

'Hark the CCB Herald'

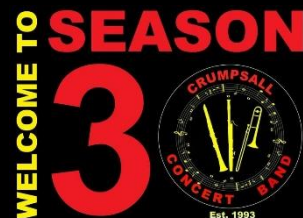


Spring has Sprung

THE NEW HERALD

Newsletter of

CRUMPSALL CONCERT BAND



Volume 5 Issue 7 (Edition 49)
31st March 2023

Hello & Welcome to the **March 2023** edition of Your *New Herald* coming to you (if out on 31st March) on the eve of our **Spring Showcase Concert**, our first performance in this, our **30th Birthday Year**. Full details along with all our upcoming events can be found in our **Calendar Dates** below. Besides regular articles, this issue features the fascinating musical adventures of **Ronnie Egan** (Ronnie pictured right playing euph' with the band in the early 2000's and affectionately known locally by many of a certain vintage, as **Ronnie the Milkman**, delivering the white stuff to Crumpsall doorsteps for several decades) who at the age of 96 has recently, kindly donated his treasured 'King' Trombone, to the band.



We also Celebrate the life of 'Crumpsall Girl' **Margaret Phair** (pictured left) who sadly passed away on 14th March and whose funeral was held yesterday, 30th March. Our thoughts, prayers and condolences extend to Husband **Len**, Son **John** and his wife **Janet**, Son **Ian** and his wife **Allyson** (founder members of our band) and all family and friends, particularly at this time. We also feature an update on progress towards the exciting launch of our **Training Band** and registrations, for anyone who you might know would be interested, begin at our Spring Concert. We also celebrate a milestone birthday for the band's only remaining ever present member; 1993-2023 and counting, **Andrew Shaw**, in our **Band News** section below where we welcome new recruit **Nathan Mattock** too. Thanks to all this month's contributors and we hope you enjoy **Edition 49** of Your *New Herald*. As always, thanks for reading. Yours in Banding, Rob

Included In Your March Issue:

Calendar Dates 2023; Music Matters incl. Spring Concert Preview and what's beyond, Library Corner, news from the stores, instrument donations and Training Band Update; Special Features (as mentioned in our intro above); Band News, Views & Banter incl. Stats Attack, New Recruit Welcome, AGM Preview & more; Thanks for Reading!

Reminder: Following our Spring Concert we are having a two week break with rehearsals resuming on Wed 19th April 2023. Enjoy!

2023

Band Calendar Dates:

2023

Please save the dates; (EXTRA DATE ADDED - SEE STOP PRESS ON LAST PAGE)

DATE/TIMES	EVENT	NOTES
Sat 1 st April 2023 Concert Starts at 7pm Band to meet at 6pm	 Spring Showcase Concert Methodist Church Crumpsall Doors for Supporters 6.30pm	As a thank you to our supporters, this concert, the 1 st event of our 30 th year, will be FREE ADMISSION – (there will be a raffle and donations for refreshments will be appreciated; thanks).
Wed 26 th April 2023 Earlier rehearsal start: 7pm	Rehearsal and 2022/23 AGM Methodist Church Crumpsall - followed by a social for those who wish and are able to attend	Rehearsal, 7– 8pm and following a brief refreshment break, we'll commence our 2022/23 AGM. After the formalities, for those who wish and are able, we're heading to the Woodthorpe Hotel.
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 Playing from 11am	 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.
Wed 7 th June 2023 From 6pm	CREATING A LASTING LEGACY - THE LAUNCH OF OUR TRAINING BAND - COMING SOON; RECRUITING NOW	This is the proposed launch date of our Training Band and progress updates will be included in all issues of your newsletter, including this one, from now on.
Sat 17 th June 2023 Playing 10am – 12 Noon	Bury Bandemonium Bury Town Centre	Our precise location in the Town Centre will be advised in the near future but likely to be on 'The Rock'.
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 9 th July 2023 Meet 1.30pm	Herristone Park Summer Fair Herristone Park, Crumpsall	We will meet 1.30pm ready to play at 2pm and will play a second set around 3pm. The Fair finishes at 4pm
Sun 16 th July 2023 Concert Starts 7pm One not to be missed by players and supporters alike. Tickets on Sale Soon	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 September 2021. Full details nearer the time.

