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# SANDBACH NEWS 2015

Written / Pictures by Stewart Green for Newspaper articles including "The Saxon" Magazine.

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## LATEST PICTURES

For Article see end of the file.



Sandbach wins Community Pride Awards.



Foden's Band Solo Competition .



Halloween at Sandbach

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12 September 2015

### DANCING IN THE RAIN

The fifth annual "Day of Dance" took an unexpected turn when torrential rain fell on Sandbach while over 100 Morris Dancers took part in the event around the town on the 12 September 2015. Organisers Lynn Purcell and Ray Archer have arranged for eight teams to attend from Stoke on Trent, Stockport, Thelwall, Manchester and the Boarder Counties. Dances included the Cotswold dances with sticks and are the ones usually featured in TV programmes like Dad's Army, while the Northwest Dance involves clogs and the Molly dancers get their name from one of the dances when on Plough Monday in January they dress in women's clothes and are called Molly. The dancers also paint their faces in disguise which seems to be a feature of many of the Morris Dancers. The Boarder dancers wear tatters or rag jackets and have their faces blacked out. This tradition of blacking up has nothing to do with the minstrel shows but is more a disguise as dancers were usually workers who were forced to beg for extra money and would find themselves dismissed if their employers found out they were begging or because you could be deported for begging in the streets. The dancers would "Black up" to disguise their faces so they wouldn't be recognised and sacked or deported for trying to get extra money to live on. Last year the Day of Dance was attached to the Council's "Farmer's Market" and this year with the Maker's Market taking over the role of running the specialist markets the organisers were pleased to join forces to hold this year's event. Rain failed to stop the dancing as the Morris men and women who went inside the Church Hall and a tent at the Old Hall to continue dancing until the sun came out and shone brightly at the end of the day making the event

another success with many dancers and public looking forward to next year and another colourful “Day of Dance”.



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17 September 2015

FODEN’S BAND INTRODUCES NEW PLAYERS TO SANDBACH AUDIENCE

Foden’s Band returned to Sandbach Town Hall on the 17 September 2015 to introduce new players to the followers of the band for the first time after a gruelling few weeks playing including taking part in the “British Open” competition at the Symphony Hall, Birmingham where they played the test piece “Reflections on Swan Lake” by Stephen Roberts.

Sandbach however was treated to a selection of slightly easier tunes with the same quality of playing that they offered in Birmingham and included an arrangement of songs from “South Pacific” and “West Side Story” along with solo performances of “I dreamed a Dream”, “Live and Let Die”, and “We have all the time” from the band’s usual performers. During the second half the audience were treated to a solo performance by David Thornton on Solo Euphonium one of three new band members appearing at the concert. Having taken over from Glyn Williams who left in the summer to go to the Cory Band David showed he has the talent to fill such illustrious shoes with the Variations by Andrew Lloyd Webber. New member David Gillson on Flugel played band favourite the Concerto d’Aranjuez by Rodrigo and Kathleen Gaspoz has joined the Cornet section having been principal cornet player with the European Youth Band and National Youth Band of Switzerland. Kathleen is studying for her Masters in Performance at the RNCM (Manchester).

The band also honoured one of its two librarians Granville Jennings who celebrated 67 years with professional Brass Bands having started with the Wigan British Legion Band in 1948 and moving on to the Coppull Band in 1951, Wingates Band (1953), Haigh Band (1960), Lower Ince Band (1962) and Foden’s Band in 1964 as Solo Eb Soprano Cornet player helping the band to win during the 1964 British Open playing “Lorenzo” a piece relying on the soprano player with Rex Mortimer conducting. Granville stayed with Foden’s for ten years before Ted Gray coaxed him away to join the Royal Doulton Band (1974-1978) and the opportunity to conduct the Congleton based Beresford’s Band (1978-1990) which he made into a popular local feature at many concerts and appearances.

Granville then returned to Foden's Band in 1990 as assistant librarian with Jimmy Charles, keeping his lip in by playing with the Winterley Methodist Band (1990 to date) and from 2012 he joined the Sandbach U3A band. The Diamond Award by the North West Area Brass Band Association was presented by Mark Wilkinson to Granville during the show in appreciation of his long service and is given for 60 years of service to the Brass Band world which he surpassed seven years ago. The presentation was witnessed by Granville's daughter and granddaughter at the Concert as well as the large audience and the band.



Foden's Band at Sandbach Town Hall.



