

'Hark the CCB Herald'



It was on A Starry Night

THE NEW HERALD

Newsletter of

CRUMPSALL CONCERT BAND



Volume 3 Issue 3
29th November 2020

Welcome to your November issue of the **New Herald** as the latest period of national lockdown nears its end and we prepare to move back into the tiered system of restrictions; No3 for us just in case you hadn't heard. However, today is Advent Sunday and the festive season is formally upon us with trees and lights twinkling into life in and outside homes up and down the land. If ever we, and everyone, and everything we care about needed the hope and joy sparked by festive lights, it's this season surely.



Of course, since our last issue, our rehearsals have once again been curtailed by a lockdown, but we certainly went out on a BANG at Broadhurst Park on 4th November as those who were there are unlikely to forget. Behind the scenes we are working to understand if any live playing can be salvaged during December and more news on the possibilities is contained below. This is a packed issue, thanks for contributions as ever and thanks for reading.

Although this is not the last issue of the year it is the last before Christmas and Season's Greetings to you all and your families and thanks for your continued support. Keep safe and well, **Yours in Banding, Rob**

In this bumper issue:

Season's Greetings from our Conductor, Music Matters – Lockdown Recording Latest, News from the Library, Remembrance Weekend, our Banding Heritage Part 8, Band News including competition results, Calendar Dates and much more... Enjoy, and thank you!



CONDUCTOR'S MESSAGE: SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM ALAN & JANE

Season's Greetings! Well, what a year it has been, nothing we could ever have expected. Jane and I, and a number of friends, joined you in January and we were just beginning to get to know you when Lockdown No1 happened after just 9 rehearsals. It's been tough for everyone in all sorts of different ways but we need to hold on to the positives, however small they might seem....

Musically: Perhaps you have done some private practice? Perhaps you have played for friends and family? Perhaps you have picked up an instrument you haven't touched for a while? Perhaps you have given your instrument a good clean? Perhaps you have played for the NHS? Perhaps you played on VE Day? Perhaps you joined in with Zoom sessions that you had to learn how to do? Perhaps you joined in with outdoor rehearsals?

In the next few weeks perhaps you might... Join in with the CCB recordings? Play for family? Record carols for families or friends who are not seeing many people? Play carols/Christmas tunes outside for the neighbours? Above all else... continue to enjoy music in all its forms. Very best wishes to everyone and here's hoping for a much better New Year. **Keep safe, Alan and Jane**



MUSIC MATTERS: Festive Lockdown Recording; Last Rehearsal Pre-Lockdown – It was on A Starry Night; Sue's Library Corner Part 1 (Shhh); Post Lockdown live playing?

Festive Lockdown Recording: our 6th recording of the year so far

Following our move into lockdown on 5th November, we discussed over 'Zoom' the possibility of a festive recording to try and maintain some musical momentum. **Hal Leonard's** festive tune arrangements, being relatively accessible for everyone, were chosen and the first of six tunes **Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow** was selected with a deadline of 27th November for submitting your videos; although if struggling, videos will be accepted up to 29th. **Thanks in advance** to our production duo of **Stuart** and **Joe** and to **everyone** who is able to take part. Oboist **Hilary** is pictured right, looking truly delighted in anticipation of her first recording of the year with a 'clean' copy of her music courtesy of **Robbie's** online appeal for the missing oboe part. Flautist **Jo**, pictured left sporting her fabulous festive hat, purchased especially for this recording.



Last Rehearsal Pre Lockdown: A Starry Night.....indeed it was, but the band played on:



After a pre-rehearsal 'Last Post/Reveille' run-through and recording with some of our friends from our Crumpsall Scout & Guide Band days, under Robbie's baton we settled down to rehearse in our usual West Stand spot, sharing the space with the BBC's pop up TV studio, erected in readiness for FC United's upcoming televised Remembrance weekend FA Cup 1st Round fixture against Doncaster Rovers.

It was out with the Red Carol Books and a selection of five chosen to record against a backdrop of a suburban firework extravaganza as the local Mostonians determined to get in their salvos ahead of the Bonfire Night lockdown.

