

'Hark the CCB Herald'



THE NEW HERALD

Newsletter of

CRUMPSALL CONCERT BAND

WELCOME TO **SEASON 3**
CRUMPSALL CONCERT BAND
Est. 1993

"Belated Happy New Year"
Happy 4th Anniversary; New Herald

Volume 5 Issue 5 (Edition 47)
31st January 2023

Hello & Welcome to the New Year 2023 edition of Your *New Herald* that looks ahead to our 30th Birthday Year celebrations and events (see Calendar Dates). This edition, (No47), also marks the 4th anniversary of your **New Herald**, launched in January 2019 and pictured left. 2023 began on a positive note for the band with a post pandemic record rehearsal attendance of 33 on 11th January but, as the month drew to a close it is with sadness that we report the passing of a stalwart supporter of our band, Amy Farnell, and a tribute to Amy is included in this issue. Also, our elder statesman, bassoonist Doug Graham has recently suffered a stroke and is undergoing rehab and along with Derek and all of Amy's family and friends our thoughts and prayers also extend to Doug, Brenda and all their family and friends too. For the latest on Doug's condition, please see the **Band News** section below. **In Breaking News**, we can now reveal the date and venue for our planned Birthday Spectacular Concert this summer and please see Calendar Dates for full details. Belated Happy New Year to You and Yours and enjoy the read, Yours in Banding, Rob



Included In Your December Issue:

Calendar Dates 2023; Music Matters incl. Back to Rehearsals, Library Corner, Training Band Update; In Memory of Amy Farnell; Band News, Views & Banter incl. Stats Attack, Welcome to a New Year Recruit and more; Thanks for Reading!

2023

Band Calendar Dates: Please save the dates; thanks

2023

DATE/TIMES	EVENT	NOTES
Sat 1 st April 2023 Concert Starts at 7pm Band to meet at 6pm	 Spring Showcase Concert Methodist Church Crumpsall	As a thank you to our supporters, this concert, our 1 st event of our 30 th year, will be FREE ADMISSION – (donations for refreshments appreciated).
Sun 7 th May 2023 Early Afternoon	King's Coronation 'Street Party' Kearsley Road, Crumpsall 	Similar event to last year's 'Street Party' on Kearsley Road where we played to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. More details to follow.
Sat 13 th May 2023 Morning	 Spring Fair & Coffee Morning Methodist Church Crumpsall	The post pandemic return of an old favourite that we last played for in Spring 2019 with Rosie Kingham making her Conducting Debut with the band that day.
Sat 17 th June 2023 Times to be confirmed	Bandemonium Bury Town Centre	Our precise location in the Town Centre and allocated timing slot will be advised in the near future.
Wed 21 st June 2023 Normal Rehearsal Times	 National 'Make Music' Day Open Rehearsal at MCC	Sponsored by Making Music, to whom we are affiliated, this is an ideal opportunity for friends and supporters to come and see us in rehearsal mode.
Sun 2 nd / 9 th July 2023 Date to be Confirmed by the organisers	Herristone Park Summer Fair Herristone Park, Crumpsall	Date and times to be confirmed and we usually meet 1.30pm ready to play at 2pm. <i>For info: last year's event was Sunday 3rd July 2022.</i>
Sun 16 th July 2023 Concert Starts 7pm	CRUMPSALL CONCERT BAND Spectacular 30 th Birthday Concert, Ukrainian Cultural Centre, Smedley Lane, Cheetham Hill, Mcr, M8 8XB 	Ahead of the band turning 30 on 24 th July, this is our big birthday showcase event at a local venue (approx. a mile from our HQ). Some of you may remember us playing there on stage for our first major post pandemic gig as part of the Cheetham Cultural Festival in Sept 2021. Full details nearer the time.

