

Denmead Brass - Welcome Information

Our Mission Statement

Our Mission is to bring brass band enthusiasts together, to enjoy music and inspire others.

We will do this by:

- Performing in our local community
- Competing locally and nationally
- Providing training and encouragement to adults and young people
- Supporting other charities and good causes
- Maintaining sufficient funds to sustain our activities

Our Ethos

We believe that absolutely everybody should have the opportunity to learn to play an instrument and take part in group music making. As such, the band aims to offer anyone the opportunity to learn to read music and play a brass instrument, to grow in confidence and develop their skills within a fun and safe brass band setting.

How we do this

All our activities are self-funded from our concerts/engagements, and our members pay a monthly subscription in-line with our subscriptions policy. Please speak to the treasurer who can supply further details. Instruments can be loaned from the band at no additional cost (see below).

In addition to providing sheet music, instruments and musical direction to our musicians, we provide a fantastic opportunity to make new friends and develop lifelong skills. We also provide our members with the opportunity to experience and take part in a wide range of engagements with the training band and the main band, in partnership with other local and world class musical organisations.

Organisation

Denmead Brass is a registered charity, number 268623, and is run by an elected committee that can be contacted via email to our secretary secretary@denmeadbrass.org.uk. As a charitable organisation the trustees are responsible for ensuring the band operates in accordance with Charity Commission guidelines. The bands day to day activities are managed by an executive committee consisting of a Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. The executive committee is supported by additional committee members, who undertake a variety of roles as deemed necessary by the executive committee.

All committee members are appointed annually by vote of the band members at the Annual General Meeting which normally takes place during November.

A list of the trustees, committee members and their allocated roles are made available to all members of the band.

Joining the Band

We welcome any person who has an interest in learning to play a brass or percussion instrument. Established players of any standard are welcome to join us at any rehearsal. New beginners will generally start with other absolute beginners and will initially be taught in a group together to learn the first basics of how to hold their instruments, how to produce notes and how to read the first elements of music. New beginners will begin to join in with the training band usually quite quickly, after just a few lessons where they will begin to put into practice the new skills they have begun to learn.

Denmead Brass - Welcome Information

We require new members (or their parents) to complete a membership form with emergency contact details and photo/ video consent form.

Free Instrumental loan

Buying a brass instrument can be an expensive affair and can become a barrier to learning but not at Denmead Brass! Whilst some of our musicians do have their own instruments or are using an instrument from school or a local music service, many of our members take advantage of our free instrument loans. We have a range of instruments available to loan at no cost to members. The instrument is absolutely free to use whilst the member plays for Denmead Brass. No catches! The only loan conditions are that the instrument is looked after carefully and kept in-line with the requirements of the bands insurance policy (see Appendix A below). The band member is also expected to make a solid commitment to attending rehearsals and engagements regularly. NB: We will require proof of address before we can loan an instrument out.

Band members who have their own personal instruments should insure them separately.

Rehearsals

Main Band rehearsals take place weekly at Denmead Community Centre, School Lane, Denmead, PO7 6LU on Tuesday evenings 8:00pm -10:00pm & Sunday Mornings 10:30am-12:30pm

Training band rehearsals take place weekly at Denmead Community Centre on Sunday Mornings 09:15 – 10:15pm, Training band members are also periodically invited to play alongside the Main band for the first half of their Sunday rehearsals.

Generally, there are no rehearsals on Sunday mornings following concerts/contests held on a Saturday. Changes to rehearsal schedule due to holidays, absences or contest preparations are normally communicated by email/text.

Training band rehearsals are led by our Musical Director Sarah, with a team of DBS checked adult helpers sat within and around the band to support the young musicians. Our team of tutors will take groups and individual members out for short lessons during this time. Parents are welcome to stay and listen to rehearsals and lessons. During all rehearsals, members are responsible for setting up and putting away their own equipment such as their chair, music stand, music, instruments and are expected to give their best effort and full attention to the musical director and other volunteers at all times. If a member is unable to attend a rehearsal, please place your name in the diary to let the musical director know in advance.

Concerts, Contests & Fundraising

As a charity, not for profit organisation providing our instruments and services to our musicians for free, we rely entirely on income generated from engagements, fundraising, grants and members subscriptions to run the band. As such, we undertake a wide range of public concerts and fundraising engagements throughout the year to which members are required to commit to attending, such events are covered by the band's public and liability insurance. Where attendance is not possible, due to other commitments or extenuating circumstances such as holidays, illness, bereavement etc. we ask that members/their family let us know in good time so we can arrange for the part to be covered.

The band encourages members and friends to financially support by the band by registering with Easyfundraising at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/denmeadbrass/>. This enables the band to receive donations from over 4,000 outlets when you make on-line purchases via the Easyfundraising app or website.

Denmead Brass - Welcome Information

Additional donations will be given by Amazon by registering your existing account & then shopping through Amazon Smile at <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/268623-0> (NB Denmead Brass formally known as Cosham Concert Band).

The band strives to improve its skills and takes part in contests locally, regionally and nationally. We are currently graded nationally as a 2nd section band.

