year in the North Eastern Area's senior class. Was placed sixth in the 1959 National Final, and awarded third prize in last year's Final. Became North Eastern Area Champion Band for the first time at Bradford this March.

C.W.S. (MANCHESTER) BAND

From Manchester. Started in 1901 as the Tobacco Factory Band, and adopted its present name in 1946. At Blackburn this March became North Western Area Champion Band for the sixth time in eight years, scoring the Area's first senior class hat-trick. In addition, has been runner-up at six Area Championship contests. Before competing in today's National contest, had won five second prizes and three third prizes in twelve appearances at the senior Finals.

FAIREY BAND

From Heaton Chapel, Stockport. Formed in 1937. Was the first band to win the *Daily Herald* National Championship (1945), subsequently becoming the National Champion Band again three times—in 1952, 1954 and 1956. Twice National Champion runner-up (1946-47). On five occasions winner of the North Western Area championship, and Area runner-up for the fifth time this March.

FODENS MOTOR WORKS BAND

From Elworth, Cheshire. Started in 1900. In *Daily Herald* National Championships has had three wins (1950, 1953 and 1958), three second prizes and three third prizes. North Western Area Champion Band four times, Area runner-up four times, and Area third prizewinner this season.

GRIMETHORPE COLLIERY INSTITUTE BAND

From Barnsley, Yorkshire. Established in 1917, and has since competed successfully in top-class company. Was placed sixth when it last competed in the National Championships at the 1945 contest. Qualified for today's Final by coming second in this season's North Eastern Area championship.

G.U.S. (FOOTWEAR) BAND

From Kettering, Northamptonshire. Formed in 1933 as Munn & Felton's Band. Soon after changing to its present title in April this year, won the Midland Area's top title at Leicester. Under its previous name had been Midland Area Champion Band six times, *Daily Herald* National Champion Band three times (in 1955, 1957 and 1960) and had also been among the prizewinners in all but one of its other seven bids at the National Championships.

HANWELL SILVER BAND

From Hanwell, Middlesex. Started in 1891 by a local minstrel troupe. Appears at today's National Final for the ninth time since 1945, its best performance so far being its second prize in the 1950 contest. Has been London and Southern Counties Area Champion Band three times, Area runner-up three times, and was the Area third prizewinner this season.

HORDEN COLLIERY BAND

From Horden Colliery, Co. Durham. Established in 1908. Was the runner-up in the first *Daily Herald* organised National Championship contest in 1945, and was a National finalist again in 1955. Twice Northern Area runner-up, and Area third prizewinner this season.

KINNEIL COLLIERY SILVER BAND

From Bo'ness, West Lothian. Formed in 1858 as a reed band, became an all-brass combination ten years ago. In a steady climb to the top-brass class, has competed in all four sections of the *Daily Herald* National Finals. After appearing in the Fourth section (1956) and Third section (1958), won the Second section Final in 1959. Was well placed on its debut in the senior National contest last year. Won the Scottish Championship for the first time, at Edinburgh, this February.

LANGLEY BAND

From Oldbury, Worcestershire. In existence since 1875. Had a hat-trick of Midland Area Second section victories 1955-56-57 and won the National Second section title, too, in 1957. On promotion to the Midland senior class the next year, won the Area title and took part in the 1958 National Championship. Competed in last year's National Final, and qualified for today's contest by gaining third prize in this season's Midland event.

LUTON BAND

From Luton, Bedfordshire. Established in 1890. London and Southern Counties Area Champion Band three times. Became Area runner-up for the third time this season. Today makes its eighth bid for the *Daily Herald* National Championship.

MORRIS MOTORS BAND

From Cowley, Oxford. Formed 38 years ago by musically-minded employees. In April, became the Southern Area Champion Band for the second year in succession and for the ninth time altogether. Its Area victories include the hat-trick in 1955-56-57, and it has also been Area runner-up on four occasions. Except for the 1950 Final has represented its Area in every National Championship contest since 1948.

RANSOME & MARLES WORKS BAND

From Newark-on-Trent, Nottinghamshire. Formed at the works in 1937. Four times Midland Area Champion Band including a hat-trick of victories in 1950-51-52, and Area runner-up for the fifth time this season. Today puts in its fourteenth National Championship bid since 1945, having been in the prize list on three occasions, including second prize at the 1955 Final.

SCOTTISH C.W.S. BAND

From Glasgow, Lanarkshire. Six years after its 1918 formation joined the ranks of Scotland's leading bands. Among its successes has been winning the Scottish Championship three years running in 1958-59-60. Qualified for today's contest by becoming Scottish runner-up at Edinburgh this season. Is appearing at its ninth National Final. Its second prize at the 1958 National Championship stands as the best performance so far put up by any Scottish finalist.

ST. DENNIS SILVER BAND

From St. Dennis, Cornwall. Founded in 1836. First captured the West of England Area Championship in 1951. Completed a hat-trick of Area victories in 1959-1960-61 through which it has received a bye to today's National Final, the eighth time it has represented the West in the post-war National Championships. Has also been runner-up at four Western Area contests.

TREORCHY SECONDARY SCHOOL YOUTH BAND

From Treorchy, Glamorgan. Has made rapid progress up the brass band scale since, as a school band it started Area contesting in 1959. That year took the Welsh Fourth section title, won the Area's Third section the following year, and then the Second section last year. Promoted to the Area's top class this season won second prize at Swansea to qualify for today's senior Final. Has thus matched the Cowpen and Crofton Band's achievement to compete in turn in all four sections of the National Finals in successive years.

383 FIELD REGIMENT ROYAL ARTILLERY (T.A.) BAND

From Bournemouth, Hampshire. Has come into prominence since October, 1957, when a group of Wellworthy Works bandmen joined the Regimental team. Today appears at the National Championship for the third year running, having qualified by winning the West of England Area Championship, for the first time, at Bristol this May. This followed its Area second prize last year, and Area third prize in 1960.

"Salute to Youth" was the Championship test-piece at Bristol for the D.H. Area contest, but I would call the whole four contests a "Challenge to Youth," for almost every band had them, somewhere between 9 and 16 years. Space is limited, but I must remark on how well they all did.

The Championship. This piece, a most severe test of technique for any band, said the judge, Harry Heyes, ability to read and of executive efficiency must score in such a contest, and so we must congratulate 383 Field Regiment R.A. (T.A.) of Bournemouth in at last achieving their aim over three years. Third in 1960, second in 1961 and now the tops in 1962.

The decision was a popular one, though no ordinary listener could hardly "poke a cat's whisker" between that performance and Camborne's effort, and indeed, Mr. Heyes could find only one little point between them, which put Camborne second.

Two points behind came Cinderford, who after being twice unplaced, have become the first Forest of Dean band to win the right to mix it with the mighty on the great Albert Hall platform.

Associated with this performance was one of the highlights of the contest—the girl, the cornet and the mute. A study in nonchalance, I call it.

Playing principal cornet was the girl sitting there with one nyloned-leg stretched out to the rung of the chair in front, charming us with her faultless playing, but what gave us the "willies" was her attitude to the mute, placed beside her, on the floor. Then, while others groped about, our lady of the cornet, knowing precisely where it was, calmly and gracefully slipped the bell of her cornet over the pointed end of the mute and up it came, then down again to the same position. Would she miss it the second time? No, not a chance; the repetition was just as confident. I conclude these remarks with "Thank you, Miss Cinderford, for an impressive example."

In the top section we had a variety of interpretations, but I do not think there was any doubt about the winners here. All our bands did well in this section and Cinderford Town must be congratulated on getting third place with the chance to go to London to the Finals.

Twenty-four of Britain's best bands will battle in the Royal Albert Hall for the National Championship, playing a new arrangement of Verdi's overture The Force of Destiny.

WINNERS

All the winners of the National Championship since 1945 (indicated with an asterisk) are in today's big title hunt.

The Albert Hall competitors are: *Black Dyke Mills (present holders), Blackhall Colliery, *Brighouse and Rastrick, Camborne Town, Cinderford Town, Cory Workmen's, Cowpen and Crofton Workmen's, Crossley Carpet Works (Halifax), CWS Manchester, *Fairey (Stockport), *Fodens Motor Works, Grimethorpe Colliery Institute.

*GUS (Footwear), formerly known as Munn and Felton's, Hanwell, Horden Colliery, Kinneil Colliery, Langley, Luton, Morris Motors, Ransome and Marles Works, Scottish CWS, St. Dennis, Treorchy Secondary School Youth, 383 Field Regt. RA (TA) of Bournemouth.

EXCITING

Sixty-six bands will compete in three other national finals while the senior contest goes on.

All the bands have their "character" and personalities. Here are some you may like to watch for during the four exciting contests.

In the Royal Albert Hall:

Orchestral composer-conductor Leighton Lucas, appearing in a national contest for the first time, and conducting Black Dyke, the defending champions.

