

'Hark the CCB Herald'



'New Year, New Music'

THE NEW HERALD

Newsletter of

CRUMPSALL CONCERT BAND



Volume 4 Issue 5
28th January 2022

Happy New Year & Welcome to your January issue of the New Herald. Last issue I ended the introduction asking "What will 2022 hold in store for the band?" This issue seeks to answer this, at least in part, and a glance at our **Calendar Dates** at the bottom of this page will reveal that we are looking to build on the foundations of recovery laid last term, for the remainder of our 21/22 season. **All members and supporters are invited to hop on board, hang on tight and enjoy our musical tour de force!**

A new year is always a good time to launch an appeal for new members and at present we are **particularly looking for regular percussionists (including kit, timpani and tuned percussionists) with a good ability to read the parts** and perhaps a willingness to alternate between disciplines? as well as any musicians (brass and woodwind) who play bass / tenor end instruments. However, all sections would welcome new players, so if you know anyone who you think would enjoy being part of our band, please let us know.

Enjoy this issue and in particular there are **lots of useful snippets and updates** in the 'Band News' section including a welcome to **two new flautists, a committee update** and more. Until next time, you and yours keep safe & well and all the very best for the year ahead.
Enjoy the read. Yours in Banding, Rob

In This New Year Issue:

A Message from our Conductor; Calendar Dates 2022; Music Matters – back to rehearsals & new music; Our Heritage Series (Part 18A); Band News, Views & Banter including - Welcomes, First Aid, DVD update and more; Library Corner (Part 3); Episode 4: 'Almost in the Band'; New feature - Our Memories. Thanks for Reading. 😊

CONDUCTOR'S MESSAGE: "We are a Team; We are a band to Celebrate; Roll on 2022 !":



Hello and I hope everyone is keeping well and relishing the opportunity to get back playing! Whilst playing together by regular attendance at rehearsals is very important, private practice in between, always helps too. Never give up, everyone plays a part in what we do, we are all important and above all, **we are a team.**

I have been our band's conductor for a couple of years now and despite chunks of that time being interrupted by the pandemic, each year has been special and memorable in its own way. **We have kept things going between us and are a band to celebrate; Roll on 2022!**
Best wishes, Alan

2022

Calendar Dates:

Every member counts, please save the dates; thank you

2022

DATE/TIMES	EVENT	NOTES
Wed 23 rd Feb 2022 New Date	No Rehearsal – Half Term Break	Rehearsals recommence Wednesday 2 nd March
Sat 19 th Mar 2022	Spring Showcase Concert	Save the date please Details to follow!!
Wed 13 th Apr 2022 New Date	Our 21/22 AGM / Shortened last rehearsal before a one week Easter Break / Potential social after the AGM. (No rehearsal 20th April returning at normal time on 27th)	Subject to prevailing conditions, we are aiming to hold this as a physical event this year. Shortened Rehearsal to start early, 7:00pm, AGM 8:00pm, then for those who wish, a drink at the Heaton Park Hotel after clear down.
Sat 18 th June 2022	7 th Bury Bandemonium, Kay Gardens, Bury Town Centre	Full band event, more details to follow
Sat 25 th June 2022	Prestwich Carnival – 100 th Anniversary	Full band event, more details nearer the time
Sun 3 rd July 2022 Date Change	Herristone Park Summer Fair	Minimum half band required and valuable performance ahead of our Summer Concert
Sat 9 th July 2022 Date Change	Potential End of Season Showcase Concert	Full band event, more details nearer the time

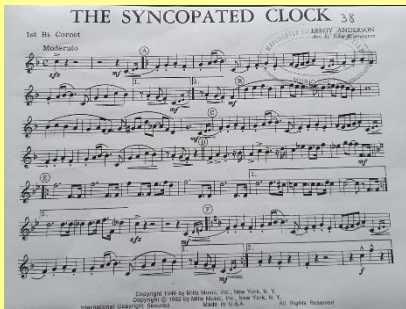
MUSIC MATTERS: Back to Rehearsals and new musical challenges:

Back to Rehearsals – Wednesday 12th January 2022:



Two years, almost to the day, since Alan presided over his very first rehearsal with the band, we kicked off 2022 under his baton and began to explore new, and rediscover old music. A good start to the year band. Thank you.

New Music – programme development ahead of our Spring Showcase Concert, 19th March:



With Christmas behind us and 2022 stretching ahead, Alan has been reviewing our extensive library catalogue (see Library Corner later in this issue) and along with pieces that we first tried two years ago (before the initial lockdown struck) has spent the first three rehearsals of the new year reviewing options.