New Band Members with Mark Wilkinson and Michael Fowles.

(L to R) MW / David Gillson / Kathleen Gaspoz / MF / David Thornton



Granville Jennings with Kathleen Gaspoz



Granville with Mark Wilkinson

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 19 September 2015

**SANDBACH TODAY EVENT 2015**

Organised by the Sandbach Partnership the annual "Sandbach Today" event held on the 19 September was a great success with 32 groups aimed for adults in St Mary's Church Hall and for the first time a separate youth section on the Market Square with 8 organisations showing what is available for the people in Sandbach to take part in.

Dot Flint of the Sandbach Partnership arranged for Cheshire East Mayor Hilda Gaddum to open the event in the hall and Sandbach Town Council Mayor Gill Merry to officially open the Youth event outside before she swapped her Chain of office for a pinafore to make the bacon sandwiches and serve drinks.

Formed in 1997 the event is now in its 18<sup>th</sup> year and still has the same aim to introduce the public of Sandbach to new ways of spending their free time in entertaining ways and also ways of making a contribution to the area with groups like the Woodland and Wildlife Group and the Friends of Sandbach Park, Sandbach Station and Elworth Park as well as the Sandbach Talking Newspaper and Transport Festival Organisers.

This year has also seen the introduction of some new groups to the event including Grass Roots Disability who will be looking for events and pastimes that the disabled can join in. They are looking towards established groups or ones specially formed to cater for its members to make it easier to access things to do in the community.

Another new group recently formed is the Sandbach Footpath Group which like the Woodland and Wildlife group and Friends groups look towards cleaning up the town and improving access to various areas of Sandbach overgrown and previously unavailable.

Having arrived at 9.30am and staying until the end at 1pm I found there were so many groups to talk to that I could only manage to find out about 14 of the 40 groups in detail at the event but all the groups had a lot of interest from members of the public who came into the hall throughout the morning and hopefully many of those who came along would join in with the Cinema, Day of Dance, Concert series and U3A along with getting help from the Parkinson's UK, HANFA (Disabled Support Group) and Age UK.

Various clubs were also in the hall with the British Legion, Art Club, Probus and Rotary clubs showing us what they do as a group and for the community while outside the young were represented by the Fire Cadets, Interact, Royal Air Force Cadets and Cheshire Youth Theatre.

#### **GROUPS in ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL.**

Age UK

Ashfields Patient Participation (Group)

Cheshire Marshalls

Cinema (Sandbach)

C.V.S.

Day of Dance

Friends of Sandbach Park

Friends of Sandbach Station

Grass Roots Disability (NEW GROUP)

Multiple Sclerosis Society

Parkinson's UK

Probus Club of Sandbach

Probus Club of Sandbach Crosses

Rotary Club of Sandbach

Rotary Club of Sandbach Crosses

Royal British Legion

Sandbach Allotment Society

Sandbach Animal Rescue

Sandbach Art Club

Sandbach Clean Team

Sandbach Concert Series

Sandbach Footpath Group (NEW GROUP)

Sandbach Garden Trail

Sandbach History Society

Sandbach Photographic Society

Sandbach Sew and Sews (NEW GROUP)

Sandbach Striders (Running Group)

Sandbach Transport Festival

Sandbach Voices

Talking Newspaper (Sandbach)

U3A (Sandbach)

Woodland and Wildlife Group (Sandbach)

#### **YOUTH (Outside)**

Aquarius

Cheshire Fire Cadets (Sandbach)

Cheshire Police / Community Officer PCSO

Cheshire Youth Theatre

Everybody

HANFA (Disabled Support Group)

Interact (Rotary Club of Sandbach)

Royal Air Force Cadets



Sandbach Today opening.