Nineteen-year-old Judy Potter, of Cinderford Town Band, the first band girl to play principal cornet in the National Championship.

David stands in with his cornet

CORNET player David Pratt will take the principal solo part for Black Dyke Mills Band in the Daily Herald National Brass Band Championship at London's Royal Albert Hall on Saturday.

Black Dyke, from Yorkshire, were helped to victory last year by principal solo cornet Maurice Murphy, who has now joined the BBC Northern Orchestra.

Girl, too

David, aged 36, has been assistant cornet for the past six years. He steps in because Maurice's successor has not yet been chosen.

Among Black Dyke's rivals will be Hanwell Silver Band, Middlesex, conducted by Eric Bravington.

For the first time a girl will be a principal cornetist. She is 19-year-old Judy Potter, of Berry Hill, Glos, appearing with Cinderford Town Band.

EX-FOREST LADS IN CHAMPION BAND

THE success of Manchester CWS in winning the Daily Herald Brass Band Championship on Saturday is of particular interest to Forest of Dean brass band enthusiasts as two former Berry Hill lads, Lyndon Baglin and Haydn Harris, now play in the band.

Prior to joining this famous band, Lyndon played with Lydbrook Silver Prize Band, and Haydn with Cinderford Town Band.

Another Berry Hill youngster who also took part in the championship, Miss Judith Potter, played solo cornet with Cinderford Town, who competed in the top section and figured in a broadcast on Saturday afternoon from the Albert Hall.

The positions attained by the three Gloucestershire bands who took part in the contest—Cinderford Town Band, Yorkley Onward Silver Band and City of Gloucester Band—will be announced during the next few days.

Manchester CWS success in winning the championship was all the more meritorious in view of the fact that their conductor Alex Mortimer, left a sick bed and carried the baton throughout the performance seated on a stool. At the end of the performance he had to be assisted by two band enthusiasts.



Berry Hill Band, 1955

Championship honours for Cinderford Band

CINDERFORD Town Band can lay claim to be one of the leading 20 brass bands in the country.

On Saturday, in the "Daily Herald" South Western Area championships, held at the Colston Hall, Bristol, they qualified to appear among the selected 20 bands who will play in the championships section finals at the Albert Hall, on October 20.

It is the first time that a Forest band has achieved this honour and for musical director Mr. Cecil Chappell it crowned

11 years' work, during which he has guided the band from the fourth section to the championship section and now to the Albert Hall—the final mecca of all brass bands.

Cinderford band have a habit of unexpected brilliance after quiet, almost inactive periods, and Saturday's performance was one of their best.

Of the seven bands playing in the championship section they came third to 383 Field Regt. T.A. and Camborne Town. Only three points separated the three bands—

186, 184 and 183.

The test piece "Salute to Youth" was described by the adjudicator as one of the most difficult ever chosen for an area contest.

Cinderford took a very young band to Bristol, 10 of their 24 players being under 18. The youngest was 13-year-old John Pick, of Pembroke-st., Cinderford.

John's father, Mr. William Pick, a veteran member of the band, was also playing.

City of Gloucester Band, conducted by Mr. O. Adlam,

won the premier award in the fourth section of the finals.

Their test piece was Eric Ball's "Contest Day." They beat Keynsham Town band by two marks.

In the same section Royal Gloucestershire Hussars (T.A.) band conducted by Mr. E. Hopkins, was placed fourth.

In the second section—stated by adjudicator, Mr. Harry Heyes, to have been comparable in standard to any he had heard—A. Lister's silver band came fourth. The winners were Swindon B.R. Band.

National Brass Band Contest

CINDERFORD & YORKLEY REACH FINALS

Seven Forest Bands went to the Colston Hall, Bristol, on Saturday to take part in the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain, West of England Area qualifying finals.

Cinderford Town and Drybrook played in the Championship Section, Lydbrook and Yorkley Onward in the second section, Berry Hill and Lydney Town in the third and Pillowell in the fourth.

The two bands from the Forest which will compete in the National finals on October 20 in the Royal Albert Hall are Cinderford Town and Yorkley Onward.

Playing in the championship class, Cinderford, under their conductor, Mr. C. L. Chappell, drew second in order of playing out of eight bands. For the test piece they played "Salute to Youth" by Gilbert Vinter. First place was awarded to 383 Field Reg. R.A. (T.A.) Band with 186 marks, second Camborne Town 185 marks, third "Beckingham" challenge cup and £12 Cinderford with 183 marks.

In the second section Yorkley, under their conductor Mr. E. W. Annetts, drew to play first, out of the eight bands which entered. Their test piece was the Overture "Peter Schmoll" by Weber/Drake Rimmer, Swindon B. R.

came first with 181 marks, Aldbourne second with 178 marks, Yorkley Onward were awarded third place with 176 marks, receiving the "Lawrence Abram" challenge cup and £9.

CINDERFORD BAND WIN TOP AWARD

FOR the second successive week Yorkley Onward Band, conducted by Mr. G. Watkins, finished among the prize winners at a band contest, their success on Saturday being at the 17th brass band festival held in conjunction with the annual Cirencester Carnival.

They were placed second in the open section, their playing of the test piece "Devon Fantasia," gaining them the S. H. Brook Challenge Cup third and £20.

But the main honour in this,

the chief contest of the day, went to another Forest of Dean band, for Cinderford Town, under their musical director, Mr. Cecil Chappell, gained first place to win the Cirencester Tradesmen's Challenge Cup and £30. Aldbourne were third, Drybrook and Berry Hill being unplaced.

Four of the six bands competing in the march contest were from the Forest, with Berry Hill (H. Hartley) coming third.

The adjudicator was Mr. E. C. Buttress.

"CINDERFORD"

Cinderford Town Band held a concert at the Miners' Welfare Hall, Cinderford, on Sunday evening. For the first time in public a march written for Cinderford Association Football Club and called "Cinderford" was played. The march was written by Mr. T. J. Powell, who adjudicated the Club's band contest at Cinderford last Whit-Monday.

The concert was well attended and the chairman was Mr. J. S. Gratton, Forest Youth organiser.

Christmas carols were played and the audience joined in. The band also played the test piece for the recent National contest.

Miss Judith Potter played two cornet solos which were well received.

The band was conducted by Mr. C. L. Chappell.

Three cups for Cinderford Band

The Forest of Dean has always had a good reputation for brass band music and Cinderford Town Band maintained this tradition when they won three cups at the Cirencester Band Contest on Saturday.

In the marching section they were first with 87 points closely followed by Bedworth Band with 86 points and in the Selection Section repeated their performance to win the Cirencester Tradesmen's Cup and £30 with 184 points.

Cinderford were also awarded the Gloucestershire Association Cup for being the highest placed Gloucestershire band in the contest.

The adjudicator was Mr. Sam B. Wood, of Yorkshire.

A FINE DAY FOR TOWN BAND

Ruardean's annual Brass Band and Male Voice Choir contests, held in the Recreation Ground on Saturday, were this year marred by persistent rain, but to Cinderford Town Band it didn't matter.

Under the baton of Mr. Eric Chappell they 'swept the board' to win three first prizes.

Only two bands braved the weather for the march through the street—Cinderford and Lydbrook—and both were praised by the adjudicator, Mr. Eric Ball, for keeping good time under bad conditions.

By coming first with 78 points out of a 100, Cinderford won £8 and the Gloucestershire Trophy.

Because of the rain the other band contests were held in the hall, with Cinderford Town winning the March on the Stage (78 pts.) and the H. J. Marfell trophy and £7, and Lydbrook coming second with 77 points.

Own choice

In the Open Contest, with bands playing their own choice, placings were: 1st. £30 and the Committee Challenge Cup) Cinderford Town (83 pts.); 2. (£12) Lydbrook; 3. (£5) Yorkley.

In the absence of Dr. Neme Rocyn-Jones, Mr. Ball was introduced by Mr. V. T. Scott (vice-chairman and announcer), and presented the trophies.

Other officials were: Mr. C. Brazington, chairman; Mr. R. Weaver, treasurer; Mr. H. J. Marfell, contest secretary; Mr. G. S. Whittington, secretary.

Choir contest

In addition to the band contests, Mr. Ball also adjudicated in the male voice choir contest. He described it as "a splendid one with some extremely good singing."

Placings were: 1 (£20 and the George Williams trophy) 82pts, Drybrook (F. Kettle); 2 (£10 and the "Dr. Rocyn-Jones" trophy) Ickfield (H. H. Winters); 3 (£5) Binley (A. Allen).

SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR CINDERFORD TOWN BAND

At the annual meeting of Cinderford Town Band held at the Swan Hotel on Monday evening, the president, Mr. R. N. Jones, said that in general 1963 had been a successful year, with the band giving a very good account of themselves, also that the spirit among the players was of the highest possible standard.

