

'Hark the CCB Herald'



New beginnings,
Renewed hopes.

THE NEW HERALD

Newsletter of

CRUMPSALL CONCERT BAND



Volume 3 Issue 5
30th January 2021



Welcome to your **January 2021** issue of **The New Herald** and a belated **Happy New Year** to all members, supporters, and your families. Where has that first month of 2021 gone? Clearly we are all grappling with the effects of a significant period of lockdown once more, as the vaccines continue to roll out at pace. As a band, it has been pleasing to note the positive way we continue to support each other, and our wider activity and this issue is full of examples and future plans as

we deal with present circumstances whilst focussing on hopes for the future. Accepting that the times we are living through can prove a struggle, the **Band News** section outlines how we might support each other and ourselves at this time and, in his message below, our Conductor Alan suggests ways we can continue to interact as we keep the band and spirit of music alive and relevant. A **New Year** also **Heralds** a **New 'Player Profile' feature**, a **New fundraising initiative** and so much more, packed into just six easy-read pages with loads of pictures 😊. Enjoy the read, spread the word, and keep safe and well. **Yours in Banding, Rob**

In this issue:

A message from our Conductor, Music Matters – Lockdown Recording Latest, News from the Library Part 3, New Player Profile Feature, Our Banding Heritage Part 10 (1969), Band News including Norman's Wisdom, Fundraising & Finance, Health & Wellbeing, General Meeting Feedback, Zoom Get-togethers, Calendar Dates & much more!



CONDUCTOR'S MESSAGE: KEEPING SPIRITS UP....

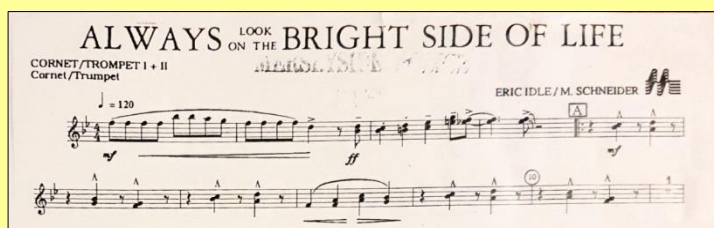
Hello everyone and **Happy New Year** to you all; I hope everyone is keeping well. A new year in a band usually begins with planning for events and concerts to work towards and look forward to. This year no one can be sure how, or when, restrictions will be lifted enough for us to meet again. **However, we can all play our part in keeping spirits up, friendships going and funds healthy so that the band 'comes out the other side' strong and healthy.**

You may ask yourself **"What can I do?"** Well, you might like to keep in touch via the regular zoom meetings, email each other, phone or text, you could also join in by recording a part for the next joint piece. You can help advertise the fundraising events that the committee and other members are planning and, hopefully, join in with some of them. It's not always easy but above all, try and keep your own spirits up, think positive and look forward to a brighter future. **Keep practising** and keep safe. Best wishes, Alan



MUSIC MATTERS: Our next Lockdown Recording; News of a bigger project; The final part (for now) of Sue's Library Corner (Shhh);

Lockdown Recording #8: ALWAYS LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE OF LIFE:



Given the times we are living through, this appropriately titled Monty Python classic penned by Eric Idle, was the Committee's pick for our next lockdown recording and was announced at our General Zoom Meeting back on 13th January.

Thanks to all those who have requested a part so far and there is still time to join in or just request a part for your own practice, even if you don't fancy doing the recording. Please email Rob for your part r.fullen23@gmail.com and the click track link will be attached to the email with your newsletter. Recordings can begin straight away with a deadline for submissions to Stuart of **Sunday 14th February** (Valentine's Day). If you are planning on recording and need any guidance or support let us know. Good luck and much appreciated.

Practice Project: Something to get your teeth into:

Recognising the lack of opportunity for collective rehearsal at present, and to run partly parallel to the above recording project, we are asking for suggestions of longer, perhaps more challenging, pieces of music from our extensive repertoire that you may wish to work on individually and that we can develop collectively with a view to either recording and / or polishing up the chosen piece to performance standard when we are, at last, able to meet together again.



Therefore, this is a longer term challenge and something to get our teeth into during the weeks ahead. This ask originally went out at the General Meeting on 13th January and so far we have had suggestions as follows:

- **Greatest Showman, Light Cavalry (Franz Von Suppé), McArthur Park, Pop Culture, West Side Story**

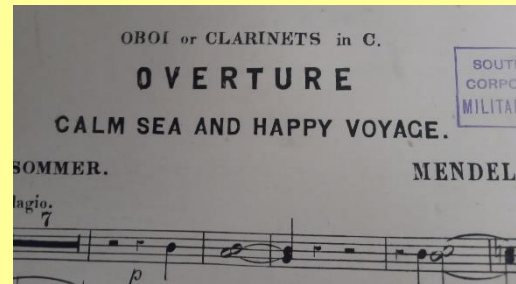
Take a look on the website (<https://crumpsallconcertband.co.uk/repertoire>) if you want a reminder of what pieces we have available and add your preferences to the above by emailing r.fullen23@gmail.com by **Friday 5th February 2021**. After this date, your committee will look at all suggestions and we will let you all know if there is a clear preference and next steps to kick the project off. We look forward to receiving your input.