The band regularly provide an up to date list of engagements both on paper (sent home with members), via email, and in several places online for access any time:

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/Denmead Brass/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/Denmead%20Brass/)

<http://www.denmeadbrass.org.uk>

We recommend that members and parents join the above Facebook page to keep fully up to date with all our exciting news and events. This is where we generally communicate any last minute changes to rehearsal schedules so it is well worth joining.

Uniform

Members of both the main and training band are required to supply their own uniform for concerts: a black collared school shirt (any length sleeve) or black blouse or black dress, long black trousers or black skirt, black socks or tights, smart black shoes.

Safeguarding, DBS and Risk management

We are fully committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our young musicians. We are Brass Bands England band safe accredited. Our Safeguarding team (Linda Groves, Andy Hill, & Sarah Smith) have all undertaken formal safeguarding training and the band have a comprehensive safeguarding policy. In addition, we have developed a Code of conduct for all members. The team can be contacted by sending an email to safeguarding@denmeadbrass.org.uk

Our training band leader (Sarah Smith BA Hons, PGCE) and our tutors, volunteers and adults who may occasionally have a supervisory role for our young players may be vetted and DBS checked if deemed necessary by the executive committee.

The band have 1 trained First Aider (Kate Stapleford). First Aid Boxes are provided and maintained by Denmead Community Centre, the band also provides a first aid kit for use when carrying out activities away from the Centre. Any issues regarding Health and Safety should be reported to the nominated Health and Safety Co-ordinator.

The safeguarding policy, the code of conduct and our other policies are available at any time on our website <https://www.denmeadbrass.org.uk>

It is common practice for members of bands to share lifts to both rehearsals and concerts. If a young player, or player with care and support needs, is needing help with transport, this should be arranged directly between the parent/carer/player and band member offering the lift and not through a third party or the committee. The band does not hold any responsibility for these arrangements. Band members entering into such arrangements should following the guidelines outlined in the Safeguarding policy and the code of conduct.

Leaving the band

Denmead Brass - Welcome Information

It is always sad when members leave the band for whatever reason – relocation, other commitments, personal reasons etc. or maybe the person has decided that it's just not for them. These things happen, however before leaving, please speak to a member of the committee, maybe we can help to resolve any issues that have cropped up. Should a member decide to leave, we require that any loaned instruments are returned to us cleaned and in working order ASAP so that we may reissue them to other people who may be waiting.

Contact Us

For general rehearsal and upcoming engagement queries contact the secretary by email. The band can also be messaged directly through our public Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Denmeadbrass>

Appendix A - Instrument Care & Insurance

Instrument Care

1. Wash your instrument regularly in warm soapy water. Bacteria, mould and fungus grows inside instruments over time – keep it clean! Regular cleaning not only keeps your instrument looking nice but washes away bacteria and dirt to keep it smelling nice too.
2. Polish your instrument with a silver cloth or ordinary duster if it is silver or an ordinary duster if it is brass. **Do not use metal polish, Duraglit or polish wadding** on any instrument as this is abrasive and will scratch the instrument, remove the lacquer and in some cases remove the plating. Re-lacquering /replating is a very expensive repair.
3. Oil your valves regularly. Do this one valve at a time. Loosen the valve cap, lift the valve partially out of the casing, apply a few drops of oil, return the valve, you may need to gently rotate the valve to align the valve guides. **Do not remove all three at once.** Each valve is different and only fits in its own casing. If you mix up your valves it will be difficult to put them back into the right casing. Damaged valves / casings are expensive to repair. (If you cannot get a valve back in, please wait to see someone at band, do not force the valves in)
4. Grease your valve slides and tuning slides regularly with Vaseline. Slides should move easily. If a slide is stuck in, or you cannot get a slide back, please see one of the more experienced band members, do not force the slide as you may damage it, again damaged slides are expensive to repair.
5. When putting your mouthpiece in the instrument, do so gently with a little twist to keep it in, **never force the mouthpiece in.** If your mouthpiece becomes stuck in, please see one of the more experienced band members **do not try to force it out yourself**, you may damage the instrument.

Insurance

All Instruments and equipment owned by the band are covered by a Worldwide insurance policy. They remain covered when band members take them home or use them at non-band functions.

In general, any damage to an instrument is covered, including accidental damage. However, damage caused by servicing, repair or the application of heat are excluded, band members should not carry out repairs themselves.

Denmead Brass - Welcome Information

Band members must follow the following guidelines to ensure instruments remain insured and claims will be paid. These are:

- Take reasonable care of instruments at all times.
- When instruments are left unattended in buildings, the building must be securely locked. There is an exception allowing instruments to be left in a music venue at the direction of the music organiser or conductor.
- Instruments must be in their case when in transit.
- Instruments left unattended in a vehicle must be completely hidden within the vehicle, which must be locked and all security measures (e.g. alarm if the vehicle has one) must be in operation.
- If flying, instruments must be checked before leaving departure lounge and checked again before leaving baggage reclaim area. If there is any damage it must be registered with the airline before leaving baggage reclaim.
- If an instrument is lost or stolen on public transport its loss must be registered with the transport operator within 24 hours and the transport operator must be requested to check any CCTV footage before it is deleted.
- The police must be informed immediately if an instrument is stolen or maliciously damaged.

Please Note: Expensive instruments are loaned free of charge with the understanding that they will be well looked after and that any repairs / damage caused outside these guidelines will be paid for by the borrower.