Officers elected were: president, Mr. R. W. Jones; chairman, Mr. T. Hale; treasurer, Mr. R. T. Hanman; secretary, Mr. H. J. Meek; assistant secretary, Mr. J. Potter; musical director, Mr. C. L. Chappell.

Mr. Chappell expressed his thanks to the Ladies Committee for their wonderful support during the past years, and also to Mr. and Mrs. G. Teague for the use of a rehearsal room.

Any member of the public, whether young or old, is welcome to rehearsals either as a listener or prospective instrumentalist.

Great day for Town band

Cinderford Town Band excelled themselves on Saturday when they won three cups at the Cirencester Band Contest.

In the marching section they were first followed by Bedworth Silver, Fisher and Ludlow, and Yorkley.

In the selection section they repeated their winning performance to win the Cirencester tradesmen's cup and £30 in this event. Aldbourne Silver were second, Fisher and Ludlow third, and Drybrook fourth.

Cinderford's third trophy came when they won the cup awarded by the Gloucestershire Brass Band Association for being the highest placed member band in the contest.

Other bands competing in the contest were Berry Hill and Kingswood Evangel.

The adjudicator was Mr. Sam B. Wood, of Yorkshire.

Gloucestershire Brass Band Association

Patron: Rt. Hon. EARL BATHURST

President: A. G. LEA, Esq., O.B.E.

Vice-Presidents: FARLEIGH PRICE · M. PHILIPS PRICE · F. J. BECKINGHAM · F. A. A. ETHERIDGE · J. OWEN

Chairman: G. MAXFIELD (Bristol)

Treasurer: W. J. WARRINER (Cirencester)

Secretary: J. C. WELSH, Golden Valley Cottage, Drybrook, Glos. Tel.: 352

Mrs J. Potter & Organising Committee
Cinderford Contest.

24, Islington Rd.
Southville,
Bristol 3.

Dear Judy,
Please accept my Congratulation for a well organised and happy Contest - which I hope proved successful in every way. I wished to have a word with you at the end - but had to leave hurriedly or might not have reached Bristol until after Midnight.

It was rather short notice when Brian Morgan asked me to say a few words - several said they didn't hear it; - or was missing when I spoke. Therefore I will repeat it in writing in order that your 'Committee' will know that the loud applause was for them - to make it an Annual Contest. —

"I am most pleased & proud to be here today, and must congratulate your Organising Committee for their outstanding effort, in projecting this most enjoyable Contest, - with a fine Entry, fine Playing, fine Trophies, a fine day and a very fine Audience, and I'm feeling fine too. I must add some praise regarding the Printed Programmes, - which add much to the prestige of such a worthy event, - They even chose the 'Wright' Adjudicator, and may I suggest that 'Contesting' is still the most interesting side of 'Bandings' - and provided the Bands & their supporters would promise to continue their interest, - then Cinderford Contest could become an Annual Event. So if you will promise interest and support Annually, - will you please encourage the Organisers with Loud Applause". — ff
Thank you & Bless you all."

Wishing you all success in the future
& thanking you for inviting me.
Sincerely,
Gordon M.

THE NATIONAL YOUTH BRASS BAND OF GREAT BRITAIN.



PRESIDENT:

SIR MALCOLM SARGENT, D.MUS.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

H. F. B. ILES, M.A., J.P.,

HARRY MORTIMER, O.B.E.

ERIC BALL, A.R.C.M.

COUNCIL:

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Founder & Music Adviser
Dr. DENIS WRIGHT, O.B.E.

Organising Secretary,
LEONARD DAVIES, B.B.C.M.,
2, Victoria Street,
MANCHESTER 3.
Phone: BLAckfriars 4979.

Dear *Jasith*

I trust that you had a good journey home from Preston. I have had some letters which have not mentioned any travelling difficulties. For the first time for many courses I was able to get home on Sunday evening but I am afraid that much of the Youth Band music and equipment is still waiting to be unpacked. Since Sunday I have been busy getting letters of thanks off to all the people who helped to make the week such a good one. You would be surprised at the number.

Comments about the Concert are very encouraging. We seem to have made a good impression particularly with the Beethoven 8th and "Prometheus". We certainly rehearsed both of them hard enough. The remainder of the programme went over very well. I feel sure that the playing of the Youth Band improves from course to course. During the Concert I was never worried about the playing. I was confident that we would give a good performance. We can feel very happy about it. The only regret is that there is no record of the playing so that we can enjoy it over and over again.

If I have a criticism it is that through over-eagerness some of the pieces were played faster than I wished. The March was faster than I had rehearsed it; so was the second movement of the Beethoven. As the audience would not know it was no use trying to upset things by pulling back.

The Manager of the Pavilion was delighted and he said that he would have us back there every Saturday through the year if we could only give performances like that every time. What a thought! 52 Youth Band weeks in a year! Mr. Light-foot certainly provided plenty to eat and he was wondering whether you had had sufficient, there was so much left. I assured him that he need have no worries. Youth Band members have good appetites.

In most ways it was a happy week. Just before the course started I spent a frantic few days searching for the beds and bedding and I had only a few hours left when I eventually decided to hire them even though the cost of hiring and the transportation will create havoc with the budget. The food was disappointing. I think the trouble lay in the fact that the staff kept changing. There was never any supervisor in charge for two days running. I noticed that some days there was plenty to eat but on others there was barely enough to go round. A pity.

We liked the school and it was most convenient. When we arrived the place was cold and the weather did not help very much. The caretaker was handicapped over the first week end but he soon had things working nicely. We were very lucky to have a caretaker who was so helpful and so willing as Mr. Maylem.

Talking of caretakers brings me to a serious problem. On Youth Band Courses we are very much at the mercy of caretakers and if one should prove unwilling to help then we could be in a bad mess. Imagine last week with a caretaker who was not prepared to keep up a good heat! Some caretakers are full of complaints. Some never come near the school leaving us to fend for ourselves. Others are always on the spot watching what we do and trying to tell us we are doing wrong. Mr. Maylem was very decent and most helpful. That is why I was so distressed when he came to complain that his cleaners had refused to clean up the toilets after the boys. I was also upset when he told me that some boys had made cheeky remarks about him. You can have no idea of the trouble created for the staff when the members of the band have upset the caretaker.

Behaviour is always a problem. We would not wish the Youth Band to be composed of angels but I feel that, as in all organisations, there is a minority of Youth Band members who are thoughtless and selfish in their behaviour and attitude. Whatever happens must be in the best interests of all the players and the Youth Band as an organisation. We ought not to do anything which will spoil the week for others, and we must not do anything which will bring disrepute upon the Youth Band.

Damage to property, furniture or personal possessions can discredit our efforts to obtain schools - Directors of Education discuss our courses. A bad report after a course can travel all over the country. I have been placed in the difficult position of having to apologise for the behaviour of young players and to have to find the money to pay for damages. There are "silly" members of the band who are forever running about, fighting each other (in play, of course), throwing things about, and generally behaving like little boys who know no better. It is disappointing.

Card playing must stop. We have nothing against cards as such but, unfortunately, the games played are gambling games. Apart from the fact that the people who support the Youth Band would take away their support if they knew, boys cannot afford to lose money at cards. At a previous course boys lost all their pocket money in a few days and we had to step in, but I think the worst aspect of these card games is that some boys must come prepared to win! That seems rather despicable to me.

I must say that I was pleased with the general dress and deportment on the course. There were fewer "odd-looking" outfits and, at Blackpool, I was complimented on the fact that none of the boys had "silly" haircuts. A normal looking band makes a good impression on the public.

Please realise that when Mr. Peet and I grumble we are not trying to impose a strict discipline on the band, nor to deprive anybody of enjoyment. We grumble because we know that there are boys who are thoughtless enough to spoil the course for other people and to damage the reputation of the Youth Band because of silly and selfish behaviour. Think back to the day when we talked to the boys. We did not alter our minds about the extension nor about the trip to Blackpool.

Now for Weymouth. We should enjoy this course immensely. Weymouth is a very nice place with plenty of amusements and some good bathing facilities. Do write to me quickly so that I can place your name on the list of players who are definitely coming. Mr. Ball is conducting and we always enjoy the courses when he is in charge. Mr. Mortimer had promised to come but he will be in Canada throughout the month of August and you cannot expect him to give up that trip. I want to close the band list on May 31st so, do remember, if I have not heard from you by that date, I shall have to take it for granted that you are not coming.

Do write.

With best wishes, hoping to see you in August,
Yours sincerely,

Leonard Davies

THE NATIONAL YOUTH BRASS BAND OF GREAT BRITAIN
Secretary: LEONARD DAVIES
2, VICTORIA STREET - - - MANCHESTER 3



HAVE YOU TAKEN TV?

