

'Hark the CCB Herald'



'CCB on the move'

THE NEW HERALD

Newsletter of

CRUMPSALL CONCERT BAND



Volume 3 Issue 12
31st August 2021

Welcome to the final issue of **Volume 3** of your **New Herald** as the curtain closes on arguably the strangest band season in our 28-year history. This issue celebrates our second summer of 'Staycation Postcards', provides a brief review of the 20/21 season whilst looking back on our heritage to the 1976/77 season. It's well to have a glance over our shoulders to reflect on where we have come from but firmly focussed on the present and future, this issue also looks ahead with optimism to the start of season 2021/22, detailing what COVID aware / secure indoor rehearsals at our new HQ will look like from 8th September. Also, as the summer draws to a close, we look ahead to a couple of events we will be working towards in the upcoming Autumn term. Many thanks & enjoy the read.

Yours in Banding, Rob

In this issue:

A Message from our Conductor; Music Matters – what to expect from our return to indoor rehearsals; Heritage series Part 15; Band News including – Congratulations, HQ Move part 2, Post cards from Staycations Summer '21, Calendar Dates and much more. Please Read On!

CONDUCTOR'S MESSAGE: "I am looking forward to seeing our new rehearsal space":



Hello everyone, I hope you have enjoyed the summer and are feeling refreshed and ready to play! I am looking forward to seeing our new rehearsal space and getting back to routine in our '*new normal*'. Expect some new pieces too.

If, like Jane and I, you haven't played as much as you perhaps intended lately then it might be worth giving your instrument a bit of a service, maybe a wash, polish and oil/ grease as needed. A few long notes might help you get your lips back into trim. **See you very soon, Alan**

MUSIC MATTERS: What will rehearsals look like as we start back on 8th September?



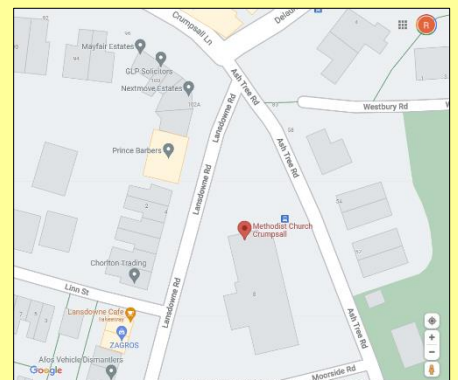
Above left: Early 2020, pre-pandemic and one of the final rehearsals in our home since 1993, St Matthew's Parish Hall. **Above right:** our final rehearsal, last month, at our temporary home for 2020/21, FC United's Broadhurst Park stadium. On 8th September 2021, the band will begin a new chapter following the summer relocation of our permanent base to the **Methodist Church Crumpsall**. A new home awaits; MCC's main hall **pictured left**. *More on the progress with our move in the Band News section of this issue, page 3.*

Of course, we are fully aware that Covid has not gone away and as a committee we are planning for a resumption of indoor rehearsals with member wellbeing at their heart. A revised risk assessment is being produced to support as safe a return to indoor rehearsals as is practically possible and this will be available to members before we start back.

Address for Wednesday rehearsals - from 8th September 2021:

Methodist Church Crumpsall, Lansdowne Road, Crumpsall, Manchester, M8 5ST

Limited car parking (approx. 10 spaces) available in the church car park accessed from Moorside Road on a first come basis. Other parking usually available on Linn Street, Ash Tree Road, Lansdowne Road or Moorside Road. Crumpsall Green is also well serviced by Metrolink and buses see GMPT website.



Stop Press. Going above & beyond: Air Quality Detectors have been purchased & will be monitored at each rehearsal Stop Press.

Key aspects of Wednesday rehearsals in the new term – the 'new normal' as follows:

- ♪ Registration to attend, as with outdoor rehearsals, will remain a weekly feature (Link emailed weekly. Window: 8am Tue to Noon Wed)
- ♪ Members encouraged to undertake Lateral Flow Tests (LFTs) ahead of attending each rehearsal (if negative)
- ♪ Rehearsal start time 7.30pm until 9pm (with a scheduled break mid-way through). (Members encouraged to arrive from 7pm).
- ♪ Hands to be sanitised on arrival at a welcome table in the church foyer where subs can also be paid (by card or cash)
- ♪ On arrival, members will be advised of a seat position number as we did at Broadhurst Park
- ♪ The Small Hall can be used for coats and instrument cases, keeping the main rehearsal space as clutter free as possible
- ♪ Members will be required to bring a music stand and their music (band parts will be available too, but not to take home) and we will be seated 1m apart. Our Conductor will have 2m clearance from the front row of musicians and there will be approx. 1.5m between rows.
- ♪ Chairs, suitably spaced, will be set out for you (those with band chairs on loan, please bring them back to your first rehearsal in the new term to go back into storage).
- ♪ Members will be required to wipe down their own chairs and stack them away at the end of each rehearsal
- ♪ Face coverings on arrival and at departure will be entirely optional
- ♪ Further details and measures will be included in the checklist appended to the revised risk assessment and available soon.

