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**The Isle of Wight Youth Concert Band**

**Spring Newsletter**

Dear Parents and Friends

Welcome to our first newsletter of the year, giving us the opportunity to bring you up to date with what’s happening in the band and what 2019 holds for us.

**Committee Changes**

At the AGM in January Ben Bartram resigned as Chairman, due to work commitments on the mainland. We are incredibly grateful to Ben for all his commitment and support over the last 11 years and wish him and Charissa all the best on the North Island. No doubt we will be seeing them both at some of our future concerts.

Having been involved with the band for around 8 years, I have now taken on the role of Chairman. Whilst I’m afraid I cannot even hum in tune, I know, that with the support of an excellent committee, we will be able steer the band in the right direction over the forthcoming years. We are celebrating being 50 years old this year and are in the planning stages of organising a special anniversary concert in July, which will see musicians, friends and supporters over the last 50 years coming together for a fabulous concert – we will keep you informed as plans progress. 28th July - Save the date!

**Financial Update**

I am pleased to report that the band is currently in a sound financial position. Income was helped in 2018 by the sale of the minibus, which unfortunately was unviable to run any longer, and a large donation from the Delphie Lakeman Trust. However the cancellation of the summer prom did impact on our income. We took the hard decision to cancel this based on poor advance ticket sales and competition from both the World Cup and the Wimbledon Final. We will try and arrange this event again for another year when nothing else is going on! Concerts, subscriptions and donations continue to remain our only source of income.

**Diary Dates**

**IWYCB 50th Anniversary Concert**

**Sunday 28th July @ Medina Theatre**

**Christmas Concert**

**Sunday 15th December @ Medina Theatre**

**Autumn Concert**

**Sunday 6th October @ Riverside Centre, Newport**

Our focus for 2019/2020 is to try and increase the number of musicians in the band. Our junior band is currently the smallest it has ever been and we are keen to try and build on this as each year our older musicians leave the Island for careers or university. We are working at the moment on ways we can do this to take things forward. Martyn and Donna remain committed to trying to help with this as well as run the two bands.

There are so many areas where you can get involved and help support the band – please don’t feel it means committing to anything regularly or permanently, whatever you can help with is very much appreciated.

For example, could you help with

* Advertising or publicity for concerts
* Printing of programmes or tickets
* Coordinating raffle prizes
* Fundraising
* Sourcing donations or sponsors
* Encourage young musicians to come and see what we’re all about

We hope to be able to send out another newsletter for the summer but in the meantime we would like to wish all our band members who are taking exams in April and May the very best of luck.

Don’t forget the band has a website [www.iowycb.co.uk](http://www.iowycb.co.uk) where there is a lot of information and also a contact form if you wish to get hold of me or any of the Committee Members.

With many thanks for your continued support.

Mandy Miles