Miss Judith Potter,
'Lyndale',
Berry Hill,
COLEFORD,
Glos.



Yvonne Smith (Lydbrook Band) & Judith Potter (Cinderford Band) c. 1959

Crypt boy's triumph at Royal Festival Hall

HORN SOLOIST AT CONCERT BEFORE THE QUEEN MOTHER

LAST night at the age of 17, Gloucester Crypt school's talented horn player, David Cripps, was soloist in that mecca of music-making, the Royal Festival Hall. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother was present, and the conductor was Sir Malcolm Sargent.

Inside three incredible years, Cripps achieved a moment which evades many a more experienced player in a lifetime.

No one but he knows what it was like to stand before so vast an audience, in a hall merciless to any soloist, with one's music-making, as it were, forced ruthlessly into perspective.

But, as any local member of the audience—and there were a number—will know, Gloucester may be proud of him.

The concert was the usual one at the end of the Easter term of the National Youth Orchestra. The Queen Mother is the orchestra's patron and Sir Malcolm Sargent is president.

No lessons

The Tuffley boy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Cripps, now in his second year as a member of this remarkable enterprise, was selected to play the fourth Mozart Horn Concerto, K 495, in E flat.

He was playing parts of it with an ease and facility which amazed his masters only a few months after making a sudden switch from violin to horn in the school orchestra.

He spotted a French horn in Mr. Harry Dawes' study at Crypt and asked if he might "have a go."

As far as is known, he has not touched the violin since. It is also true that he has not had a lesson, nor likely to for the present.

The advice of the experts is that he cannot do better than he is doing on his own.

It was with this background, plus the concentrated preparation at Tunbridge Wells for the great occasion, that he emerged from the side of the orchestra to receive an encouraging pat on the shoulder from Sir Malcolm and move down the ranks of 125 white-shirted players to the front of the platform.

Assurance

The work chosen was one which was ideal. Gay, sparkling and yet with passages providing scope for the player to reveal a full rich tone, it is straightforward music of the finest.

Cripps played the three movements with commendable assurance, almost immaculate intonation, and with that delightful tone and ease which have characterized his playing from the word go.

His runs were good—more even than his trills—and his cadenza towards the end of the first (allegro) movement was superb.

One or two 'stuffed' notes, usually in the early bars, were maddeningly unjust and as nothing compared with the overall performance.

They may be written off under the heading of 'experience' now clearly of most urgent need.

Congratulations

Three times Cripps was brought back to acknowledge his ovation and bow to the smiling Queen Mother in the royal box.

Afterwards, as Her Majesty left the Festival Hall, moving between the players along her route and accompanied by Sir

Malcolm and Dr. Ruth Railton, the orchestra's director, the Queen Mother paused to congratulate him personally. There was also a word, too, for 14-year-old Roger Dean, another Crypt boy, who was among the double bass players.

The remainder of the National Youth Orchestra's programme—the Elgar 'Cockaigne' Overture, Rimsky-Korsakov 'Capriccio Espagnol' and the Dvorak 'New World' Symphony—had been very much their kind of music.

But how quickly this quite fabulous orchestra had made its

M.S.

DAVID BLOWS IN FOR HIS BIG NIGHT

By RICHARD LAST

DAVID CRIPPS, 17-year-old lorry driver's son, was practising on the French horn yesterday for the concert he will play in front of the Queen Mother on Thursday.

Three years ago David could not play a note of music. Then he heard a French horn—one of the most difficult instruments in the orchestra—and decided he wanted to learn to play it.

David, of Tuffley, near Gloucester, applied to join the National Youth Orchestra. Since then he has been given lessons by Dr. Ruth Railton, the orchestra's founder.

TALENTED

Yesterday he practised at Tunbridge Wells, Kent, with 150 other talented young musicians for the concert they are giving at the Festival Hall.

Sir Malcolm Sargent will be the conductor.

Dr. Railton told me David is not the first youngster who has developed from scratch into a brilliant player with the orchestra.

"But his progress has been amazing," she said.

City schoolboy soloist to play at royal concert

DAVID CRIPPS, 17-year-old Gloucester horn player and member of the National Youth Orchestra, is to be soloist at a concert given before Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and conducted by Sir Malcolm Sargent in the Royal Festival Hall on April 25.

For David, still at Crypt Grammar School and virtually self-taught, the moment will be the most important yet in a remarkable story of progress.

He taught himself the horn, began to play in local orchestras and appear as soloist, gained a place in the National Youth Orchestra and, when consideration was being given to lessons in London, Dr. Ruth Railton recommended that he should be allowed to continue on his own.

David was a "natural" and it was feared a tutor might impose a different style and do more harm than good.

At the Festival Hall he will play the Mozart Horn Concerto No. 4 in E flat K495.

Tomorrow night he will be in the City Young People's Orchestra for their concert in the Guildhall in aid of the Freedom from Hunger Campaign but, because of the time he is devoting to the preparation for his London concert, will not be a soloist.



DAVID CRIPPS



THE NATIONAL
YOUTH BRASS BAND
OF GREAT BRITAIN



President: Sir Malcolm Sargent

This Certificate was awarded to

Nora Judith Potter

in recognition of having attended

12 *courses of the National Youth Brass*

Band of Great Britain between 1956 and 1962

Denis Wright

Chairman & Founder

Leonard Davies

Organizing Secretary

11th June, 1966

Received from the Cinderford Town Band the sum of
fourteen Guineas (£14-14-0), fee and expenses for
adjudicating the Forest Band Contest at Cinderford,
with thanks,

Denis Wright



to broadcast

HEAR from Mr. J. S. Gratton, Youth Organiser for the Forest of Dean that the Forest of Dean Junior Brass Band — which has only been in being for the past two years — will shortly figure in a regional broadcast to take place on Saturday, March 2, in the Home and West Service of the BBC between 5-6 p.m. Items to be played will give a local county flavour, for they will include the March from the Sulta in E by Gustav Holst, the Overture from "HMS Pinafore" (Sullivan), "Playmates" by Mr. J. A. Greenwood (well known to all Forest bandmen), and the "John Peel Suite" arranged by Fred Mortimer.

Conductors of local Bands, including Mr. T. Annetts, Mr. Cecil Chappell, and Mr. H. Hartley, will give help to the broadcast.

THE Band, which has a present strength of 38, consists of boys and girls between the ages of 13 and 21.

A lot of them are already members of Berry Hill, Coleford, Cinderford, Yorkley, Lydbrook, Lydbrook and Tidenham Brass Bands.

Like any other new organisation the Junior Band has had its teething troubles, particularly so far as E Flat and B Flat Bass players have been concerned, but with the assistance of some adult members this difficulty has been overcome.

Cinderford concert

LOVERS of Brass Band music in the Forest will be pleased to hear that the selections to be played in the broadcast will be included in a concert to be given by the Band at Cinderford on February 24.

Members of Mrs. Grace Knowles' Group of Singers will be augmenting what looks like an interesting programme.

The Youth Band can call in the services of Miss Judith F. plays for Cinder

Band, the brothers Tony and Gerald Hartley of Berry Hill Band, David and Robert Williams of Coleford Town Band, Vaughan Davies of Lydbrook Silver Prize Band and John Butson of Yorkley, all of whom have done well in local competitions.

David Cripps, who will also be appearing, has played for the National Youth Orchestra.

DAILY HERALD
NATIONAL BRASS BAND CHAMPIONSHIP CONTEST
 ROYAL ALBERT HALL
 Saturday, 20th October, 1962
BANDSMAN'S PRIVILEGE TICKET

AVAILABLE FOR CONTEST ONLY

This ticket is not transferable and must be signed by the Bandsman to whom it is issued. It admits bearer at the Artistes' Entrance, and is his authority to be behind stage for contesting purposes only. It does not entitle the holder to a seat in the auditorium.

Bandsman's Signature.....
 No. 142

SPLENDID DAY FOR CINDERFORD BAND

Cinderford Band travelled to the Cirencester carnival and 19th annual band festival on Saturday.

The band were awarded first prize in the open section march, winning the Licensed Victuallers' cup and £4.4.0 with 86 points.

Aldbourne were second and Yorkley third.

In the selection contest the band was placed first by Mr. W. A. Scholes, the adjudicator, with 92 points, winning the Cirencester tradesmen's cup and £30; second were Aldbourne (88) and third Yorkley (80).

The band was also awarded the Gloucestershire Association Trophy.

Cinderford Band were also successful at the Ruardean contest the previous week, winning the street march and open selection and second prize for the stage march.

The band will be playing at Cheltenham in the Imperial Gardens on Sunday at 3 p.m.

BRASS CONTESTS AT YORKLEY A SUCCESS

On Saturday last, despite the bad road conditions, many of the competitors arrived at the Onward Hall, Yorkley, for the slow melody and quartet contest, organised by the Yorkley Onward Band.