Advanced Notice of known Festive Engagements for 2023 to add to your calendars: **Saturday 2nd Dec 10am Coffee Morning & Christmas Fair, MCC.** **Sunday 3rd Dec 12.30pm Herristone Park Christmas Fair.** **Thursday 7th Dec 6.30pm Crumpsall Christmas Tree Light Switch On, MCC.** **Sat 9th Dec, 1pm – Farm Centre Christmas Market, Heaton Park.** **Sun 10th Dec, 1pm Heaton Park Garden Centre.** **Thurs 14th Dec, 6.15pm, Community Carol Service , MCC.** **Wed 20th Dec, 5.45pm, Carols By Candlelight, St Matthew with St Mary's Church.** **Thurs 21st Dec, 6.30pm Carols at the Woodthorpe Hotel.**

MUSIC MATTERS: Spring Concert and Beyond; Library Corner; News from the Stores; Instrument Donations this month; Training Band Update:

Spring Concert Preview - And What Lies Beyond!?:



Maren has ramped up the intensity of our rehearsals in recent weeks culminating in a full programme run through on 22nd March and some selected snippets of fine tuning ('xcuse the pun) at our in situ rehearsal in the church itself on 29th. Speaking personally, the recent intensity has improved my stamina and endurance and will likely have achieved similar for many of the band and we can look forward to kick starting our 30th Birthday year with a good concert tomorrow evening. Thanks to all the band for much more regular and consistent rehearsal attendances as this makes a big difference too.



So, what lies ahead after we return from our two week break on Wednesday 19th April?

We will be expanding our pads with other favourite pieces you have voted for including the most popular choice, **Pirates of the Caribbean**, plus some surprises too, no doubt. The term's aim will be to develop programmes for our summer events culminating in a **special set list** for our **'Big Gig' Birthday Celebration**

on 16th July. Being a busy banding term in any normal year, never mind this one, continued regular attendances at rehearsals and events will be much appreciated. For now though, all the best to all in the band for the Spring Concert. We've worked really hard this term so enjoy yourselves (and that goes for our audience too of course) and let's keep playing the music. Have a good break. Thanks

Library Corner - Another 39 pieces make the shelves and Sue hires a tall filing clerk:

At A Date	Next Catalogued Pieces on Library Shelves
13/10/2021	659
12/01/2022	703
13/04/2022	735
10/08/2022	788
22/02/2023	833
22/03/2023	872

Like a Librarian possessed, Sue continues to work through the unsorted boxes at a recent incredible average of one per week and since our last issue **another 39 fully catalogued pieces** have been added to the library shelves in just three weeks. The revised total as at 22nd March, is now **872 pieces**. With pressure to sort the uncatalogued boxes and file the plethora of parts handed in this term, Sue sought some support and in doing so hired a 6'1" filing clerk to merge in the returning music (not just on the top shelves 😊) giving her time to concentrate on the unsorted pieces. Currently finding myself with a little extra time, all 6' 1" of me has been only too pleased to undertake the, of course, unpaid filing role (*still on probation*) and it's been a pleasure to work with and support Sue whilst providing me with a greater appreciation of the development and maintenance of our burgeoning library.



In addition, with the prospect of introducing a **Training Band dynamic** this coming term becoming increasingly realistic (*see update below*), I am working with Sue to identify suitable music we have in stock for beginner and intermediate groups that we can then augment with missing parts and firm up through the **TB and Music Sub Committees** and **main Exec Committee** in the coming weeks.



From our **Heritage Series** in issues past (and recent 'Heritage Talks'), you may remember the name **Clifford Bevan**, a childhood friend of our founder **Derek Farnell** and responsible for **Derek** becoming involved in a lifetime of music from 1948 which circuitously led to our formation 45 years later. **The pair are pictured left, Cliff on Trombone, playing with the 209th Crumpsall Park Methodist Scout Band in 1951.** Previous **Library Corner** articles have also featured arrangements that **Cliff** has donated to the band via **Derek** over many years and being a retired professional arranger and musician, he has recently kindly offered to support us remotely (living 200 miles south of Crumpsall) by hand writing any missing parts that we are unable to source elsewhere. Sue and I have potentially identified a piece that we are struggling to locate a score and some parts for and that we used to play in the 1990's **'Themes from Offenbach' arr. Clair W Johnson** and if Sue can't locate from regular sources we'll hopefully take up **Cliff** on his kind offer. Grateful thanks to **Cliff** and watch this space as this is a piece that we would very much like to include in our summer programme, originally introduced by **Derek** and harking back to our formative years. Rob. F

News From Our Stores - An update from our Quartermaster – Joe Greenway:

When we relocated our stores from the dank, damp downstairs basement store room at St Matthew's Parish Hall to a much more suitable upstairs room adjacent to the stage in 2019, we (**Victoria and Karen**) prepared a draft inventory of our instrument stocks at that time. Since then, we have of course relocated our HQ in its entirety to MCC and with the impetus of a **Training Band** gathering pace, drummer and multi-instrumentalist, **Joe Greenway**, has kindly offered to take on the further development of our inventory so we fully understand what instruments we will have to loan to **Training Band** recruits who may require one. Over the last couple of years our stock has been augmented by generous donations and some purchases and so far Joe has catalogued details of 62 brass and woodwind instruments and is just getting started on cataloguing the percussion. Undoubtedly, in the final analysis, some of the instruments will be used for spare parts but, nevertheless we should have plenty of options available for potential loan arrangements. When all have been catalogued, Joe will concentrate on the brass and percussion portfolio assisted by **Stuart Fieldhouse** who will assess the viability of our woodwind stocks. **Grateful thanks to Joe and Stuart** and regular updates will be provided by Joe, through me, to the **Training Band** and **Main Executive Committees** and in turn via this newsletter to everyone else. Any questions at this stage please let Joe know. Thanks. *Above Right: Joe pictured recently in our stores cataloguing the instruments one by one and noting their condition and suitability. A big job and thanks a lot Joe.*



Generous Instrument Donations this month - Keeping our Quartermaster busy 😊 :

With news of our pending Training Band filtering out, we have received, coincidentally in some cases and as a result of in others, three generous donations this month along with a good response from members for spare mouthpieces for brass instruments:



Far Left: Derek Farnell recently donated a **Class 1 Besson Eb Tuba** for use by the band. **Middle,** the week before **Les Payne** donated a **Tristar Student Model Trumpet** and **Phil Hilton** kindly donated a mouthpiece. Thanks also to **Kathryn Burke** for donating some Trombone Mouthpieces too. **Near left,** **Stuart Egan**, son of **Ronnie** and long time friend of mine from when we first worked together in 1981, came down to rehearsal on 8th March and with kind permission of Ronnie himself (*now aged 96*) and the rest of the family, donated Ronnie's treasured and well-travelled 'King' (*top make*), trombone and several mouthpieces for use by the band. **Stuart** even had a blow whilst having his pic taken and, approaching retirement might have stumbled on a suitable hobby that sits well with the wider Egan

family tradition. How about signing up for the **Training Band Stu?** 😊 See the upcoming special feature all about **Ronnie's Musical Adventures** and charting his and his **Granddaughters' Laura, Sarah and Jenny's** (Stuart's nieces) connections to our band. Thank you all for your generosity and kindness and please be assured the instruments will be cared for and loaned responsibly to ensure they continue to provide pleasure to aspirational musicians long into the future. Thanks, Rob *on behalf of our Committee and all the Band.*

Growing a Legacy - Training Band Sub-Committee Update #2:

Countdown to launch: Wed 7th June 2023: 68 days or if you prefer 1,632 hours or 97,920 minutes

JOIN CRUMPSALL CONCERT TRAINING BAND

Just started playing an instrument or returning to music?
Do you already play and wish to learn a different instrument?
Want to play with a group of like minded musicians?

The Crumpsall Concert Training Band, could be for you!

We are recruiting players aged 8 to 80+ who would like to join our brand new training band!

Band instruments from Flutes to Tubas available for loan (subject to availability)

Ability to read music required.

REGISTER NOW BY EMAIL FOR OUR LAUNCH ON 7TH JUNE 2023.

E-mail: crumpsallband@hotmail.co.uk
Website (for more information): www.crumpsallconcertband.co.uk
Find us on Facebook and Instagram: [CrumpsallConcertBand](#)

With not a minute of the almost 98K minutes to spare, there is still a lot to achieve ahead of the proposed launch of our **Training Band on Wednesday 7th June** and so, the second meeting of the **TB sub-committee** was held on **21st March** and the notes and actions conveyed to and approved by the main Exec Committee at their meeting on **27th March**.

We welcomed **Victoria Fullen** to the **TB Sub-Committee** with her experience of Teaching and Scout Group Management being of particular benefit. **Victoria** also kindly took meeting notes for us. As with any band sub-committee, any member of the band wishing to play a part will be gratefully welcomed. *Many hands* Pertinent updates from the latest meeting are as follows:

Attendees: Stuart Fieldhouse, Rob Fullen, Victoria Fullen, Joe Greenway and Ruthanna Stamp (myself and Ruthanna representing the Exec Committee too).

