

# Foden's Band E-Update

Regular updates to your inbox



Dear Friends,

As per usual the band have been extremely busy on the concert and contest stage as well as behind the scenes since the start of 2015

## MARKET DRAYTON

On the 17th January the band performed their first concert of the year at the Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton in front of a capacity audience. The audience were treated to an entertaining programme that featured The Cossack, La Forza Del Destino, Moon River, Lets Face the Music and Dance as well as the rousing Procession to the Minster. The concert was conducted by our guest for the night Richard Evans. The concert was a huge success with a repeat booking for the band in December

## RNCM AND CD RECORDING

Following on from our successful appearance in Market Drayton the bands next concert was at the prestigious 'Festival of Brass' held at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. This festival features 6 of the countries best bands who are invited to appear in the concert series to perform music of a serious nature ie test pieces, concerto's etc. This year the band welcomed back Bramwell Tovey to conduct the concert alongside Michael Fowles. The bands guest soloist for the evening was Mark O'Keefe (Principal Trumpet with the BBC Scottish Orchestra) The following day the band recorded part of a cd featuring compositions by Bram as well as solo performances by Mark O'Keefe

Please see below link to a review of the concert and also a photo gallery

<http://www.4barsrest.com/reviews/concerts/con1010.asp#.VPS7dWByb5q>

<http://www.fodensband.co.uk/media/photo-galleries/2015-festival-of-brass/>

## COACHING DAY

On Saturday 31st January a team of tutors comprising of Mark Wilkinson, Helen Williams, Glyn Williams, Stu Baglin, Mark Landon and Michael Fowles travelled to the Amersham Band to take sectional and full rehearsals ahead of the bands appearance in the 2nd section of the London and Southern Counties Regional Contest on the 21st March where they will perform the set work 'Variations on Maccabeus" by Kevin Norbury

The event was arranged by Amersham's conductor Paul Fisher who played with Foden's on a number of occasions whilst studying at the RNCM.

Speaking about the coaching day Foden's conductor Michael Fowles who led the workshop complemented the band, saying "Amersham Band is a terrific example of community music making. Honest, hard-working people coming together for fun and friendship in this most creative of hobbies. A thoroughly enjoyable day in the company of a great bunch of people!"

## ARMAGH

On Friday 6th February Foden's made its annual pilgrimage to Northern Ireland as guests of the Armagh Old Boy's Band. Now in its 15th consecutive year, this trip is one of the undoubted highlights of Foden's hectic concert schedule.

On Saturday Foden's held a 3 hour rehearsal with 20 highly talented youngsters who's ages ranged from 9 to 19. The soloists and groups were of mixed ability with those who were just starting out in their banding careers and had chosen their respective solos wisely, whilst others showed great maturity and understanding of the music they chose. With a lot of gusto and a total lack of fear, each and every single one of these soloists shone whilst the band provided sympathetic backing and encouragement to a very appreciative audience. These youngsters must be commended for their approach and sheer enthusiasm. The future of banding across the Irish Sea is blossoming and is in good hands it seems! Once again, in-between the morning's rehearsal and the afternoon concert, the band and the young soloists were shown the kind of hospitality that has become synonymous with this trip.

The evening concert belonged to Foden's who performed current repertoire featuring tracks from their latest cd's

Foden's will return to Armagh next year as well as holding their annual summer school between the 3rd and 8th August '15. Details available at <http://www.fodensband.co.uk/youth-band/armagh-summer-school/>

## JOHN BARBER GETS MARRIED

On Saturday 14th February Foden's Chairman and Solo Trombone player John Barber married his fiancée Grace in Sandbach. The Band were delighted to perform music of John's choice before the service, as well as hymns and other items during the ceremony itself.

Not only was the wedding held on Valentine's Day, but also the day after John's 40th Birthday.

All at Foden's would like to wish the newly married couple a long and happy future together



## PATRONS CONCERT

On Tuesday 17th February Foden's held their annual 'Patrons Concert' to the bands 500 plus patrons at Sandbach School.

During the concert the band performed a number of pieces under the direction of Michael Fowles from their latest cd recording 'Patrons Choice 8 ' which was released at this concert. The band also took the opportunity to feature soloists Mark Wilkinson, Richard Poole, Glyn Williams, Helen Williams and Mark Landon. A highlight of the concert was the appearance of Trevor Groom and Lyndon Baglin who joined Glyn Williams and Mark Bousie to perform Ave Verum which is featured on Glyn's latest CD.

Prior to the concert the band members voted on various awards and this years 'Player of the year' went to Glyn Williams and 'Bands person of the year' to Paul McDonald.