Last played during 2019, old favourite **Amparito Roca**, makes a welcome return to our pads along with **Gershwin Classics**, **At the Movies** and **Centennial Olympics** (played in part at Christmas) that Alan and Jane introduced in the 9 weeks of rehearsals pre lockdown in 2020. In addition two pieces, that to my knowledge we haven't played before, have been introduced:

The Syncopated Clock (pictured above and penned by Leroy Anderson of Sleigh Ride fame) and **Manilow Magic** featuring a medley of perhaps lesser known hits from Barry's catalogue; although I think any uber-fan would say they are all well known. This latter piece in particular, first tried on 26th January, was not looking like it had much of a future in our pads, however, a second play through went well and Manilow may have earned a reprieve? As Alan mentions above, private practice is an important supplement to regular attendance at rehearsals and with our first performance of 2022 less than two months away, it's time to play the music!. Enjoy.

CRUMPSALL CONCERT BAND – Band Heritage Series Part 18A: Bavarian Nights, M/cr 8:



In Part 18 we closed out the 1970's (or so I thought) and Part 19 will see us launch into the 1980s. However, before we move forward, I have recently come into possession of the photograph left, featuring our Honorary President, Founder and current Horn Player Derek Farnell and his 'Umpah Band'.

For those that have followed our heritage series from the beginning, stretching back to Derek and his mate Cliff Bevan in the Harpurhey & Moston Silver Prize Band and 209th Crumpsall Park Methodist Scout Band from the early 1950's, may remember, Derek serving his National Service as a musician with the 3rd King's Own Hussars based in, Iserlohn, Germany 1955 – 58. That German / Austrian musical influence has never left Derek and upon founding our band in 1993, he quickly added many Bavarian pieces to our pads and indeed we held **Bavarian Evenings**, usually at Crumpsall Labour Club, as social / fundraising occasions for our fledgling band in the 1990s. See the setlist from our Bavarian Evening 18/10/1997 right

CRUMPSALL COMETS CONCERT BAND BAVARIAN EVENING, SAT 18 th OCT '97: ORDER OF PLAY.	
1.	RADETZKY MARCH
2.	DIE FLEDERMAUS
3.	TYROLEAN BELLS
4.	BLUE DANUBE
5.	KURTURSTEN REITERMARSCH
6.	WIEN BLEIBT WIEN
7.	MERRY WIDOW (Starting at Tempo di Marcia)
8.	TRISCH TRASCH POLKA
9.	WALTZING WITH WALDTEUFAL <i>> Happy Birthday</i> <i>May Swales</i>
10.	BAVARIAN BIERFEST <i>Mr Nelson</i>
NOTES / CHANGES: <i>Eileen</i>	

that maybe Sue can see if we still have in our library? Derek and his Umpah Band performed a slot between our two sets and members of the audience were invited up to play (or try and play) the 8ft Alpine Horn as pictured. They were great nights and may be something to consider in the future perhaps? Pictured above left in full regalia, is one of many iterations of Derek's Umpah Band taken in the small hall at the Methodist Church (the one we use as our changing room on a Wednesday) not long after the new building opened – probably around 1978. Holding the Alpine Horn from front to back: Derek Farnell, Roland Maffia (later to become a clarinettist / saxophonist with our band), John Jones (the well liked compere of social evenings at the church back in the day) and Derek and Amy's son, Nigel. Their daughter Wendy is pictured sitting on the floor with a clarinet next to the Tuba player. I am sure Derek will be pleased to share stories of such evenings if prompted? 'Prost'

Thanks for reading, RF

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

Get well soon – Very Best Wishes:

To those members suffering anguish or ailments at present...*you know who you are....*know that the thoughts and best wishes of our CCB family are with you, for complete and speedy recoveries.

A warm CCB welcome – January's new recruits:



Our flute section have received a new year boost in numbers as we welcome Francesca (left) and Felicity (Right) to the band on 12th and 19th January respectively. Thanks to Jo and the section for helping both settle in and to Tricia (designated flute section music librarian) for sorting out all their music requirements. On behalf of the band, welcome Fran and Fliss and we hope you enjoy a long and happy time with this community thing of ours. Enjoy 😊

STAT ATTACK – January Rehearsals - Facts & Figures:

Date >>>	12/01/2022	19/01/2022	26/01/2022		Average	Season High
Attended >	24	24	21		23	29 (24 th Nov'21)
Individual musicians who have attended at least one rehearsal/event in January: 30 Season to date: 45						

Co2 Concentration Analysis: Rehearsal Date	Average Co2 ppm Store Room End	Average Co2 ppm Foyer End	Overall Average Co2 ppm Rehearsal Hall
12 th January 2022	572.3	524.0	548.2
26 th January 2022	547.0	513.0	530.0
Detector Location Average	559.7	518.5	539.1

Recommended maximum Co2 indoor measure (schools and offices) 1,000 ppm.