Sue's Library Corner: Part 3: Scrawls, Doodles, Adverts and Strange Instruments continued:



The results of Sue's labour up to the turn of the year are on display in the picture left, with the number of sorted pads at that time being around 540. Currently, Sue continues to make impressive, steady progress with our library and is currently cataloguing pad 572 as this issue goes to press. "Brilliant work Sue and grateful thanks for all your diligence and hard work with our library. The task is in excellent hands." In this final part of the Library series (for now) we look at some further curios that have been uncovered:

This woodwind part (*right*) from a Mendelsohn overture was for **Oboi** or Clarinets in C. An **Oboi** (2nd right) is a double reeded woodwind instrument invented in the mid-1700s and related to the Oboe. This score previously belonged to the Southport Corporation Military Band.



The arrangement (*near left*) by Fred Godfrey from around the turn of the 20th Century of 'Les Cloches de Corneville' was originally composed in 1862. This extract from the pad shows the **Althorn** or **Antoniphone** part in Bb. Sue researched the latter and discovered the **Antoniphone** (*far left*) was an instrument used for a very short time period in the mid-to-latter part of the 19th Century.

As this mini series concludes, thanks once again to Sue with support from her family and our Vice President **Eva Jacobs** to whom our thanks extend also. In particular, **thanks to Sue** for her endeavours in uncovering and sharing some fascinating insights into just some of the historical contents of our music library. I hope you have enjoyed this series and as Sue unearths more curios we will build content to allow us to revisit the secrets of our library once again, in a future mini series, all being well. Thanks for reading, RF.

The original newsletter series for our band was titled **The Herald** (hence this incarnation being the **New Herald**), and back in the 1990's we ran a series of **Player Profiles** in each issue. Speaking to Stuart about fresh ideas for content a few months back, he liked the idea and of course it was only natural that he be chosen as the first subject (although Stuart didn't see it like that at the time, I seem to remember 😊). However, here we are and **thanks to Stuart** for being brave enough to get the ball rolling. I hope you enjoy the series and wonder who'll be in the spotlight in February?....don't be shy 😊

PLAYER PROFILE #1: 'STUART ATKINSON'



When did you join Crumpsall Concert Band?: 2014

Any other bands past /present?:

No. I was coerced into the band as I had an instrument I couldn't play, the previous member (*David Ball*) had left, and I was apparently your best option. You were warned! And to counter that rather flippant start to this interview, I am hugely grateful to our Honorary Vice President Eva who took the time and expended a great deal of patience in teaching me to read bass clef. She also makes great cake too.

Instrument in band (Make / Model):?

Electric bass guitar. My favourite is a Hondo II precision bass, probably made in the mid-70s. Not the most expensive of guitars but it has a good sound and it's the one I've had longest. It's basically a solid lump of wood which you would not want to drop on your foot. Everyone who picks it up remarks on its weight.

Any other instruments played?:

No (*Ed – although spotted Stuart tinkling the ivories at St Matthew's on 23rd Dec – see last issue*)

If you were granted a wish to be able to play any other instrument that you can't currently play, what would it be and why?:

Drum kit (don't get any ideas though!) I've always thought the bass guitar was in many ways a percussion instrument (Larry Graham of Sly and the Family Stone would definitely agree, inventing the slap technique as he had no drum kit), and it's technically classed as being within the rhythm section, so it seems like a natural step.

Favourite genre / artist / band?:

Too many to say really but in terms of musical influences, I was always interested in any band where the bass guitar was up front in the mix, rather than plodding along in the background playing crotchets. I loved the grinding bass of J.J. Burnell of The Stranglers, the disco funk emulated by John Taylor of Duran Duran on their early albums, or Rush's Geddy Lee's phenomenal playing. (*Ed – Geddy Lee, legend and great choice Stuart*)

Favourite Album?:

Difficult to say but let's go for David Bowie's *The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars*.

Favourite pastime?:

Locating, watching and raving on about old horror and sci-fi movies much to everyone's lack of interest!

Favourite Cuisine?:

Curry. Or Caramac.

Any other roles in the band?:

Treasurer and website manager. (*Ed – not forgetting lockdown recording engineer, risk assessment writer and other committee related jobs, Stuart. Thanks*)

Hopes for the next 12 months for the Band?:

For the band to get back to playing together, play some concerts and work on some more difficult pieces.

