



'Hark the CCB Herald'  
The Show Will Go On. Stay Safe

# THE NEW HERALD

Newsletter of the

## CRUMPSALL CONCERT BAND



Volume 2 Issue 7  
30<sup>th</sup> March 2020

**WELCOME to the latest issue of your New Herald** coming to you in the strangest of times as the country pulls together, and we play our part in the global battle against Coronavirus. Sorry it's late as it should have been out last Wednesday! I sincerely hope you are all keeping well, staying safe and heeding the official advice and guidance designed to keep us, and those we care most about, that way too. There are some amongst our membership that will remember the privations and restrictions caused by warfare that swept the planet in the 1940's and whose social effects lingered into the following decade (National Service, Rationing and infrastructure rebuild etc.) but for the majority, this is brand new territory and the endearing qualities of humanity, compassion, humour and of course music will get us through this; keep smiling, keep practising. Our band is just one example of a supportive community and we can all help each other through the difficult months ahead; please read on to see how we might do this. Please spread the word and if you feel appropriate, forward this issue on to friends and family. Above all, stay well and keep safe. All the very best. **Yours, Rob**

**IN THIS ISSUE:** A message from our conductor; Crumpsall: our banding heritage intro; Technology to the rescue - can the show go on? Committee Update; Calendar Updates and more.....enjoy the read and thanks.



### A MESSAGE FROM OUR CONDUCTOR: ALAN COTTRILL

Hi, I hope everyone is keeping safe and well and following government guidance to the full!

These are strange times and it is important we stay as positive as we can, keep ourselves occupied and help each other where we can. I have already done some gardening (not my favourite pastime!), walked the dog more than usual and next I intend to get my tuba out and do some practice, once I've blown away the cobwebs. Here are some useful tips for practising and I'll be following these myself:

1. Tonging exercises where you set up a rhythm pattern and a speed on a metronome (you can get apps) once you can do that speed without tripping up, set it slightly faster and so on.
2. Long notes, trying to beat yourself.
3. Choose something you like to work on, not just something you think you 'should' play.
4. Don't always start at the beginning of a piece, start at the middle so the second half stays as good as the beginning.
5. Google pieces to see how different people interpret them, perhaps try playing along if they're in the correct key.
6. VERY IMPORTANT: clean mouthpiece after every practice.

I hope this is useful and if Jane and I can offer any other support please ask. Take care and keep in touch with each other; a little chat can do wonders for the mood. **Best wishes, Alan**

### CRUMPSALL; AN EARLY HISTORY – AN INTRO TO OUR BANDING HERITAGE SERIES:



**Crumpsall, a North Manchester suburb** from which we take our name, boasting a diverse community which we serve and the place we recognise as our musical home has a rich heritage of banding. In this introduction to that heritage stretching back many decades, it's worth briefly examining the historical context from where today's Crumpsall emerged.

*The following is reproduced and adapted by Rob Fullen with the kind permission of Barbara Shaw (former Chair of the band) from her thesis recoding Crumpsall Memories, published July 1990: Thanks Barbara:*

**There have been settlements in this area** dating back to the middle ages. Named Curmisole in 1282, by 1320 *Curmeshal, Curmesale* in 1405 and by 1548 *Cromshall*. It is feasible that the name derives from the Anglo Saxon word *Sal*, meaning a hall or place of entertainment coupled with the name of the village chief, perhaps *Curme*. Over the centuries the name became further corrupted to settle in its current form; *Crumpsall* in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. **The land in the area** was a mixture of bog and heath as a result of the influence of the **River Irk** on the topography. Several of the street names in the area bear testimony to this and all the following are within 5 to 10 minutes' stroll from our rehearsal space: **Mossbank, Willowhill Road and Bank Road**. To an extent the land was farmed throughout its early recorded history up until the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, but increasingly became more populated and by the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century there were 57 houses recorded in the District. **By the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century** the population had expanded sufficiently to warrant the building of a Wesleyan Chapel (site of the current Methodist Church) and by the middle of that century an Anglican Church with a tin roof was built on the site where St Matthew's with St Mary's and the Parish Hall (where we rehearse) now stand. The sudden growth of the population in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century is largely attributable to the presence of the dye works that sprang up on the banks of the River Irk and the industrialisation of the area and Manchester as a whole. A book in itself. **Farming continued to play a part in the area** until the late 1950s / early '60s and Willowhill Farm was one of the last examples situated behind Crumpsall Lane School on Sherdley Road (off Willowhill Road); now the site of a residential retirement complex, Sherdley Court. **Pictured Below:** Centre of Crumpsall circa 1906, showing a Sunday School procession (younger ones behind the Masters with the older pupils towards the back) crossing the main junction of Crumpsall Lane, Ash Tree Road (Oak Road as was), Lansdowne Road and Delaunays Road down which they are heading towards St Matthew's Church. Note Crumpsall Lane Primary School, opened 1904, and the row of shops on the Lane heading towards the corner of Delaunay's Road. These buildings and the big house in the left of the picture are still in use today. As a musical connection, **Sir Humphrey Chetham** was born in Crumpsall in 1580 and lived in Crumpsall Hall, the Son of a wealthy merchant. He was responsible for the creation of Chetham's Hospital, now known as the world renowned **Chetham's School of Music** in central Manchester and Chetham's Library; the oldest public library in the English speaking world. This is an appropriate link to the next instalment as we leap from 1580 to 1950 tracing the history of bands in Crumpsall starting in the next issue.





