



Alder Valley Brass

Time to update on the band.

Socially distanced rehearsing at Worplesdon Memorial Hall.



The Band are once again rehearsing as per normal, after months practicing at home during lockdown. Rehearsals started during May, in Farnham and also in Worplesdon. However, as of 7 June, we will, once again, be back at All Hallows School in Farnham, every Monday and Thursday evening between 8 and 10pm.

Alder Valley Brass second Zoom AGM

The committee will remain the same as 2020.

Roy Hancock	Trustee and Chairman
Claire Wade	Trustee and General Secretary
Rob Greene	Trustee and Treasurer
Steve Burgess	Trustee and Contest Secretary
Vacant	Band Manager
Liz McGrath	Trustee and Committee
Donna Saunders	Trustee and Committee
Lyn Sandford	Trustee
Bob Larbey	Trustee and Committee
Non Committee	
Bob Larbey	Equipment Manager
Lyn Sandford	PR
Ian Hancock	Webmaster
Briony Hancock	Librarian
Roy Hancock	Ass. Librarian

A third (and hopefully final) video is now available, all made during lockdown.

If you would like to watch it, here is the link. Copy and paste it into your browser.

https://youtu.be/M_67Cs0xP50

Watch this space!

In 2022 we are planning to hold a major concert to celebrate the bands 60th Anniversary. Because of the pandemic this has been delayed, it should really take place during 2021.

Events are at last coming up!

1. We shall be at Alton Bandstand on Sunday 22 August and will be playing from 14.00 until 16.00.
2. August Bank Holiday Monday 30 August, between 11.00 and 14.00 we shall be at the Emsworth Horticultural Show.
3. Gostrey Meadow Bandstand in Farnham will be our next venue. On Sunday 5 September between 15.00 and 17.00.
4. Dapdune Wharf, Guildford River Festival is a great venue and we shall be there between the hours of 16.00 and 18.00 on Saturday 18 September.
5. We shall be at Godalming Bandstand on Sunday 26 September between 15.00 and 17.00.

This is what is planned but is all subject to us being able to play due to Covid .



How did Alder Valley Brass come to get asked to take part in 'The Dig'? A film released on Netflix earlier this year.

Our secretary, Claire Wade, was contacted in mid September 2019 by one of the assistant directors of the film. She had found out about us when searching for brass bands on the internet. They wanted to use a local brass band for a scene where there was a garden party for the villagers, held by Mrs Pretty, to celebrate the Sutton Hoo archaeological finds. Filming was due to take place in a village near Godalming in Surrey, just a few miles from where we rehearse. They wanted ten players to represent our band, plus conductor, and we only had a couple of weeks to organise everything as filming was to take place on 8 October 2019 and costume fittings had to take place a week before filming.

One of the co-directors came to one of our rehearsals to hear us and there were many discussions, about the choice of pieces to play and the practicalities of taking part. Lee Woodward our MD made some musical suggestions which is how we came to be playing "La Rejouissance" and "Standard of St George", as well as a piece called "After You've Gone", sourced by Stefan Gregory, the film's music composer.

We all went for costume fittings in a massive marquee in a field, a few days before filming. This field was where the filming was based and they created the grassy mound and the boat outline used in the film. Waistcoats and bow ties were made for us and our secretary had a dress in the same material to match. Some of the costumes were rather last-minute. We had got as far as to be sitting on set whilst they were still making some of the bow ties!

It was supposed to be a warm mid summer day but in fact it was a cold

October day and there was a lot of hanging around on set doing nothing. We were allowed to wear coats between takes. We played each of our pieces around ten times, for different camera angles, plus a similar amount of times miming for each piece whilst they recorded the actors' dialogue.

Everything was organised so we looked and sounded right for the 1930's period. They had to source old fashioned looking music stands and chairs. There were also worries about those who needed to wear glasses to read the music, as they would not look right for the period. We got round this by enlarging the music, using contact lenses, one member even had some glasses made up with the right frame shape. The music had to be 'yellowed' too.

