

'Hark the CCB Herald'



It's time to Play The Music

# THE NEW HERALD

Newsletter of

## CRUMPSALL CONCERT BAND



Volume 3 Issue 8  
30<sup>th</sup> April 2021

**Welcome** to your latest issue of The **New Herald**. April has been a month where, on its every morning, somewhere in the UK suffered a frost (a meteorological record I believe) and Crumpsall was no exception. It was also a month where the banding and choral community across the UK were frozen out of meaningful rehearsals at Step 2 of the Road Map when earlier indications had looked optimistic. **However, things look more promising for Step 3 in May: more on this later.** Very sadly, the day following the release of your March issue, we received the news that our elder statesman, **Mr Norman Davies, had passed away peacefully** in his sleep at 6.30pm on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March. Condolences and donations in his memory have poured in ever *since* **and a 'Special Supplement' will follow the release of this issue** paying full and proper tribute as we celebrate the life and times of Norman. Accordingly, the 13<sup>th</sup> instalment of our **Band Heritage Series** (1976, Part 1) planned for this issue, has been moved on to Issue 9. Within this issue, there is a fabulous **Player Profile**, a **review of our 20/21 AGM**, and details of a **fun-filled lockdown recording** which we hope as many of the band as possible will join in with. Enjoy the read, spread the kindness and positivity, keep safe & well and I hope we can all meet safely but more freely in person, in the not too distant future.



Yours in Banding, Rob 😊

**STOP PRESS:** Norman's family have requested those who may wish to make a donation in his memory can please do so to two causes that were close to Norman's heart: **Crumpsall Concert Band** and **434<sup>th</sup> M/cr Scout Group** based at the **Methodist Church Crumpsall**. Details of how to make any donations are detailed later in this issue. Many thanks

### **In this issue:**

**A message from our Conductor / Music Matters:- Hopeful return to Rehearsals – 'It's time to Play the Music' / Player Profile Feature #4 / Band News:- 20/21 AGM Review, From Your 21/22 Committee, Norman Davies, Calendar Dates & Much More!**

### **CONDUCTOR'S MESSAGE: A POSITIVE FEELING – FROM A SUNNY FORMER AIRFIELD ....**



Hi all, sending this message from a field in Staffordshire where the sun is shining and the birds singing as Jane and I listen to the Glenn Miller band on CD. It's getting easier to feel positive about the way forward; more and more of us are vaccinated and can look forward to settling in to the new normal. Listening to Glenn Miller we are both singing along to our parts, I am conducting (albeit small hand movements) and complimenting the players!! Really looking forward to making music together soon, outside or in.

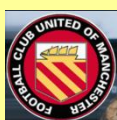


The setting of our caravan site is an old RAF / USAF training base (RAF Wheaton Aston) which saw its fair share of crashes including an overshoot of a runway which ended with the USAF fighter afloat in the nearby canal, (pic right). We reminisce as we listen to Glenn Miller; I'm sure Norman, who sadly died recently, would have approved.  
**Best Wishes, Alan**



### **MUSIC MATTERS: Road map back to rehearsals - Latest Lockdown Recording #9: The Muppet Show – What Music will you need for your personal outdoor rehearsal pad?**

### **GREEN LIGHT: Outdoor rehearsals pencilled in to begin in May:**



Almost certainly now, a return to rehearsals (initially outdoors in our case) is set to begin as part of the continued easing of restrictions at Step 3 of the Government's Road Map. Translated for us, this means **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021** will be the day those who wish and are able can get together to rehearse at our risk-assessed, secure outdoor base, **FC United (Broadhurst Park Stadium, Moston, M40 OFJ)** for the first time since we last rehearsed there 5 months ago on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020. Where has that time gone?