## MUSICAL MATTERS: TECHNOLOGY TO THE RESCUE – CAN THE SHOW GO ON?

Huge thanks to **Julie Thompson** (tenor sax) who followed up on a suggestion by **Jo Baynham** (flute) and last Wednesday (25<sup>th</sup> March) organised, via our **Facebook** Group, an online session using **Zoom.us**. Eighteen of the band answered the call and we made several brave attempts to play *Celtic Crest* and had a couple of stabs at *Disney at the Movies*. It's fair to say that playing together over the internet via Zoom was not the easiest but more important than that was being able to see and talk to each other and this is only going to become more important as we look to support each other and ourselves through this difficult period. **For those that missed out and want to give it a try, we are going to do it all again this Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 7pm** and some of our more technically minded members have spent the last week researching if there are other technologies out there that might suit us better. In addition, **Stuart Atkinson** is also looking at how we might video ourselves playing a tune (*Celtic Crest*) and email the results in for them all to be compiled into a cohesive piece – many bands and choirs are trying this technique. Why not join in on Zoom if you are able this Wednesday at 7pm and here is how to do it (keep your eye on the website and Facebook Group for updates too):

1. First set up a Zoom account in advance of the rehearsal (maybe even the day before to give you plenty of time) by going to [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) - it's quick, easy and FREE.
2. Then at 7pm on Wednesday, in front of your laptop / PC / tablet or phone with your webcam / video switched on and pointing at you, copy this link into your browser and open: <https://zoom.us/j/322094458?pwd=bUMrVStWd2E5d2hCNVphbW4xb2hhQT09> If this link doesn't work then you could try clicking on the button 'join a meeting' and enter the meeting ID which is: 322 094 458 and, if asked, the password is: 151844
3. Have your music, *Celtic Crest* and instrument ready (headphones optional) or just have a brew in hand (**no need to pay Norman 20p** 😊) and join in for a chat and we'll discuss Stuart's thoughts around a video, let you know how you can get copies of your parts for practising and see if any other solutions for rehearsing over the ether have come to light.

Pictured below are the 18 who were able to join the inaugural virtual rehearsal last Wednesday and we hope to welcome as many as able this week. For those with no access to the internet or web / Skype type technology, don't worry, we'll keep you up to date with what's been going on and these newsletters will be coming out on a more regular basis than usual until things get back to normal.



Congratulations to the flute section with 5 representatives closely followed by the trumpets with 4. There was a 100% turnout from the Oboe section and 50% for bassoons and tenor saxes. Two bass players, two clarinetists and an alto sax rep made up the ensemble 😊

**COMMITTEE UPDATE – MARCH 2020: Your Committee last met on 24<sup>th</sup> February** and were due to meet again tonight (30<sup>th</sup> March) but for understandable reasons linked to social distancing; we are not able to meet in person at present. However we have been keeping in touch remotely and at the time of writing are busy looking at the logistics of holding a **virtual AGM on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April**. More on this in our next issue along with more details of our discussions on 24<sup>th</sup> February; including the big reveal in respect of **Honorary Presidential appointments**. Watch this space.



### CCB FUND RAISING - 100 CLUB UPDATE:

Given the current uncertain climate it has been decided to defer the start of the 100 Club until further notice. We will keep this under review and provide further updates in future issues. Thanks for your support, patience and understanding.

## 2020 CALENDAR DATES – (PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING UPDATES INFLUENCED BY THE EFFECT OF SOCIAL DISTANCING)

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
Sat 04/04/20	Spring Concert - Cancelled, as announced 11 <sup>th</sup> March at our final physical rehearsal until further notice.	CANCELLED
Wed 22/04/20	Annual General Meeting 2020 – see updates published next issue and via the website & <b>Facebook</b> nearer the time	Looking to go ahead via email and other channels
Fri 29/05/20	FC United of Manchester Gala Dinner – MOSI, Manchester	CANCELLED
Sat 06/06/20	Radcliffe Carnival – FULL BAND – 11am – 1pm (Playing on Red Bank fields prior to the parade setting off)	UNDER REVIEW BY THE ORGANISERS Decision expected by 30/04/2020
Sat 20/06/20	Bandemonium – Kay Gardens, Bury – FULL BAND	UNDER REVIEW BY THE ORGANISERS
Sat 04/07/20	Potential Summer Concert – Parish Hall - FULL BAND	DECISION PENDING
Wed 02/12/20	Crumpsall Christmas Tree light switch on	More details nearer the time

**FEATURING IN ISSUE 8 DUE 15<sup>th</sup> APRIL:** Crumpsall's banding heritage Part 1, AGM Preview, Virtual Rehearsals Update and much more.....