During Victoria's carol choice, No5, 'A Starry Night', the night sky, already bathed in the light of a near full moon, erupted with multi-coloured stars and bangs; some coming a little bit too close for comfort at the trumpet end of the band; especially the one that clipped the front edge of the stand roof. The whole episode also unfolded on Zoom and thanks to Caroline for capturing some unforgettable images (below) and to the band, who, in true Titanic spirit, played on.



Sue's Library Corner: Part 1: Scrawls, Doodles and Adverts:

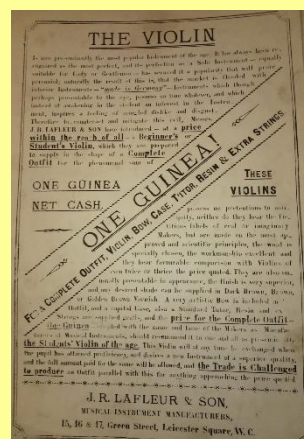
Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow, our first festive lockdown recording, comes out of sorted pad number 489, and after a lockdown surge of cataloguing, our librarian, Sue, is to be applauded as she has now exceeded the milestone of 500 catalogued pieces for our library. Amongst our library there are many very old pieces published decades ago - some being in excess of 100 years of age - and Sue has unearthed some fascinating scrawls by musicians past, pieces acquired from bands long since defunct, some containing fascinating adverts of their day and scores that include unfamiliar instrumentation. This mini-series starts with a selection of doodles and scrawls and a fascinating advert. Enjoy the following selection and thanks again to Sue for all her diligent work on all our behalf and for supplying these pics:



Despite the initials CG appearing on the back of an old piece far left, it's unclear if they are of the artist or subject and anyone good with the history of hairstyles might be able to hazard a guess at when these doodles were inked? Easier to date is the Eb Alto

Clarinetist's scripted note 'middle part blown away about 1928' on the Overture 'Stradella' acquired from the Salford Police Band above right. You can imagine the piece being performed by the constabulary's musicians on a Salford Band stand that was subjected to a sudden a gust of wind with the middle part swept away, never to be seen again? 'Hello, 'ello, 'ello! More pegs or magnets required I think'. Robbie, there's a 'find the part' internet challenge for you?

Advert (right) from the back of a really old manuscript published circa 120 years ago. Anyone fancy purchasing a student/beginner violin (Norman perhaps?) for the grand sum of One Guinea? A Guinea was worth 21 shillings at the end of the 19th and turn of the 20th Century, so £1.05 in decimal terms. London based J.R. Lafleur & Son published music from 1862 to 1917 when its publishing business was bought by Boosey. They also made musical instruments (strings, woodwind and brass) over the same period. More revelations from Sue, in Part 2...



Post Lockdown Rehearsals: Can we, Can't we ?

National lockdown #2 formally ends at 12:01am on Wednesday 2nd December and as we now know, Greater Manchester is scheduled to go back into the toughest restriction category, **Tier 3**. This is the tier we were in previously but has been tightened further from Wednesday whereby it may affect FC United's stadium use?

I have contacted the club for some guidance, and we are also keeping tabs across any information coming out of the usual channels to understand if we can or can't exercise an outdoor rehearsal option. Given how close we are to 2nd December at the time of writing **I don't expect we will be in a position to offer an outdoor rehearsal this coming week**, but will work with all parties to see if this can be achieved for Wednesdays 9th and 16th December for those able and wishing to attend. **We will keep you all informed**. See [Calendar Dates for latest information](#) and why not join us on Zoom this Wed'? Thanks

Remembrance Sunday Weekend - 'They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old':



The Poppy: On a sojourn to Lower Crumpsall, dropping off a hardcopy of the October newsletter for Tenor Sax player **Harry**, care of Trumpeter **Les**, on 5th November (first day of Lockdown), I was taken by the determination and resilience of the poppies in Les's front garden, pictured left, flowering well out of season and in radiant defiance of the struggles we are all facing – a flower of remembrance and of future hope if ever there was one.