'Hurrah' I hear you cry; but, to preach a word of caution after the Step 2 debacle in mid April, this will not be confirmed officially until 10<sup>th</sup> May at the earliest. **We intend to hold a General Meeting via Zoom on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May, specifically to confirm the position, provide all the arrangements for getting back together again and giving you all the opportunity to ask questions.**

**Your Committee has taken the decision that**, once we get the definite go ahead, outdoor rehearsals will run each Wednesday up at FC United (with hopefully a Zoom option, too) from 19<sup>th</sup> May until at least Step 4 of the Road Map due to be introduced on 21<sup>st</sup> June, at the earliest. As always, we'll keep you fully updated and **please pencil in the 12<sup>th</sup> May** for the Zoom meeting. Thanks, RF

### **LOCKDOWN RECORDING #9: The MUPPET SHOW Theme: 'It's time to play the music'** 😊

In response to the disappointment that rehearsals could not resume, as expected, in April and to fill the subsequent void, we decided to launch, what we hope will be the final Lockdown Recording; our ninth. **Our straightforward arrangement of 'The Muppet Show Theme'** is a popular, fun piece at just over a minute long and we hope as many of the band can join in to help us sign off our *lockdown recording project* in style and glamour. To request a part, please email me [r.fullen23@gmail.com](mailto:r.fullen23@gmail.com) as soon as possible with the deadline for submission of your recording being close of play on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May. If this is your first time recording and you need any technical support, please let us know and we'll help get you sorted.



### **Your Outdoor Rehearsal Pad: What music will I need when we do start back outdoors again?**

All attendees need to have their own pad and stand (a full list of what else you need will be sent). Pieces required are as follows:

★ CELTIC CREST ★ DISNEY AT THE MOVIES ★ MAMMA MIA! ★ QUEEN ON STAGE ★ A WELSH RHAPSODY ★ WHEN THE STARS.....  
★ THE MUPPET SHOW THEME. In addition, Alan will be introducing a new piece ★ 'MR HOLLAND'S OPUS' ★. So, if you need any of the above and want the parts emailing across to you so you can print or upload to your i-Pads / tablets etc please email [r.fullen23@gmail.com](mailto:r.fullen23@gmail.com) in plenty of time. RF

### **\*\*\*\*\* PLAYER PROFILE #4 'CAROLINE HALL' \*\*\*\*\***



Caroline Hall

Our popular flute playing, concert poster designing, virtual quiz night hosting, Zoom rehearsal coordinating, Caroline Hall, provides an excellent profile for this issue. Our grateful thanks to Caroline for all her support and hard work on behalf of the band and I think you'll definitely enjoy her story. Cheers, Rob

**What attracted you to, and when did you join, Crumpsall Concert Band?** I have been part of wind bands since I was seven years old so when I moved to Manchester in 2013, I wanted to find a **friendly community band** to join. I was attracted to the **community spirit of the band and the variety of music being played**. I left in 2014 to complete my masters and then came back in 2015 and have been here ever since.



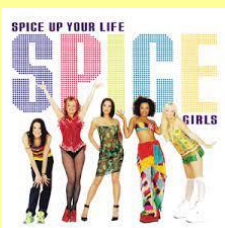
**Any other bands or music groups past / present?** Ryburn Vallery High School Concert Band, Halifax Young Singers, Liverpool University Windband and Flute Choir and Halifax Concert Band.

**Instrument you play in the band (Make / Model)?** Yamaha Flute.

**Any Other instruments you play:** Alto Saxophone (beginner) and Kokle (Latvian String instrument – pictured right)  
(Ed: even 'spell check' struggled with this instrument)



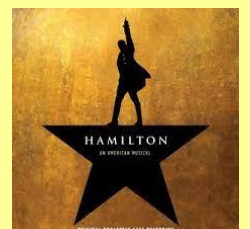
**If you were granted a wish to be able to play any other instrument that you can't currently play, what would it be and why?** Cello. When I was 7, I was given the opportunity to choose an instrument to play at school. My first and second choice filled up so I was given a Cello. I just wanted to play the tune, so I messed around in lessons and would forget my bow. One year later I got my Flute for Christmas and the rest is history but I really wish I had stuck with it. (Ed: as Norman proved, taking up the Euphonium at age 94, it's never too late to expand your instrument base 😊)



