



**LETCHWORTH GARDEN CITY BAND**

**MEMBER'S HANDBOOK**

## Introduction

Welcome to membership of  
Letchworth Garden City Band.

This handbook outlines what the Band does  
and how it works.

Please read it through and keep it in a safe place.  
The Musical Director or any member of the Committee  
will do their best to answer any questions or uncertainties  
you may have – you only have to ask!

We hope that you will enjoy being part of  
Letchworth Garden City Band.



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## **Brass Bands**

Brass bands grew out of the Industrial Revolution two hundred years ago, with the development of modern brass instruments with valves. Many bands were associated with mines and factories and with the Salvation Army. The best bands attained very high standards of performance – and still do!

Starting with the smallest and highest pitched instruments, a full brass band consists of:

1 Soprano Cornet, 9 Cornets, 1 Flugelhorn, 3 Tenor Horns, 2 Baritone Horns, 2 Euphoniums, 2 Trombones, 1 Bass Trombone, 2 E-flat Basses (Tubas), 2 B-flat Basses (Bass Tubas) and Percussion.

## **Band History**

Founded in 1906, Letchworth Garden City Band has taken part in local community life since the town's earliest days. Besides enabling amateur brass players to make music together, the Band brings enjoyment to audiences at local events of many kinds, including festivals, carol services, garden parties, fetes, and fund raising concerts.

For the Garden City's Centenary in 2003, with support from the Heritage Foundation, the Band commissioned and gave the first performance of 'The Letchworth Garden City Suite', a 3 movement piece by renowned composer Phillip Lawrence.

For the Band's own Centenary in 2006, a march was commissioned and written by a local composer, Paul Rooke. 'Letchworth Garden City March' has become a signature piece for the band.

The Band is funded by its membership subscriptions and by its public performances.

### **Who plays in the Band?**

The Band has players from secondary age upwards. There is a core of experienced players and we always welcome newcomers.

### **What we play**

Our repertoire is wide ranging, running from Tudor dances, through later classical pieces, traditional marches, contest pieces, ragtime, jazz, pop, and arrangements of film and TV themes.



### **Where and when do we play?**

The Band practises on Wednesday evenings from 7.45pm to 9.45pm. We rehearse at Brotherhood Hall, Gernon Road, Letchworth (opposite the Broadway Cinema). Concerts and other engagements take place mainly at weekends and public holidays.

The Band plays at the Remembrance Service in Stevenage Old Town each year and puts on an Annual Concert in the autumn, which is our main fund raiser.



## Band Instruments

The Band owns a number of instruments which are available for the use of players. No hire charge is made but a small annual charge of £20 is made towards the cost of insurance and wear and tear.

If a Band instrument is issued to you, you (or a parent/guardian if you are under 18), will be asked to sign for it and you are responsible for its care for the time you are in the band. If anything happens to it whilst it is in your possession, please tell a committee member as soon as possible so a repair can be arranged.



## Band Uniform

When the Band performs in public, the members wear Band uniform. This consists of:

**Male:** White collared shirt, uniform tie and waistcoat, black trousers, black socks and shoes.

**Female:** White collared shirt, uniform cravat and waistcoat, black skirt / long trousers, black tights or socks and shoes.

Uniform ties, cravats and waistcoats are provided free of charge for players. They should be dry cleaned not washed.

## Subscriptions



The subscription for playing members is set at the AGM each year.

The current subscription is £140 per year for adults and £100 per year for Under 18's. Subs are invoiced quarterly (Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct) and are paid by standing order/bank transfer. Please note that payments are due whether the member attends band practice or not.

New members will be invoiced at the beginning of the next month following their first rehearsal.

## Rules / Conduct

The Band has a Constitution and Rules which are available on request or on the band website. Some relevant points are below:



*A list will be put up when an engagement comes in and Band members will be asked to state whether they are available or not. This is important as it may determine whether we accept the job or not.*

*Playing members are expected to attend rehearsals regularly and inform the MD if they are unable to attend.*

*Members of the Band are expected to maintain an acceptable level of conduct at rehearsals and performances and wherever they are present as part of the Band or wearing Band uniform.*

*The Band's membership records shall conform to the requirements of the Data Protection legislation currently in force.*

*The Band shall conform to the requirements of English law in respect of child protection.*

## **Contests**

The National Brass Band Championships are held annually, with a Regional Qualifying Contest in the spring and Finals in the autumn. There are Championship, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sections. After an interval of about 10 years, Letchworth Garden City Band re-entered in 1999 and has contested annually since then. We are currently in the 4th Section, but did have a brief foray into the 3rd Section between 2002 and 2004.

The London and Southern Region Contest takes place on the 3rd weekend in March at the Stevenage Arts and Leisure Centre.

## **Band Organisation**

Letchworth Garden City Band is run by a committee who are elected at the AGM each year. The committee meets once a month and new members are always welcome.



## **Communication**

The band has a WhatsApp group for the adults in the band and parents of under 18s. This is used as a communication tool e.g. for advising timings/venues of rehearsals/concerts etc and any last minute changes to the above. It is not to be used for forwarding memes or other such things.

Website: [www.letchworthband.co.uk](http://www.letchworthband.co.uk)