

'Hark the CCB Herald'



THE NEW HERALD

Newsletter of

CRUMPSALL CONCERT BAND



Volume 3 Issue 9
31st May 2021

Hello 'ello it's good to be back !

Welcome to your **May 2021** issue of **The New Herald**. **Indulge me if you will please – it all adds up:** As I write, I'm deep into my 40th year of continuous service to the noble profession of Payroll (we all like to get paid of course) and the **19th May** has always been significant for the industry – traditionally being the latest day Tax Year End PAYE paperwork had to be with the Inland Revenue (now HMRC). The date has faded in significance somewhat since annual returns largely vanished with the wider introduction of automated monthly returns in 2013; but nevertheless, it still haunts me because of **Wednesday 19th May 1999**.

As that day dawned, I was still grappling with my employer's 1998/99 return and as **Payroll Manager for City College Manchester** the buck, and penalties stopped with me. At my desk for 7am at the Wythenshawe Campus, steaming mug of tea to hand; a lightbulb moment occurred: the last tricky, niggling year-end adjustments reconciled and I finalised the critical form P35MT. I just needed the College Principal's signature, but he wasn't due back at the Wythenshawe HQ until lunch time. The ink from Mr Gibson's pen had barely dried before I was on the A556 by 2pm heading to Robert's House, our then local tax office in the centre of Altrincham, paperwork delivered, receipted... and breathe.

The relief was palpable, and I made an early dart back to North Manchester and took comfort and solace from our **band rehearsal in the Parish Hall** that evening. Fast forward into a new century 22 years later, and the **19th May 2021** barely registered from a payroll perspective for reasons mentioned above, but the parallel significance of this date was not lost; **being our first physical rehearsal of 2021**. The moral of this tale therefore - the world of work will ever alter as year-ends come and go, playing in a band such as ours will always provide a constant; a trumpet is still a trumpet – take comfort and solace and always enjoy your music.

Of course, a review of our first rehearsal of 2021 is included below along with so much more; see **in this issue** for full details.

Thanks for reading and hope you enjoy. **Yours in Banding, Rob** 😊

In this 'Bank Holiday' issue:

A Message from our Conductor; Music Matters – Our 9th Lockdown Recording and then Back to Rehearsals; Our Banding Heritage Series - Part 13 - 1975/76; Band News including – Welcome to New Recruits, In memory of Harry Hudson, In Norman's memory, Doug's Absence Note, Fundraising & Finance, our Sax Playing President, Farewell to Zoom? & Calendar Dates.

CONDUCTOR'S MESSAGE: 14 months and it's good to be back Rehearsal #1; 19th May:



Hi everyone, hope you're all well? Jane and I finally returned to rehearsals after 14 months and what a pleasure it was! Everything was smoothly organised, from the easy registration online beforehand, the excellent, clear instructions sent by email, to a well organised

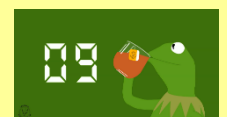


arrival and set up. A big WELL DONE to Rob and the committee for all their hard work (including the risk assessments etc) to allow it all to happen. Then we played and I was very pleased with the sound we made and the concentration and effort everyone put into the hours' playing. Well played. The sun shone over the football ground and it was a lovely evening all round. **Best wishes, Alan**

MUSIC MATTERS: Lockdown Recording #9 then back to rehearsals:

Lockdown Recording #9 – Theme from The Muppet Show – release date 15/05/2021

In response to the disappointment that rehearsals could not resume, as expected, in April and to fill the subsequent void until restrictions allowed for rehearsals once more, we decided to launch, what we sincerely hope will be the band's final Lockdown Recording; our ninth. The end result has proved a real crowd pleaser and a perfect antidote to dispel any lingering lockdown blues. **Our production team of Stuart and Joe excelled once again** as the finished video reveals. To watch please click on this link and we recommend that you don't cut off until the 'Thank You for Watching' screen has appeared at the end. **Enjoy, and spread a smile of joy; we are sure you will:** <https://youtu.be/O-EGNwpls-o>





Grateful thanks to multi-instrumentalist Kermit and everyone who was able to participate and support this glamorous finale to our lockdown recording project.