CLlr Gill Merry / Dot Flint / CLlr Hilda Gaddum



Sandbach Fire Cadets



Sandbach Allotments



Probus Club of Sandbach



Royal British Legion



Parkinson's UK



Sandbach Concert Series stand



Sandbach Cinema

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 23 September 2015

**CAR ACCIDENT BRINGS AIR AMBULANCE TO SANDBACH PARK**

On Wednesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2015 at about 3pm a white Mini and a blue Renault collided side on causing possible neck injuries to the driver of the Renault and a woman from the Mini which required the presence of the Air Ambulance which turned up at the scene of the accident just before the road ambulance arrived possibly from Congleton. This was despite there being an ambulance station not 100 yards from the accident taking a full 15 minutes or more to arrive on the scene. Cheshire Police turned up first with the community support officer attending to the scene and securing the area for his colleagues to find out about the accident and to attend to the driver of the Renault who complained of neck pains and was given a brace to make sure he didn't move from the car before the ambulance arrived. In total three marked police cars were on the scene along with an unmarked car with officers who asked questions of those involved in the accident and witnesses to the crash. According to people at the scene of the accident the Mini was travelling towards Offley Road to collect a child coming from school when the Renault backed out onto Congleton Road from the elderly bungalows (Congleton Rd) near Tatton Drive and was hit by the Mini in the back passenger door causing the car to be turned around onto the footpath opposite and the back wheel to fall off. Looking at the damage caused many of those at the scene thought that the Mini was travelling faster than the permitted speed limit for the road and was unable to see the car backing out onto the road due to the amount of parked cars in the area.

Cheshire East have just proposed to put double yellow lines on the corners of Congleton Road between number 60 and 62 in preference to a larger plan to stop parking on Tatton Drive. The plan only covers both corners and would not have prevented the accident as there would still be cars blocking the view of drivers coming out of the estate on the same side of the road as 'Grill Corner' (Formally Café Symphony). A local resident told this reporter that there have been a number of crashes at this point on the road and on one occasion there were four accidents in one week. Thankfully none of these have been fatal or has needed the Air Ambulance before but it raises the question that more measures should be taken to make it a safer junction around the Tatton Drive entrance and the 100 yards each side.

The Air Ambulance landed in Sandbach Park about 500 yards from the scene of the accident as this was the nearest piece of land available with the Paramedic walking the short distance to the cars to attend to the victims of the crash. The man in the car had according to witnesses not been wearing a seat belt as he reversed into Congleton Road and sustained neck injuries which were dealt with initially by the Police and then the Air Ambulance Paramedic and ground Ambulance staff who on this occasion has a spectator on board the vehicle monitoring what was happening. Next one of those in the Mini complained of neck pains and after checking the neck for possible damage and her general state of health it was felt that she should also be given a neck brace and be strapped into a stretcher before both of them were taken to Leighton Hospital by road.

The man in the Renault was later discharged from Leighton while the woman was kept a little longer for observation.

Having decided that there was no immediate problem with either of the injured the Paramedic from the Air Ambulance returned to the North West Air Ambulance, a Eurocopter EC135 from Bond Air Services and the only Red coloured one in the fleet, and it took off, going back to its base at Manchester's Barton Airport using Jodrell Bank's Radio Telescope as a landmark to guide it home.

One little extra bit of information about the Aircraft in the park. Just like the road ambulance having a spectator on board the Air Ambulance also had a passenger, a teddy bear who sits in the front window next to the paramedic and I am told is a vital member of the crew. If a child is involved in an accident the bear administers to their comfort on the flight to hospital.

It is comforting to know that the Air Ambulance is available when needed and when it landed in Sandbach Park the noise from the engines brought out Cllr Mike Benson and his wife Kathy who live not far from the Park and whose daughter was involved in an accident that needed the air ambulance to take her to hospital. Since then the Benson's have raised money for the Air Ambulance at various events and it is also the chosen charity of current Sandbach Mayor Gill Merry who has seen the good it does in the Sandbach area and this vital role was seen again with its attendance at the accident on Congleton Road.





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25 to the 28 September 2015

### SANDBACH WAKES FAIR



Sandbach Wakes Fair returned to Sandbach with the usual mix of sideshows and features including a new Ghost Train and old favourite the Waltzer. 41 different attractions came to Scotch Common for the weekend of the 25 to the 28 September under the wing of Joe White who has been coming to the town for the last 71 years since he was born, with his family business coming to the town earlier than that. Joe White Snr has been the owner of the

fair since 2006 but has been lessee of the fair since he took over from his father many years previous. It has been family business that has brought rides to Sandbach for many, many years.

This year like most years has started a debate into “Should the Fair be Stopped” with reports on Facebook of riots and stabbings, but as usual they were unfounded reports with the only incident being a 16 year old who was cut by a broken bottle during a small scuffle on the Saturday night an event that could (and has) happen occasionally (Not very often) on any Friday and Saturday night in the town.

