

'Hark the CCB Herald'



The Bright Side of Life.

THE NEW HERALD

Newsletter of

CRUMPSALL CONCERT BAND



Volume 3 Issue 6
26th February 2021

Welcome to your **February 2021** issue of **The New Herald**. Following the Prime Minister's 'Road Map' announcement on 22nd February, charting a, rightly cautious, route out of Lockdown, this issue begins to understand what this might mean for our band in the weeks and months ahead. We also review our latest recording, and **our Heritage Series reaches back half a century** as we take a look at the early 1970s. The **Band News** section will provide an update from our **General Meeting** on 24th February as well as looking ahead to tomorrow's **Fundraising Quiz Night**; as of Wednesday this week 20 teams had registered which is fantastic and I do hope as many of the band and our supporters as possible can sign up to the virtual event which is shaping up to be a really good Saturday evening. See our website or later in this issue for details of how to enter. Our **Player Profile** series continues, and this issue features a key member of the woodwind section. Enjoy the read, spread the kindness, keep safe and well and hope to see many of you at tomorrow's **Quiz**.



140 days in lockdown. I'M FINE. Thanks for asking.

Thanks, in anticipation, for your support. Yours in Banding, Rob 😊

In this issue:

A message from our Conductor, Music Matters – Latest Lockdown Recording and a Practice Challenge, Player Profile Feature, Our Banding Heritage Series Part 11 (Early 1970s), Band News including Norman's Wisdom, Quiz Night Preview, General Meeting Feedback, Calendar Dates & much more!

STOP PRESS: FOR QUIZ ENTRANTS – YOUR CONFIRMATION EMAIL & LINK SHOULD NOW HAVE LANDED – CHECK SPAM FOLDERS ETC.

CONDUCTOR'S MESSAGE: GEARING UP & GETTING BACK IN TRAINING



Hello again, hope everyone is enjoying some brighter weather. Well, what a year it has been! As usual, time plays tricks on us and sometimes flies, sometimes drags. However, we finally have some things to look forward to; Spring is in the air, the vaccination rollout is well underway, and we can be cautiously optimistic that we will be able to settle into a pattern of rehearsals in the not too distant future.

I suspect bands (including ours no doubt) will be much in demand as soon as concerts and events can take place, not least to help fundraise for charities which have struggled over the past months. **With this in mind, Jane and I are going to dust off the instruments**, blow away the cobwebs and start trying to get our lips back in trim. Happy times! **Take care, keep practising and keep following the rules, Alan**

MUSIC MATTERS: Our Latest Lockdown Recording; Road Map Practice Challenge...



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



On Saturday 20th February, our latest, and, who knows, possibly last, 'Lockdown Recording', was released. Thanks once again to all who were able to take part and to Stuart and Joe for their 'Monty Python' inspired production. There has been a great effort with all our lockdown recordings over the last 12 months and they remain something we can always look back on with pride. They will provide ongoing testament that even at the darkest of times our music shone its light to help keep the shadows at bay, spirits up and the music alive. You can't keep a good band down.



Practice Challenge: Getting our lips in trim, our sharpness back and being ready to play...

Last issue and following our General Meeting on 13th January, there was a suggestion that, in parallel with and stretching beyond our lockdown recording #8, we collectively agree a more challenging music project to polish a piece up ready for when we could get back to rehearsals. The suggestions for 'which piece' were sparse and, understandably perhaps, lockdown fatigue probably played a part in dampening universal enthusiasm for the project. However, thanks to those who did put suggestions forward.

As alluded to in my introduction and echoed in Alan's *Conductors Message*, the game has changed between then and now and the idea was shelved by consensus at our General Meeting on 24th February due to a clearer view of future possibilities presented by the road map. Instead of the original project, perhaps now is the time for us to **follow Alan and Jane's example** and dust off our instruments, getting back into trim ahead of a hopeful return to rehearsals in the not too distant future, followed hopefully by concerts thereafter.