Each year the band dedicate the Patrons CD to an individual for their loyal service. This year the dedication went to Mr Tom Foster a lifelong supporter of the band as well as a previous employee of the Foden's company who acted as the bands coach driver for a number of years and upon retiring made a welcome return to continue as the bands van driver.

Band Manager Mark Wilkinson thanked the Patron's for their continued support as well as informing them about a number of exciting projects that the band will be undertaking this year



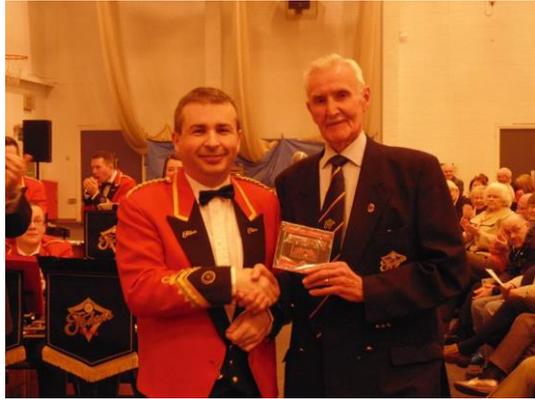
Paul McDonald



Glyn Williams

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Tom Foster



Trevor Groom & Lyndon Baglin

## AREA PREVIEW CONCERT

On the 22nd February Foden's arranged an 'Area Preview Concert Night' at Sandbach School. The concert was arranged to give a number of local bands an opportunity to perform their respective Test Piece in front an audience prior to the 'North West Area Contest' to be held the following week

Foden's would like to thank Rode Hall, Hawk Green, Silk Brass and Roberts Bakery for performing in the event as well as Dr Brett Baker for providing constructive adjudication which greatly assisted all of the bands in their preparations ahead of the contest.

A packed Theatre was treated to some great playing from all the bands and it is hoped a repeat event will be arranged next year.



Foden's perform at the area preview concert

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## FODEN'S ARE OFF TO LONDON

On Sunday 1st March Foden's competed at the North West Area Contest at the Winter Gardens Blackpool. This contest is the qualification contest to the National Finals held at the Royal Albert Hall. Despite a fantastic performance of the set test piece 'The Torchbearers' by Peter Graham that found favour with all the banding press and large majority of the audience the band were placed 2nd but qualified for the Finals.

## CD RELEASE AND MERCHANDISE

We are pleased to announce that the band's latest CD 'Patrons VIII' is now available to purchase via the below link

The CD 'A Journey through time' features music that celebrates Foden's rich history including arrangements and compositions by former conductors of the band, we also include music to celebrate the Howard Snell years. We have used the recording to feature our creative team of Andy Scott and the first studio recording of 'Fragile Oasis' by Dr Meechan composed for the European Championships.

The cd celebrates the 'Composers Competition' that the band ran in 2014 which features the winning composition of this project by Andrew Baker

<http://shop.fodensband.co.uk/patrons-choice-vii-279.html>

We are also pleased to announce that we now have a stock of Band Ties, T Shirts and Hoodies that can be purchased via the below

<http://shop.fodensband.co.uk/accessories.html>

## FORTHCOMING CONCERTS

On the 17th March Foden's will travel to Congleton Town Hall to perform the 2nd half of a concert that will also feature the 'String Sinfonia' and 'Saxophone Orchestra' courtesy of the Love Music Trust

The band will perform at the Sandbach Transport Festival on Sunday 19th April (please see below link)

<http://www.sandbachtransportfestival.co.uk/>

On the 23rd April Foden's will promote a concert at Sandbach Town Hall (on St Georges Day) where the band will performed a themed concert to celebrate this date ending in a Last Night of the Proms set (don't forget your flags!!!)

Tickets for the Congleton and Sandbach concerts can be obtained by sending a SAE to:  
Mark Wilkinson, 7 Narbonne Avenue, Eccles, M30 9DL

Tickets are priced at £10 and £8 concessionary

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Due to a limit on audience numbers for both we are advising Patron's to purchase tickets rather than risk attendance on the night.

## FODEN'S YOUTH BAND AND LOVE MUSIC TRUST CONCERT

On the 25th March Foden's Youth Band will be headlining a Youth Celebration Concert at the Victoria Hall in Hanley. The 60 strong Youth Band has already appeared alongside Foden's Band at Manchester Cathedral in November and performed with Trumpet Virtuoso Jens Lindeman. Later this year there are plans for the group to record their first CD!

The concert will be shared with the winners of the 2015 Cheshire East Schools Music Competition which initially attracted over 40 choirs and ensembles from across the borough.

Tickets are available for the gala concert which commences at 7pm by contacting 01270 766214

## PATRON RENEWALS

If you have not yet renewed your Patron's subscription please complete the relevant renewal forms sent with your latest edition of the Foden's Fanfare.