On the day we were the first into the hair and makeup tent - at 5.30am It was a long day as we didn't leave until 6.30pm. They had loads of hair and makeup staff on hand as this was a main scene and there were a lot of extras playing the villagers. There were 93 people to get through hair and makeup by 8am. A lot of research was undertaken to get everything to look authentic.

On the information email we were told to be clean shaven; so in the morning our MD shaved his beard off. In make up he was fitted for a false moustache - when he told them that he had shaved that morning they went potty as they could have styled that instead of giving him a £500 false one!!

After breakfast the band were lined up to check their hair and makeup and costumes before going on set. Claire our secretary, was pulled out of the line to go with the person in charge of hair styling. He wanted to change her hairstyle. She had to go into a caravan trailer which was solely for the principals' hair and makeup.

It was quite nice in there. She looked over to her left and next to her was Sir Ralph Fiennes. Meanwhile everyone in the band was getting really fed up waiting for her on the minibus to go from the field to the set nearby.

The set for our scene was a house called Norney Grange near Godalming in Surrey. It was bought in the 1950's by the present owner (who was an extra in our scene) and its like time stood still. The house was rather dark and old fashioned but perfect for the 1930's setting.

We were the "Terrace Band". We played La Rejouissance from the Royal Fireworks 8 or 9 times, then mimed it some more, and the same with Standard of St George. Then we mimed a piece Stefan Gregory (film composer) had arranged specifically for the scene called After You've Gone. There was a lot of waiting around of course, in between takes. Some of the time, we had a wood panelled room inside the house to wait in. In fact it was the room used for a scene later in the film where the dig photographs were laid out on the dining table and Mrs Pretty (Carey Mulligan) and Peggy Piggott (Lily James) look at them. There was quite a bit of banter amongst us, between takes. There was a lot of hanging around so it helped to pass the time. Fortunately the extras and crew thought it was hilarious!

We saw all the main cast. They kept having to top up the glasses of the crowd as they kept drinking the "sherry" every time they did a take. Apparently it was coca cola made to look like sherry.

They nearly forgot to get us to actually play the 3rd music we had mimed to. It was too dark to film it so we just did a sound recording outside in the rain. At least it meant we could wear warm clothes. It was freezing!

We filmed more than they showed in the film. They filmed members of the band packing away instruments in the background whilst dialogue was taking place elsewhere. They also filmed closeups of the band playing, which were not used.

The band name appears in the credits underneath the names of the pieces we played, plus the band's name is mentioned separately further down, with Lee's name as MD.

Although it was a very long and tiring day, we enjoyed the experience and were proud to be a part of this film and to represent the whole band in this way. It was for a long time in the top ten list of films on Netflix and the amount of views on our Facebook and website suddenly increased hugely! The music was also discussed in an article on Classic FM: "We're also treated to some wonderful Handel at the garden party scene near the end, when a fanfare moment from the English composer's Music for the Royal Fireworks is played out by a brass band, in celebration of the historic local findings."

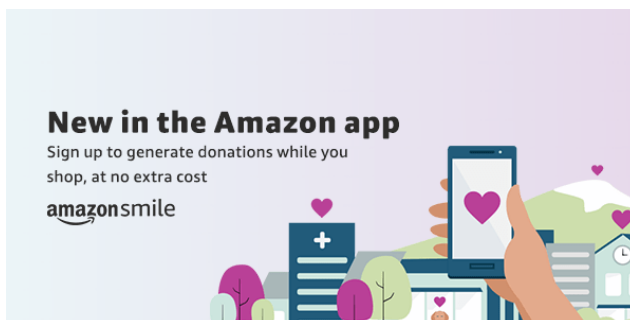
**A photo of some of the musicians in their costumes is on page 2.*

Keep safe everyone! We will hopefully see you all soon.

Are you still happy to be on our mailing list? If not, please let me know by phoning 07900 504693 or email, Lyn Sandford at public.relations@aldervalleybrass.org.uk

Our website www.aldervalleybrass.org.uk, Twitter and Facebook pages are regularly updated. We also have an Instagram page so plenty of opportunity for you to keep up with what we are doing. Please support us when you are shopping online, use this link and we get a donation.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/avb/>



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