Favourite piece the band has played:

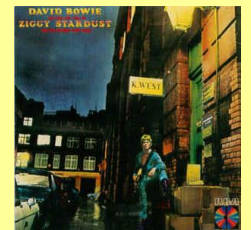
Slaughter on Tenth Avenue (I know I always bring it up as a joke when we're thinking about our next project, but there is so much in that piece to work on I really think we could do it justice one day).

Piece you would like to buy and play?:

Amy Winehouse – *Back to Black* (so long as we get the tubular bells out).

The band is gifted £10K to spend on / towards a maximum of three things. What would you spend it on?:

Promotional tour abroad establishing links with other bands; working on a piece with the intention of entering the National Concert Band Festival; upgrading the instrument inventory; buying some more scores. Oh, that's four things. (*Ed – trust a Treasurer to want more for their money 😊*)

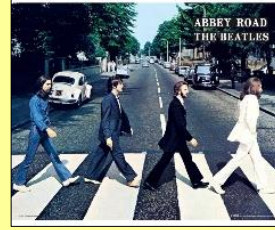


Enjoyable read, thanks Stuart. Any volunteers please, now Stuart has paved the way?

CRUMPSALL CONCERT BAND – Band Heritage Series Part 10: 1969 – MAN ON THE MOON & BANDS ON THE STREET



As my wife reminds me every August, '1969 was a fantastic year' and our *Heritage* series has ticked around to the end of its second full decade. On the 20th July 1969, the USA put a man on the moon after the Russians had looked like getting there first. Musically, The Beatles, a dominant and influential popular musical force in the 1960s, recorded their final album together, *Abbey Road*; released 26th September, whilst Led Zeppelin's second Album, released on 22nd October, was destined to launch them into the pantheon of rock greatness where they would remain throughout the 1970s.



Meanwhile, back at the ranch, the decade was to close with three local marching bands flourishing in Crumpsall. The 42nd Manchester Boys Brigade Band still set the benchmark standard in terms of smartness and musical prowess but the 209th (Methodist) and 191st (St Matthews) Scout Bands were also enjoying their contribution to the local musical landscape.

During the late 1960's, besides the traditional monthly church parades (2nd Sunday) local bands were called into action for much larger parades & processions. The pictures below depict the 191st Scout Band on two such occasions, firstly the annual St George's Day Parade held on Sunday 19th April. Later (1970's), this parade would become a North Manchester District Scout and Guide event covering, Blackley, Crumpsall and Cheetham with several bands being involved.



The second major parade of 1969 was the Local Trinity Sunday procession on Sunday May 25th and, as with all parades, the 191st band started and ended at the affectionately named 'Blue Hut' on Willow Hill Road (sandwiched between Crumpsall Lane Primary School and the Cleveland Hotel) which was built by the 191st Scout Group in the mid 1950's and sold to the 401st Scout Group in 1957 who kindly allowed the 191st band to use it as their HQ right up to the end of the Century. The pictures below show some poses before setting off from the hut, as well as the band in parade formation:



The Leaders picture above left shows: *Back Row L-R* **Joe Allen** (Bandmaster & Bugler), **Charles Ashton** (Group Scout Master) and **Brian Heil** (Assistant Group Leader and Lead Bugler). *Front Row L-R:* **Barbara Lea** (Assistant Cub Leader), **Hilda Ashton** (Akela – Cub Pack Leader) and two other Cub Pack Assistants. **Next left** shows a good portion of the Cub Pack and Scout Troop on parade that day. **Third left** sees the Band smartly at attention with drum sticks up in the ready position on Tansley Road (opposite the Parish Hall – our HQ) ready to set off and turn into Cleveland Road as shown in the final picture.

In **Part 11**, we move the story of our heritage into the 1970's, a decade that included some highly significant moments that, in time, would directly lead to the formation of our band. **Thanks once again for reading. Rob**

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

Get Well Soon – to any members who need our thoughts and best wishes at this time including:

Norman Davies (trombone) & Harry Hudson (tenor saxophone) – both of whom are now recuperating at home with carer support after recent spells in hospital. **Cyril Weinkove (bass clarinet)** – says he's doing okay and has now received his first COVID-19 vaccination. Best wishes also to **Samantha Heywood (flute)** - who is currently in post-op recovery. **Get well soon one and all, from all your friends in and around Crumpsall Concert Band.**

NORMAN'S WISDOM - More Wisdom and Musical Anecdotes:



Why is it best to think of 2020 like a pantomime ?

Because it's behind you 😊

Music Theory Paper
(It's always worth a guess)



14. Draw a dotted quarter note.

15. Draw an Eighth Note.

16. What does Crescendo mean



<< Note the Wheelie Bins lurking behind Sarah at a pre-Christmas rehearsal up at FC United. They just can't help themselves can they !