**Favourite Musical Genre?** 90s / 00s Pop including: Steps, S-Club 7, Back Street Boys and Spice Girls.

**Favourite Album?** Hamilton – 'Lin-Manuel Miranda'

**Favourite Cuisine?** Italian





**Hobbies & Interests?** Reading, City breaks visiting cultural institutions, watching live theatre, walking.

**Hopes for the band for the next 12 months:** That we are able to play in front of a live audience. (Ed: Hear, hear, Caroline)

**Favourite pastime:** Watching Liverpool F.C. at Anfield (even at the moment) (Ed: But not in any of that ESL nonsense of course!)



**Any musical influences:** John Williams, Karl Jenkins, Lin-Manuel Miranda, and most musicals. **My grandparents Jackie Hall and Desmond Hall** who supported me playing music my whole life. They would always come to my concerts and took me to song group at the local Methodist Church every Friday night. It was at this song group that I heard how beautiful the flute could be and was the main reason I play the instrument. They also paid for my music lessons for years and allowed me to explore my love of music. Both have passed away in the last 6 months and I miss them dearly. (Ed: Sincere condolences Caroline on behalf of all our readers – Pictured left: Caroline & her Brother, David on his wedding day with grandparents Jackie & Desmond)

**Band related: Best and Worst of the pandemic period (2020/21):**

**Best Moments:** Any Doug anecdote in the Zoom meetings. (Ed: Who can forget that Zoom when Doug reminisced about his days teaching Spanish and sung to us about Isabella? Fantastic 😊)

**Worst Moment:** Fearing for the trumpet section as fireworks were launched into FC United's stadium on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020 – last night of relative freedom before Lockdown #2. (Ed: Touched by your concern for our top end brass Caroline 😊) .



**Any other roles in the band:** Using Canva (software) to make band posters and on the recent fundraising committee.

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

- 1) A drum kit with all the trimmings, including a trolley to transport it.
- 2) Seat warming cushions for every member of the band.
- 3) A trip to perform abroad. (Ed: It's 10 years since the last foreign trip, Bremerhaven 2011, so why not consider working towards planning another? Need a few more quiz nights hosting though Caroline 😊)



**Favourite Banding Moments – CCB:** I have many favourite memories but a highlight was the 'Magic Themed' Tangled (Dance Co) Concert at the Tudor period Ordsall Hall, Salford (14<sup>th</sup> Dec 2019). There was plenty of time to chat with other members in the band in between our three sessions in such a beautiful place and even got some sneak peaks around the historic hall and at the dance company performance. The highlight of the day was our conductor Kate trying to keep her composure when during one of our performances a child, at the front of the audience, projectile vomited and people started to flee. Horrible at the time, hilarious in hindsight. (Ed: And the band played on... but particularly glad I wasn't on the front row that day....unlike the flutes 😊)



**Favourite Banding Moments – Other:** As pictured above: Accompanying the Olympic Torch in and out of the Piece Hall in Halifax as part of Halifax Concert Band. It was part of the London 2012 torch route and I was so nervous I actually played all the right notes for once.

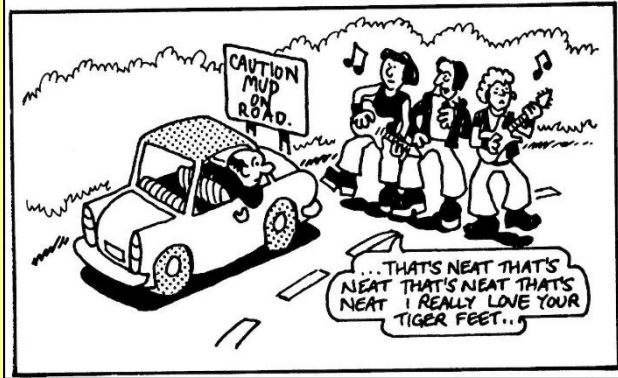
**Very enjoyable read, thanks Caroline. Any volunteers for future issues, please let me know!**

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

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

Harry Hudson (*tenor saxophone*), Cyril Weinkove (*bass clarinet*) and Samantha Heywood (*flute*) Get well soon one and all from all your friends in and around Crumpsall Concert Band.

