

HISTORY OF THE BAND

Written by Administrator

Tuesday, 04 March 2014 00:00 - Last Updated Monday, 07 April 2014 16:39

Kellswater Flute Band was founded in 1947, four miles South of Ballymena in the town land of Tullynamullan. The Band takes its name from the Kellswater River, famous from the song 'Bonnie Kellswater', the river and Kellswater Bridge feature on the Band crest.

Throughout these early years with the support of the community and certain prominent individuals, various fund raising events were organised, leading to the purchase of Crown AZ flutes and Guards Pattern brass shelled drums.



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In these early years Kellswater was a melody flute band under their first conductor Mr A. Pedlow, their first drum corps instructor was Mr W Hoffin. The baton then changed hands to Mr W. Mc Neill. The first of many successes on the contest platform soon followed when in 1952 Kellswater gained first place in Portadown performing 'Everbright' by W.B. Blythe in the melody flute section. The Band then progressed to part music, soon after Mr W.McNeill resigned as conductor due to work commitments.

Mr S. Barclay then became conductor for a short period of time prior to Mr J.Mathewson taking over the baton. Under 'Big Jimmy' as he became affectionately known, much success at contests in the Ulster Hall Belfast and in Scotland was achieved between 1967 and 1985. Boehm system flutes being purchased in 1969 from Hunter Moore Flute Band in Newry



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J. MATHEWSON

Under his guidance the band collected a total of 18 awards in Flute Band League Own Choice, North of Ireland Bands Association and Scottish Amateur Flute Band Association competitions. After around thirty nine years of dedicated service as conductor, Mr. Mathewson retired due to ill health, and sadly passed away soon afterwards...

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Mr. U. Faulkner became conductor in 1992, a peripatetic tutor and top ex-army piccolo player, with his enthusiasm plus a hard working committee and ladies committee, membership of the Band increased steadily.

New uniforms purchased in 1992 and a complete set of concert flutes in 1994 helped the band to develop further.

Under Mr. U. Faulkner, success returned with 5 awards achieved on the contest platform and Best Band on Parade secured on various occasions at the Ballymena 12th July demonstration.

In 1997 the band celebrated it's 50th Anniversary with a Dinner Dance and presentation to three founder members and the release of their first CD "Fifty Years on the March" selling over 700 copies of the recording.

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The History of the Band is a long and proud tradition. It is a testament to the dedication and hard work of the administrators, teachers, and students who have made it possible. The band has grown from a small group of students to a large and talented organization. It is a source of pride for the school and a source of joy for the community. The band has participated in many competitions and has won many awards. It is a source of pride for the school and a source of joy for the community. The band has participated in many competitions and has won many awards. It is a source of pride for the school and a source of joy for the community.