MUSIC MATTERS: Back to Rehearsals, Library Corner & Training Band Update:

Back to Rehearsals - A Post Pandemic attendance record as we returned to 2 hour rehearsals:



Our 30th Birthday Year began with a move back to 2 hour rehearsals on 11th January that attracted a post pandemic record turnout. A survey of your favourite pieces took place between 2nd and 4th January (with some stragglers allowed) and big thanks to Sue and Stuart for getting the library list together to help jog memories. Thanks to the vast majority of members who took part and based largely on the results, we have been able to inform Maren of the selected pieces so they can plan rehearsals accordingly. More info in the *Library Corner* article below:

Library Corner - Out with the Old and In with the New (old) as our pads get a retro makeover:



Not since well before the pandemic have our pads been subject to such an overhaul which began in earnest at our first rehearsal back after the festive break, on 11th January. An incredible 31 pieces were handed back and around 17, largely comprising favourites you have chosen from our three decades, have gone out so far to form the nucleus of programmes that will feature throughout this celebratory year. Such a turnaround has posed a significant challenge for our Librarian Sue who is to be congratulated on progress so far; cataloguing all 31 returning pieces whilst, with good support from Stuart, distributing parts for our 2023 pads.

Attention all members: In sorting out the returned pieces there are some that are missing parts and Sue will compile a list that will be posted on Facebook, circulated with the registration email and added to our notice board at MCC giving everyone a chance to have

a root through their collections and return any missing parts to the Library via Sue as soon as possible.

In addition: other than our percussionist, no rehearsal pads are to be taken home and that includes pieces from within the pads. It may be possible to arrange copies or you can take photos of parts and print for personal use but no actual pieces to be taken home. Thanks



Thanks again to Sue, Stuart and those who have helped with the handing in and distribution process in particular. *Your Committee*

Growing a Legacy - Training / Development Band Update:



As mentioned previously, to support longer term growth and sustainability of our band, provide opportunities in music for all ages from relative beginners to returners who have had a break from playing and opportunities for current members to contribute to the Training set up too, we are ready to begin creating this valuable legacy in this, our 30th Birthday Year.

Pictured left, Doug Graham conducts our 'Junior Band' at a VE/VJ Day celebration event at MCC on 10th July 2005. The 'Junior Comets' were formed on 14th January 1998 originally under the Baton of Avril Duncan but sadly, this section of our band ceased to exist around 2007. But, with an added adult dynamic, a training / development band is something we are aiming to resurrect this year.

The first stage is to look at all the logistical and legal matters that need to be addressed including, making changes to our constitution, safeguarding, first aid considerations and much more.

To help achieve this, myself and Ruthanna from the main Exec Committee, will be establishing a sub – Committee to report back and oversee the creation of our training and development band. Former Principal Conductor, Alan Cottrill and his wife Jane (Trombone and flute) have kindly agreed to contribute advice and guidance based on their experience in running Werneth Youth Concert Band for many years. In addition, from within our current ranks, so far Joe Greenway and Stuart Fieldhouse have offered support to the discussion too. We hope to hold our first sub-committee meeting during February and anyone else who wants to get involved at this stage, please let Ruthanna or I know. Many thanks, Rob

A tribute to one of our own - Amy Dorothy Farnell 7th August 1937 - 29th January 2023



Amy had struggled with various ailments these past few weeks in particular and was admitted to NMGH on 21st January passing away peacefully in her sleep in the early hours of Sunday 29th. Following her sad passing, on behalf of the Band's Executive Committee, the wider membership and supporter base, we extend our sincere condolences, thoughts and prayers to her Husband (and our founder) Derek, daughter Wendy, son Nigel, her sister Barbara and all their family and friends, at this sad and difficult time.

Although Amy's support for Derek and our band (and indeed before 1993, with the Scout & Guide Band) was largely in the background, nevertheless it was crucial to the smooth running, in particular of our band, for many years. Back in late 1992, when Derek let me know that he intended to retire his position of Bandmaster of the Scout and Guide Band at the end of the 92/93 season (after a decade of growth and huge success locally, regionally and nationally), he confided that he wanted to set up an independent marching / concert band in Crumpsall. Discreetly, word of this was passed amongst fellow senior instructors and at the end of 1992 Amy and Derek hosted a confidential meeting at their house, to begin looking at future banding options for Crumpsall. Amy was ever the perfect hostess keeping us plied with tea and cakes and contributed her valued opinions to the conversation as an alternative future moved from concept to a real possibility following several such meetings at 82 Crumpsall Lane, in the early months of 1993.