**Musical Jokes – Now that Smiles better..... 😊**



Can you find the  
Mitsake?

One=1

Two=2

Three=3

Four=4

Five=5

Six=6

Share if you found !

The other day, at a thrift store, I bought an old record album called "Sounds Wasps Make". When I got it home and played it, I said to myself, "This doesn't sound anything like wasp sounds." Then I realized, I was playing the Bee side.

**2020/21 AGM Review – Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021:**



Firstly, thanks to all those able to attend our 20/21 AGM and those who sent apologies. To

As your Chair, for what was the most challenging year for the band and all members, given the circumstances, I have been privileged to witness the tremendous character shown by all our members and supporters in **keeping the band relevant and sustainable** in the face of significant odds.

My review of the year only served to colour this statement with the detail around how we achieved what we did, together. I hope you had the opportunity to read through the

review because, like me you are sure to be amazed at what we did accomplish. We will come back stronger for the experience I'm positive. Thanks all. Rob

**Particular thanks to my 20/21 Committee colleagues: Stuart, Sue, Nicky and Carole for all their input & hard work behind the scenes.**

**Stuart's Treasurers report** was able to show that, largely due to a couple of initiatives in quarter 4 of the year (Virtual Quiz Night and donations appeal) the exceptional generosity of our members and supporters left us slightly better off than when we started 20/21. Amazing given we were unable to earn income in the traditional manner from performing or subscriptions from rehearsals. In addition, **Sue's Librarian report** served to highlight significant progress with detailed cataloguing of our extensive music library during 20/21.

**For the current year, 2021/22, your elected Committee lines up as follows:**

**Rob Fullen – Chair, Stuart Atkinson – Treasurer, Sue Atkinson – Secretary & Librarian, Nicky Kay – HR & Events.**

**Unfortunately, Carole** has felt it necessary to step back from her position due to work pressures preventing her taking as fuller part as she would wish. Again, our grateful thanks to Carole for her support during 20/21.

**The current year** will no doubt hold challenges for us all and if anyone would like to 'try before you buy' in terms of seeing what the Committee is all about, please let me know in confidence by email: [r.fullen23@gmail.com](mailto:r.fullen23@gmail.com). Many thanks, Rob

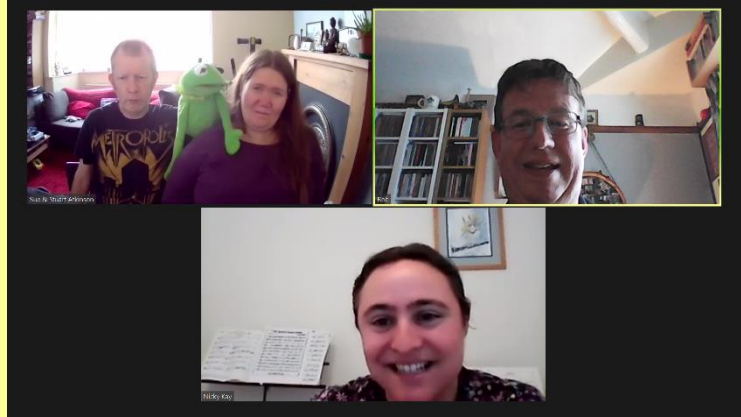


## FROM YOUR 21/22 COMMITTEE – First Meeting of The New Year – 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021:

Whilst quite rightly reflecting on the sad passing of Norman at the end of last month, as you might expect, our first Committee meeting of the new year also focussed on managing the band through the first quarter of 21/22 and the potential return to rehearsals (outdoor) on 19<sup>th</sup> May.

