

## Wingates Band Supporters Club Monthly Update - February 2018

Hi Supporter,

We hope this email finds you well, apologise for not being in touch sooner, but as you can imagine we have been extremely busy setting up the New Supporters Club.

Please find below an update of the band's progress so far...

Wingates Band held its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 28th November, during which the Treasurer gave a brief review of the financial highs and lows of the year. It was with relief to hear that the fortunes of the band have reached a turning point and are starting to look more positive. Through the careful control of costs and with a large measure of support generated by new initiatives, the band have started to rebuild the operating reserves necessary to ensure the financial stability and security of the organisation through the next few months. Although the band cannot be said to be 'safe' it is certainly in a better position to be quietly confident about its survival in the short term.

December was an extremely busy month for the band with our Christmas concerts at St. John the Evangelist in Wingates and our annual Christmas concert at the Victoria Halls in Bolton. Unfortunately due to the adverse weather conditions audience numbers were low for this concert, which is such a shame in such an impressive venue. Hopefully we will be luckier with the weather for this year's Christmas Concert as we would love to see many more of you at the Victoria Halls in December 2018. Along with our concerts, members of the band were kept extremely busy with carolling at various venues in and around Westhoughton and the Bolton area raising much needed funds for the band.

The beginning of the year has been somewhat fragmented with the band getting fully back into the swing of things by making a recording of the band to be used for promotional purposes (more of this news later on in the year), only to be followed by a set back of the flu epidemic striking the band and forcing us to cease rehearsals for a week to contain the epidemic!!! We are pleased to report that all members are well now and we have an intense rehearsal schedule lined up in readiness for the North West Regional Finals to be held at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool on Sunday 25th February.

As part of our preparations for this contest we are holding a free afternoon concert this Sunday 11th February at the Mercure Bolton Georgian House Hotel, Manchester Road, Blackrod, BL6 5RU, 2pm - 4pm. The contest piece we will be playing in Blackpool is Odyssey by Kevin Norbury. Kevin is a Salvationist, and we have therefore chosen to theme our concert on some spectacular Salvation Army pieces (including Odyssey). We hope that you are available to come and meet and support the band this Sunday.

Thank you for your continued support.

*Wingates Band*

Melanie McFarland - 5 February 2018