Like all involved in the creation of our band, Amy was keen to ensure we honoured all commitments to the Scout and Guide Band right up to Friday 23rd July 1993 (the end of the season) ahead of our official formation the following day. Ahead of this, and in particular at an inaugural meeting held on 1st July 1993 to launch a constitution and framework for the new band (to be known then as Crumpsall Marching Band), Amy was elected onto the Committee as our first Treasurer. Amy was the natural choice as she ran her own business and was the serving Treasurer at Methodist Church Crumpsall. Amy held the Treasurer position on the band Executive Committee for almost 20 years up to her retirement in the summer of 2012.

In addition, Amy served refreshments at band rehearsals from 1993 (20p a brew) being succeeded by Les and Norman from 2012 and also helped Derek in a librarian capacity to manage the music donated from his personal collection and that he'd acquired from countless sources over many years. Amy was also a fine seamstress and hastily made green bow ties to finish off our first uniform for

our first performance when we were just 1 week old. She made a whole batch of red waistcoats for the band too and these were part of uniform for many years from around the turn of the century. Without all this selfless service and support it's hard to imagine how we would have managed, particularly financially, especially in those crucial early years. It goes without saying that we owe Amy a huge debt of gratitude and her enduring legacy of contributing to a firm foundation, will see us long into the future, I'm sure. Thanks Amy and may you rest in peace, Rob

Our tribute to Amy, continues in words and pictures; the latter being hard to find as Amy was our photographer for many years therefore not often found in shot. However, we found a few which can be seen below with band member memories interspersed too, but first, we go right back to the beginning leading to a marriage lasting over 64 years:

Amy Dorothy Graham was born on 7th August 1937 spending her early years living on Walney Island, near Barrow, with her parents Sidney and Greta. Her younger sister Barbara was born into war time Britain in August 1944 and during the winter of 1947 the family moved to No3 Linn Street, Crumpsall, Manchester.



The family attended Crumpsall Park Methodist Church where Amy joined the 7th Crumpsall Guides and she transferred her schooling from Walney to Crumpsall Lane Primary for the final months of her Junior education. Amy as a Girl Guide, is pictured right, aged 13 holding the flag, stood alongside Guider Margaret Hargreaves (now Phair), in the grounds of the Methodist Church on a sunny June day in 1951.



Her future husband Derek, being almost 3 years older, was, a Rover Scout in the 209th Group at the Church and by this stage was already in the Scout Band with good friend Cliff Bevan. Some time later a budding romance between Derek and Amy flourished and following Derek's National Service in Iserlohn, Germany, the



happy couple were married by Rev'd Clifford Cook at Crumpsall Park Methodist Church on 2nd August 1958, just 5 days before Amy's 21st. Their early married life was spent living in Moston and they returned to Crumpsall in 1963 and purchased their 'home for life', No 82 Crumpsall Lane.

Celebrating Amy during our era from 1993 - Crumpsall Concert Band (Originally Crumpsall Marching Band):



In the beginning, the band had no financial resource and urgent funds were required: Pictured left- Some of the Parents & Supporters of the Band (POBS). L-R: Barbara Shaw, Jill Dodge, Kath Wilson and Amy Farnell at the fledgling band's first fundraiser – An Attic Sale in aid of band funds at MCC on 11th September 1993, taking place ahead of our first full rehearsal on 16th. Amy also managed the collection and banking of weekly band subscriptions and to provide us with some working capital supplemented by fundraising, she oversaw the collection of annual membership fees from members and patrons too.



Pictured left: The busy Back Room Team organising refreshments in the kitchen at St Matthew's Parish Hall at the band's fundraising 60s/70s Night, 26th February 1994. Back Row: Stan Herbert and Andrew Shaw. Middle Row: Bernice Blood, Amy Farnell, Barbara Shaw, Kath Wilson. Front Row: Sue Mayoss, and Jill Dodge.