We agreed to convene a general meeting for the band on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May via Zoom to provide all the details for rehearsals that members will need. Meeting details can be found in the **Calendar Dates** section below.

As you will see from the screen shot right, we were joined at the end by 'Special Guest Star, Kermit the Frog' who just dropped in to check we were correctly publicising the Latest Lockdown Recording - *The Muppet Show Theme* to all members? Which, of course we are 😊

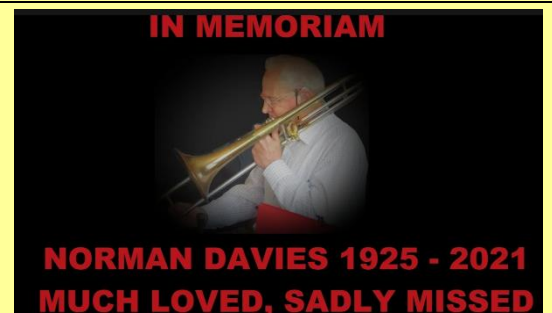


## Norman Davies: 16/10/1925 - 29/03/2021:

On behalf of the Band, I formally extend and reiterate our sincere condolences to the family and close friends of Norman, who sadly passed away peacefully following a brave and thankfully relatively short battle with illness on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and was laid to rest with his parents Elizabeth (1948) and Ernest (1983), at Manchester's Southern Cemetery on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

For the past few weeks I have been diligently gathering information, pictures, anecdotes and treasured memories in order to attempt to do literary justice to Norman's life, times and exploits. Having known Norman for almost 40 years, talking to family and friends and gathering aforementioned tales, I realised there was so much more to know about the man.

It also became apparent, thanks to all the information heading my way, that this Newsletter was not the appropriate vehicle to do him proper justice and therefore, in the coming days, a **special supplement to this issue** will be heading your way. We hope you will find it well worth the wait and it should be read with a cup of tea to hand; maybe a pot so you can keep topping up your brew. As a **sneak preview of the contents of the special supplement**, please see below:



**The Funeral Eulogy from Sisters Pamela & Sheila Milgate / Lockdown: Conversational Diary from St Mary's Court / Norman's Am-Dram exploits / Summer Schools at Giggleswick / Nautical Norman – 2013 / On Parade – 1963 / Guesting with the Downton Band – 2019 Crumpsall Concert Band / Eternal Rest**



An unscheduled and hastily arranged Zoom get together on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March saw those able to be present at short notice (see left) raising a mug / glass in memory of Norman with some even brandishing 20p's for the privilege too.

Fond reflections and stories were shared and many will find their way into the special supplement no doubt, along with the significance of the 20 pence's. 😊

Initial reactions and sentiments hit our WhatsApp Group and Facebook pages as soon as news broke of Norman's passing on 29<sup>th</sup> March and a small selection of those received are as follows:

*I will really miss Norman's cheerfulness at band each week, and of course his legendary brew! I had no idea what a brew was when I first arrived (from down south) but Norman soon put me right. Band breaks will never be the same but every time I hear the rattle of that trolley I'll think of Norman x (Jo Baynham)*

*It's very sad news that Norman isn't with us anymore. He had a real passion and drive for music. I was so surprised when he started learning to play one of the band euphoniums a couple of years ago (at 94 ish?), but that was him. He was also such a happy and cheeky guy, often laughing away telling a joke or story. He will be missed. (Tim)*

*I will really miss my chats with Norman and his wicked sense of humour. A lovely, kind soul who judged everyone favourably. When that tea trolley rattled in from the kitchen with my favourite biscuits it always made me smile. It won't be the same without Norman (Carole)*

*Very sad to hear the news. Norman was a real character. I've known him for many years going back to when he played for Prestwich Brass Band. RIP Norman. (Geoff)*

