



## *December 2022*

Drawing 2022 to a close, SCWB's Christmas concert was a joyous event for both band and audience. In the wonderful setting of The Chapel in the centre of Netley's Royal Victoria Country Park, we were joined by the choir of Netley Abbey Junior School.

In the saxophone section was Katie Pottrill (third from the right, below), in what was her first concert playing for the band. Here is her account of her experience joining SCWB, and the concert.



I first picked up the Alto Saxophone early in high school and played with the Suffolk Youth Wind Band for 4-5 years, touring all over Europe and playing in some beautiful venues. When at University, I auditioned for and gained a spot with the Sheffield University Wind Orchestra, a fabulous group of musicians with whom huge fun was had throughout my years there. I was also a member of the resident big band, played in pit bands for productions of Cabaret and West Side Story, occasionally dabbled in a sax quartet and even played flute with the Medics' Orchestra (spoiler: I am not a medic)...

My biggest sin was perhaps choosing a seemingly never-ending subject to study (architecture), and sadly the intensity of my work coupled with my ongoing studies eventually forced me to take a break from music in recent years.

Now that I am fully qualified and reunited with my weekends and evenings (hallelujah!), I am so fortunate to have found a seat with the Southampton Concert Wind Band. Alto sax vacancies appeared to be like gold dust wherever I seemed to look, and having now started at SCWB I can see why no-one would ever want to leave! I am certainly a little rusty and 11 rehearsals & 1 concert down I still feel a little like I'm blowing the cobwebs out, but I know SCWB is the perfect place for me to develop as a musician and consolidate previous experience.

There is brilliant leadership, the clearest direction and outstanding discipline, yet with an atmosphere of great encouragement, friendliness and positivity; the perfect balance of commitment, focus and fun. From what I've seen so far, the repertoire is very varied and exciting; challenging at times but so rewarding when it all comes together. Speaking of coming together, it was a pleasure to play with SCWB on Sunday - I was equally impressed by the sax sections' commitment to festive 'adornments', but also the support the band clearly has from the public, and of course the excellent Christmas quiz too (you had to be there...). I do have to say though, my head does still seem to be spinning after the particular challenge of *The Cowboys*... or perhaps my antlers were too tight...??

Thank you SCWB for welcoming me so warmly. I am looking forward to the fun and musical challenges ahead!

Katie Pottrill  
Alto Saxophone

### SCWB events to look forward to in 2023

Chandler's Ford Methodist Church <i>With guest soloist Peter Cigleris, clarinet</i>	March 25th	7:30pm
Christ Church, Winchester	June 17th	7.30 pm
Chandler's Ford Methodist Church <i>Joined by the Band of The Hampshire Constabulary</i>	Sept. 23rd	7.30 pm
Chandler's Ford Methodist Church <i>With guest soloist Brett Baker, trombone</i>	Nov. 11th	7.30 pm

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