In the early days 'twas a large committee incorporating our hard pressed fundraising team. Pictured right, a first season committee meeting, June 1994, at the Crumpsall Labour Club Chaired by Barbara Shaw (front centre) L-R Andrew Shaw, Bernice Blood, Kath Wilson, Jill Dodge, Amy Farnell (Treasurer), Rosa Slater (Secretary) Stan Herbert & Diane Chivers. (Out of shot, Derek Farnell, Rob Fullen and Ian Burke, at the bar 😊).



Pictured left: Our inaugural Treasurer, Amy, with Secretary Rosa Slater staffing the door at our St Matthew's Parish Hall HQ to welcome members and supporters to our very first AGM; Thurs 8th September 1994. Pictured right: Amy, Methodist Church and Band Treasurer, preparing the float ahead of a Jumble Sale at MCC in aid of Band Funds 08/10/1994 (Derek's 60th Birthday but Shhhhh):



The following day, Sunday 9th October 1994, **Amy had arranged a surprise 60th birthday party for Derek** at the Methodist Church to be attended by 90 guests with a **fanfare team** from the band comprising **Ian Burke Bass, Dave Lynch Trombone and Trumpets, Mandy Burke, Julie Lynch and Rob Fullen** announcing Derek's arrival into the main hall followed by applause and a large shout of "SURPRISE" from all the guests. How Amy kept that quiet I'll never know; especially at the Jumble Sale fundraiser the day before when most if not all of us helping out (except the main man of course) were in on our sneaky treasurer's big secret. **The following article featured in Volume 2 Issue 2 of the original 'Herald' Newsletter of our Band:**

"BAND ON VIEW"
DEREK'S SURPRISE BIRTHDAY PARTY
SUNDAY 9th OCTOBER 1994

You normally have to be up very early in the morning to catch Derek out, but there is no doubting that our sneaky treasurer, and Derek's wife, Amy did just that. Derek, the shy and retiring type (honest), spent his 60th Birthday on 8th October helping prepare the Jumble Sale; hardly anyone mentioned the occasion and he must have thought "thank heavens - I've got away with not so much as a rendition of Happy Birthday". Little did he know that behind the scenes Amy had organised a fanfare team, a sit down lunch for 90 guests and even baked a cake right under Derek's nose all ready for a surprise party held at the Methodist Church the following day. The picture below of Derek shooting the fanfare squad as 90 guests applauded his entry tells the story of just how surprised he was.....



Left: Ian Burke, David Lynch, Mandy Burke, Julie Lynch, and Rob Fullen

DUN BLOWIN

NEWSLETTER
 The Crumpsall Comets
 Marching & Concert
 Band.

Happy Birthday Celebrations

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



On a smaller scale, Derek gets his own back on Amy following her surprise for his 60th in 1994 by organising a band line up to **serenade Amy** with a rendition of **Happy Birthday** on her 60th in August 1997 on the front drive of their home on Crumpsall Lane. This made the front page of our October 1997 issue of the band's newsletter, renamed '**Dun Blowin**', and the band line up that morning from Left to Right was **Barbara Shaw, Cymbals, Trumpeters Ian Dumville and Rob Fullen with Jonathan and Andrew Shaw on Trombone. Amy enjoyed her surprise 😊**

VE/VJ Day Anniversary Celebrations – MCC - 10th July 2005 that featured an afternoon of music accompanying the MCC garden party. The main **Concert Band** was conducted by Derek in a combination of his old Scout & Guide Band Uniform topped with his hat from the 3rd Kings Hussars Band that he retained after being demobbed from National Service in 1958. **Amy is pictured alongside Derek, fully embracing the historic celebrations.**

Doug Graham conducted our **Junior Comets** during the afternoon too and the **Crumpsall Scout & Guide Band** played ahead and after the morning's thanks giving service.





'Mug Shots' of some of the Exec Committee on our band notice board from the late 2000s.

L-R Derek and **Amy Farnell**, future Committee Chair Julie Thompson and Cyril Weinkove.