This is your challenge, should you choose to accept it: Try setting yourself some dedicated time in the week (little and often to start with) to play your favorite practice pieces, warm up with long tones, scales and selected pieces from your study books. If you have not played at all for a while, start small and build up your stamina gradually. Try and schedule your time in the week to build up to a longer practice on a Wednesday evening. This will serve two purposes; 1) it will get you into the habit of a Wednesday rehearsal again and 2) will provide a weekly focus for your practising. **Above all, enjoy your playing and be kind to yourself.** If anyone wants to practise a favourite piece from their pad please message me and I'll get your part across to you. RF

******* PLAYER PROFILE #2 'HILARY HILL' *******



Hilary has been a stalwart of *Zoom Wednesdays*, even joining in the outdoor rehearsals via Zoom last autumn. Hilary has also attended most, if not all, our virtual general meetings in the past 12 months but her time with the band stretches back longer than most and certainly long before we were required to stay home and Zoom. Grateful thanks to Hilary for providing this insightful profile. Enjoy the read everyone, I certainly did. RF

When did you join Crumpsall Concert Band? Cyril Weinkove (Bass Clarinet) suggested I take up a hobby or past interest to prevent the mischief of 'idle hands'. I had not played much since 1981 until joining the band when records suggest September 2007 but photographic evidence of one of my earliest rehearsals (right) points to Autumn 2005 which is about right.



Any other bands past /present? School Orchestra! Yes, we had a string section which, as a nervous oboist, I could hide behind. I don't much like the exposure of the front row and the oboe parts were in easier key signatures than those in our band.

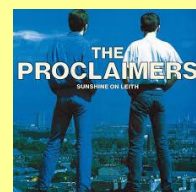


Instrument you play in the band (Make / Model)? I am indebted to my parents who bought me a student Rudal Carte 'Romily' Oboe in 1977 when we moved from Berkshire to Kent (from free loan of instrument and tuition in Berkshire to full payment in Kent). It served me through school and starting band. I now play a Howarth S40 (*Ed: like the one pictured left*)

Any other instruments played? Fifth amendment? At school everyone had to serve their time in the percussion section to be able to play in any other part of the Orchestra. So, I can confidently say **the triangle** (a memorable 1812 Overture). **Piano** was my second instrument.

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? I naturally gravitate to the more unconventional and underrepresented so it would probably be one of the 'endangered instruments' (Google them) taken up by the fewest number of players in school. From this group it would be a **French horn**.

Favourite genre / artist / band? This is too hard a question 😊



Favourite Album? The Proclaimers – *Sunshine on Leith*

Favourite pastime? Now it is cross-stitch but I enjoy any creative arty/crafty pursuits.

Favourite Cuisine? A traditional roast with all the trimmings. Maybe I just mean Christmas dinner!



Favourite piece the band has played? *Slaughter on Tenth Avenue*. No, I didn't just copy Stuart!

Piece you would like to buy and play with the band? I would like to hear or play any of **William Herschel's Oboe Concertos**. They remained in the private archives of the Herschel family until 1958 and excluding his own performances they were unperformed until 1996. Yes, I mean William Herschel the Astronomer. **His Father Isaac was an oboist in the Hanoverian Guard**. William and his brother Jacob followed their Father as oboists into the Hanoverian Guard. I attended a school in Slough named after **William Herschel** and this is one of the reasons I asked at school to play the oboe having researched the school's namesake.

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

Professional tuition and mentoring for all sections, collaborations with other bands (borrowing music to save some money) and promotion. (Ed: good choices there, Hilary)

Your favourite memories / moments with Crumpsall Concert Band? Our trip to Bremerhaven, Germany, in 2011 is a highlight because I was able to share it with my Mum and my sister. (See pictures below of the joint concert in Bremerhaven on Sunday 28th August 2011). I also loved playing at Christmas time at the CIS building in Manchester when we provided a large band. **However, I think of band as more than the music making but as a family**. The magic moments are when we share our life moments (the ups and downs), work as a team; e.g. clearing out the basement or simply meeting on Zoom in lockdown. (Ed: couldn't have put it better myself, Hilary).



Very enjoyable read, thanks Hilary. Any volunteers for future issues, please let me know!

CRUMPSALL CONCERT BAND – Band Heritage Series Part 11: 1970 -1974:

Into the '70s Last issue we waved farewell to the swinging '60s and our story now moves into the '70s. In banding parlance, *'Into the '70s'* was a march in the Eb Cavalry Trumpet repertoire of the 4th Bramhall (St Michael's) Scout & Guide Band (a band that had a significant influence on banding in Crumpsall from the early 1980s; more on that later down the line) as, under the leadership of Alf Mostyn, they transitioned instrumentation from **Bb Bugles**.