Having been to the fair most nights I found it less crowded than usual due to the Facebook scaremongering and talking to the stall holders they also said takings were down. However those who did go enjoyed the magic of the fair just as many have in the past. One person on Facebook based in Australia looked at pictures of this year’s event and remembered fondly the times she had been to the fair in Sandbach. Those who call for the fairs removal should note that only a couple of flower pots were displaced during the weekend and the Police and Security put in place by the organisers made sure that it was a safe environment for children and adults to enjoy the fair. Let’s hope it comes back for many more years.



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28 September 2015

#### FIRE AT BARCHETTA

Opened in 2014 in an old Mill next to the canal at Wheelock the “Barchetta Restaurant” was found to be on fire at about 3pm on Monday the 28 September 2015 with the upper floor space being the seat of the flames. A fire engine from Sandbach, two from Crewe and one from Congleton attended the scene with six fire fighters in breathing apparatus using three hoses to fight the fire. Cheshire Police closed the road while the fire brigade tackled the blaze and at about 6.30pm the road was completely cleared.

The building has been a restaurant for many years and since the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century has been the Old Mill Restaurant, San Marco and previous to its current owners it was empty for a while before being renovated and opened as Barchetta. The fire damaged most of the upper floor of the building leaving the owners unable to open the building until it has been confirmed safe. A fire crew from Sandbach stayed on the scene for a number of hours after the fire had been extinguished to make sure there were no more hot spots and to start investigations into the cause of the fire.





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 30 September 2015

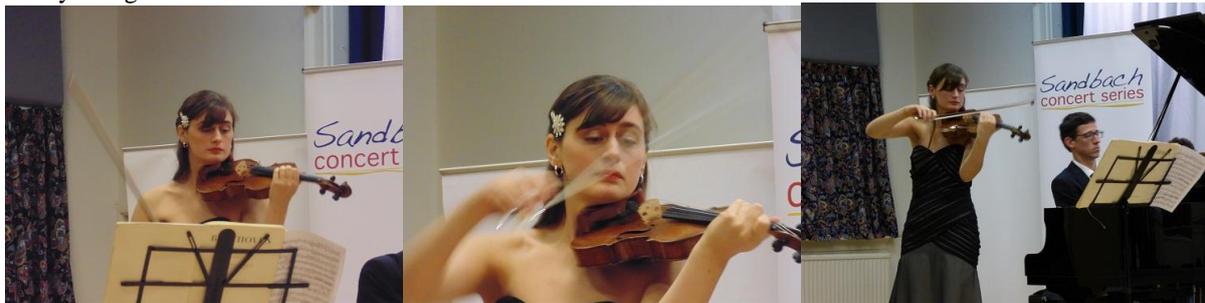
**SOPHIE ROSA IS BIG HIT WITH VIOLIN FANS IN SANDBACH**

The opening concert in the “Sandbach Concert Series” sees the welcomed return of Sophie Rosa (.b. 1988) who graced the stage back in the 4<sup>th</sup> season in October 2013.

Sophie is a prize winning violinist from Cheshire who at the age of seven played solo violin in front of HRH Princess Margaret and was later a competitor in the 2006 BBC Young Musician of the Year competition (won that year by Mark Simpson on Clarinet) at the Sage in Gateshead at the age of 18.

Sophie was joined on stage by pianist Ben Powell and played the Allegro Vivace from Beethoven’s Sonata No 2 in A Major op 12 No2, the Allegro Risoluto, Romance Andante and Allegro non troppo from the Elgar Violin Sonata in E minor op 82, Elgar’s Chanson de Nuit op 15 No1 and Tchaikovsky’s Valse Scherzo op 34.

The evening started with a performance from young musicians in the area and they impressed the many who attended the evening including the Deputy Mayor of Cheshire East Olivia Hunter and Sandbach Mayor Gill Merry along with their consorts.



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 3 October 2015

**TEA WITH THE MAYOR**

Started three years ago the annual Cream Tea with the Mayor event has been a great success raising funds for the Mayor’s Charity and this year is no exception. Gill Merry the Town’s Mayor held her event in Sandbach Town Hall on the 3 October with many people from the local community coming along to partake in the scones, carrot cake, cream cakes and tea served by a number of volunteers and Councillors including Carolyn Lowe and on the door Mike Benson.

Helping to organise the event with the Mayor was Dot Flint of the Sandbach Partnership who continually supports events like this to raise funds for local charities and awareness in the town.

The cakes were made by many friends of the Mayor and the Mayor’s Charity which this year supports the Air Ambulance and Local Groups.