Going back to April 2020 and Lockdown Recording #1 Celtic Crest, right through to #9 the Muppet Show, the recordings have helped our aim of keeping the music alive and the band sustainable and relevant. We will emerge stronger for this project and whether you felt able to contribute at all or not, history will show that Crumpsall Concert Band (and that means all of us) played on throughout the most challenging of times. Well done all and watch out for a CCB Lockdown Recordings DVD which will make the perfect festive stocking filler this Christmas. Just when you thought your production skills might no longer be required Stuart and Joe. 😊

GREEN LIGHT: Covid Secure Outdoor rehearsals begin again at last:

✔ **Step 3 of the Government's 'road map' went ahead as planned from 17th May** and that provided us with the green light to commence Covid secure rehearsals, outdoor once again. In anticipation, we had already prepared and planned for sufficient easing to allow us to get together once again **from Wednesday 19th May**; our first rehearsal since **16th December 2020**.

For some, not least our conductor Alan and his wife Jane, this was indeed their first rehearsal since 11th March 2020 and we also welcomed two new recruits in Ruthanna (Trumpet) and Stuart (Bass Clarinet) - more details later. The following week, 26th May, flautists, John and Catherine, trombonist Alex and percussionist Jake made welcome returns after 14 months with Abbie joining in again on Clarinet. We look forward to welcoming more members back in the coming weeks as and when they feel ready and able to join in once more; we are also hoping to re-establish a Zoom link to our rehearsals once again from 2nd June onwards.

In the interests of member health and wellbeing and given current Government uncertainty around the complete easing of restrictions on 21st June, your Committee has decided that **outdoor rehearsals will continue at FC United's ground until 21st July 2021**. After this date we will break for the summer and return, hopefully indoors from Wednesday 1st September. We will obviously keep you all up to date as we move through the next few months.

Grateful thanks to our hosts at FC United, most notably Noel for his Wednesday night support with opening up, toilet facilities, lighting and generally making sure we can hold safe rehearsals.



Grateful thanks also to Karen for her support with prepping for rehearsals and on the nights themselves, ensuring members are greeted on arrival and safely directed to their designated seating position. Following this Karen acts as our photographer with many of her pictures featuring in the newsletter: Some of these, capturing our rehearsals 19th and 26th May respectively, can be seen below:

Saturday 15th: Getting the venue checked and marked out ready for our Wednesday debut:



Wednesday 19th May 2021 – Rehearsal #1 2021: A fabulous initial turn out of 19 with most instruments / parts covered:



Wednesday 26th May 2021 – Rehearsal #2 2021: A seating reshuffle welcomed a turnout of 22 including Jake on percussion for first time in more than 14 months. We revisited the ‘Greatest Showman’ music for the first time since March 2020 and again, we were fortunate with the weather 😊



CRUMPSALL CONCERT BAND – Band Heritage Series Part 13: 1975/76:

The previous instalment of our series, back in issue 7, looked at the demolition and merging of two local Methodist Churches and their Scout Groups, Guide Companies and Bands. We now move onto the new build of the newly named Methodist Church Crumpsall and a further integration of bands that would ultimately prove a pivotal moment in the heritage of our band:

1975 / 76 – Methodist Church Crumpsall - The rebuild and reopening:

The following pictures (thanks to Sheila Handley) reveal the present day, Methodist Church Crumpsall, rising from the mud and rubble on the site of demolished Crumpsall Park Methodist Church building during 1975. Following this you will see the old and new buildings pictured side by side and the dedication plaque for the new church which is mounted in the foyer of the ‘new’ building:



April 1976 – A pivotal moment - a New Band emerges:

As previously mentioned, the congregations of the Cheetham Hill and Crumpsall Park churches used to worship at neighbouring St Matthew’s Church during the rebuild programme and the respective Scout Groups and Guide Companies met jointly also at Trinity Church and St Mary’s Church respectively. The bands, it appears, went into abeyance during the 16-month rebuild whilst the St Matthew’s Scout Band, rehearsing out of the ‘Blue Hut’ just off Crumpsall Lane, continued to flourish under the leadership of Tom Lock. Once the new church building opened in January 1976 the 434th Scout Group and 7th Crumpsall Guide Company, drawing

members from the original two churches, also flourished and the Scout Band also started up again in early 1976. The band in particular required assistance which they likely sought from Mr Lock at St Matthew's; given the congregational connections established during the rebuild. So, Scout Band members from the Methodist Church were invited to attend 191st Scout Band practices at the Blue Hut during the first quarter of 1976. Almost simultaneously it seems, the Guides from both St Matthew's and the Methodist Church companies were invited to join also and in essence, at the beginning of April 1976, the **Crumpsall Scout & Guide Band** was formed as a result. Although I'm sure the coming together of the bands was seen as a temporary support measure to allow the Methodist band to gain experience before eventually re-establishing themselves as a band in their own right, **in reality, there would be no going back to separate bands from here on in.** It should be noted that the name Crumpsall Scout & Guide Band (CSGB) was not formally adopted until after the band's first annual inspection in 1981, but was colloquially referred to as *the band* or inaccurately, *the Scout Band* up to this point: **after all, the 191st & 434th Scout Groups and 5th & 7th Crumpsall Guide Companies Band was a bit of a mouthful 😊**

Some very rare pictures of probably the joint bands' first outing; the **Annual District St George's Day Parade** (Sunday 25th April 1976) can be seen below. L – R – Drum Major **Andrew Robinson** wheels the band passed Connolly's Cables and up towards Blackley Village. The next picture, 100 yards further on, clearly shows **Band Master Tom Lock** marshalling the band from the white lines, spare drum sticks in hand. The distinctive green, yellow and red trimmed neckerchiefs of the 191st Scout Group / Band and Tangerine ones of the newly formed 434th Scout Group / Band confirm the existence of the joint band, although no Guides appear to be present in the ranks. This is probably not surprising as they had only been invited to come and learn instruments just a few weeks earlier.



Part 14 of the series sees the story move into the long hot summer of 1976 with our founder, Derek Farnell, organising a National Concert Band contest and the Scout & Guide Band giving out its first awards. **Thanks for reading once again, Rob.**

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

Welcome to New Recruits – Ruthanna Stamp – Trumpet & Stuart Fieldhouse – Bass Clarinet:



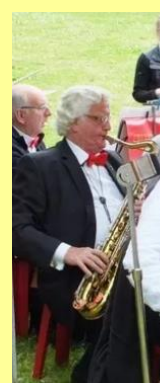
Ruthanna and **Stuart** joined us for our first rehearsal of the year back on 19th May and on behalf of the band it gives me great pleasure to welcome them to the CCB and hope they have a long and happy association with us. **Ruthanna** has played trumpet for 17 years and plays at around grade 7 / 8 level. Previous bands include Teesdale Soul Band, Darlington Orchestra and Oldham Symphony Orchestra. Previously she has toured with a band playing in Belgium and Germany as well as lots of UK dates and would love to get back into that (with us). *Ed: Let's see what we can do Ruthanna and hopefully we can take our band abroad again at some point.* By contrast, **Stuart** declares himself an enthusiastic beginner / self-starter

on Bass Clarinet although also plays the standard Bb clarinet, receiving tuition from our very own Nicky Kay. **Once again, a big and friendly CCB welcome to you both. Please enjoy and any queries you have during the coming weeks as you settle in, please don't hesitate to let us know. RF**

In Memory of – Harold Hudson 1935 - 2021:



It is with regret and sadness that we recently learned of the passing of Harold 'Harry' Hudson following a protracted battle with cancer. Harry was a very private man but loved his music and tenor saxophone playing; coming to our band around the turn of the century not long after his friend and fellow CCB member **Roland Maffia** had passed away. Fellow Tenor Saxophonist **Julie Thompson** remembers him fondly as follows: *"Harry was always a very keen player, happy to share advice and a reliable member of the band, I'll miss sitting next to him a great deal"*. Harry was good friends with **Les Payne**, one of our trumpeters and Les acted as Harry's carer throughout the pandemic and would keep him up to date with all that was happening around the band, ensuring he received a hard copy of our newsletter each month. Harry passed away in a nursing home back on Easter Monday, 5th April, but complications with arrangements mean that his funeral is not scheduled to be held until this coming Wednesday morning, **2nd June**. Anyone wishing to attend and pay their respects,

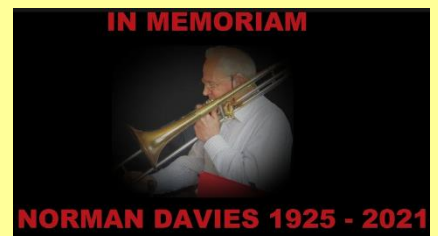


please contact me for full details. **Sincere condolences to all Harry's friends and family and we are grateful for all his dedication to our band these past 20 years. May he Rest in Peace. Rob**

In Norman's Memory - Donations Update & Grateful Thanks:

As reported in the last issue of your newsletter, following the sad passing of Norman on 29th March, the family requested donations to both **Crumpsall Concert Band** and the **434th Manchester (Crumpsall Methodist) Scout Group** in his memory. The response has been truly amazing and so far donations have exceeded all expectations as follows:

Crumpsall Concert Band: £565.20 (note the 20p – Norman's charge for a brew at band 😊)
434th Manchester Scout Group: £405.00



Both causes were extremely close to Norman's heart and I am sure, like us, he would be humbled by the generous response. On behalf of both organisations, grateful thanks for all donations to the Band and Scouts and we will keep you updated via the newsletter on how monies will be put to good use in memory of Norman. Many thanks, Rob

Absence Note – Just what has kept the irrepressible Doug away from our recent return to rehearsals?



Doug thought that some recent dental work was behind the reason he was struggling to make music on his bassoon. However, it appears there was something altogether more sinister occurring and, in his own words in an email to me last Thursday (27th May), find out what, as follows:

Dear Rob, I trust all went well yesterday evening in my absence. Yesterday morning I gave some silent thought to the problems with my bassoon, and decided to give my mouthpiece a Spring Clean. As I hadn't played for weeks, I wasn't surprised at the amount of evil gunge that emerged, and when I assembled the instrument, it worked! Glory be! I should be able to lend my support at next week's rehearsal, all being well.
Doug

All being well, we look forward to welcoming you and your gunge-free bassoon back to rehearsals next Wednesday, Doug!

Fundraising & Finance – Our 100 Club re-launch; September 2021. Fancy getting involved?

After our initial launch, scheduled for April 2020, was stalled due to the pandemic, we are looking at a potential relaunch in September 2021 to support fundraising for the band as well as provide opportunities for entrants to be in with a chance of winning a monthly cash prize. Subject to sufficient interest the first draw is anticipated to take place on 29th September 2021. **The 100 Club will be open for members and supporters aged 18 and over** and we encourage you to ask friends and family if they would like to participate in support of the band. How it works? What's it all about? Where will your money go? and answers to many other questions including how to register your interest can be found by accessing the **100 Club** tab via our website: [Crumpsall Concert Band](#) and completing the **Joining Form** in order to be emailed full details. Thank you in anticipation of your support. *Your Committee*



President's 2nd Term – Our Honorary President & Founder, Derek Farnell, contemplates a comeback?



On a recent visit to see Derek and Amy, Derek informed me that he had purchased an Alto Sax (one of the many instruments, both brass and woodwind, that Derek has excelled in playing over a career spanning 7 decades) and subject to 'getting back to grips' with it he'd like to come and sit in on a couple of rehearsals when we get back indoors. 'Would that be okay?' He asked, like it was never not going to be okay and whenever you feel ready Derek, you'd be more than welcome to join us for a Wednesday night blow.