Fact Attack: At 12th January, our 20/21 lockdown recordings had notched up 5,008 You Tube hits with Mamma Mia and The Muppets being firm favourites, clocking up over 1,000 hits each. The Muppets one still makes me smile 😊

CAT's ENTERTAINMENT – Feline stars in our midst:



Sarah and Charlotte cuddle their lockdown kittens, Bernie and Zeus respectively, on our Zoom meeting, 6th May 2020. In December 2021, Zeus took stardom to another level with a potential 2022 band Christmas card photo shoot (*what do you think Enid?*). Whilst cute, not sure Zeus is exuding obvious signs of Christmas spirit? 😊. Thanks for the picture Sarah.

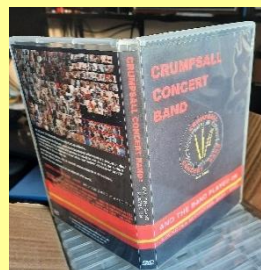
Health & Safety Update – First Aider News – can you assist? :



Congratulations to Alto Saxophonist Caroline, who has recently refreshed her First Aid Qualification (*certificate on display in the band room*) and has kindly agreed to continue as our designated First Aider. Caroline is going to review our first aid kit (*also in the band room*) and any related requirements and advise the committee on what is needed. To support Caroline in her role and to provide contingency, anyone who is currently or lapsed qualified or is keen to refresh or become qualified (with our support), and wants to help, please let Caroline or one of the committee know at your soonest opportunity. Thank you.



Update - Commemorative DVD 'And the Band Played On' is almost there:



As mentioned last issue, we had hoped that our commemorative DVD capturing the spirit of survival during the pandemic, would be 'on the shelves' by now. To whet your appetite, as pictured, the packaging is polished and ready. The DVD itself is on the 4th stage of pre production edit as we are determined it will be as professionally produced as possible before release. **You deserve it, the content demands it & the wait should be worth it.** Apologies for the delay and as soon as ready we will let everyone know and begin despatch of pre orders. Thanks for your patience and understanding and continued thanks to Stuart for his diligence around this project. RF



Greetings Cards 2022 - Thank You, Update on Up-cycling:



Crumpsall's Willowhill Road / Kearsley Road postbox topped with a knitted Christmas scene, is a suitable reminder of the recently lapsed festive period and is a relevant link to our appeal for Christmas and general greetings card donations that Enid has kindly offered to up-cycle and re-sell in aid of band funds. The 2021 appeal started fairly late but still netted around £50 for our funds and Enid hopes a long lead in time and more diverse choice of cards this year, will yield greater financial rewards for the band.

Message from Enid: Grateful thanks for all donations received so far (see the collection bin pic from our 2nd rehearsal back) and I am already busy sorting and categorising the various festive themes as well as doing the same with birthday and other occasion greetings cards that have been donated too. In the coming weeks I hope to have Easter & Birthday cards available to purchase at your rehearsals and at Methodist Church Services starting this Sunday, 30th January. It's a great project for me to help support the band and once again thanks for all card donations (keep them coming please) and to all customers for your generosity. Enid. S



Committee News - Including - AGM Preview, Fund Raising & Finance, Covid Precautions latest:



With no rehearsal on 5th January, your Committee took the opportunity to interact with our old friend Zoom and held our first meeting of the new term (gate crashed by another old friend, Kermit 😊). As well as reviewing the very busy autumn term, understanding the rapid rise of Omicron, but also recognising that society was opening up more and more, we collated the known dates of our pre pandemic standard local events that prior to Covid, we perhaps took for granted (see Calendar dates on Page 1). We are also keen to engage with our Conductor Alan (and Jane) for input into programmes and events, during and beyond this term.

We also set the date for our 21/22 AGM as Wednesday 13th April and are planning this to take place as part of a rehearsal evening and follow it with a social gathering for those who want to partake. Again, please see the Calendar Dates for details and more features will appear in subsequent newsletters as the AGM draws nearer. We do have fun at our meetings (as you can see above) and if anyone feels moved to become more involved and perhaps even join the committee, or just want to understand a bit more about what's involved before making any decision, we'd be delighted to hear from you. Please don't be shy.

