

The New Herald

Crumpsall Concert Band

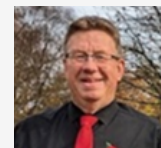


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Hello and welcome to Volume 6, Issue 1

of our new look New Herald newsletter which follows on from our retrospective Special Edition produced back in September. In this packed quarterly edition, we'll be updating you on the appointment of our new Principal Conductor, Eve Klein, who formally takes up the role in January 2026, whilst looking back on Maren's time from September 2022 as they look ahead to a return to the US in January.



At the time of writing we have just concluded a typically hectic run of **9** festive engagements in **23** days that involved an impressive **49** band members. A full review of the festive engagements will be included in our next issue.

This issue will concentrate on events from the beginning of the season in September, through to our Autumn Concert in November whilst looking ahead to Spring dates for 2026 - diaries at the ready.

We hope you enjoy the read and please feel free to spread the word to regular supporters, friends and family. To all who celebrate, all the best for Christmas and Hanukkah and to you and yours a very happy, healthy and peaceful new year filled with banding, music, laughter, friendship and fellowship. - Rob

Editorial & Publishing team: Rob Fullen – Editor, Victoria Fullen & Julie Thompson – Design



Band Calendar Dates

Please save the dates, thanks

DATE	TIME	EVENT	NOTES
Wed 7 th Jan 2026	Evening	First Rehearsals after Festive Break	Welcome to our new Principal Conductor!
Mon 2 nd Feb 2026	6.45 - 8.15pm	Training Band Concert & Workshop	For 7 th Crumpsall Brownies & Guides at MCC
Sat 28 th Mar 2026	Meet at 6pm for 7pm start	Spring Concert Methodist Church Crumpsall	As part of the Church's 50 th Anniversary Celebrations (both bands)

--- Band News ---

Principal Conductor Update & Fond Farewell to Maren

At our AGM in April, Maren served notice that they were to leave the band at the end of 2025 and the band's Executive began the search for a successor, launching the official recruitment campaign on 1st September with a closing date for applications of 1st November. In total we attracted seven applicants which we shortlisted to four to audition for the band on 12th November – Peter Maratos, Dominic Ferguson, Esmé MacBride-Stewart & Eve Klein. Each conducted a 20 minute audition covering two pieces; a set piece – Mariah Carey's 'All I want for Christmas' – and a candidate choice from a list of six secular pieces from the back of our Red Carol book.

Forty members of our joint Concert and Training Band were present for the auditions and all were given the opportunity to score each candidate over a range of criteria. This resulted in shortlisting down to the final three – Dominic, Eve & Esmé – who attended an interview with the band's Executive the following Wednesday, 19th November, with oversight provided by our Safeguarding Officer, Jo Baynam.

The margins between the final three were very fine and in the end, taking into account band member feedback from the auditions and the excellent responses that all provided at interview we were pleased to appoint Eve Klein as our next Principal Conductor. Eve takes up post officially on 1st January 2026 with her first rehearsal scheduled for our return from the festive break on Wednesday 7th.

On behalf of the Exec and entire band, grateful thanks to all who expressed an interest in the role, our best wishes extend to those who reached the latter stages and came so close, and many congratulations to Eve on her successful appointment.

Introduction from Eve!

Hi everyone, I'm Eve and I am delighted to be the new Principal Conductor of Crumpsall Concert Band. Concert bands have been an integral part of my musical life for over a decade, initially as a trumpet player, then as a conductor, and I am thrilled to be continuing that journey with Crumpsall Concert Band. The band's community-oriented approach and welcoming atmosphere radiates from its players, and I'm looking forward to joining in that spirit, continuing your 30+ years of music-making! I'm eagerly anticipating bringing exciting repertoire ideas and a rehearsal approach that allows people to have fun and connect to each other through music. Mostly, I can't wait to get to know the current band members and hopefully inspire even more to join!



For the eagle eyed amongst you, ahead of becoming our 6th Principal in January, Eve has actually already debuted with the band as a 'guest' playing her trumpet on the occasion of Maren's final appearance as our Principal at the Carols by Candlelight Service at St Matthew's with St Mary's Church, Crumpsall on Wednesday 17th December.

A Celebration of Maren's Time with CCB

Following the resignation of our 4th Principal Conductor, Alan Cottrill, in Spring 2022 we put contingency arrangements in place whilst we launched a campaign to find his successor and in June 2022, after their graduation with a degree in music from Manchester University, we appointed Maren Kuzmak. Maren was officially to assume the role from the start of our 2022/23 season on 1st September, taking their first rehearsal on 7th (picture #1) and conducting their first Showcase Concert on 19th November (picture #2). Playing French Horn in the band on both occasions was our founder and original conductor Derek Farnell.

Maren conducted us through our 30th Anniversary year in 2023 with the highlight being the sold out concert of celebration we performed at the Ukrainian Centre. As a lasting legacy we launched a Training Band on 4th October 2023 and Maren provided some mentorship to a novice conductor (yours truly 😊) and our novice saxophones.

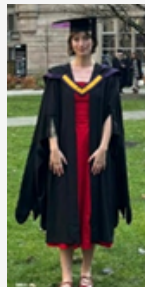


An undoubted highlight of 2024 was the band's debut appearance at the National Concert Band Festival (NCBF). With Maren back in the US for the summer, Joseph Atkinson stood in to conduct initial rehearsals of our chosen festival pieces and Maren coached and conducted us from September to the event itself, held in Oldham on 3rd November 2024. The hard work paid off as we scooped an overall Gold Award with some aspects of our performance earning Platinum accolade.



