

As previously mentioned, the band has some exciting upcoming news on the appointment of a new full time musical director, but in the meantime we are delighted that two veterans of the band along with our Chairman Alan Trewella will lead HTB on Flora Day.

Alan, who has been an integral part of the organisation for many years, has decided that he will be stepping down from his role as Chairman at the next AGM, and as a token of appreciation for all his hard work the band have invited him to lead the way on Flora Day.

Accompanying Alan for the morning dance will be the bands Flora Day Veteran Russell Harvey. Incredibly Russell turns 80 this year and has been a member of HTB for an astonishing 70 years, with Flora Day 2014 being the 68th Flora Day he will play in. He told me last night that between himself, his brother, his son and grandchildren, the Harvey family have completed 157 Flora Days between them.

Another veteran of the band, principal trombonist Lester Ashton, volunteered to lead the band for the Children's and Midday dances. Lester leading the band also continues a family tradition as his father Edward was musical director of HTB and led the band on Flora Day for 30 years. Lester has been a key member of the band for many years and has been involved in Flora day festivities for nearly half a century - his biography is the first feature article on our new ['Articles'](#) tab.

Lester commented on his role this year saying - 'As a Helstonian Flora Day is obviously very special to me, I have great memories and have been involved in the celebrations for almost 50 years, To wear the famous blue jacket on the big day is fantastic, to have led the midday in 1983 was a great honour and to now have the opportunity to walk in front of the band this year will be a great privilege, an experience I could only have dreamt of'

We are also pleased to say that the Musical Director of our Concert Band Ian Edwards has agreed to lead the evening dance. Ian has done a tremendous amount of work since his appointment last year and it is only fitting that he have such a role on Flora Day.

In all of this, we as an organisation must also pay tribute to our Bandmaster Kevin Johns - Kevin opted to play rather than lead the band from the front, but over the last 12 months Kevin has put in so much time, effort and hard work whilst the band have been between Musical Directors. It

cannot be underestimated how much he has done for Helston.

So fear not, the band is in safe hands!