Although on paper, the above may appear prescriptive, as with society and life in general the 'new normal', since 19th July, will evolve and self-determination and mutual respect will be key ingredients to ensuring, above all, we can return to the pleasure of music making as safely as possible. Many thanks and any questions any time, please ask. *Your Committee*

CRUMPSALL CONCERT BAND – Band Heritage Series Part 15: Season 1976/77 #1:

Back in issue 10 (Part 14), we reviewed the long hot summer of 1976 and mentioned Malcolm Cockerill, trumpet teacher and Musical Director of the North Manchester Music Centre band who, in July 1976, had come runners-up in the 4th Solihull Military & Concert Band Festival, co-organised by our own Derek Farnell. In September 1976, I moved into my second year at Moston Brook High School and within a few weeks, decided to join the school band as good friend and fellow bugler in the Scout & Guide Band, John Mills, had joined it as soon as he started as a fresh faced 1st Year. One weekend during September, round at his house, John let me have a go on his school cornet; a brass, Chinese model with peeling lacquer, but from that moment I was hooked. My first lesson at school was in early October 1976 under the tutorship of the aforementioned Malcolm Cockerill. The first exercise I was set was the F & G March as pictured left in a photocopy of the actual manuscript Mr Cockerill wrote out for me. I was loaned my first band instrument; another brass Chinese model, complete with peeling lacquer. Standard issue it seems 😊.

October 1976 was a busy month for me as I started to learn to read music and cornet valve positions (as above) and at the 4th time of asking finally performed *Sunset* on bugle in front of the whole Scout & Guide Band to a standard that allowed Bandmaster Tom Lock to award me the Scout Association's Musician Badge. The certificate, looking much the worse for wear with the passage of time, is pictured along with the 45rpm vinyl 7" single of the HM Royal Marines Band playing *Sunset* (from my Mum and Dad's collection and now in mine) that provided critical inspiration and audible reference (as I couldn't read music well enough at this point) for performing the piece sufficiently well at last.



The Crumpsall Scout & Guide Band now had two cornet players in their ranks but it would not be until 1979 that the instruments were put to use on parades, by which time a third member of the Moston Brook High School Band cornet section, Chris Le Carpenter, had joined myself and John in the marching ranks. More on this experimental, yet important musical development, in a later issue. In the meantime, for the remainder of 1976, the Scout & Guide Band was focussed on preparations for a busy second half of the season moving into the Queen's Silver Jubilee year of 1977. See Part 16 of our Heritage Series next issue. Thanks for reading. RF

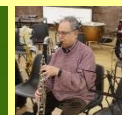
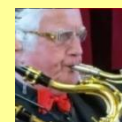
CRUMPSALL CONCERT BAND – BAND NEWS, VIEWS & BANTER...

A Bite size review – Season 2020/21 in brief.....

- 30th September 2020 – A return to rehearsals, socially distanced and outdoor at FC United's Broadhurst Park Stadium
- 16th October 2020 – Trombonist and 'chief brewer-uppa', Norman Davies celebrated his 95th Birthday
- 4th November 2020 – Final outdoor rehearsal ahead of the 2nd National Lockdown which started on Bonfire Night. Back to Zooms.