Contestants from London, Oxford and Bristol failed to make the journey. Competitors from local bands, mid-Rhondda, Brefforton, near Evesham, Swindon and the City of Gloucester played well, adjudicated by Mr. E. C. Buttress, of Manchester, a well-known and much-travelled judge, who has given his decisions in at least 700 contests, and by Mr. Beckenham, of Gloucester, another name well known in the musical world.

THE WINNERS

Prizewinners were: junior slow melody, own choice (adjudicator, Mr. Beckenham), 1, R. Morgan (cornet), Lydbrook; 2, D. Williams (horn), Coleford; 3, R. Morgan (cornet), Lydbrook, and B. Ireland (horn), City of Gloucester. An additional money prize was given for this third prize by the "British Mouthpiece".

The special prize for the youngest competitor, under 12, was won by I. Cowley, Swindon B.R.; this competitor received an additional prize, as did R. Bennett, of Lydbrook, the next youngest, from Mr. A. M. R. Watts. Fourteen competitors arrived to compete.

The adult slow melody (adjudicator, Mr. Buttress): 1 (cup and medal), N. Prior (euphonium), Mid Rhondda; 2, M. Harrison (cornet), Mid Rhondda; 3, F. Cowley (cornet), Swindon B.R.; 4, D. Willetts (cornet), Drybrook. The prize for the best brass soloist was won by C. Coleman, Mid Rhondda. Twenty-one competitors took part in this contest.

Air varie (own choice): 1, F. Cowley (cornet), Swindon B.R., (prize, cup and medal); 2, R. Morgan (cornet), Lydbrook; 3, N. Prior (euphonium), Mid Rhondda. Ten competed.

Quartet contest for "Daily Herald" fourth grade bands: 1 (cup and medal for conductor), City of Gloucester (10 points lead); 2, Coleford; 3, Brefforton (B). The City of Gloucester conductor was O. Adlarn. Four quartets entered and all competed.

Open quartet contest—nine out of 13 entries played—1 (challenge cup and medal for conductor), Lydbrook Juniors (conductor, N. Barnett); 2, Mid Rhondda Workmen's (C); 3, Mid Rhondda Workmen's (B). All the last four con-

tests were judged by Mr. Buttress.

The official accompanists were Mr. G. Phillips and Mr. M. Price. Prizes were presented by Mr. A. M. R. Watts, who was accompanied by Miss J. Watkins. Thanking them for their help, Miss Audrey Griffiths presented Miss Watkins with a bouquet and Mr. Watts with a buttonhole, from the Onward Band.

Many members of the band helped in making this a successful effort, including Mr. Watson, of Berry Hill, who acted as chairman.

Refreshments were on sale throughout by the ladies' committee, Mesdames B. Butson, G. Ambrey, H. Griffiths, I. Watts, Price and H. Arundell.

These Forest champions, Cinderford, gave the top performance of the day, winning the Daily Herald trophy for the best selection in the open section of the contest with a band arrangement of Rimsky-Korsakov's symphonic suite Scheherazade.

Exciting

Conductor Cecil Chappell's interpretation of this exciting kaleidoscope of fairy-tale musical pictures was impressive and the band responded splendidly.

Adjudicator Bran Wiggins liked it, too. He complimented the solo cornet player, and awarded the British Bandsman prize for the outstanding player of the day to Cinderford's soprano cornet player, Judith Bloxsome.

Joe Welsh, Gloucestershire Brass Bands Association's popular secretary, said it was the best contest the Association had ever had, with a record entry of 23 and the highest income.

The adjudicator, who is no stranger to Gloucester, having played at the Three Choirs Festival as an orchestral trumpeter several times, was shut in "the box" for seven hours.

CINDERFORD BRASS BAND CONTEST IS SUCCESS

THE first open brass band contest organised by the Cinderford Town Band, held on the Causeway football ground on Saturday, was a success from every point of view.

The weather was fine, there were 17 entries, the standard of playing was high, and the venture proved financially worthwhile.

The contest officials were Mr. R. Jones, chairman; Mr. W. Poulton, secretary; Mr. D. Arnold, treasurer; Mr. B. A. Morgan, announcer, and Mr. R. Bloxsome, Mr. W. Meek and Miss J. Potter.

The chief adjudicator was Dr. Dennis Wright, Sgt. M. Howell judged department. Results were (out of 100):

Street March: 1, Desford Colliery, 78 points (£7 and Barratts Challenge Cup); 2, City of Bristol (A. G. Lloyd, department prize).

March on Stage (own choice): (£5 and British Mouthpiece Challenge Cup): 1, City of Hereford (A. Grainger) 83 points; 2, Desford Colliery (J. W. Brotherhood) 81 points.

March on Stage (Selection): £20 and Littledean British Legion Challenge Cup) 1, Desford Colliery, 178 out of 200 points; 2, (£10 and R. Bevan Challenge Trophy), City of Hereford, 176 points; £5 Berry Hill Silver Band (173 points) (H. Hartley), also Gordon League Cup for highest-placed Forest band in section.

March on Stage (Open Section): 1 (£5 and E. G. Potter Challenge Cup) Jaguar Cars (F. Robinson) 88 points out of 100; 2, Lydbrook Silver (C. Chappell), 84.

March on Stage, Section 'A' (Open Selection, Own Choice): £50 and Telesavers Challenge Cup: 1, Jaguar Cars, 186 points out of 200; 2 (£20 and R. W. Jones Memorial Trophy), Lydbrook Silver, 183 and also Forest of Dean Miners' Challenge Cup for Forest band highest in section; 3, £10, Coventry Festival (J. R. Major), 180.

Mr. G. Maxfield, chairman of the Gloucestershire Brass Band

Association, said that he hoped the organisers would make it an annual contest.

Dr. Wright presented the prizes. He congratulated the bands on their choice of pieces, many of which, he said, were very difficult to play.

Mr. J. Mould, with a score of 15, won the men's skittles contest and Pam Morgan, with a score of eight, the ladies'.

A draw on the field resulted: J. Welch (Drybrook); 2, H. Bowkett (St. John's), 3, B. Griffin (Yorkley); 4, G. Cooper (Buckshaft).

CINDERFORD GET A FIRST

Cinderford Town Band, under their musical director (Mr. C. L. Chappel) gained first prize and £30 and a challenge cup, in the open section at Cirencester on Saturday ten points ahead of the second band, Yorkley (Mr. G. A. Watkins).

Other bands competing were Berry Hill, Drybrook and Watney Silver.

Cinderford also won the Gloucestershire Association Cup.

DIANA'S BLOW FOR VICTORY

A GIRL who nearly made a band blow its top—just because she asked to join—helped it to success at the week-end.

Diana Woolnough, a 20-year-old drawing-office tracer, was the girl cornetist with the 24 men of Cheltenham Spa silver band, which won the Third Division title in the *Daily Herald* Western Area Brass Band Championships at Bristol.

Diana's written application to join the band was turned down, because it had been all-male since its formation. But when she turned up at a rehearsal, bandmaster Gil Gardner relented.

Other girls in the Second Division bands were 16-year-old cornetist Judy Potter, who helped Cinderford Town to its first-time win; 15-year-old schoolgirls Heather Meek and Ruth Willetts (Drybrook and District); and 16-year-old Mary Bailey (Woodfalls).

IN FINALS

The top three bands in the Western Second, Third and Fourth Divisions qualify for the *Daily Herald* national finals next October.

St. Dennis silver band, new Western champions, go into the top-class final with Camborne Town band.

Championship: 1, St. Dennis Silver (E. J. Williams) 186; 2, Fishponds British Legion (A. G. Lloyd) 183; 3, Bodmin Town (W. D. Lawton) 175. Second Division: 1, Cinderford Town (C. Chappell) 186; 2, Drybrook and District (J. C. Welsh) 182; 3, Woodfalls Silver (S. L. Clarke) 180.

Third Division: 1, Cheltenham Spa Silver (G. Gardner) 184; 2, Bath Spa Imperial (H. Fevier) 178; 3, Bridgwater Imperial (S. P. Evans) 176. Fourth Division: 1, Berry Hill Silver (H. Hartley) 187; 2, Crewkerne (S. C. Brookes) 181; 3, R. A. Lister Dursley (C.

Hat trick year for Cinderford Band

This year has been a successful contesting year for Cinderford Band. In June the Band achieved a hat trick win at the Severn Sound On Air Band of the Year contest, and musical director Cecil Chappell took the Band to victory in fine style to win last Saturday's Gloucestershire Brass Band Association contest at the Royal Forest of Dean Grammar School.

Adjudicator Mr Denzil Stephens, sat patiently for six

hours to listen to a total of 21 bands; ten fourth section, six third, two second, and three championship section.