Thanks go to all those who volunteered to make this event enjoyable especially those who baked cakes and made such a good job of them as they looked and I am told tasted as good as those on the Great British Bake Off.

Music for the event was provided by guitarists William and Leo Newton who performed on stage at short notice and by arrangement by Lauren Scott of the Sandbach Concert Series.

Along with a raffle the event was tipped to raise over £400 for the Mayor's Charity.



#####  
13 October 2015

#### DESTRUCTION OF SANDBACH HISTORY ON COUNTDOWN

Destruction of two of the historic sites in Sandbach has been approved by Sandbach Town Council this month despite proposals in the Neighbourhood plan which states that any development in the town should "Respect the historic landscape character and contribute to its conservation, enhancement or the creation of appropriate new features. The adaptive re-use of redundant or functionally obsolete listed buildings or important buildings will be supported where this does not harm their essential character".

Field House on Congleton Road the former Mill Owners House, Maternity Hospital and Unemployment Benefit Office has been before the Town Council for demolition and the building of new homes on the site. The Town Council "Had No Objection" to the Development of the site in contravention of their own Neighbourhood plan to reuse important buildings. Various objections to the plan were put to the Council in writing as well as via the local newspapers and on Facebook but all have been ignored by those on the committee. Sandbach Town Council objected to the use of words saying they had agreed to demolish the building as it is now down to Cheshire East to make the final decision in November. However if the Town Council with its local knowledge has "No Objection to the Plans" then they will rubber stamp the demolition and that will be the end of another historic building.

The same has happened to the Platt Avenue K6 Phone Box which had numerous plans put forward by individuals to save the box, but because no 'group' has agreed to take over the Phone Box it will be taken away from the town and lost to Sandbach forever after the Council found no reason to keep it. BT, I am told will not re-site the box to another area according to the planning meeting, however I am sure that if they were asked properly then they would be willing to take out the box and drop it off at the Park rather than take it to be scrapped. It would then have to be positioned by volunteers into a permanent base just like one at Gawsworth Hall, so that it could be kept for the people of Sandbach to enjoy. Warmingham (Part of the Town) has kept their Phone box and made it into a lovely Tourist Information kiosk showing previous and future events in the village so why can't Sandbach Town keep its box and put it to good use?

On the one hand the Neighbourhood Plan talks about conservation of the area while on the other hand the Council are agreeing to build on sites that are of historic value and to remove historic structures without a single thought of saving “Historic Sandbach”. There are a lot of sad people in the town wondering which building will be demolished next.



#####  
16 October 2015

#### UNBORN ACTS AT TOWN HALL

The idea of Richard Husdan the new conference and events manager at Sandbach Town Hall, “Unborn” is a chance for new bands and singers to be seen by a wider audience and in the future hopefully some talent scouts are in the audience to discover them. On Friday the 16 October 2015 the first event in town hall took place with help from John Barber (Love Music Trust and Sandbach School) and Sandbach School who provided the bands for the evening. Eric Ball played some of his own songs plus cover versions while Ollie and Maliek filled in the middle slot plus joining other friends to play in the band Remedies who ended the evening with a loud “set” of music including new tunes and favourite covers.

Richard had tried the event out when he was working at the Corn Hall in the Cotswolds with great success and asked Sandbach Town Council if they would like to run a similar event in the Town. Keen to help local people the Council agreed to allow him to run the event at the town hall with minimum cost and gaining what expenses were spent back by charging £4 for a ticket to see the bands.

Eric Ball was influenced by Fleetwood Mac, Queen, Ed Sheeran as well as music his dad played in the car from the Beatles, Van Morrison and Bruce Springstein. Eric has been a busker in Crewe and played gigs in Sandbach and Crewe for a while. When he was busking he found that the audience wanted more ballade type music and moved from the rock influences in his writing to a quieter more meaningful song. Eric wanted to play the guitar after watching Jack Black in the film “School of Rock” and now has expanded his solo performance to include a loop pedal which records a few bars of guitar or vocal music and plays it back on a loop to become a backing track to his vocals, a system that has been pioneered by K T Tunstall after she was seen on the Jools Holland programme on BBC 2.

The Remedies have been going for about 6 months and was the combination of two bands that Oliver Boon was in. Influenced by the Smiths, Guns and Roses, Catfish and the Bottle Men, Queens of the Stone Age and Nirvana the group cover songs by their favourite bands as well as writing songs like “All your standing for”, “Betrayal” and “Truth” which they performed on stage having opened with “Little Monster” (by Royal Blood), which they added their own twist to the original music.