Circa 2009 Amy, in her beautiful garden, captured the moment on film of **Derek** hanging music from our library to air and dry on their washing line following a flood in the basement of the Parish Hall where our library and stock instruments were once stored. Derek is pictured salvaging the score for **'When the Stars Began to Fall'** (a piece that in 2020 would become one of our lockdown recordings and is in our current pads by popular demand) and on the washing line are a set of books called **'First Blow'** previously used by our Junior Band. **Les, Shirley, Julie** and **Hilary** recall **Amy** labouring away in the dank, dim, damp basement conditions in the Parish Hall, sometimes aided by **Les** and **Norman**, cataloguing music onto handwritten lists whilst the band rehearsed in the relative comfort of the main hall upstairs. During rehearsal breaks, **Shirley** remembers checking if **Amy** needed a hand. Later, those handwritten lists were transferred to spreadsheets by **Julie** and remained a valuable record of our library that our current librarian **Sue** has developed still further since taking on the role in 2016.



I referred earlier to **Amy's lovely garden**, their small plots front and back of their home on Crumpsall Lane were year after a year a riotous display of spring and summer colour; various varieties of fuchsia, Japanese Anemones and the full range of summer bedding in pots, tubs and baskets as you can see beneath the fluttering sheets of music. A colourful haven that both **Derek and Amy** enjoyed relaxing in, when time allowed.



Sightseeing around the Tall Ships, Bremerhaven, Germany ahead of a joint band concert on our band's only trip abroad to date in August 2011. Amy is pictured between **Alan** and **Cyril** with **Eva Kahan** to the right of **Cyril** on the left of the photo. **Derek** front centre and **Hilary** front right. **Doug** is in the centre of the back row in his shades as is **Julie**, back row towards the right. **Just some of the CCB contingent on a special trip that Derek and Amy marked as their finest moment with the band ahead of retiring from their respective positions a year later.**

Amy, on cake cutting duty at the Band's summer concert in July 2012 marking their retirement from formal positions as **Treasurer** and **Band Leader** respectively, after almost 20 years. **Derek** handed the baton onto **Kathryn Burke** whilst **Amy** passed the books and accounts to Clarinettist, **Margaret Gadian**. **Amy and Derek** remained firm supporters of the band and **Derek** of course returned to active participation on French Horn, post pandemic, in September 2021. **Amy herself loved to receive and read our monthly newsletter as a way of keeping up to date with the band, especially during lockdown.**



Pic left: Off to see the Queen – Buckingham Palace Garden Party; 12th May 2015 in recognition of Derek's outstanding service to the Youth and Music in Greater Manchester supported all the way by his wife Amy. A much deserved accolade for a lifetime spent in service, through music.

Further selected memories from some of our band are as follows:

Alan Bernstein remembers – Amy celebrated her 70th birthday with a party at Cheetham Hill Cricket Club. A Clarinet quartet from the band played a set and Amy was particularly tickled by one number we played "Once in Love with Amy" 😊

Julie Thompson Remembers - When we went to Bremerhaven (Aug 2011) I remember Amy organising and making lunch for our band and the German band, when we had to spend all day at the venue having a dress rehearsal for the joint concert we were to put on in the evening. I remember our German colleagues being quite perplexed by the tinned salmon on the sandwiches, I don't think they'd ever had salmon from a tin before! 😊

Hilary Hill Remembers – I think of Amy down in the large basement of our then HQ at St Matthew's Parish Hall, with all the music laid out week after week as she catalogued parts for each piece in our library.