Decisions and Pending Actions:

- **Development of a Recruitment and Publicity Strategy** – Posters to be produced (RF to liaise with **Caroline Hall**) – this action is complete and approved posters will be available on a stall at our Spring Concert – see pic left. Thanks **Caroline**, great design work once again. If it's not been already, the poster will soon be shared electronically with **Ruthanna, Sue and Stuart A**, to be added to Instagram, Fb and our Website respectively.
- **Registration** – from the **Spring Concert**, potential members will be asked to register their interest, initially via email to crumpsallband@hotmail.co.uk They will subsequently be directed to complete an e-form (which is currently under development) (parents and guardians to complete for under 18's) to complete their registration. This will help us understand appropriate demand in advance of launch and also provide further information to potential participants.
- **Membership Dynamic** – we agreed, initially at least, that **unfortunately we would not have the necessary resource / capacity** to facilitate teaching of absolute beginners. However relatively recent beginners who are having lessons perhaps and possessing at least a basic ability to read music will be welcomed along with those who can read music well and currently play a non-concert band instrument i.e.) Piano, and wish to learn a band instrument as well. For the more advanced intermediate group, former players of concert band instruments, perhaps returning after a break (sometimes of many years, even decades) will also be very much encouraged and welcomed.
- **Instruments from our stores** (*subject to availability as we have more of some than others*) will be available to loan, as many returners in particular may have long since sold or passed on any instrument they did own. This is a Win Win for new members to see if it's for them before going out and buying an instrument from day 1. Unless they want to of course?.
- **Spreading the word** – we invite all band members and supporters to help spread the word about this exciting new venture for CCB and to point anyone with potential interest to any member of the **TB sub-committee** or directly to our **email address** to register their interest. Current members and supporters are our best 'sales' force.
- **Instruments and Music** – Covered in **Library Corner** and **News from our Stores** above respectively.
- **Safeguarding** – Between meetings 1 and 2, **Jo Baynham**, has kindly agreed to become the Band's **Safeguarding Officer** and is currently helping review our policy. Many thanks Jo.
- **We also discussed, Uniform, Timings and Subs** – updates on these areas will be provided next time and our next meeting will be held at MCC on **Tuesday 25th April at 6.30pm**. Anyone who wants to come along to help shape this future dynamic for our band, please let me or a committee colleague know. Many thanks, **TB Sub-Committee**

SPECIAL FEATURE - THE MUSICAL ADVENTURES OF: RONNIE 'the Milkman' EGAN: with kind permission and research by his son, Stuart Egan, and wider family:



Before we look into Ronnie's illustrious musical past, for those that remember and enjoyed playing alongside him in our ranks, Ronnie is now age 96 and living comfortably in a local care home and, as mentioned above, with Ronnie's kind permission, his son Stuart recently attended a rehearsal and donated Ronnie's Trombone (see Music Matters above). Also, as mentioned in the introduction to this issue, Ronnie served the community of Crumpsall for several decades as 'our milkman' and there will be many reading this that will remember those days fondly.

But, how did he get involved with Crumpsall Marching Band (our original name) when he joined us at the start of our second season on 21st September 1994? Not only through his milk round, where he undoubtedly delivered to Derek and Amy Farnell or if not, friends and relations of theirs living locally, he also knew Derek from the Greater Manchester Police Band (Ronnie pictured left in GMP Band Uniform) of which Ronnie, following an earlier introduction by Derek, was a member at that time our band was launched. From 1993/ 94 Derek would have been very actively promoting our band to his vast network of musical contacts and Ronnie would have to have been living on Mars to not have heard about us. Ronnie also had grandchildren Laura (Flute) and Sarah (Clarinet), and later Jenny (Alto Sax) all to Stuart's brother Phil whom Ronnie, as a proud Grandparent, would want to support and encourage, through the band, into discovering the delights of playing music. Laura and Sarah (who later would also play Bell Lyre and Side Drum respectively) joined two weeks after their Grandad on 5th October 1994 and stayed with us for 5 full seasons until July 1999 when the marching band side of our band discontinued. Sadly, as a result, we lost their services to the Concert Band woodwind section too. Ronnie remained with the band even after Laura and Sarah left and just after the turn of the century their younger sister Jenny joined the Junior Comets on Alto Saxophone. When Jenny left too, sometime later, Ronnie remained with our Concert Band until around the summer of 2010.

Ronnie finished his playing career completely around 2012 with Middleton Brass Band being more local to where he lived in Alkrington and where he could easily get lifts to and from rehearsals as he was no longer able to drive. Whilst, back in the day, Ronnie was an accomplished professional Trombonist (his preferred instrument) for much of the time he played with us, we enjoyed the services of Andrew Shaw and Norman Davies on Trombone, but no one, for large periods of time, on Euphonium and therefore, at Derek's request, Ronnie was only too pleased to help out on Euph' for most of his time with us. He really enjoyed helping out other players of all abilities in our senior and Junior bands throughout his 16 years with us. As our dynamic switched from a predominantly youth band to an adult one, by the mid 2000's Ronnie suggested we drop the Comets stage name; from that moment we became known by our current name; CCB.