The band has played at various pubs in the area but only with Sandbach School have they played the bigger venues including the Edinburgh Fringe Festival which they played as part of the School Big Band a group that has recently had a concert at the Sports Hall in the school with BBC Singer Matt Ford a type of music that is totally different from the rock like sound they played at Sandbach Town Hall.

Richard and the Sandbach Town Council hope to join with the Love Music Trust to present four “Unborn” events each year with musicians and singer from all over the area including Crewe and Alsager as well as home grown talent from Sandbach.



Remedies rehearsing



Eric Ball (R) and the Remedies

#####  
 17 October 2015

**CANCER RESEARCH SUPPORT GROUP 60 years old.**

Sandbach Cancer Research Support Group celebrated 60 years in the town with a Cheese and Wine event at St Mary's Church Hall on Saturday the 17 October 2015.

Formed at a time when a pint of milk cost 6d (2½p) and the idea of a mobile phone was laughable, the treatment and survival of cancer patients has changed a lot in the 60 years of the Sandbach and District Local Committee. In 1955 cancer killed as many people in one year as men were killed in the whole of the six years of the Second World War now chances of survival have greatly increased with new treatments being discovered every year thanks to fundraisers all over the world.

Paula Jones (Senior Local Fundraising Manager) from Cancer Research counted up the amount of hours of dedicated fundraising that has been donated by the current members of the committee and the time given to raising funds for research amounted to a combined time of 255 years.

Chairperson Pauline Minshull, who has been in the post for the last 15 years introduced her predecessor and now President Margaret Park who has been on the Sandbach Committee since 1967. Margaret praised the team in Sandbach for its efforts over the many years she has been part of the group.

Edna and Ian Alexander two previous members of the committee also joined the celebrations which not only celebrated 60 years in Sandbach but a staggering £390,000 raised in the town for this worthy cause.

When President Margaret Park came to live in Sandbach 50 Years ago there were six charity committees in the town with Barnardo's, Save the Children, Cancer Relief, Lifeboat and the NSPCC of which only the Cancer Research Committee still exists.

The evening's celebration also raised money for the charity and was greatly helped by the donation of all the cheese by Daniel Williams of Williams Delicatessen on the Square. Wine, Soft Drinks, Bread and Chutney's for the evening were donated by Chris and Carolyn Lowe with the Co-op on Lawton Way, Elworth, Park Lane Deli, Waitrose and Mrs Darlington also supplying some bottles and food. The Celebratory cake was provided by Chatwins Bakers (Sandbach Shop and Nantwich).

Music for the evening was provided by Robert Glassonbury and Karen Foster who played Piano and Harp during the anniversary evening which was organised by the Committee.

The event raised £1,000.43p for Cancer Research.



2015 Committee



Music from Karen Foster and Robert Glassonbury



Mayor Gill Merry and First Prize winning team



Paula, Pauline, Margaret, Ian and Edna



Daniel Williams and helpers with Cheese



Cutting the Cake (Provided by Chatwins)  
Margaret Park, Paula Jones and Pauline Minshull

#####

15 October 2015

COMMUNITY PRIDE WINNERS AGAIN



At a ceremony in Ellesmere Port on the 15 October 2015, Sandbach were awarded the Community Pride Award for the Best Market Town in Cheshire for the third time in succession beating Knutsford (2<sup>nd</sup> Place) and Congleton (3<sup>rd</sup> Place) in the category for towns with population of over 10,000.

The town also won a “Little Gem Award” for Dingle Lake, Sandbach and Sandbach Railway Station was Highly Commended in the Best Community Initiative Category along with the Brereton Bear Festival which was also Highly Commended. They were beaten by the Rainow Village Bus who won the class but as the Friends of Sandbach Station was only formed in 2012 this is a remarkable achievement and will have pride of place along with the 2013 Cheshire Best Kept Station award for “Most Improved” station.

The project to enter the Competition each year is undertaken by the Sandbach Town Council’s Tidy Town Group with support from the Town’s Councillors, members of the Sandbach Clean Team, Sandbach Woodland and Wildlife Group, Rotary Club of Sandbach, Sandbach Crosses Rotary Club, Sandbach Interact Club, Sandbach Allotments Society, Care4CSE, Sandbach U3A, and the Friends of Sandbach Park, Friends of Elworth Park and the Friends of Sandbach Station. Help was also given by Cheshire East Council and ANSA Environmental Services.

