

Development Officer – Progress Report

23 May – 26 June 2011

Bands

Kinlochleven – Attended a meeting in Kinlochleven High School with Head John McGilp and the Head Teachers of the 4 feeder primary schools to look at the possibility of creating a youth band in the area. This was universally accepted as a good idea and one which they would fully endorse and assist us in gaining support from the local communities. A further meeting will take place after the summer holidays to finalise the recruitment and organisation strategy. I have also gained support from the local brass teachers who will encourage any pupils they have to join the group. It is hoped that the workshops will be done with players from NYBBS and Russell Gray's Bandwagon programme.

Dalmellington Youth – A recruitment workshop for Dalmellington primary school took place on 31 May. Further meetings will now take place with the youth band committee to plan their youth development strategy and further workshops.

Kingdom Brass Youth Initiative – Another 2 successful brass recruitment workshops took place in the Lumphinnans area on 17 June. This will be followed up with a parent and child information evening in the near future.

Edinburgh youth bands – Interest has been shown from two separate parties in setting up SBBA endorsed youth band projects in the City. Discussions have already taken place with Edinburgh Council to become a partner in these proposals and a first meeting with all 3 stakeholders has been planned for Wednesday 29 June.

Tredegar Band – We have accepted a request to advise and assist with the planning and set-up of a brand new youth project in Wales. They will also look at linking with a Scottish Band with an already thriving youth programme for ongoing support and logistical information. It is hoped that this programme will also involve some key people from the various Welsh associations who may want to observe first hand our YDP.

Macclesfield Youth Brass Band – Discussions have taken place with Louise Renshaw regarding a possible concert tour to Scotland next year. The band would also like to link up with local youth bands in Scotland and would like to do a joint workshop, possibly with Les Neish, to experience how we do them.

External Liaison

NYBBS – A meeting has been scheduled with Neil Cross, Richard Evans and SBBA for 28 June to draw up a strategy and development plan for our future working relationship following the dissolution of SAMA on 31 May 2011.

UKBBA – Attended a meeting in Preston. A full report will be given to the executive regarding recent developments.

BFBB – Met with various BFBB officials who have opened discussions on working with SBBA to find out about our YDP and best practice methods. Provisional meetings are being planned for July 2011.

Creative Scotland – Along with George Burt, attended two meetings with Creative Scotland, including one with their Chief Executive Andrew Dixon. A full report will be given by George Burt and me at the SBBA Executive meeting.

Music For Youth/Creative Scotland – Attended a further meeting to plan the Scottish launch concert of the Music For Youth scheme. An inaugural concert and workshop date has been set for 28 October in Perth Concert Hall. We have been invited to provide a SBBA youth brass group for this concert.

SAME – We have accepted an invite to provide a brass group to play at the conference in Stirling on Thursday 8 September. We will also be supporting Les Neish who will be delivering 2 workshops on our behalf supported by Besson Musical Instruments. SBBA will also have a trade stand where we can give literature and information about all aspects of brass banding in Scotland. An update and reprint of the SBBA information brochure will need to be completed for this event.

Jim Sutherland – Attended a meeting with composer Jim Sutherland to look at a collaborative event with NYBBS and the National Youth Pipe Band of Scotland and a Bhangra drumming group on 11th September in Glasgow. A full report will be given to the Executive meeting.

Area Associations

NCBBA – Further discussions have taken place regarding a youth workshop and solo contest for the weekend of 5/6 November.

FCBA – Attended the FCBA AGM in Glenrothes.

Area Associations – Various discussions have taken place looking at the implementation of localised assistant Development Officers. A full report will be given at the Executive meeting.

Local Education Authorities & Heads of Instrumental Teaching Scotland (HITS)

HITS – Attended the two day AGM and Conference in Falkirk. This was a fantastic opportunity to network with the majority of Scotland's local education authorities instrumental music services managers.

Unfortunately, a few authorities have declined to renew their membership of HITS this year citing lack of funds to send representatives to meetings as the reason! It was also noted that another group of established music managers are in the process of taking leaving packages. It is not yet known if they will be replaced or by whom.

Events

I had much pleasure in attending a concert given by the Queensferry Community Brass Band where I was asked to present John Gilmour with his Life Membership medal. I would also like to add my personal congratulations to John in receiving this award for his services to brass bands in Scotland for over 50 years and also for his excellent chairmanship of the SBBA Education Committee and personal support for me in my role as Development Officer in helping us achieve our aims and objectives of the YDP.

West Lothian Festival – I think the opportunity for bands to rehearse their technical and entertainment parts of their programme has been well accepted and in return the standard of entertainment is getting better and becoming more professional. We will continue to work with West Lothian Council to enhance this area of competition and will take any further suggestion from bands to them to assist with the development of the contest further.

Further negotiations have taken place with a well known composer who has expressed an interest in writing a test piece for a future Scottish open.

Alan Edmond
Development Officer
Scottish Brass Band Association