Grateful thanks Ronnie, a fantastic servant, and all the very best from all of us in and around Crumpsall Concert Band. Rob F
The following montage shows Ronnie in action with our band and also rare photos of the three Granddaughters in action with us too:



Above: Ronnie, playing a solo at the CCB Concert held in New Century House (CWS Building) Manchester City Centre, 21/11/2008



Above L-R: Cringle Fields, outdoor event, 21/09/2008; 'Michael Kahan' Music Day No2, 15/06/2009 and No3 06/06/2010



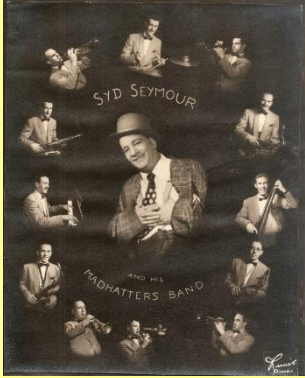
Above L-R: Ronnie on Euph at the Community Carol Service, MCC, 17/12/2009; Laura, 3rd flautist in wearing a 'Comets' band sweatshirt, Abraham Moss Centre Open Day, 13/05/1995 (Laura would go on to play Bell Lyre in the Marching Band from 1997); Sarah, the middle of three side drummers at our Annual Inspection / Awards Evening, September 1997. Sarah also played clarinet in the Concert Band; Jenny Egan, Saxophonist in the Junior Comets circa 2001/2002 alongside Junior Comets cornet player Victoria Fullen.

So, pre his involvement with our Band, what did Ronnie get up to in the world of music?: His son Stuart, fills in the blanks:

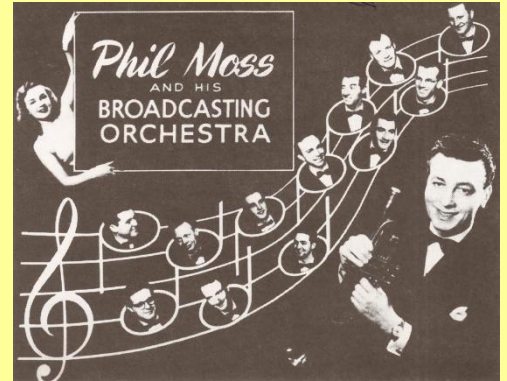


Ronnie was born in Collyhurst, Manchester, on 8th December 1926 where he grew up and went to school. He began learning the trombone with the Salvation Army in the early 1940's and began his National Service with the Army just after the end of WWII, in 1946. He was posted to Stirling in Scotland where he played Trombone with the Argyle & Sutherland Highlanders Regimental Band stationed at Stirling Castle (pic left in band uniform) and whilst there met and married Jesse in 1947 before being posted to a couple of tours of duty in the Middle East. Ronnie was demobbed after his two years service in 1948. As there was more work south of the border, Ronnie and his wife Jesse moved to Manchester, first living in a Council House in Middleton before they bought their own

home in Alkington in 1961. Ronnie was earning money from being a professional musician but to supplement his earnings, which could be seasonal and intermittent, he began working for UCD (United Copoerative Dairies) in 1961, and so began his milk round affiliation with Crumpsall where he served until his retirement, around 30 years later, in 1991.



On his return to Manchester in 1948, Ronnie joined and played with the famous Syd Seymour and his Mad Hatters Band, pictured left, before joining the famous Phil Moss Orchestra.



Band Leader Phil Moss was a Crumpsall Lad who lived on Middleton Road and his band (including Ronnie at this time) were resident at the famous Ritz Ballroom, Whitworth Street, Manchester, (top right) in the Winter Season, playing at the Palace Gardens, Douglas on the Isle of Man (bottom right with Ronnie pictured on the left of the front row) for the Summer Seasons between the late 50's and early 60's.



The Phil Moss Band in the Palace Gardens, Douglas, Isle of Man. Back row: Bobby Bell, Derek Tinker, Alf Roberts, Les Moss, Brian Fitzgerald. Middle: Guy Faukes, Vic Davies, Reggie Winch, Fred Hartley. Front: Ronnie Egan, Johnny Moran, Eric Bennett



Ronnie left the Phil Moss Orchestra in the mid 1960s and joined Bonelli's Band (pic left) who were resident at the New Elizabethan Ballroom, Belle Vue playing ballroom dance music and also playing each season for the Grand Belle Vue Circus. During the 1970's and 1980's Ronnie's musical career continued to flourish leading to him working with a host of celebrities at summer season shows at the Winter Gardens, Blackpool and Winter seasons back in Manchester. Celebrities included: Dora Bryan, Anita Harris, Ken Dodd, Danny La Rue, Dickie Henderson, Arthur Askey and Bruce Forsyth. Unfortunately, by the 1990's, live dance hall bands had largely been replaced by recorded music and sadly Ronnie's professional career came to an end. Unpaid, he continued to play with, give back to and support many

local bands including Middleton Brass Band, The GMP Band, The Alan Bracewell Orchestra and of course The CRUMPSALL COMETS until his eventual retirement from playing altogether in 2012. *Stuart Egan, March 2023.*