Sandbach now has seven plaques it can proudly display on the Town Hall and in the Literary Institute having won first prize in 1992, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2013, 2014 and now 2015 putting them in joint 5<sup>th</sup> place in the overall league table of winning towns in Cheshire with Crowton and Wistaston in joint 1<sup>st</sup> place with 11 wins, Tarporly in 3<sup>rd</sup> place with 9 wins and Nantwich in 4<sup>th</sup> place with 8 wins. Congleton and Audlem join Sandbach on the 5<sup>th</sup> podium with 7 wins each but Sandbach’s 3<sup>rd</sup> win in a row shows they have the same drive as Lewis Hamilton who has three “back to back” Drivers World Championships under his belt and is destined to win more in the next few years.

Started in 1956 by the “Cheshire Community Council”, the competition was then known by the name of the “Best Kept Village”. It was used as an incentive to improve the towns and villages of Cheshire and to celebrate the best looking towns in the area a purpose that it has continued to do with a few changes in the format until the current year.

In 2003 the name changed to the “Community Pride Competition” and from then on it has incorporated many new competitions which are changed each year to reflect the needs of the community. Awards now include the “Best Website” which was added to reflect the towns reliance on new technology and the awards for “Community Initiative” and “Work by or with Young People” being added in 2013 to keep the competition at the forefront of its community involvement.

Judging for the Cheshire Community Action Awards takes place in July each year with the Awards Ceremony being held in a different town in October, so we can look forward to next year and hopefully a win again for Sandbach.



Picture – Mayor Gill Merry, Cllr Mike Benson, Bill Whittaker (Rotary Club of Sandbach), Cllr Barry Moran, Jenny Baker (Friends of Sandbach Station), Roamina Iruthayanthan, Alan Jones, Jenny and Keith Haines, Grace Milner and Kathie Benson.

#####  
31 October 2015

#### FODEN'S BAND SOLO COMPETITION

75 Players from around Great Britain and Belgium came to Sandbach to perform in the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Foden's Band Solo Competition.

Started in October 2011 the event has attracted numerous players from around the world to compete for a number of prizes for solo performance, duo and for quartets.

This is an opportunity for many players to find out how to improve their performance with adjudication from international players Owen Farr, Florent Didier, Helen Williams and Anthony Mann.

Owen Farr is a Tenor Horn Player who has helped develop new horns for instrument manufacturers Besson, one of the sponsors of the event. He has also made broadcasts on "Listen to the Band" (BBC Radio 2) and "Friday Night is Music Night" and has played for the Pontypool Brass from his native Wales as well as the National Youth Brass Band of Wales and Solo horn for Tredegar Town Band.

Florent Didier is also connected with Besson and comes from France where he played Trombone and in 2008 was appointed the Musical Director of the Paris Brass Band and has recorded with such names as Michel Legrand, and Vladimir Cosma.

Third judge is Anthony Mann who plays timpani with Foden's Band and is building a good reputation as a Teacher, Player and has studied at the Royal Northern College of Music under previous percussionist with Foden's, Simone Rebello. In October 2010 he joined Foden's and this is a great opportunity for Anthony to pass on his experience to the percussion classes in the competition.

The final judge or adjudicator for the competition is no stranger to the Solo Competition having been involved in the event since it started but was usually found allocating rehearsal rooms for competitors. On Saturday the 31 October Helen Williams swapped roles as she became adjudicator for the Slow Melody, Vintage Class, Duets and Quartet sections. Helen was until earlier in the year Flugel Player with Foden's but moved to Wales and the Cory Band with her husband Glynn Williams where they both helped Cory to first place in the National Finals held on the 10 October 2015. Helen's return to Sandbach was welcomed by the band and her opportunity to be an adjudicator was "easy compared with allocating rooms", and she wished she had done this years before, making this a very enjoyable experience.

Local players included Catherine Flanders (2<sup>nd</sup> in the Under 16 Tuned Percussion Section) and the Lions Youth Band Quartet

Dave McGlynn of Foden's Band said that this year's event was "The best solo contest that I've been to since being with the band" (2012 to date) a view that was duplicated by contestants, adjudicators and band members. The prizes were presented to the winners by the adjudicators with a special guest appearance by international trumpet virtuoso Professor John Wallace CBE.