1971 – In other news: Just over a year into the new decade, on Monday 15th February 1971, Great Britain abandoned 1200 years of the shilling and pence system in favour of **decimal currency**. Plans for 'D Day' had been building since 1966 and a major publicity campaign was launched as the day itself drew nearer. From the 15th



February **£1 = 100p** (new pence) where on Valentine's day that year **£1=240d**. Why 'd' instead of 'p'? Pennies were, confusingly, abbreviated to 'd' because the Latin word for this coin was 'denarius'. Pictured right, a 1964 old and 1971 new penny, though at 50, not so new now.



1972 – first 'out of' steps: At this point, our story becomes partially autobiographical as this was the year that my banding journey began. Although it was to be another 3 years before a bugle was placed in my hands, nevertheless I was on the pathway as a new Cub Scout with the 191st St Matthew's. Pictured left as an 8-year-old uninvested (brand new) Cub outside our first home, No.83 Herristone Rd, in September '72 with my sister, Mandy (who later went on to play the bugle too) and our cat, Harry. I'm also pictured right, on one of my very first church parades with me being easy to spot as the fourth Cub back on the row (file) nearest the camera: the only one in brown shoes and out of step as we marched behind the band down Tansley Road towards Cleveland Road and St Matthew's. 😊



1973 – Band on the Streets: It appears that Bandmaster **Joe Allen** left the 191st Scout Group and its band in the early '70s. Group Scout Master, **Charles Ashton**, continued to run the Group and Co-run the band until **Mr Tom Lock** joined as a Service Auxiliary in March 1973. Known as **No1** and arriving with a musical pedigree, **Tom** naturally gravitated to and was soon helping with the band, taking on fuller responsibility later that year and allowing **Charles** to concentrate more on Group matters.



Pictured left in early 1973 - 191st Scout Band, leading the Parade for the 20th Anniversary of the **401st Jewish Scout Group** from outside The Woodthorpe Hotel along Bury Old Road (where pictured) to the Synagogue on Middleton Road opposite the Belmont Hotel. The band was represented on parade by 5 side drummers, the lead being **Andrew Robinson** (pictured on the left of the front rank), 1 bass drummer and 5 buglers with Group Scout Master **Charles Ashton** (non-playing) keeping an eye on things from the middle of the rear rank. The 401st HQ, the blue hut on Willow Hill Rd, built and originally occupied by the 191st Scout Group in the mid '50s, became the home of the 401st in the late '50s, the Group officially taking occupancy in 1961, having spent their first years of existence from 1953 based at Levi House.

1974 Part 1 – Band on Show: With the growth in 191st Group numbers (helped by an influx of former members of the 161st Scout Group joining the 191st following one of the 161st leaders moving groups to St Matthew's), under the increasing influence of **Tom Lock**, the band's ranks also swelled significantly during 1974. This growth transition can be seen in the picture right in St Matthew's Parish Hall, taken at a band performance evening. **Mr Lock** (far left) presided over a band formed up, unusually for the time, in ranks of 4 (not 3) for the performance, with some of the audience pictured back right. I was in the group of non-playing Cubs gathered back left. It would be another 12 months before I joined the band's ranks after graduating from Cubs to Scouts. **Andrew Robinson** was the **Drum Major** front and centre (who would go on to eventually succeed **Mr Lock** as Bandmaster in 1978) whilst **Mr Lock's** son, **Nick**, central to the band in the bearskin, was playing bass drum.



Meanwhile, up the road from St Matthew's, on Crumpsall Green, 1974 was to prove a very pivotal year for the **Crumpsall Park Methodist Church**, their sister Church in **Cheetham Hill** and their respective Scout groups, Guide companies and Bands. The full story, Part 12 of this series, will be revealed in the next issue, due 26th March. **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)** and **Cyril Weinkove (bass clarinet)** – all of whom are continuing their respective recuperations. Speaking to **Norman** earlier this week, he acknowledges his recovery will be a **"long, slow job"** but even if it's only to brew up, he very much wants to get back to band as soon as we are allowed and wishes the band all the best. What a trooper you are **Mr Davies**. **Get well soon one and all, from all your friends in and around Crumpsall Concert Band.**

NORMAN'S WISDOM – Amidst the encroaching demands of daily toil, make some time for making your music (and a good brew of course) ☺:



Meditations & Perspectives in support of wellbeing:

Drop thy still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease.

