

Foden's Band E-Update

Regular updates to your inbox



June 2015

Dear Friends

I have pleasure in forwarding the bands latest E-letter for June

Team Foden's



On Saturday 2nd May 'Team Foden's' (Foden's and Foden's Youth) performed at Keele University. Each band performed a solo spot before combining to perform a World Premiere from Andy Stevenson of 'Tales of Myths and Legends' which takes inspiration from Cheshire's rich mythological history. The piece is in four movements and lasts 30 minutes. Each movement tells a different tale from Cheshire's past, which boasts stories of dragons, wizards and mermaids.

The piece received a great response from audience and playing members, well done Andy!!! All at Foden's are extremely proud of our Youth Band which boasts over 50 members who meet monthly and perform 4/5 concerts per year. The band was formed to compliment the excellent work already being carried out by several youth bands across the area by giving young players access to world class conductors, soloists and composers. Due to this we are delighted to have formed some great working relationships with a number of local youth bands and would like to thank them all for their continued support.

This fantastic concert took place at Keele University, and was organised in conjunction with their university brass band lead by student Chairperson Clare Jakeman (a Tuba player with the Foden's Youth Band). The students at Keele did a magnificent job in hosting the event, and Foden's would like to place on record our thanks to them for the hard work they put in. It is hoped that this will be the first of many events in partnership with Keele University.

Foden's raise money for Alder Hey Hospital

On the 23rd May Foden's appeared in a charity concert at Sandbach High School and Sixth Form College with all proceeds going to Alder Hey Children's Hospital (Hollie's Appeal).

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Hollie is a Year 8 student at Sandbach High School and a year ago she was rushed into Alder Hey with a brain abscess. Thankfully even though Hollie was given only 2 minutes to live the amazing surgeons performed lifesaving brain surgery and she is now on the road to a full recovery. Hollie and her family started their fundraising campaign hoping to raise £10,000 for the hospital.

This was the first time that Foden's have been supported by the musicians from Sandbach High School whose Chamber Choir recently won the Love Music Trust School's Music Competition 2015. The concert also featured the school's Jazz Band and Concert Band.

Foden's are Champions again



From the first Whit Friday Marches in 1884, the event has grown in popularity. This year over 100 brass bands participated in twenty two different contests at venues scattered around the areas of Tameside and Saddleworth. At each venue bands march to a central location where they perform a contest march which is judged by an adjudicator. Foden's played the popular march 'The President' conducted by Michael Fowles. After this the band members get back on their coach, travel to the next village where they repeat the same procedure again!

The contests are open to all-comers, so the local youth bands get to match their skills against the UK's top bands. For the players, the dash from contest to contest makes for an exhilarating (though exhausting) evening. Thousands of spectators travel to Saddleworth and Tameside to watch what is commonly called 'the greatest free show in the world'.

Each contest offers prizes for the best band, best youth band, best soloists etc. with each venue attracting between 50 - 70 bands. Each contest is organised by local volunteers with the running costs and prize money being raised by local donations, sponsorship and fund-raising events.

At the end of the night (each contest has its own finish time which is usually around 11pm) the adjudicator announces the results. To qualify for the overall prize i.e. the Champion of Tameside or Saddleworth bands must compete at a minimum of 6 venues and the band that has the best results takes the overall prize.

This year Foden's competed at all 11 venues in Tameside, starting at 4pm and finishing at 10.45pm where they received 5 first prizes, 4 second prizes and 2 third prizes. Due to these results Foden's were announced as the 'Tameside Whit Friday Champions' for the 14th time in 15 years.

Speaking about the victory Band Manager Mark Wilkinson commented "*As always we ensured we were fully prepared for this year's event due to a lot of hard work during the course of the week both inside*

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and outside of the bandroom. We are delighted to have secured our 14th victory in 15 years down to our consistent playing during the course of the evening which ensured all our Tameside performances were placed in the top 3. All at Foden's would like to thank each Whit venue for their time and effort in running such a fantastic and safe event"

Foden's and the Halle Orchestra

In my last E Letter I reported about an exciting concert at the Bridgewater Hall on the 1st July where Foden's have been invited to perform in concert with the World famous Halle Orchestra.

The Halle are offering reduced rates to our supporters which can be obtained by typing 'FODENS' into the promo code box when booking online (on The Bridgewater Hall site) or at the box office either in person or by phone by calling 0161 907 9000.

Tickets are priced at £20 each (plus booking fee) rather than up to £36 each (plus booking fee). The discounted tickets also allow you to sit anywhere in the Hall

<https://tickets.bridgewater-hall.co.uk/single/eventDetail.aspx?p=29036>

Foden's in Crewe

On the 21st June Foden's will appear at Crewe Lyceum in a concert that will include music from 'Brassed Off'

The Lyceum are also offering discounted tickets to our supporters at a reduced rate of £16 per ticket when booking 10 or more tickets. Why not bring your friends along!!

https://crewelyceum.co.uk/Online/default.asp?doWork::WScontent::loadArticle=Load&BOparam::WScontent::loadArticle::article_id=6B7312F2-BB1D-4CAE-957D-DE8D3A3DDD5C

We look forward to lots more activity over the coming weeks, to stay updated please visit <http://www.fodensband.co.uk>

Mark Wilkinson

Band Manager