Some weeks before Remembrance Sunday 2020, I dusted off my silver bugle and contemplated where I might be playing the Last Post and Rouse this year, the 39th consecutive year of being honoured and privileged to play the evocative bugle calls in Crumpsall. Not playing was not an option, but at that moment of quiet contemplation it was by no means clear if services could be held or the occasion marked within our community, in any meaningful way. At best, I thought, maybe a few of us could gather in uniform to play, socially distanced, outside church to no one in particular but nevertheless marking the occasion?



However, despite the cloak of Covid and National Lockdown, what transpired between the 4th and 8th November 2020 will go down as the busiest and by far, furthest reaching commemoration of Remembrance I have ever had the privilege to participate in. In a probably never to be repeated few days, the spirit, true value and meaning of remembrance embraced the nation and our small slice of England's green and pleasant land was to be no exception.

It all started in earnest on Wednesday 4th November up at our outdoor rehearsal home of FC United's Broadhurst Park stadium. Ahead of the main rehearsal, a bugle party gathered under the West Stand, rehearsed and then recorded Last Post and Rouse preceded by **Dave Lynch** reading the famous words, '*They shall grow not old.....*'. The bugle calls were separated by a full two-minute silence interrupted only by the loud bangs and bright flashes of multiple fireworks, evocative of thankfully long silent battlefields along mainland Europe's Western Front more than a century earlier.



L-R: Dave Lynch, Eddie Humphreys, Phil Hilton, Victoria and Rob Fullen. Thanks to Karen and Sam for the recording, which was submitted to the **Crumpsall, Moston and Long Street Methodist Churches** and woven into their Sunday morning virtual Zoom Remembrance Service.


Next up was the aforementioned televised FA Cup Tie at Broadhurst Park on Saturday 7th November. Last year I played alone in front of 2,000 supporters, this year, in a virtually empty stadium (due to Covid restrictions) and thankfully with Victoria alongside me, and both in our band uniforms, we played to a **UK TV audience of circa 2 million** and a world-wide audience of many more as the build up and match was being **broadcast live, to 65 countries**.

Thankfully, it was only afterwards those facts sunk in and our rendition didn't suffer as a result. Marking Remembrance, being founder members of FC United and representing our Band was a multiple privilege for Victoria and I and certainly an occasion we will never forget.



Far left:
Tunnel Trepidation:
Fellow Club founder
member, Warrant
Officer George Hayden,
Victoria and I await our
turn to enter the arena.
Near left: Aerial
view from the West Stand
end. All in position on
the centre circle.



 **8th November and Remembrance Sunday had arrived.** Representing the band, **Phil Hilton** joined **Victoria** and I in the bugle party as we played for an outdoor ceremony at St Matthew's that formed part of a wider virtual service covering 7 churches in North Manchester. Stuart did a fabulous job representing the band and coordinating with the technical organisers of the service to ensure that the pivotal **Act of Remembrance** centred around the 11am silence, was broadcast live. Simultaneously we were appearing on Zoom for the Methodist Churches as pre-recorded back on 4th November; all told we reached ten Remembrance Sunday congregations in total. **Dave Lynch** was also up at the Methodist Church to read those words once more, as a small gathering laid a wreath at 11am. Our faint bugle strains from St Matthew's could be heard at the Methodist Church too. **Crumpsall certainly remembered in 2020.**



CRUMPSALL CONCERT BAND – Band Heritage Series Part 8: The Mid - 1960's (64/65):

Around teatime on 10th July 1964 on a maternity ward somewhere in the labyrinthine sprawl of Crumpsall Hospital, I was born to **Ann and Ray** and it would be another 11 years and 2 months before my banding adventure began. In the meantime as I obviously approached 6th months of age at No83 Herristone Road, a new band in Crumpsall, **the 191st Scout Band**, was about to take its first baby steps on the streets of Crumpsall just a few hundred yards away. This fledgling band would ultimately prove pivotal to the very formation of the band we hold dear today.