*So sad to hear the news. I'll really miss chatting with Norman at rehearsals. He always had a smile, a twinkle in his eye and a wicked sense of humour. His energy and spirit was amazing! Not only did he come out to play music every week, but he helped out by brewing up for everyone too. Such a lovely guy and a real character. It definitely will not be the same without him. (Nicky)*

*"Even now God is saying to Saint Peter "who hit that note?". "God bless you Norman, I'm proud to have sat next to you for all those years" (Andrew Shaw)*

Although current restrictions prevented all who wished to attend from being present at Norman's funeral on 16<sup>th</sup> April, the service prior to his burial was streamed live from the Old Chapel at Manchester crematorium after which, those able to be in attendance were joined in Southern Cemetery by those who had waited outside the chapel.

The graveside service in the warm sunshine was lovely; two of Norman's young relatives played a Tenor Horn / Trombone duet of Amazing Grace and the service was rounded off with the sounding of Last Post. Grateful thanks to Dave Lynch and Victoria Fullen who joined me in this final act which was appreciated by all concerned.

A subsequent note received from relative, Rosemary Parry along with a generous donation to band funds read as follows:

Dear Rob and all members of the band,

Here is a small donation to Crumpsall Concert Band in memory of our dear relative Norman. We hope it will help to provide for something useful / or fun ! Norman would've wanted that !

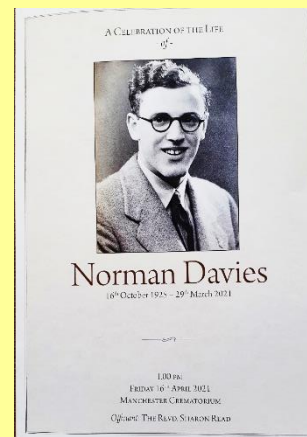
Also extra special thanks Rob and Victoria and David for coming to Norman's funeral and playing the 'Last Post'. It was a fitting tribute to him and echoed around the sunny cemetery, along with the birds 'singing'. It was wonderful and a perfect end. With thanks, Rosemary & Mike Parry and my Brother, Joe Dilger.

As publicised on the order of service for those able to be present at the funeral but not exclusively, Rosemary and family wish for any donations to be passed to two causes close to Norman's heart: **Crumpsall Concert Band** and **434<sup>th</sup> Manchester Scout Group** who are based at The Methodist Church Crumpsall. The Band and Group have been amazed at the levels of donations received so far (Circa £300 for each cause as I write) and for anyone who still wishes to donate to either or both causes in Norman's memory, it's not too late. Please email as follows for details of how you can give:


**Crumpsall Concert Band:** Rob Fullen – [r.fullen23@gmail.com](mailto:r.fullen23@gmail.com)

**434<sup>th</sup> Manchester Scout Group:** Louise Gorton – [Louisegorton7@gmail.com](mailto:Louisegorton7@gmail.com)

On behalf of both Groups, grateful thanks for your support and for all donations we have each received so far. Much appreciated and a true measure of the high regard for Norman's memory from so many people. RF



## Calendar Dates

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> May 2021 7.30pm	General Meeting Via Zoom <a href="https://zoom.us/j/97067958074">https://zoom.us/j/97067958074</a> Meeting Password: 760690	All topics on the table but primarily your opportunity to ask questions as we prepare to return to outdoor rehearsals
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> May 2021 and for the following 4 weeks at least.	 Safe and Secure Outdoor Rehearsals to recommence under the West Stand at FC United of Manchester's Broadhurst Park Stadium	Timings and full details at our General Meeting on 12 <sup>th</sup> and via email in advance of the first rehearsal. We look forward to welcoming all those who are able and wish to attend rehearsals and to support maximum inclusivity, we hope to provide a zoom link to live rehearsals once again too.

## THE LAST BIT:

**Thanks to Alan & Caroline for their contributions.**

We hope you enjoyed this issue with the next one due at the end of May notwithstanding the special supplement in memory of Norman, due very soon. You and yours keep safe and well and thanks, as always, for reading. RF