- **7th – 9th November 2020** – Representatives of the Trumpet section marked Remembrance weekend playing Last Post & Rouse at FC United (7th) and St Matthew with St Mary Church (9th)
- **9th & 16th December 2020** – Final two outdoor rehearsals before the Christmas / New-Year break
- **23rd December 2020** – A representative band of 10 members played our one and only gig of 2020; Carols by Candlelight, outdoors at St Matthew with St Mary Parish Church, Crumpsall. National Lockdown #3 was imposed just after Christmas
- **13th January 2021** – Zoom get-together following the festive break
- **27th February 2021** – Fantastically successful virtual quiz night fundraiser
- **29th March 2021** – Sadly, trombonist Norman Davies passed away
- **5th April 2021** – Less than a week after Norman, sadly Tenor Saxophonist Harry Hudson also passed away
- **15th May 2021** – Two days before Step 3 of the Government's Road Map out of lockdown, our 9th and final lockdown recording 'The Muppet show Theme' was released. Still makes me smile that one 😊
- **19th May 2021** – Following the Step 3 Green Light, outdoor rehearsals resumed again at Broadhurst Park
- **14th July 2021** – Our final outdoor rehearsal of the season at FC United, and a couple of days later we found out that Bass Clarinetist, Cyril Weinkove had sadly passed away suddenly at home on this date.
- **21st July 2021** – Two years and one day after our last full band concert, we performed an outdoor event at Broadhurst Park to an audience of 55. A defiant, positive and exhilarating end to the strangest season. Although not quite.....
- **13th August 2021** – The decant of equipment from our St Matthew's HQ to our new base at MCC began in earnest.



CCB HQ Move 2021 – Update #2 – Moving Out....

Anyone who has moved house, particularly after a long time in one property, will understand the accumulation of 'stuff' that builds up over time. The band is no exception and after almost 3 decades based at St Matthew's Parish Hall, the decant of music and equipment, less than 400 yards up the Road to Methodist Church Crumpsall, began in earnest earlier this month. The exercise will continue for the first week in September and should be complete by the time we hold our first rehearsal on the 8th. The following montage of pictures illustrate half the story; the **moving out phase**, and next issue will depict the stages of moving in:



A huge thank you for the removal operations so far to Committee Colleagues: Stuart, Sue & Nicky, both churches, particularly Brenda Graham at MCC and Karen and Victoria Fullen. Next Issue: A full vote of thanks to include those involved in the final push. 😊

Congratulations – A couple of special August Birthdays....

A very happy 18th birthday to Joseph Atkinson (21st August) who is off to St Andrew's University in the coming days to study pure maths. Joe is pictured with his mathematically inspired birthday cake topped with a tromboning characterisation. On behalf of the band, congratulations to Joe and all the best in his future studies.



On 27th August, bassoonist **Doug Graham** (pictured at rehearsal at Broadhurst Park back on 7th July) **clocked up 91 summers** and many congratulations to our band's elder statesman. It certainly doesn't seem 12 months since we sprung a surprise 90th Birthday Zoom on Doug... how time flies.

Doug also holds the privilege of being the band's first member to receive a Covid vaccine, receiving his first dose just a couple of weeks after Margaret Keenan (Britain's first recipient) in December 2019. Keep well Doug and we look forward to seeing you back at rehearsals on 8th September. Many happy returns from all in and around the CCB.

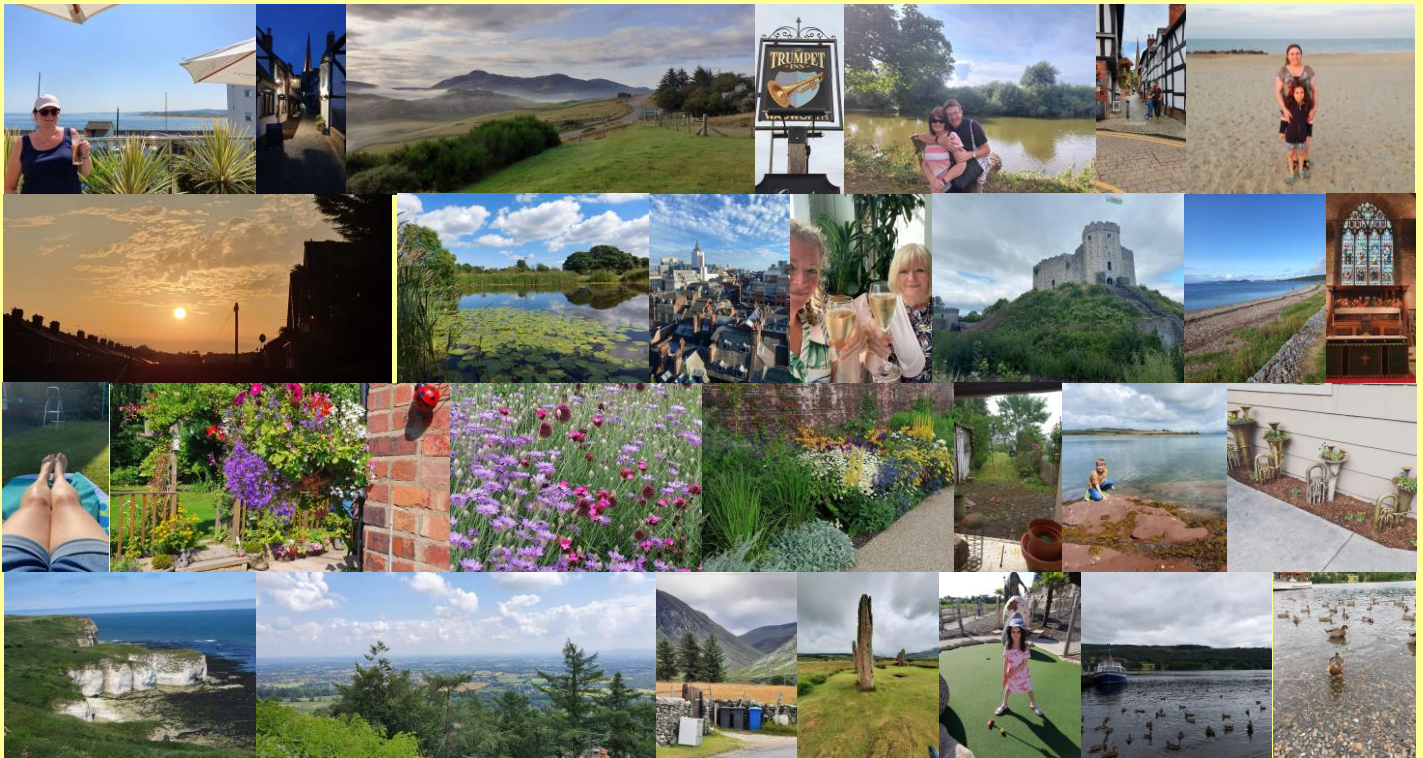
Green Credentials – Tim and Caroline, reducing our carbon foot print....