Covid Precautions:

Since our meeting on 5th January, you will be aware that 'Plan B' restrictions have now largely disappeared in England and whilst we are still maintaining 'one player, one stand' and distancing protocols whilst rehearsing and in communal areas on arrival, at the end and during the break, we are reverting to masks being optional from Wednesday 2nd February until further notice. In principle, masks are there to protect others from you, not necessarily the other way round and the value of testing ahead of each rehearsal has proved effective in significantly reducing the risk of infection for anyone attending a rehearsal. Please continue to test if you can. All other protocols such as ventilation etc are remaining in place as per our Covid risk assessment. We have also tentatively looked at the possibility of a traditional break with a brew and biscuits (harking back to Norman's days pre pandemic) and we welcome your views around this. Participation would clearly be optional and members should still bring their own sustenance to rehearsals for now at least. Member welfare, ultimately remains paramount as we hopefully inch cautiously towards longer term normality.

Fundraising and Finance:

Subs for the current term are now due at £32.50 and thanks to those who have already paid. Weekly payments are still an option but we are only accepting payment by debit card or cheque please. Our next payment to the Church for use of the premises, is due at the end of February and termly subscriptions help us meet the costs, thanks.

Local Grant: We were recently informed of a grant scheme inviting local groups and organisations to submit a bid. Within a tight deadline of 28th January, your committee shared ideas remotely regarding items that we would wish to purchase in support of updating and enhancing some tired stock (such as our rehearsal pads) and adding momentum to our sustainable recovery whilst continuing to serve our communities. I am pleased to report that our Treasurer Stuart, pulled everything together and submitted our bid on Monday 24th January and please keep everything crossed for a successful outcome....we should hear soon either way.

Many thanks and all the best, Your Committee.

Behind the scenes - Updated Notice Board - signposting what we are about:

As part of our commitment to MCC under our license agreement, and to remain relevant, we endeavour to keep our notice board up to date and over the festive break we did just that. Now the hall and general premises are being used most evenings, the board is an important 'shop window' for the band. Currently it displays articles and pictures relating to last term, dates for the term ahead and a resource pack where hard copy newsletter back issues and concert programmes can be taken away by those who want to learn more about the band. It also displays a poster, hopefully helping attract new recruits and shows all our on-line access options for anyone interested, to learn more. If you get chance, please take a look over the board one Wednesday and if there is anything you think will enhance it's content and attract wider interest in our band, we would be pleased to hear your suggestions. Thank you.



Childs Play: From the mouths of children – What’s this instrument ?



Without doubt, looking at the range of instruments the band plays through the eyes of a child, it is probably fair to say that amongst the most unusual looking is the noble Bassoon. Sue recalls a time when a youngster referred to her instrument as ‘a stick’. However, where you can perhaps see where they are coming from with this observation,

recently, a young daughter of one of our members informed her mummy with a degree of certainty that, ‘there’s a woman in the band who plays the ‘baboon’’. 😊 (Still laughing now – Ed)

Library Corner – Part 3 – Excellent Progress and Artistic Scores:

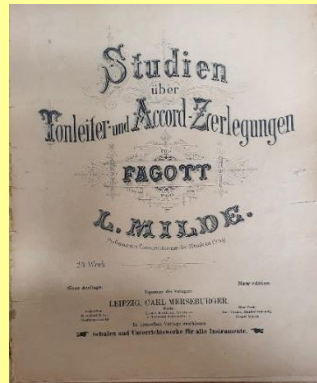
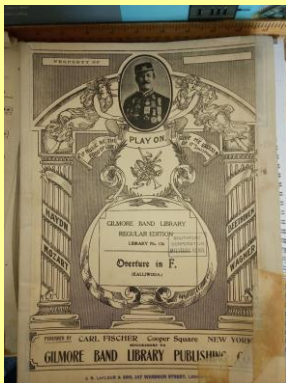
As we returned to rehearsals on 12th January, Sue, helped by family members Stuart and Joe, brought in the next batch of sorted scores that she had been busy cataloguing over the festive break. Pictured right is Joe slotting in the newly catalogued scores which now total 703.

CCB MUSIC LIBRARY:	
1/9/21	634 catalogued pieces on the shelves
13/10/21	659 — " —
12/01/22	703 — " —

Another milestone passed Sue and thanks for your continued hard work and for the support with printing from **Honorary Vice President, Eva Jacobs**. The whole Library project is a very efficient cottage industry and as we progress deeper into the archives more gems continue to surface.