In the championship section Cinderford, Thornbury and Yorkley Onward fought in front of a packed audience to gain the title "Gloucester Champions." The contest required each band to play a test piece of its own choice. Cinderford, who have won this contest for the previous two years, played a Brass Band arrangement by Keith Wilkinson of the *Orchestral Overture to "Beatrice and Benedict"* by Berlioz. Their opponents gave renderings of "Carnival Romain" and "James Cook Circumnavigator" respectively.

The adjudicator gave first prize, the "West of England Cup" to Cinderford Band. Overall results: Championship section: 1 Cinderford (92), 2 Thornbury (90), second section: 1 Message Maker (90); third section: 1 Bendix Kingswood (89), 2 Avonbank (87), 3 Lydney (85); fourth section: 1 Malvern Hill and District, 2 Berry Hill Silver, 3 Bream Silver.

SPECIAL AWARDS

Cinderford also captured the soloist award for the championship section and all player of the day awards.

Cinderford Flugel Horn player Jacqueline Gwynne was awarded a medal for being the best instrumentalist in the championship section. Jackie won the "Cooling Shield," for the best instrumentalist of the day. The best instrumentalist of the day award proved to be yet another hat trick for Cinderford, in 1981 it was awarded to solo euphonium player Steven Purvis, in 1982 to percussionists Andrew Purvis and Ian Cuss.

Principal cornet player Philip Turner won the Arthur Gardiner memorial trophy for the best cornet player of the day. Philip has won this award in 1973, 1978 and 1982.

This award was also a hat trick for Cinderford, being won in 1981 by soprano cornet player Martyn Whatmore, and by Philip Turner in 1982 and 1983.

The Randall Phillips cup is presented annually to the best bass section of the day, this was awarded to Cinderford. Bass players Philip Grindie, Stan Jones, Michael Tomlins and Clive Bevan previously held this cup in 1981.

OOMPAH GOES WEST

The honours went outside Bristol at the West of England area brass band championships at the Colston Hall, on Saturday.

Fifteen hundred people heard:

ST. DENNIS (Cornwall) proclaimed area champions for the fifth time in eight years;

FOUR Forest of Dean bands within a five-mile radius scoop four awards;

A SCHOOL band from Bournemouth placed first in section four.

The renamed City of Bristol Band, formerly Fishponds British Legion, came fifth with 175 points.

This was one place down on last year. Shaftesbury Crusade Band, who sport the city's Coat of Arms, finished third in section two, with 177 points.

BEST EVER

Bristol East Temperance Band came sixth with 171.

In the championship section Cinderford put up their best-ever performance in finishing second with 183 points, and qualified for the national finals in October.

The Royal Gloucestershire Hussars band from Gloucester won section 2 with 181 points with Lydbrook Silver second and Shaftesbury Crusade third.

Any disappointment conductor Mr. Alwyn Lloyd may have had over the City of Bristol Band was partly offset by Wincanton Silver's victory in section three.

He conducted them too. Wincanton had 177 points, Lydney 174, and Berry Hill Silver 172.



Berry Hill Band, 1958

Junior Band and Singers

PLAYING to a well-filled Miners' Welfare Hall at Cinderford, on Sunday evening, the Forest of Dean Junior Band gave that quality of performance which has already taken them to the level of broadcasters.

During the week-end they had been rehearsing under Mr. Tom Atkinson, of Bradford, a leading figure in brass band activity and tutor of the National Youth Brass Band and for the education authorities of Leeds and Bradford.

They enjoyed a useful course at Sandywell Park, Cheltenham, a residential hostel which comes under the Gloucestershire Education Committee, who were congratulated by Mr. Atkinson on the progressive outlook they had on the musical training of the county's youth.

MOSTLY BRITISH

Most of the band's music was British and it delighted the audience, notably perhaps the concluding items W. Rimmer's arrangement of "Rule Britannia" and Eric Ball's lovely interpretation of "All in the April evening", made famous by Sir Hugh Robertson and the Glasgow Orpheus Choir.

Supporting the band were members of another cultured Forest musical organisation—the Lydcroft Singers, conducted by Mrs. Grace Knowles who accompanied a sextet from the Singers in some of the choicest singing one could wish to hear.

Few experiences could be more enchanting than to hear their singing of "The lark in the clear air" and "O Holy Father, hear us".

Equally pleasant was the solo singing of Megan Kear, Sheila Turley, Carol Brown and Pamela Baldwin, and Mrs. Knowles was warmly congratulated by Mr. Atkinson on the outstanding quality of the singers she leads.

Mr. S. H. Yeatman, headmaster of Drybrook School, and a member of the County Music Committee, presided.

TOMORROW'S BROADCAST

The B.B.C. says:

"Sound Off" on Saturday (5.40—5.55 p.m.) will feature the Forest of Dean Junior Brass Band which consists of between 36 and 40 boys and girls, whose ages range from 14 to 21. Its members attend brass band classes in connection with the local Village Brass Bands. Three local conductors—Mr. Cecil Chappell, of the Cinderford Town Band, Mr. Ted Annetts, of Yorkley Onward Band, and Mr. Harold Hartley, of Berry Hill Band—give their services voluntarily. During the winter, the Group meets once a month to rehearse, but in the summer, when the Bands are busy with competitions, no practices are held to interfere with this activity.

The Junior Youth Brass Band has given a concert and has played at the Three Choirs Festival Garden Party at Cheltenham.

The principal organiser is Mr. John Gratton Area youth organiser, of Coleford.

Forest junior band on BBC

The Forest of Dean junior brass band last night made BBC recording at Abenhall School for the programme "Home and West" to be broadcast on March 2.

The young Forest bandmen will be heard playing four selections between 5.40 and 5.55 p.m.

Preparations are going forward for the junior brass band to broadcast on March 2, in the West and Home Services. It is hoped that the recording will be made on Friday, February 15 at Mitcheldean and Abenhall School. This period will be a busy one as about 38 members of the Band will be taking part in the week-end course at Sandywell Park, February 22/24, and at the end

of their weekend they will return to the Forest of Dean to take part in a concert at the Miners Hall, Cinderford, on February 24. The conductor will be Mr. Tom Atkinson, tutor of the National Youth Brass Band, and the City of Leeds and Bradford Brass Band and music adviser. Support at this concert will be given by young singers under the tuition of Mrs. Grace Knowles, Yorkley.

Youth band takes the stage on Sunday

Next Sunday the Forest of Dean Junior Band will be giving its first concert at the Miners' Welfare Hall, Cinderford.

The suggestion that this band should be formed was made some years ago, but it was not until last summer, and eventually last September that representatives from bands came together to discuss this formation. It was decided that the band members would consist of young people between the age of 14/21 years of age, and be members of bands or band instruction groups. It was appreciated that there would be difficulties in obtaining an adequate number of bass players and there would possibly be a problem of obtaining a balance.

Even so it was felt that this idea should be given a chance to

take its course. Subsequently the group has met once a month to rehearse and the present band is composed of members from Yorkley, Cinderford, Lydney, Coleford, Berry Hill, Drybrook and Tidenham.

LEADERS

Leadership of the band is shared between Mr. J. Peacock, Lydney, Mr. L. Chappell, Cinderford, and Mr. E. Annetts, Yorkley, who give their services voluntarily.

Rehearsals are only possible through the help of the Band Ladies' Committee, who provide hospitality and the supporters of the band who help with transport. However, it has created a pleasant social atmosphere amongst young people who have a common interest. The band is fortunate to have some excellent players.

Recently Judy Potter, solo cornet (Drybrook) and Gerald Hartley, soprano cornet (Berry Hill) attended the National Youth Brass Band week for training under Sir Adrian Boult, and appeared on the Television Concert Programme.

The young quartet and members of Yorkley Band, J. Butsen, J. Thomas, D. Price and Audrey Watts, who were recently successful in the Stonesfield, Oxford, competitions, are in the band.

TO THE ACADEMY

In addition there are Ruth and David Willetts, tenor horn and cornet, of Drybrook, who are both talented musicians. Ruth, besides taking her place in the band, is playing a piano solo and is going to the Royal Academy in September to further her studies.

Both Cinderford and Coleford Bands provide brothers and sisters in the form of John and Kenneth Bucknell and William and Gillian Poulton and David and Robert Williams, who are all useful players.

Lydney and Tidenham have also provided some very useful young people and the whole affair is up to an excellent co-operative effort.

YOUTH BAND PREPARE FOR RADIO

THE Forest of Dean Youth Brass Band delighted a large audience in the Miners' Welfare Hall, Cinderford, on Sunday evening. It was fine preparation for their broadcast on the BBC Home Service at 5.40 p.m. on Saturday.

The concert was the culmination of a weekend course at Sandywell Park, Cheltenham, where the band received instruction from Mr. Tom Atkinson, tutor to the National Youth Brass Band.