Take from our souls the strain and stress and let our ordered lives confess,

The beauty of thy peace. John Whittaker

Never get so busy making a living that you forget to make a life. Dolly Parton

FROM YOUR COMMITTEE – Notes & Feedback from the General Meeting 24th February 2021 :

Firstly, the week leading up to this issue being finalised has been very intense behind the scenes: **Monday**, the technical team behind tomorrow night's fundraising quiz, met to iron out the schedule, test the technology and put in place a support network for participants should any help be required on the night itself. **Tuesday**, 'Your Committee' met to understand early implications and speculative guidance following **Boris Johnson's Road Map** announcements on Monday. Then, on **Wednesday** we held our **General Meeting**, open to all band members; **thanks** to all those who attended and all who have and continue to work behind the scenes to keep this thing of ours on the **road** that has been **mapped**. **RF**

THE STAFF MEETING

Whose Taking the Notes or the official Minims?



As your Chair, it was great to welcome 17 of the band to our latest virtual General Meeting on Wednesday. As a recap for those present and information for the remainder of the membership, the main topics covered were as follows:

Music: Please refer to the **Music Matters** section above for a review of our latest and perhaps final lockdown recording and what has been decided about a more challenging project piece of music ahead of a potential return to rehearsals.

Road Map: Recapped on the key dates announced on Monday (for England):

Step 1 Mon 08/03, Step 1 Part 2: Mon 29/03, Step 2: Mon 12/04, Step 3: Mon 17/05, Step 4: Mon 21/06

We discussed how these dates impacted on when we may be able to cautiously work towards rehearsals once again. In the absence of clear guidance at this early stage from the **Department for Culture, Media and Sport, Brass Band England** and **Making Music**, agreed that all we could do was speculate for now. Speculation was clearly caveated with extreme caution with the health and wellbeing of members remaining paramount:

Step 1: Whilst schools are reopening from 8th March, no change in circumstances for the band (i.e.) remaining locked down.

Step 1 Part 2: The resumption of outdoor sports, previously a trigger for our being allowed to rehearse outdoors (i.e.) Tier 3, leading to speculation that we may be able to rehearse, COVID securely outdoors, as we had done last September, October and December (at FC United), starting on Wednesday 31st March? If so, would that mean a portion of the band (approx. 10 to 12) could potentially play for the planned St Matthew's Easter Sunday (4th April) Outdoor Celebration in a similar manner to how we played and supported the fully risk assessed outdoor Christmas Carol Service on 23rd December 2020?

Step 2: We agreed, subject to formal confirmation, that this was the most likely point at which we would be permitted to rehearse, COVID securely, outdoors once again. No speculation on the later **Steps 3** and **4**, at this stage.

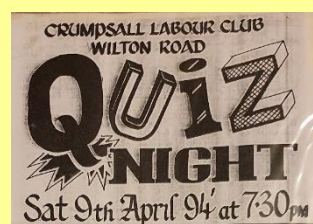
Your Committee agreed to maintain vigilance across the various sources of guidance and keep members informed as we move forward. In respect of the Easter Sunday event, we agreed to keep St Matthew's updated as soon as guidance becomes clearer, to support their planning of the event. It was also acknowledged, without detracting from the positivity of the announcement, that the step dates detailed for the road map are intended to be taken as the earliest dates for easing of restrictions and if the data suggests a decline in progress with combatting the virus, the dates could be reassessed and potentially changed.



Quiz Night: Saturday 27th February 2021 20:00. Details included in the feature below and a vote of thanks given to all those working behind the scenes to make this happen whilst encouraging as many members as possible to sign up by Friday evening if possible. Promises to be a great night.