SPECIAL FEATURE – A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF MARGARET PHAIR; A CRUMPSALL GIRL, 6th May 1933 – 14th March 2023:



Margaret had been seriously poorly for a couple of years and publicly bore her condition with bravery and dignity throughout. Margaret recognised that everyday was a blessing and bravely kept her self as active as possible with the support of Husband Len and her family. Len and Margaret supported the MacMillan Coffee Morning (pic top right) held at MCC last October and until relatively recently, Margaret was still attending Sunday services at the Methodist Church, taking a keen interest in what the Uniformed Organisations and Concert Band were up to. This interest stemmed from a life



time of service, especially to Guiding, and in a celebration of this aspect of Margaret's life in particular, that seems a very appropriate place to begin:

Margaret Hargreaves was born on 6th May 1933 and lived in Crumpsall attending Crumpsall Park Methodist Church (rebuilt and renamed Methodist Church Crumpsall in January 1976) and progressing through the 7th Crumpsall Units to become Guide Leader and Brown Owl. Margaret, aged 18, is pictured, in her Guider uniform to the left of her Brownies and Guides in the grounds of the Methodist Church on a sunny June day in 1951. Amy Graham (later to become Amy Farnell, a name synonymous with the Church and Band in later life too) aged 13 and holding the Guide Unit Flag next Guide but one to Margaret's right.





A year later, during 1952, Margaret began her relationship with soldier **Len Phair** (on National Service) at Levenshulme Palais dance hall (pic left) on Stockport Road; a romance that was to last more than 70 years. Right: **Miss Hargreaves** becomes **Mrs Phair** on 2nd April 1955 and pictured with Husband **Len** on their special day outside the main entrance to the Methodist Church flanked by her Brownies and Guides once again. **Len** and **Margaret** were blessed with two sons **John** (1958) and **Ian** (1964).



John dabbled with the 191st (St Matthew's) Scout Band (under the leadership of **Charles Ashton** and bugle instruction of **Brian Hiel**) at the beginning of the 1970's but it was **Ian** who flourished musically, primarily as a side drummer and ultimately all round percussionist from 1973 in the 191st Scout Band which became the **Crumpsall Scout & Guide Band** in 1976 under the Leadership of **Tom Lock**. Whilst remaining with the CSGB throughout, **Ian** also played with the nationally acclaimed 4th **Bramhall Scout & Guide Band** from 1982 – 1990 as well as, at the request of a family friend, helping tutor the percussion section of a local **Jewish Lads & Girls Brigade Band** in the mid 80's. **Ian**, one of my oldest friends, journeying through Primary School, Scouting and Banding together, married **Allyson**, a fine musician and friend in her own right, in 1987 and they became **founder members** of our band in 1993.



As an aside, **Ian** and **Allyson** were responsible for the

design and delivery of our early bottle green coloured sweatshirt based uniform and **Ian** coined our stage name, **Crumpsall Comets** that was to serve our **Marching Band**, **Concert Band** and indeed **Junior Band** on posters, uniform and music stand banners through to the mid 2000's as can be seen on the pictures above. **Margaret**, through her Guiding and Family connections, was always close to the **Crumpsall Scout & Guide Band** and along with husband **Len** and likeminded parents of band members **Norman Robinson**, **Ray Fullen** and others, formed and hosted the initial fundraising committee for the CSGB from early 1983 that flourished to become the financial force behind the band; ultimately leading to success on the national stage when the Band were crowned **National Champions at the Royal Albert Hall**, 31 years ago in March 1992. **The following montage further depicts Margaret in Action as a Guider:**



From L-R: **Margaret** on Church Parade with the 5th **Crumpsall Brownies** in the Mid 1970's; At breakfast with **Margaret Lynch** and our own **Julie Thompson** whilst on a Guide Leader event in Switzerland circa 1997. On the same event, the **Crumpsall Delegation** from top to Bottom, **Bonnie Hartley** (former Band Register Secretary and Uniform

Committee member for our Marching Band), **Julie Thompson** (Former Band Chair and current Saxophonist), **Susan Nolan**, **Margaret Lynch**, **Margaret Phair** and **Maureen Lilley**.



Away from Guiding & Banding, Family has always been important to **Margaret & Len** and pics left help capture this: (L-R) **Allyson** and **Ian** flank **Len** and **Margaret** at **Ian's** 21st celebration in April 1985. More recently, in July 2013, the family celebrated **Len's** 80th at **Verona Ristorante**, Bury.