BAND NEWS – Zoom Meetings; Finance & Fundraising; Health & Wellbeing:

Zoom meeting again began in earnest on 6th January when Julie hosted an informal New Year chat session. The following week was our **General Meeting (right)** and thanks to the 21 who attended and took part. Full details, notes and actions have been emailed to members, and to summarise, it was a very positive meeting given the circumstances that we find ourselves in.



Last Wednesday, 27th, as part of the Zoom get-together, Caroline hosted a 'House of Games' style quiz and those who were able to attend had a fantastic time. (See left)



Health & Wellbeing:

Some very good suggestions came out of our general meeting around supporting each other and our general health and wellbeing. **In general, it's good to talk and reach out where needed and when we can.** As a band we have our WhatsApp Group as a communication channel and anyone who wants to join in collectively or reach out to any individual member of the group please email me your phone number and I will liaise with Julie to add you to the group. For those who engage with Facebook the band has some of that too. At least two members have contacted me to say they would provide one-to-one support and if you would welcome such an opportunity, please let me know in confidence and I will provide more details. As a band community we regularly help each other, probably without even realising it; that's a comforting sign of a mutually respectful and supportive organisation. As a starter, if you haven't before and want to give it a try, why not come along to one of our Zoom get-togethers on a Wednesday and if anyone needs any help to get started with Zoom, please let us know. See details in our Calendar dates section at the end of this newsletter.

We are certainly stronger together.

Thanks

Finance & Fundraising:

The general meeting also provided a platform to discuss our depleting Finances following on from the letter sent by your Committee to all members on 11th January. The initial response has been very encouraging and on behalf of the committee, thanks so much for donations the band has received so far. Every little helps, and is much appreciated as we look to sustain our recovery through these fallow times in terms of income generation opportunities. Any questions, please let us know.

In addition, the Zoom get-together on 20th January focussed on fundraising and within days the basis of a virtual fundraiser had been established. The idea is now an established virtual event and on Saturday 27th Feb, you are all invited to the first CCB Virtual Quiz Night – not only that, **please encourage friends and family to sign up** for taking part from the comfort of their own sofas too.

Nibbles and beverages at the ready and joining details will be sent to all who sign up for this 'pay what you can afford' donation-based event. **Joseph Atkinson** will be 'conducting' the quiz and it looks like we are shaping up for a 7 rounds of 5 questions event with a 15-minute comfort break intermission. However, **for full details, please sign up at your soonest opportunity** and help support the band. See poster (right) for more details. Thanks to Caroline, Stuart, Joe and all involved in getting this off the ground. Great work.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY – MRS ROSA SLATER; 94 YEARS YOUNG ON NEW YEARS EVE



Many of you may well know Rosa, a real 'Crumpsall Character' who has served the local community for decades, primarily as Guide Leader at the 7th Crumpsall (Methodist Church). She has always been an avid and vocal supporter of the band serving as **our original Secretary** on the **Committee from 1993 – 2008**. She was always raising funds for us and ran a Jumble Sale for our benefit in January 2008 before her retirement. Prior to our band forming in '93, from the mid-80s in particular, Rosa was arguably the No1 fan of the **Crumpsall Scout & Guide Band**. Our *Heritage* series will do her full and proper justice when we reach the 1980s and early 90s. **Many Happy Returns Rosa from all connected to Crumpsall Concert Band.**

Calendar Dates

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
Wed 03/02, 10/02, 17/02 & 24/02/2021	CCB Wednesday get togethers via Zoom at 7.30pm. Link as follows: https://zoom.us/j/97067958074 Meeting Password: 760690	Thanks to Julie for setting these up and for all who are able to attend. It's good to talk.
Fri 5 th Feb 2021	Deadline for emailing your choice of musical preferences for our 'Practice Project' Full details above – top of Page 2	Email to: r.fullen23@gmail.com
Sun 14 th Feb 2021	Deadline for submission of recordings for our latest project: Always Look on the Bright Side of Life. See bottom of Page 1	Any help or support needed., particularly if this is your first recording, let us know.
Sat 27 th Feb 2021 8:00pm	Band Fundraiser - Household Virtual Quiz night via Zoom – further details above, on this page.	In support of our Finances this is a first for the band and please spread the word. Grateful thanks.
Sun 4 th April 2021 Afternoon 'First Gig 2021?'	We have been asked to provide musical accompaniment to a Community Easter Sunday outdoor Event at St Matthews	Subject to restrictions allowing this event and our participation and to enough volunteers from our ranks. More details to follow.

THE LAST BIT:

Thanks to Stuart and Alan for their contributions to this issue.

We hope you enjoyed this issue with the next one due towards the end of February. In the meantime, let's look out and where we can, reach out to each other and keep ourselves safe and well. Thanks for reading.