

BRASS BANDS

At the meeting on 18th November, all the senses were entertained by Brian Hughes. The topic was the history of Brass Bands and the presentation included not only a very interesting talk, but also an interactive sound and slide show of some rare recordings of band music. We heard how a number of the big name brass bands claim to be the founders, dating as far back as the end of the 16th century, these including household names like Foden's Brass Band and the Black Dyke Mills Band. Originally an activity of the working classes; brass bands became important status symbols with the major manufacturing companies supporting their own band. Completions became hard fought for and holding a position in a band held the occupant more likely to retain his job when the mills began to decline.