On Sunday 5th June 2022, the Kearsley Road residents staged a 'Street Party' in celebration of the **Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II**. Pictured near top right: **Margaret**, wearing her faithful red, white & blue Guide neckerchief outside her front door on Kearsley Road hugged by one of her neighbours. Further down the Road, founder band members, **Ian & Allyson**, peruse the stalls whilst, bottom right, the **CCB Contingent** that day, provided the celebratory musical backdrop.



On behalf of Banding in Crumpsall, all the local uniformed organisations, particularly Guide, Brownie and Rainbow Units, the Church Family at MCC and the wider community, we give thanks for the life & times of **Margaret Phair**, a 'Crumpsall Girl' throughout.



Rest in Peace Margaret. Rob. F

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

STAT ATTACK – March 2023 Rehearsals, Events, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube - Facts & Figures:

Date >>>	01/03	08/03	15/03	22/03	29/03		Average	Season High
Attended >	29	30	33	33	35		31	35 29/03/2023
Individual musicians who have attended at least one rehearsal / event in Mar:							38	Season to date: 49



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

Most Popular Video: *Lord of the Dance* - Spring Concert; 19th March 2022; 3,000+ views.

Number of followers: 212 (through the 200 barrier now) 😊

Number of Views: 19,480 (an impressive increase of 9,202 on last month – well done Ruthanna & Barbara)

Recent Posts: Filmed by Ruthanna and Barbara during March 2023 have led to a surge in interest ahead of our Spring Concert – see the increase above; evidence of the enhanced exposure of CCB on **Instagram**.



This is also being reflected on **Facebook** too and thanks to Sue from promoting us via this channel. When Sue posted the Spring Concert details on 1st March it reached an impressive 3.391 people by 31st March.



YouTube Channel Stats: Our 9th & Final Lockdown Video is still proving extremely popular in the US in particular, although views have slowed to around 150 per day – Still Very Impressive – the video still makes me smile 😊:

The Muppet Show Theme with a **Kermit** Cameo (released 15th May 2021): 34,063 views (an increase of 4,000 on last month). WOW. The nearest Lockdown Recording to The Muppets is Mamma Mia (23rd May 2020): 1,229 views



Welcome – To Tuba Player, Nathan Mattock - 15th March 2023:



Welcome: A warm CCB welcome to Nathan who attended his first rehearsal with us on 15th March and is on track to make his performing debut at our Spring Concert tomorrow. It's been a long while since the band boasted two Eb Tuba players in our ranks and Nathan doubles our Tuba quota following **Sophie's** relatively recent arrival, last December.

Experience: Nathan is an experienced Tuba player with 17 years, on this his preferred instrument, under his belt. He also possesses a Bb Bass but only plays this infrequently. **Previously, Nathan has played in the following ensembles:** City of London Symphonic Winds, City of London Brass Band, Amersham Band(s), San Jose Metropolitan Band, City of Oxford Silver Band and Todmorden Community Brass Band.

Fun Fact: Whilst at University, Nathan played in the Brass Band which went on to appear in **Made in Chelsea**. We hope you enjoy being part of **Crumpsall Concert Band** Nathan and on behalf of us all, welcome once again. RF

Thinking of you – Get well wishes to Geof, Doug, David & any who need our thoughts at this time.



Here's to **Geof Blomerley** who underwent a cataract operation on Wednesday ruling him out of the Spring Concert. We hope all goes well with your recovery Geof and the two week break has come at the right time in this regard all being well. All the best and hopefully see you back playing with us on 19th April.

On the day **Geof** was undergoing his operation, it was an emotional rehearsal on 29th March as **Doug Graham**, with the support of his wife **Brenda** (pictured *Nr right on the bassoon assembly line with Louise*), sat in on a rehearsal with us for the first time since suffering a stroke on 25th January. Doug managed the first half of rehearsal (as pictured in a trio of bassoonists far right with **Louise** and long time colleague **Sue**) and along with Brenda was hoping to come and watch our Spring Concert with a view to attending rehearsals again more regularly, after the Easter break. That would be great and fingers crossed Doug; love and support to Brenda too.



We learned recently that a former member, upright electric bass player **David Ball**, had suffered a stroke just before Christmas. David, pictured right, in action with CCB, played e-bass with the band for around ten years up to 2011 /12 and, pictured more recently, left at **Heaton Park Garden Centre** back on 4th December ready to listen to the band playing carols and festive tunes. The latest update I have is that David is trying to recover dexterity in his hands and arms by practicing his piano. **The therapy and power of music** - best wishes for a full recovery David.