Mr. Atkinson was guest conductor at Sunday's concert.

The programme, which consisted mainly of pieces by English composers, included March by Gustav Holst, "H.M.S. Pinafore," a suite of English Folk Songs by Vaughan Williams and the Coppelia ballet suite.

The band was supported by a sextet of the Lydcroft Singers directed and accompanied by Mrs. Grace Knowles.

Soloists were Megan Kear, Sheila Turley, Carole Brown and Pamela Baldwin.

Mr. J. Chifford, County Music Supervisor, praised the standard of the performances.



Members of the Forest of Dean Youth Band at Tuesday recording.

FOREST JUNIOR BAND CHARMED THE GERMANS

THE Forest of Dean Junior Brass Band's tour in Oberhaz, Germany, proved to be extremely successful, and the performances given were of a high standard. And the young musicians had a good reception from their German audiences.

Highlights of the tour were at Bad Harzburg where the band gave an outdoor concert to an audience of about 600. Despite pouring rain the audience insisted on encores at the end of the concert.

At Braunlage, a concert was given indoors with an audience of 300 with some

WHILE playing in the bandstand of the Kur-Garden at Bad Sachsa, the band was literally sitting on a hornets nest and one of the players was stung.

people sitting outside the hall watching through the glass windows and listening to the concert being relayed on loudspeakers.

At the end the girls in the band were presented with a bouquet of carnations, and the

conductor, Mr. C. Chappell and soloists R. Morgan, W. Smith, Mrs. Y. Hamblin, Miss J. Potter and Miss Ruth Willets received inscribed brandy goblets.

The whole of the band received a small memento known as the "Witke-Brocken". The band was not allowed to leave by the audience until they had played one more number "Old Comrades" which was one of the most popular items of the tour.

Other popular concerts were given at Kur-Haus in Bad Lauterburg and Bad Sachsa. At Wildemann, Herr Fesler, the Kur-Direktor, congratulated the band on a wonderful performance and here, once again, the band were not allowed to leave before encores.

The tour was organised through the help of Herr H. Schrader, the Kries-Jugendpfleger, and the local youth officer Mr. J. S. Gratton. This was possible through the Anglo-German Exchange Link which has existed since 1952.

The band will play at the Three Choirs Festival Garden Party in early September.

JUNIOR BAND WELL RECEIVED IN GERMANY

Last week a party of 55 people, 44 of them playing members of the Forest of Dean Junior Brass Band, returned from an eleven day tour of Germany.

During the tour a total of nine concerts were given by the band at Altenau, Bad Harzburg, Goslar, Bad Sachsa, Bad Grund, St. Andreasburg, Hannenkleve, Wildemann and Clausthal-Zellerfeld. Audiences, which invariably reached between 400 and 500, gave the band an excellent reception to varied musical scores. Solos made up the band's programmes, given by Lyndon Baglin (euphonium), Ruth Willets (piano) and David Cripps (French horn). David, who comes from Gloucester, is the principal horn player with the National Youth Orchestra, and at the moment is on a tour of Israel and Greece. For the concerts the band was conducted by Mr. Cecil Chappell and Mr. Edward Annetts.

The only day at the disposal of the band was spent sightseeing at Hanover.

Arrangements for the tour were undertaken by Mr. J. S. Gratton, youth organiser for the Forest of Dean.

The band already have two broadcasts to their credit and shortly make a television appearance on T.W.W.

Young instrumentalists in a splendid programme

THE Gloucestershire Youth Orchestra scored a triumph with their choice of Bizet's L'Arlesienne to end their second concert at Lydney Town Hall on Sunday afternoon.

The arrangement, which was formed of extracts from suites one and two, gave the 69 players tremendous scope to express their talent fully and the performance was a brilliantly satisfying accomplishment for the orchestra and its conductor, Tony Hewitt-Jones.

The audience, the size of which was described by one of the organisers as indifferent, loved it, and they showed their appreciation wholeheartedly at the conclusion of a jubilant performance of the popular Farandole.

BIG OVATION

Roger Garland, the leader of the orchestra, received a great ovation for his violin work in L'Arlesienne, and earlier for his performance in Haydn's symphony 100 and a Kabalevsky violin concerto.

Garland, who is in his second year as leader of the orchestra and has also led the National Youth Orchestra at several con-

certs, was at his best on Sunday, notably during the violin concerto.

Other members of this remarkable orchestra who also play in the National are Nicholas Dowling (violin), Roger Dean (double bass) and David Cripps (French horn).

FOREST BAND

For young Cripps, who is making a big impression in the music world, it was a busy afternoon. In addition to his performance with the orchestra he also played the euphonium with the Forest of Dean Junior Brass Band during the first part of the concert.

The band, which is made up of members of Cinderford, Coleford, Drybrook, Lydbrook, Lydney, Tidenham and Yorkley bands and was formed less than two years ago, was also splendid.

Its finest piece in an impressive programme was Finlandia by Sibelius.

Other works played by the band, conducted by Edward Annetts and Cecil Chappell, were Poet and Peasant (Suppe), Three Jolly Sailors (Siebert), a selection from Oklahoma (Rogers and Hammerstein), Boogie on the Bandstand (Siebert) and Spring (Grieg).

Three of the cornetists in the 46 strong band—Judy Potter (Cinderford) and Robert Morgan and Vaughan Davies (Lydbrook) are also members of the National Youth Brass Band.

Broadcast for young Forest players

The Forest of Dean Junior Brass Band gave a concert in Montpellier Gardens, Cheltenham, on Sunday afternoon.

A fairly large audience heard the band perform under cloudy skies which threatened to break, but fortunately the rain held back until later in the evening.

The band, under their conductor Mr. C. L. Chappell (Cinderford), consisted of players from Lydney, Drybrook, Cinderford, Coleford, Yorkley and Lydbrook.

They played twelve items, which included "The concert march", "Poet and peasant", a selection from "Oklahoma", "South Pacific" and "76 Trombones".

After their performance the band were congratulated by many members of the audience.

The band can be heard on the West of England and the Home Service next Monday at 5.25 p.m. when they will be appearing in a weekly programme "Music Club."

Also appearing in the programme, which was recorded on Tuesday, will be instrumentalists from Cirencester Grammar School and Bristol Youth Club Choir.

The band will also be appearing at Symonds Yat on July 5.

WITH THE BAND OF THE GLOUCESTERS

A young cornet player in the village band at Lydbrook decided he would like to learn more about music, so he enlisted as a boy soldier with a view to becoming an Army bandsman.

He has now achieved his aim: 20-year-old Roger Phelps is a



ROGER PHELPS

member of the Band of the 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment, and is at present stationed at Polemedhia, Cyprus.

The son of Mr. J. Phelps, The Stores, Coalway Cross, Coleford, he is serving a nine-year engagement, and has been in Cyprus since last March. His other interests are hockey and swimming.

From the West Country The Adventures of Clara Chaff by Harry Harrison 'The Interrupted Concert'

Peter.....Peter Scott
Pinkle.....Barbara Leigh Hunt
Forty-Fifty.....Hedley Goodall
Clara Chaff.....Marion Glyn Evans
Mr. Entwhistle.....Charles E. Stidwill
Pedro.....Harry Carter
Dilly.....Mollie Tapper
Mrs. Smith.....Brenda Hamilton
A Burglar.....Johnny Morris

Production by Mollie Austin

West-Country young artists:

Cecil Annetts (cornet)
Desmond Gregory (impressionist)
Ronald Willis (piano-acordion)

A paper-and-pencil quiz by
Elwyn Price. (BBC recording)

Cecil Annetts Joins Munn & Felton's

CECIL ANNETTS, the only son of Mr. and Mrs. James Annetts, Hangerberry, Lydbrook, will on Saturday leave the district to become a member of the world famous Munn and Feltons (Kettering) Works band.

Only 15 years of age, he is widely known for his outstanding ability with the cornet, having won contests all over the country. He has also broadcast from the West of England studios.

With such a famous band as Munn and Feltons he should have a brilliant future before him, and all Forest of Dean music lovers will wish him every success.

LYDBROOK'S talented young cornetist, Master Cecil Annetts, was very successful on Saturday last when he won both the Junior and Open Contests of the Kingswood and District, Esteddfod for Brass Soloists and Quartette Contests held at Bristol. Competitors were present from a wide area, the adjudicator, Mr. T. J. Powell, Musical Director of Mellingeriffiths Works Band, paying special tribute to the high standard of playing of Master C. Annetts, who is the only son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Annetts Hangerberry, Lydbrook.

YORKLEY BAND CONCERT

A good company at Yorkley joined them in four well loved carols.

Onward Hall on Sunday enjoyed the concert of carols and Christmas Music presented by the Onward Band, with Miss Yorke Brown, of Whitecroft, as soloist, accompanied by Mr. Maurice Price.