Next year's event will be on the 30 October at Sandbach School.



Lions Quartet with Nigel Birch.



## RESULTS

### **Class 1 – 11 and Under Slow Melody (Helen Stewart Memorial Quaich)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Hannah Taylor
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Simon Binon
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Joe Heartfield

### **Class 2 – 12 and 13 Slow Melody (Diamond Jubilee Trophy).**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Jamie Reid
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Martijn Binon
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Lewis Frost

### **Class 3 – 14 to 16 Slow Melody (B and G J Birch Memorial Cup).**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Lina Van Lint
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Margot Binon
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Robbie Richardson

### **Class 4 – 17 to 19 Slow Melody (Bryan Tait Trophy).**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Benjamin Bourgeois
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Siobhan Bates
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Nick Elsen

### **Class 5 – Vintage Slow Melody (Lyndon Baglin Trophy).**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Jackie Greensted
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Patricia Woodings
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ilse Degeest

### **Class 6 – Open Slow Melody (Mark Wilkinson Trophy).**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Adam Bokaris
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Siobhan Bates
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Gaelle Lefevre

### **Class 7 – Under 16 Air Varie (Granville Jennings Trophy).**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Jamie Reid
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Simon Binon
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Joe Heartfield

**Class 8 – 16 to 21 Air Varie (Louise Charles Memorial Trophy).**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Siobhan Bates
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Daniel Thomas
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Jack Lythaby

**Class 9 – Open Air Varie (Peter Fletcher President’s Trophy).**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Gaelle Lefevre
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Paul Bennett
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Stephen Lomas

**Class 10 – 11 and Under Duet.**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Ruby and Kitty Hawker
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Hannah Taylor and Bethany Harby

**Class 11 – 12 to 16 Duet.**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Simon and Martijn Binon
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Oliver and Toby Marshall
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Rosie Darracott-Gray and Suzanna Hudson

**Class 12 – Open Duet.**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Duo Gaileam (Gaelle Lefevre and William Thebaudeau-Muller)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Margot Binon and Ilse Degeest
- 3<sup>rd</sup> James Atkins and Jess Wilson

Class 13 – **Not Run.**

Class 14 – **Not Run.**

**Class 15 – Open Quartet.**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Euph4niums (Birmingham Conservatoire)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> The Mighty Imps (Yorkshire Imperial)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Haz Brass

**Class 16 – Under 16 Tuned Percussion.**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Lewis Barton
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Catherine Flanders
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Alex Walton

Class 17 – **Not Run.**

**Class 18 – Under 16 Tuned Percussion.**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Dom Ritchie
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Alex Walton
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Lewis Barton

**SPECIAL TROPHIES**

- Best Local Player (Sponsored by Sandbach Town Council) – Hannah Taylor
- Besson International Award – Gaelle Lefevre
- Outstanding Performance of the Day (Sponsored by Flowcrete) – Adam Bokaris
- Most Promising Local Player 11 and Under (Sponsored by Lions Youth Band and includes a lesson with a Foden’s Principal Player) – Lewis Barton
- Most Promising Player 12-15 Audi Bursary – Adam Warburton
- Most Promising Player 16-21 Besson Bursary – Jack Lythaby
- Most Outstanding Euphonium Player (Sponsored by Glyn Williams) – Adam Bokaris
- Youngest Player in the Competition – Kitty Hawker (Aged 8)
- Best name in the Open Quartet Section – The Mighty Imps

HALLOWEEN EVENT IN SANDBACH

For many years now the Sandbach Partnership have staged a Halloween Event on the Market Square and this year seems to have been the biggest event since it started with hundreds of people turning out for the event on Saturday the 31 October. The annual Fancy Dress Competition was divided into two sections with the under 8 category and the over 8's.

Under 8 costumes included Wicked Witches, Demon's, Pumpkins and even Scooby Doo made an appearance. The Over 8's also had a mixture of costumes with Sandbach Mayor Gill Merry judging the costumes to find overall winners, a very hard decision to make with such a good turn-out of children. Winners of the Over 8's were Molly Clark (Wicked Witch) and Aaron Goode (Skeleton) with each child being given sweets for taking part in the competition so they all ended up winners.

The event also included Face Painting, Apple Bobbing, Henna Tattoos, Clay Modelling and Craftwork along with spooky music provided on the square.



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