The brainchild of RAF Veteran and Group Scout Master **Mr Charles Ashton**, a **Scout Band** was formed under the leadership of **Mr Joe Allen** during late 1964, and the 191st Group first marched to Church (St Matthew's) behind its band from the 401st Headquarters Scout Hut on Willow Hill Road, early in 1965. The 191st Group were very grateful to the 401st for the loan of their Headquarters for band practice, club night and Senior Scout meetings. **Roy Croney** (an ex 191st Cub) re-joined the Troop as a Service Auxiliary to assist **Joe Allen** with the training of the Band. Group accounts from the time show that **bugles at a cost of £2.00 each** were purchased from the St Thomas's Scout Group (Lower Crumpsall) whose band had ceased to operate some years before. It is likely the brass shelled side drums came from the same source whilst the **bass drum, traced back to 1914**, was purchased for the nominal fee of **£1.00** from **Romily Brass Band**.



Pictured: **The 191st Scout Band**, a few months after their debut parade, stood at ease (far left) on Lansdowne Road ready for the commencement of the Local Whit Walks on a bright, sunny **Whit Sunday, 6th June 1965**. The long established 42nd Manchester Boys Brigade band are to be seen

mustered their ranks in the background (dark uniforms). Further back in the parade formation would be the 209th Scout Band from Crumpsall Park Methodist Church. In those days, the local walks would be stretched over a good distance allowing three well-spaced bands to cover all the participants without distracting each other too much (other than the thud of the respective bass drums). The second picture above, shows the band at the alert and ready to step off with the impressive structure of old **Crumpsall Park Methodist Church** building, in the background. Also pictured is the 191st Group neckerchief that I was privileged to wear during my time and association with the group from 1971 to 1983 and in the band from 1975. The neckerchief was the third incarnation of the group scarf that started off as plain blue, changing in 1917 to plain green before the design pictured that was formerly approved by the North West Association in February 1949 and remained in place until the Group sadly dissolved in the early 1990s.

The walks progressed from the Methodist Church on Lansdowne Road, over the Crumpsall Lane Junction and down past St Matthew's Church. The pictures *right* see the **191st Band** heading towards the bend at the end of Cleveland Road before turning back up into Crumpsall to head down towards Crescent Road and St Anne's Church.



The band would then likely have marched back up Lansdowne Road to the 401st HQ on Willow Hill Road for dismissal. The HQ was

built by the 191st Scout Group during the mid-1950's and my Dad remembered, as a 191st Scout, helping on the project. It was opened in May 1957 but by the October of that year the hut was unaffordable due to vandalism repair costs. The 401st Scout Group took over and secured the building and grounds (and still meet there to this day) and the 191st Group resumed their tenancy at the School Room (Parish Hall) on Cleveland Road. The Blue Hut (as the 401st HQ became affectionately known), sandwiched between the Cleveland Hotel and Crumpsall Lane Primary School, remained as a band rehearsal venue into the 1990s and was the traditional starting point for Church Parades for many years.

In **Part 9** we chart our heritage to the end of the 1960s, pick up on Derek's business relocation and see how Derek himself influenced the wider development of concert bands like ours almost 30 years before we were formed. Thanks once again for reading.

CRUMPSALL CONCERT BAND – BAND NEWS, VIEWS & BANTER

BIN BANTER 2020 – Who says we talk a load of rubbish ???



Far from rubbish, this bin (left) says it all. Lockdown No2 meant that Zoom Wednesdays were back on, providing fertile ground for bin banter to resume, much to **Tim's** chagrin. Far from rubbish, the discussion on 11th November went off at many, often scientific and ecological, tangents looking at general waste management, recycling aspirations, sustainable energy and saving the planet. We are indeed a band with hidden depths and environmental credentials and it's probably an unwitting coincidence that our first uniform neck wear were **green** bow ties (1993) and our first sweatshirts **green** in colour also. Our discussions weren't limited by geography either with **Jo** providing fascinating insight into recycling South African style – **Johannesburg** to be precise. **Sarah** obtained pictures of an **Aberdeen** bin from her daughter **Charlotte** at Uni in the Granite City. The youth are indeed our future 😊



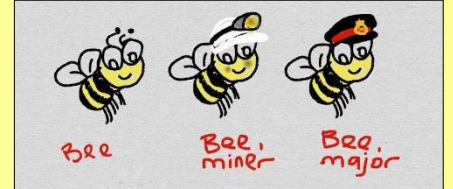
NORMAN'S WISDOM - A Nugget of wisdom from our chief brewer:



If you like looking at Rainbows you have to put up with the rain.
And remember there is no Rainbow without sunshine, only rain.