Finances: With the fluidity of donations still coming in for the quiz night, we held back on revealing financial progress with overall donations at this stage and will present a fuller picture when they have all been collated post the quiz night. However, we did propose a **huge vote of thanks for everyone who has so far been able to donate in support of the band's sustainability.**

QUIZ NIGHT FEVER – On the eve of our exciting fundraising quiz night it's worth looking back on one of the band committee organised to raise much need funds (sound familiar) back in Apr 1994:



The poster left, went on to say **Guest Appearance by, and all Proceeds to, Crumpsall Marching Band;** our band under its original name. The band, less than 9 months old when this event took place, was very much in its infancy, but the efforts of everyone involved in those crucial early days and since, have helped ensure we and Crumpsall have a Band to call our own to this day. Pictured top right;



Quiz Masters Dave Lynch & Julie Carter (who on 21st May 1994 became Mr & Mrs Lynch). Below right, the audience on the night in a packed club – remember those? Near left, the band await **Derek Farnell's** cue to start our guest appearance. Far left, with Derek's introduction, flautists **Elizabeth Herbert & Naomi Grimshaw** get ready for their 'Flute Fever' duet. Never mind last century, it all seems like only yesterday!



QUIZ NIGHT FEVER continued – Back to the present day and the following will give all participants a flavour of the event ahead of Saturday Night:

Itinerary – Saturday 27th Feb 2021:

8pm - virtual doors open – All registered participants will have been notified of the Zoom Link in advance (see **STOP PRESS** below) along with guidance notes on accessing Zoom for those unfamiliar.

8pm – 8.10pm - Caroline, Your Compere for the evening, will welcome participants and run through the format and etiquette. Caroline will also introduce her colleagues for the evening who will be helping with technical support where needed and totting up the scores.

8.10pm – Caroline will handover to your Quiz Master, Joe, who will take you through the first 4 rounds of 5 questions (all multiple choice). Scores will be submitted after each round and this will all be explained.

8.50pm – or thereabouts, 10 minute interval with musical intermission courtesy of the band’s lockdown recordings and on screen countdown clock so we all get back with glasses and nibbles trays refilled and ready for the second half.

9.00pm – Quiz part 2. Over to Joe once again for another 4 rounds of 5 questions (multiple choice) with scores submitted after each round.

9.40pm - Vote of thanks from yours truly whilst the scores are being totted up.

9.50pm – Over to your Compere, Caroline, to reveal the results. And the winner is..... details on how prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd placed participants can be obtained will be provided on the night.

.STOP PRESS: FOR QUIZ ENTRANTS – YOUR CONFIRMATION EMAIL & LINK SHOULD NOW HAVE LANDED – CHECK SPAM FOLDERS ETC

Whatever the result on the night I’m sure everyone will enter into the spirit and make the night as a whole a memorable and successful one. It’s not too late to sign up and see the poster above for how to enter by no later than noon on 27th.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY– MRS ENID SMITH; 40 x 2 YEARS YOUNG ON 17th FEBRUARY:



Enid will be known to some of you at least and has been a loyal supporter of the band scene in Crumpsall since the mid-1980s. Never one for the limelight, much of Enid’s support down the years has been from behind the scenes: in 1988, to a winning design by tenor drummer Adele Wood, Enid set about making 4 vertical bell lyre banners staying faithful to the design. In 2006, the Scout & Guide Band purchased a full set of shirts as a ‘competition / inspection’ uniform and to ensure uniformity, Enid sewed a minimum of 4 badges onto each shirt so they were all identical. Besides her undoubted skill with needle and thread, she’s a dab hand at handmade Christmas / Birthday cards too and many she has sold down the years in aid of the band. She won’t thank me for listing what are just some examples of her support but on behalf of all in the band **very happy ‘big’ birthday Enid** and many Happy Returns.



FUNDRAISING QUIZ NIGHT
 27th February 2021 @8pm
 Online on Zoom
 Pay whatever you can afford
 Sign up and donate at:
<https://crumpsallconcertband.co.uk>
Help us keep the music alive!



Calendar Dates

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
Sat 27 th Feb 2021 8:00pm	Band Fundraiser - Household Virtual Quiz night via Zoom – further details above, on this page.	Good luck to all entrants and thanks for your support. Enjoy the Event.
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 us to participate in this event and to enough volunteers from our ranks. More details to follow.

THE LAST BIT:

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

We hope you enjoyed this issue with the next one due 26th March. In the meantime, let’s continue to look out and where we can, reach out to each other and keep ourselves safe and well. Thanks for reading.