The band was conducted by Mr. E. Annetts and the audience

joined them in four well loved carols. The proceeds go towards what is hoped will be a Yorkley and district O.A.P. Welfare Fund for which a committee is shortly to be formed. Mrs. W. H. James deputised as chairman.

'FRAN' IS WESSEX CHAMPION SOLOIST

A cornet soloist of the front rank, Francis Cowley of Swindon British Railways Band, started his playing with Wroughton Silver Band at the age of nine years.

"Fran" has probably won more medals and trophies than any cornet soloist in Wessex and he has on many occasions beaten players whose names are perhaps better known.

His performance of Weber's "Last Waltz," "Facilita" and all the other "big" solos can always command respect from players with whom he is competing.

He is that type of player who is not content to merely play the solo passages in the band, and his tutti work always inspires his colleagues on the solo cornet line. His conductor, Cyril Winston—they are always together at contests—cannot speak too highly of this modest Swindon soloist.

His son, Ian, is being taught the cornet, and with the barometer set "fair," he will, we hope, continue to uphold the "Cowley Cornet Tradition."



65 years they met round a well at The Square



Back row, l to r: Messrs. R. Richards, P. Brown, W. Higgins, H. Murphy, K. Bowery, D. Adams, H. Morse, R. Baldwin, D. Price, G. Thomas, A. Higgins, Lewis, K. Brown, Dr. Heighway. Front row, l to r: Messrs. A. Brown, D. Bowery, R. Crawley, F. J. Brown (conductor), B. Jessop, G. Bevan, E. Adams, T. Jessop, R. Hawkins.

The history of Parkend Band started way back in the early part of the summer of 1893, as far as records can tell us. Mr. Hosea Griffiths, who was then a member of the New Fancy Band, which also included seven brothers by the name of Brown, and was known locally as the Brown's Band, called a meeting to discuss the prospects of forming a band in the village.

This meeting of young men was held round the old well in front of the square, and after some discussion it

Poulton, Albert Wright, S. May, E. Watkins, H. Thomas, William Webb, and Mr. E. Jessop, who is still playing the E flat Bass in Nuneaton Borough Band.

CHRISTMAS PARADE

In that year the band turned out 25 players at Christmas, paraded round

As years went on, more young men joined the band, and there was a change of conductors; another brother took over the baton. Mr. Frank Brown, and under his leadership fairly good progress was made, with more members joining the band, including the conductor's sons, the Davieses, the Morses, Messrs. V. Purcell, and W. Higgins.

The band got really into its stride and entered its first contest in 1928 at Dursley, winning first prize in the second section of the Gloucestershire Association contest.

NEW INSTRUMENTS

In was during the 1930's when the band purchased the set of silver instruments they hold today, and with the passing of Mr. Frank Brown, his son took over the baton, and is still bandmaster. He has held this continuously, except for three years when Mr. W. Higgins took over.



In the last 20 years the band has entered many contests and secured several first prizes: at Cholsey the band won three firsts, two challenge cups, and three medals, and have also had successes at Bridgwater, Reading, Fairford, Newbury, and last year were successful at Severn Tunnel.

During these 60 years Parkend Band has had some ups and downs, but today they have a strong committee, including a women's section, an excellent president in Mr. Arnold Cooper, a fine chairman in Mr. S. H. Yeatman, and a useful list of vice-presidents.

Mr. Frank Brown and Mr. William Higgins (the latter has been connected with the band since 1917, and is well known as "father") are helping to keep the band movement in the village riding high.—F.W.

FOREST BANDS

was decided to seek the interest of the local people.

Another meeting, called to get the people's views, was held in the club room of the New Inn, which is the headquarters of the band today.

A committee was formed, but the big question was how to get enough money to buy instruments. A donation scheme was started and the first instrument was bought, and with members paying their 3d. a week subscriptions, and a few members buying their own instruments, the band gradually got under way and by 1895 had enough instruments to start the band.

The band was then made up of Messrs. Albert Brown (conductor), Albert Brown, Frank Brown, Ralph Brown, Vince Brown, William Poulton, Ernest Poulton, Hosea Griffiths, Sid Burrows, Alf Mann, John Blewitt, Ted Macey, Jonah Underwood, Albert Thomas, Will Lusty, Alf Kear, Hart



THE CONDUCTOR

the village, and has done so ever since.



The Parkend band of about 1900. Back row, l to r. Messrs. S. May, E. Edmunds, H. Thomas, R. Turley, V. Brown, E. Poulton, E. Macey, J. Nelmes; front row, Messrs. S. Burrows, J. Liddington, F. Watkins, F. Brown (conductor), R. Brown, T. Gwynne, H. Griffiths, R. Morgan.



CINDERFORD BAND SPONSORSHIP DEAL

Cinderford Band has for many years been eagerly searching for a financial sponsorship, and is pleased to announce that a deal has been struck with Swanbrook Transport from Cheltenham. The sponsorship runs from March 1 and the Band will be known as "The Cinderford Swanbrook Band." The sponsor is providing the Band with subsidised transport, allowing

the Band to divert those funds to items which can aid the Band's progress.

The Cinderford Band has a long and proud history, with the first band being formed as long ago as 1879 from an earlier Drum and Fife Band.

The Band progressed rapidly and by 1900 was invited to play in the first national contest at Crystal Palace, London, where they were awarded fourth place.

However, bleaker days lay ahead and, with the coming of the First World War, the complete Band enlisted for the Volunteer service and a few weeks later were playing in France. The depression and strikes of the 1920's made life hard, but the Band continued to progress into the 1930's until the outbreak of the Second World War, when many members were called upon to serve their country.

By the end of the War the Band was at a low and in 1948 Mr Cecil Chappell, then a playing member, was invited to take over as conductor, a position he has held to this day, clocking up over fifty years of service with the Cinderford Band. Cecil has given most of his life's leisure time to the welfare of the Band.

Mr Chappell took the Band from strength to strength and in 1958 it won entry into the Championship section, where it has remained ever since, a very proud and remarkable record.

Over the last five years Cinderford Band has had many contest successes, holding the title 'Severn Sound Band of the Year' (organised by Severn Sound local radio station) for three consecutive years. Four times during the same period the Band have won the Gloucestershire Brass Band Association contest, earning the title "Champions of Gloucestershire."

The Band covers a wide age group, ranging from 10 to 65 years, the average age being 26, with the older members offering the benefits of their experience.

A large proportion of these members have progressed from the Junior Band and have given

many years of loyal service.

The youngest members are still at school and many are continuing education at college. The working sector of the Band are engaged in a variety of professions from those of insurance, banking and accountancy to engineering and the motor trade; we even have two undertakers!

Many players have gained beneficial experience from the Cinderford Band, subsequently having furthered their playing career with bands among the top ten in the country such as the Black Dyke Mills Band, Fairey Engineering and Sun Life Stanshawe.

The Band appears at venues nationwide and partakes in nine or ten contests a year in Gloucester, Stroud, Bristol, Brean Sands, Weston-super-Mare, Manchester and Reading.

Concert engagements account for 30 appearances per year, mainly in Gloucestershire, but as far reaching as Birmingham, Weston-super-Mare, Minehead and an annual invitation to the Bromyard Gala, which is a 7-day event, attracting crowds in excess of 20,000.

Concerts given range from the traditional brass band concert in a church or town hall to an evening of popular music at local social clubs. On many occasions the Band uses its resident vocalists, Christine Turner and Des Yeates, for added audience enjoyment.

In 1979, to mark the centenary year of the Band, an LP record, entitled "Forest Festival Brass," was produced at Grosvenor Recording Studios, Birmingham. Following the tremendous success of this initial

recording, the Band were invited by Look Records Ltd to release a second record. In 1981, the Band produced the record "Cinderford, Severn Sound Band of the Year 1981."

Both records were distributed nationwide and it is estimated that in excess of 10,000 copies were sold.

It is thought that the Band will be in a position to produce its third recording in the near future under the new sponsorship deal. The Band has always had a very active ladies' committee, who organise events such as sponsored walks, annual Spring and Christmas bazaars, jumble sales and lotteries. The Band will continue to rely on the support from the ladies' committee, who do so much hard work to help the Band purchase new instruments on a regular basis. The main priority of the sponsorship deal is to help the Band to improve its musical standard and enhance its reputation with audiences everywhere.

The immediate ambition is to achieve regular success in contests at a regional level, and develop this further to achieve success at national level.

The Band have to date undertaken three concert tours of Europe, two in Holland and one in West Germany. Plans are under way to organise the 1986 tour, once again to West Germany.

Anyone wishing to book the Cinderford Swanbrook Band for a concert should contact the secretary, Philip Turner, 11 Park View, Varnister Road, Ruardean, or telephone Dean 544193.