Barbara Shaw Remembers – the last act for many with the Scout & Guide Band (23/7/1993) before our band formed a day later – **Amy and Derek** organised a trip out into the countryside to their favourite Tea Rooms (Millcroft Tea Rooms, Norden, Rochdale) on a sunny Friday evening. Parents, supporters and bandmembers all joined in a massive game of rounders on a field full of cow pats and we had refreshments in the old tea rooms. The occasion was great and is still talked about to this day. (Ed: this ended one chapter in Amy's Support for banding as another, ours, was about to begin)



Funeral Arrangements The family have confirmed that **Amy's funeral will take place at Blackley Crematorium, Victoria Avenue, Manchester M9 8PJ on Tuesday 28th February 2023 at 1pm.**

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

STAT ATTACK – January 2023 Rehearsals, Events, Instagram - Facts & Figures:

Date >>>	11/01	18/01	18/01				Average	Season High
Attended >	33	28	28				29.67	33 11/01/2023
Individual musicians who have attended at least one rehearsal / event in Jan:							35	Season to date: 46

Instagram Stats (from launch on 20th April 2022) as at end of Jan 2023:

Number of followers: 191

Number of Views/ Accounts: 10,169 (increase of 98 on last month)

Most Popular Video: *Lord of the Dance* - Spring Concert; 19th March 2022; 3,068 views.



Welcome – To returning Flautist Ashley McAulay 11th January 2023:



After getting back in touch with us, initially via Aaron, it was great to welcome Ash back on flute having had a break from our band due to University and other projects since 2018. Ash, now back in the area, is delighted to be back playing flute with us once again and was glad to see so many familiar faces at his first rehearsal on 11th January, settling in straight away as we began work on a new rehearsal pad for our 30th Birthday year. Whilst Ashley has been away graduating from University and gaining a **Masters Degree in Music Performance** (Congratulatiuons Ash) they have also been playing with various ensembles including an Indian Rock fusion band, Contemporary Ensembles, University of York Symphony Orchestra, Flute Ensembles and World Music ensemble. Although Ash's preferred instrument is the Flute they also play Alto Saxophone.

Pictured left, **Ashley** at their first rehearsal back with CCB on 11th January and right with some flute section colleagues at a Festive Concert back in December 2016. *Front: Megan Burke, Caroline Hall, Back: Ash, Jo Baynham, Catherine Kay and John Catterall.* Our door is always open to returning members and we hope you continue to enjoy being back with us Ash.



Thinking of you – Doug & Brenda Graham: : Doug pictured playing at the Woodthorpe back on 22nd December:



On Wednesday 25th January, Brenda called to say that Doug was not feeling too good and had taken himself to bed and wouldn't be coming to band. The following day, he was admitted to North Manchester General Hospital where he was diagnosed with a bleed on the brain. This intensified and at that stage the prognosis was not the best. However, thankfully Doug responded sufficiently well to initial treatments and was transferred to the Stroke Trauma Unit at Fairfield Hospital, Bury last Sunday evening where he has made steady progress this past week and will shortly be transferred to the stroke rehab unit at the same hospital. He recognises himself in pictures, knows he has played musical instruments (currently thinks he's a saxophonist), knows Brenda and what their relationship is and also recognises his Grandson Alex. Although frustrated at not being able to go home, Doug is in the right place at present and Brenda is extremely grateful for all our thoughts and best wishes to both Doug and herself. I feel sure you will join me in continuing to send positivity their way in the crucial days and weeks to come. We are all hoping Doug makes as full a recovery as is possible and keeps fighting the fight to this end. **Love & best wishes, CCB.**



Congratulations – To the Family Rose on the arrival of baby Sophie:

Welcome to the world to baby Sophie Rose, born to Tom and Helen on 29th December 2022. Tom, pictured with baby Sophie left, has played (*Euph and F. Horn*) for us on several occasions, most recently at our Autumn Concert last November and Carols By Candlelight on 21st December, just a little over a week before Sophie's arrival. Many Congratulations to Tom, Helen and 'nanny' (*flautist*) Tricia, pictured right with her Granddaughters, baby Sophie, being cradled by her cousin Penny.



THE LAST BIT:

Next Issue – Due late February, will include an update on progress towards our Spring Concert on 1st April, the delayed start to new feature 'Just in Case', the band on canvas, perhaps? and all the usual updates, news & banter from in and around the CCB.

And Finally – Thank you for reading and hope you've enjoyed this latest issue and learned a thing or two about our journey through the decades, courtesy of our tribute to deserving stalwart supporter, Amy Farnell: 07/08/ 1937 – 29/01/2023. RIP.

Yours in Banding, Rob