Just look at some of the **exquisite artwork and lettering** on some of the covers Sue has come across as she delves into dusty boxes. They range from over 100 years old to the more contemporary and I am sure there is more yet to unearth:



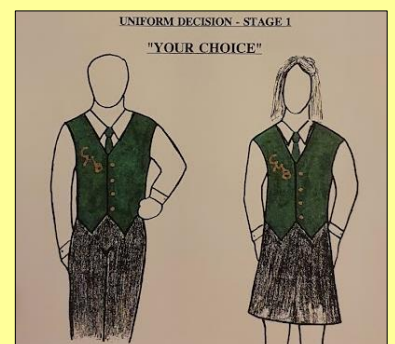
Episode 4 – “ALMOST IN THE BAND !!!” – Anon

As a nod to all those times you’ve seen someone and thought “Hmmm, the way they’re dressed they look like they’re in the band – but they’re not!!” we present the next episode in our feature called “Almost in the Band”. Here we have another clip from CH4’s *Phoenix Nights*.



Here are Jerry ‘The Saint’ St. Clair (Dake Spikey) and Alan Johnson (Steve Edge) performing in Asda. Having just played *Black Bin Bags* (to the tune of Will Smith’s *Men in Black*, itself a re-working of Patrice Rushen’s *Forget Me Nots*), they have now launched into *Corned Beef* (originally *Call Me* by Tony Hatch). “Stop right there!” we hear you exclaim. “Okay, yes, the red bow tie, white shirt and black trousers were a feature of band uniform circa 2008-2013 but what’s with the green waistcoat. Wasn’t it red????!”

Fear not, noble reader, for you are indeed correct. The red waistcoat was a band staple around 2000-2008 and worn with a white shirt and the ‘Crumpsall Comets’ black tie. But extensive digging reveals a “design a uniform” competition in 1994, where a green waistcoat was proposed (winning design, as pictured right, by Barbara Shaw as featured the original series of *The Herald*, **Volume 2 1994** but, lack of funds prevented the green waistcoat ever becoming band uniform). For us to suggest the above ASDA Price photo demonstrates some alternate reality crossover between Phoenix Nights and CCB would be a new low for this feature, and we’re sure that fact is not lost on Jerry and Alan.



But we all know that the world of *Phoenix Nights* and CCB have never crossed paths, and that's why Jerry, Alan and all the staff of ASDA in 2002 when the programme was recorded were only **"ALMOST IN THE BAND"**.

Post script

We received a letter from a Mr. W.H. of Uffington, Oxfordshire, enclosing the following photograph. Says Mr W.H.....



"I read with some interest the recent episodes of your barely passable serial *Almost in the Band* and thought I had to send in this picture of The Human League in their classic original line up, before all that nonsense with the dancers. Note keyboard player and backing vocalist Martyn Ware on the left wearing red tie and black shirt and no doubt knocking out some fat bass lines on the Roland Jupiter 4. Not sure what's going on with the cream jacket though."

Thank you Mr. W.H. for your contribution to our series. We can confirm that Martyn is indeed **"ALMOST IN THE BAND"**. As for the jacket, we can only imagine it was chucking it down outside in Sheffield.

Have you seen a picture of a celebrity wearing something which bears some fleeting resemblance to any piece of uniform the CCB used to or currently wears? Let us know and we can clear up the confusion by letting everyone know they were only **"ALMOST IN THE BAND"**.

Our Memories – What were we up to as a band 1, 2, 3 and 4 years ago this month?:

January 2021:

With the country back in full lock down, our Zoom get-together on Wed 27th Jan saw Caroline hosting a 'House of Games' style quiz and those who were able to attend had a fantastic time. This month we also recorded *'Always Look on the Bright Side of Life'*. An appropriate title given the circumstances.



January 2020:



<<More Chairs and stands please 😊

Second rehearsal of the New Year, Wed 15th January 2020 with Alan conducting for the 2nd time and a further 10 new recruits arrived; a further 7 came the week before making 42 at rehearsal with 7 regulars giving their apologiesWow!

January 2019:

Rosie Kingham's 2nd rehearsal, 16/01/19, after taking over as our Conductor following Kathryn Burke's retirement in December 2018. On 23rd January 2019 **Volume 1 Issue 1** of **Your New Herald** was released. A collector's item now 😊



January 2018:

After a very hectic festive programme leading up to Christmas 2017, that ended with the Community Carol Service at Methodist Church Crumpsall, Conductor Kate Burke and the Committee, chaired by Eva Jacobs, decided to give the band all of January 2018 off. 2018 rehearsals commencing on the first Wednesday in February. Not so generous these days 😊

THE LAST BIT:

Vote of thanks – Thanks to all contributors this month including Alan, Enid and Anon.

Next Issue – Due late February will include all regular features, plus a preview of our concert on 19th March.

And Finally – You and Yours keep safe and well and many thanks for reading, Rob