Increasingly, emphasis and focus on the climate change agenda, is causing many people to examine what difference they can make in their everyday lives, no matter how small the contribution. The rationale being that many small acts will cumulatively make a significant and positive difference. I don't know if this, along with fitness considerations, is the motive behind Euph player Tim and Flautist Caroline choosing to cycle to our outdoor rehearsals between May and July 2021, but their commitment to attend given the effort expended to do so, is surely to be applauded. Well played to both of you and thanks. Where practical and safe to do so, anyone wishing and able to cycle to rehearsals, perhaps consider talking to Tim and Caroline about their experiences and safety aspects. We will ensure secure storage of your bikes within our new rehearsal base as required.



Post Cards from The Band, To The Band – 'Staycations' Summer 2021:

As with last year, you have sent in some lovely pictures celebrating back gardens to city centre roof tops, from coast to dales, mountains, hills and lakes to picturesque towns and villages and although one is of a back garden in France it counts as a staycation because it's a holiday home 😊. Enjoy.



Calendar Dates:

DATE/TIMES	EVENT	NOTES
<u>Wed 8th Sept 2021</u> Arrive from 7pm Start: 7:30pm Finish 9:00pm	Return to indoor rehearsals for the start of our 29 th Season: Held at our new HQ: Methodist Church Crumpsall, M8 5ST	The health and wellbeing of our membership remains paramount and an updated rehearsal risk assessment will be published in advance. Weekly registration window protocols will apply also. See further details: Pages 2 and 3 above.
<u>Sun 26th Sept 2021</u> Arrive 12.30pm Play at 1pm (30 mins) Play at 2pm (30 mins)	Cheetham Cultural Festival (CCF) 2021 : The Ukrainian Centre, 31 Smedley Lane, Cheetham Hill, Manchester, M8 8XB	Full details will be confirmed ahead of the event but we hope to be accommodated indoors in accordance with our rehearsal risk assessment. Full Band Uniform
<u>Sat 16th Oct 2021</u> Arrive to set up from 6.30pm. Concert start 7.30pm	Autumn Concert – Methodist Church Crumpsall	Our first autumn event since our 25 th Anniversary Concert in 2018. Full Band Uniform

THE LAST BIT: Volume 3 Vote of thanks - Season 20/21: You know who you are.....

All the zoomers and shakers, rehearsal makers, fundraisers, Committee decision takers & home movers and makers, FC United, St Matthew's & MCC. Conductors, newsletter contributors, musicians virtual and in person and those we have lost. Lockdown recorders, producers and viewers. Family and friends, supporters all - there when it mattered when lockdowns threatened a stall. Above all, united and together we kept the music alive. Onwards & Upwards CCB.

Thanks as always for reading, Rob