Geof, Doug and **David**, we wish you all the best in your respective recoveries in the weeks and months ahead. The same applies to anyone in and around the band recovering from ailments and illness at this time. **Best wishes, from, All in CCB**

CONGRATULATIONS - Marking a Milestone - Very Happy 70th Birthday to Andrew Shaw:



HAPPY 70th BIRTHDAY TO ANDREW SHAW – A FOUNDER MEMBER & EVER PRESENT SINCE 1993: Andrew reached this milestone on 25th March and is the band's only ever present member with 30 years' continuous service from July 1993. Andrew is pictured in our *fanfare team* left alongside his son Jonathan (2nd & 3rd from the right; both on trombone) at our debut appearance on 31st July 1993 and more recently, at rehearsal this month.



Congratulations Andrew and many happy returns from all your friends in and around Crumpsall Concert Band and the wider Crumpsall Community.

From Your Committee – Latest News, future thoughts, member opportunities & AGM Preview:



On Monday 27th March we held our final Executive Committee meeting of our 22/23 constitutional year (April – March) which was kindly hosted by Barbara and Andrew at their home on Kearsley Road. Our meeting was held in hybrid format (in person and remotely) with Ruthanna joining us over the ether from her home in Holmfirth. The experiment, whilst slightly reminiscent of Lockdown Zooms, worked well and emphatically demonstrates that geography need not be a barrier to participation.

Of course, we are in the midst of our 30th Season (band seasons running September to August) and in marking such a milestone there is more business than in usual years for the committee to handle – not least the pending formation of a Training Band and planning for our 'Big Gig' in July.

In recognition of a widening remit within our organisation, whilst providing support to the Exec and offering more opportunity for the wider membership to engage with our future aspirations, we have established a sub-committee model. This currently includes a Training Band Sub Committee and Music / Programme Sub Committee. All sub committees will ideally but not necessarily include at least one member of the main Exec Committee and will be required to submit a report / meeting notes into the Main Exec each month in order to promote good oversight, support and governance.

The Training Band Sub-Committee is self-explanatory in that it has been brought together to oversee the introduction and ongoing development of this exciting new dynamic. Membership comprises myself and Ruthanna from the Exec, Stuart Fieldhouse, Joe Greenway and Victoria Fullen with input from Jane and Alan Cottrill and Safeguarding Officer Jo Baynham. Joe is also our Quartermaster supported by Stuart and via this sub-committee a report on our instrument and equipment stores will be provided to the Exec each month helping us keep track of loan agreements and the whereabouts of all instruments / equipment.

The Music / Programme Sub Committee currently comprises 4 members of the main committee with previous input from Joseph Atkinson and works closely with our Principal Conductor, Maren. This year in particular we have been taking views from the wider membership and supporter base in planning concert / event programmes such as the one for tomorrow's Spring Concert. This consultative approach will hopefully resonate with supporters and members alike in delivering programmes that have a broad appeal.

As another lasting legacy of this milestone year, it is likely that the sub-committee strata will develop during 23/24 and provide further opportunities for members and supporters to become more involved in shaping our today and tomorrow as we move forward into the next chapter. As examples, in support of the main Executive, there could be sub committees looking at specifics such as: IT & Marketing, Social Event Planning, Fundraising & Merchandise etc. One off committees could be introduced to deal with a specific cross cutting major projects / events, for example A Band Tour/International Trip (such as the one the Band Undertook to Bremerhaven, Germany in 2011).

The above thoughts will be explored further on the agendas of the 23/24 Executive Committee and I am delighted to confirm that the current 22/23 Exec Committee members have all indicated that they are willing to stand for the coming year with their existing roles and portfolios. This will be formally ratified at our upcoming AGM on 26th April. My sincere gratitude and thanks to long suffering Committee Colleagues for all their help and support on behalf of the band over the past 12 months.

Anyone interested in standing for membership of the main Exec Committee for 23/24 or getting involved at sub committee level, please let me know and I'll be happy to answer any queries or listen to any suggestions that you have. This is Your Band and any help and support is always much appreciated. Yours, Rob (on behalf of Your Executive Committee).

STOP PRESS – Additional Calendar Date - Sunday 25th June 2023 – Prestwich Carnival;

As this delayed issue goes to press we have been asked if we can be available to play a static performance at this year's Prestwich Carnival on Sunday 25th June 2023. Last year we met around 11am and were playing ahead of the parade passing by around 1pm. We are just discussing finer arrangements with the carnival organisers but for now please add this date to your diaries. Thank You

THE LAST BIT:

Next Issue – Due end of April, and will include a review of our Spring Concert plus much more as our Summer Term gathers pace.
And Finally – Thank you for reading and we hope you've enjoyed this latest issue. Yours in Banding, Rob