Alto Sax - Then & Now: 1953 as a spin off from the 209th Scout Band, Derek's friend **Clifford Bevan** had created his own music group '**Cliff Bevan & His Music**' who provided a concert-style dynamic in contrast to the marching band scene in the area. The picture above, taken outside Crumpsall Park Methodist Church in **February 1953**, also shows how **Derek's** skill with various instruments had evolved from mid/low end brass into woodwind. **From L-R:** Cliff Bevan (*Trombone*), Maureen Potts (*Vocals*), Judy Greenwood (*Piano*), Ernie Robinson (*Tenor Sax*), Ron Peach (*Drums*), Stan Bradshaw (*Trumpet*) & **Derek Farnell (Alto Sax)**. **Pictured right**, Derek strikes a pose in his workshop with his newly acquired Alto Sax. 68 years between pics...wow!

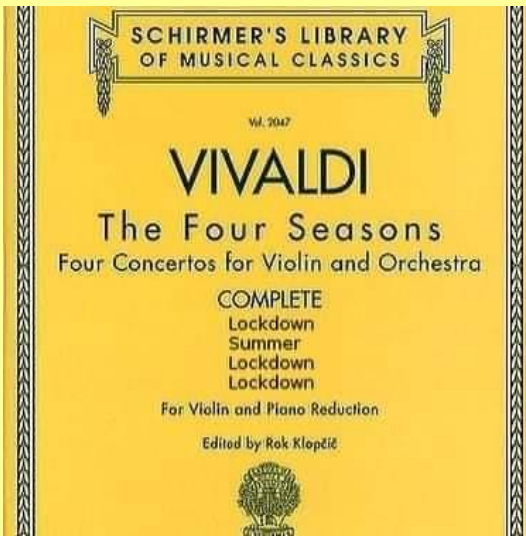


Making Room for Zoom – Zooms Were Us - March 2020 to May 2021:

Only in the fullness of time will we come to realise and appreciate the importance to our band of our ‘weekly Wednesday social, bin chat, banter and games night Zooms’, ‘lockdown recordings’, ‘zoom general meetings’, ‘zoom rehearsal links’, ‘zoom fundraisers’ and ‘general regular comms’ like your newsletter and our WhatsApp / Facebook Groups, during the unprecedented challenging times of the pandemic.

And, whilst we are certainly not out of the woods yet, **Wednesday 12th May 2021** (pictured below) may well have been our final ‘regular’ social Zoom get together? Saying that, Zoom has been a very useful by-product for our times and I’m sure we will make use of it again as we move forward into times beyond the pandemic.

To **Julie Thompson**, our primary Zoom Host from day 1 (25th March 2020), a huge thank you, from me and all your fellow bandmembers for hosting us through the good and bad times and helping keep us together, albeit virtually, for so long. We have largely emerged to tell the tale and **thanks to everyone who has joined us on the Zoom journey**. We’ve laughed, cried, laughed some more, put the world to rights and supported each other where required..... it’s been emotional 😊



So, as we prepare to leave meteorological Spring and segue into Summer, the above concerto seems appropriate with the ‘Four Seasons’ summing up our Zoom journey and at least we ended it all with a laugh as the above screen shot shows 😊

Calendar Dates

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
Wed 2 nd June until further notice	Secure, undercover outdoor rehearsals continue at FC United of Manchester’s Broadhurst Park Stadium; M40 0FJ Arrive 7.15pm ready to play by 7.45pm. Finish playing 8.45pm, away by 9pm.	Keep an eye on your emails each Monday evening detailing the registration process and full details for the Wednesday rehearsal. Thanks
Sun 25 th July 2021 Afternoon	Cheetham Cultural Festival summer event coming to a Local Park – Venue and timings to be confirmed.	Save the date please: A potential real live performance for the band, more details as they are confirmed.
Sun 15 th Aug 2021 Afternoon	Prestwich Carnival, St Mary’s Fields, Prestwich Venue and timings to be confirmed.	Another date saver please: we are awaiting confirmation that we will be able to play on the carnival field as our marching days are now behind us 😊

THE LAST BIT:

Thanks to Alan and Doug, for their contributions.

We hope you enjoyed this issue with the next one due at the end of June. 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.
Rob