In a recent call with Mr Davies, he came out with the above thought-provoking nugget in the context of current medical troubles and subsequent treatments he is enduring. As the picture shows, he's still smiling. I am also pleased to report he is progressing on the violin having now mastered *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star* and *Happy Birthday!*

Let's make this a regular slot under the banner of **Norman's Wisdom** (even got him pictured with the flat cap) and any sayings, puzzles or humorous observations / cartoons, **especially if music related**, please email me for potential inclusion in future issues.



Along with the cartoon right, here's another to get you started: *I had a missed call from a Johann Sebastian. Should I call him Bach?*

Lockdown Competition Results: How many times did the name **Norman** appear in the October newsletter? In general text **Norman** appeared 27 times and in pictures, a further 4 giving a grand total of 31. Spot on and officially the most observant member of the band, congratulations **Mr Stuart Atkinson**. Unlucky but 100% correct in terms of the general text was **Tricia Rose** with 27. Thanks for all your entries.

Member Questionnaire Update - Delayed due to Lockdown but.....

In the last issue we mentioned that a questionnaire will be circulated to all members to understand current, broader thinking across the membership as to rehearsal preferences and timescales. The outcomes would then be used to inform rehearsal strategy beyond the Christmas break. This exercise is still on the cards but has been delayed by the lockdown period and is more likely to be launched after Christmas to inform New Year strategy as we all await timescales for the roll out and effectiveness of any vaccination programme. Thanks for your patience & understanding. *Your Committee.*

Band Finances Update - Ensuring sustainability and viability.....

As you are probably aware, during this crisis, like all manner of businesses, charities and voluntary bodies, we have to sustain regular outgoings from our account to cover standing expenditure such as **Insurance, Making Music membership, license costs, rehearsal venue costs etc.** On top of this we have incurred necessary **Covid costs such as instrument bell covers** with no or very little income coming the other way. Thanks to all those who have voluntarily offered to contribute towards our upkeep in what we recognise are very difficult times for many. For those able and wishing to help, we are close to finalising how to make this practical and possible. A more detailed communication regarding finances and sustainability options will be going out from the Committee to all members in the coming weeks and thanks again for your patience and any continued support. Much appreciated. *Your Committee*

Calendar Dates

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
Wed 02/12/2020	CCB Wednesday get together via Zoom at 7.30pm. Link as follows: https://zoom.us/j/97067958074 Meeting Password: 760690	Could be the last Zoom gathering of the year? Open to all members & would be great to see you all to discuss current topics / future plans!
Wed 09/12/2020 Venue Availability Confirmed	Outdoor Rehearsal - FC United of Manchester Don't forget pre-registration to attend required each week Hopefully will include a Zoom attendance option too.	19:15 – 21:00 (Rehearsal time 19:45 – 20:45) (No Break) (Registration 8am Tue 8 th to Noon Wed 9 th)
Wed 16/12/2020 To be Confirmed	Potential Outdoor Rehearsal - FC United of Manchester Don't forget pre-registration to attend required each week Hopefully will include a Zoom attendance option too.	19:15 – 21:00 (Rehearsal time 19:45 – 20:45) (No Break)
Wed 23/12/2020 Event details to be confirmed	Potential Festive outdoor Carols by Candlelight in Crumpsall. Would be a 7pm start with more details as they become available. Any members who would like to take part, please let me know asap: r.fullen23@gmail.com . Thanks	Limited number of the band would be able to play due to spacing requirements and potential low temperature but want to make as inclusive as circumstances allow.

THE LAST BIT: Apologies for the slight delay to your packed November newsletter and hope you enjoyed the read. The next issue is due towards the end of December and as well as charting our past, will be looking ahead, in hope, to what 2021 might have in store. In the meantime, once again Season's Greetings to you and yours, stay well, keep safe and thanks for reading. Yours, Rob