By this stage Maren had returned to Manchester Uni to undertake a Masters in Composition and proudly graduated on 15th December (also receiving a special award for the highest portfolio mark) supported by their parents, Chris & Melinda, over from the US. So, after three and half years, conducting 97 rehearsals, 8 showcase concerts and many other events besides, Maren's tenure has drawn to a close this festive season, first conducting us at a festive fun day held at the Woodthorpe Hotel, Prestwich, followed by a leaving do at the Ostrich Inn on 7th December.

Then came Maren's swansong, conducting a 37 strong band at the annual 'Carols by Candlelight' service at Crumpsall's St Matthew's with St Mary's Church on Wednesday 17th December, once again in the presence of proud parents. On behalf of the band I was privileged to say a few words regarding Maren's time with us, present a gift and signed card as a token of our appreciation, thanks and gratitude and wish them all the very best in their musical adventures commencing in New York in the New Year. - RF

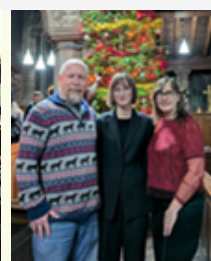


Maren's Message

It has been a privilege to serve as Crumpsall Concert Band's principal conductor over the last three years. I'm so proud of what the band has accomplished musically, from our 30th anniversary concert to receiving a gold award at our first ever NCBF.

I have just completed my Masters of Composition and was awarded the Procter-Gregg prize in composition. I will be moving back home after this graduation to pursue conducting and composition in New York.

As I move on to America, I will not forget the experiences I've had with Crumpsall Concert Band. I wish you all the best in your musical futures! - Maren



Hello & Goodbye!

This term saw two new players join CCB: Joe Morton joined on Alto Saxophone on 24th September and trumpeter, Emilia Moll, on 8th October. Welcome to both Joe and Emilia and we hope you enjoy your time with the band!

It's always sad when members move on and having expressed fond farewells to Maren earlier in this issue, we extend the same to Rachel Brunt (flute) and Ruthanna Stamp (Trumpet) both of whom left to go travelling and return to studies respectively, earlier this term.

All former members are welcome back when their commitments allow and Ruthanna in particular has returned on a few occasions since leaving, namely playing bugle on Armistice Day and trumpet at a couple of festive engagements, too.

We wish them both all the very best in their future endeavours and aspirations and thank them for all their support and efforts on our behalf over the last few years.



Thinking of you...

From all your friends in and around the CCB family, best wishes to all those who have been under the weather recently or recovering from or awaiting operations and procedures.

Grateful Thanks

Following the distressing and sad events that occurred at the Heaton Park Synagogue in early October, we have sought to provide reassurance for all members attending rehearsals and events at MCC. To support this, our appreciation and grateful thanks to **Ben Creer**, a valued member of our support team, for managing the car park and main entrance. Ben has kindly offered to extend this support into the New Year.



In addition, and in the spirit of exercising a duty of care to each other and helping Ben in this role, please ensure the main entrance is always closed behind you and only Ben, Rob or an authorised key holder for the premises should answer the main door bell. Thank you.

Congratulations

Congratulations to alto sax player, **Carole**, and her partner, **Anthony**, who recently announced their engagement and are looking ahead to a summer wedding in 2026.

Volunteer Support Opportunities

Band Logistics

The festive season is without doubt the most intense period of rehearsal and performance in our annual calendar, but events aren't just for Christmas... So, we are therefore looking to expand our logistical team to help your band management plan and deliver events all year round:

If you can usually make it to events and rehearsals, like being organised, are happy to use your initiative, take a logical approach with good communication, and enjoy being part of a friendly team, we'd love to hear from you. Please email Rob for more details r.fullen23@gmail.com

Equipment & Stores Manager

We have an extensive store of concert and marching band instruments, accessories and equipment with an inventory (excluding marching band at present) of 91 items.

Reporting into the Exec / Band Manager, if you are well organised, thorough, a good record keeper, a team player and are interested in this valued support role please email Rob for more details. Interest from non-playing family & friends would also be welcomed; please spread the word.

Being a volunteer in a voluntary sector organisation such as ours is without a doubt very rewarding and a respected addition to any CV. Full support and appropriate guidance in all roles will be provided. Thanks for your considerations.



Rehearsal & Event Attendance Quarter 1 - 2025/26

	Sept 2025	Oct 2025	Nov 2025	Quarter Total	Weekly Average
No of rehearsals	4	5	4	13	4.34
Training Band totals	44	63	52	159	12.23
Concert Band totals	117	161	131	409	31.47

Event	Training Band	Concert Band	Total Musicians
MacMillan Coffee Morning MCC, Sat 27 th Sept 2025	11	N/A	11
Autumn Showcase Concert MCC, Sat 8 th Nov 2025	14	36	43
MCC Christmas Fair Sat 29 th Nov 2025	13	21	27

Bands in Action!

Macmillan Coffee Morning - Saturday 27th September

Our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning at MCC was once again a warm, well-attended community event. The Training Band played '3 sets' throughout the morning to accompany wonderful refreshments and cakes in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. We were glad to support an event in a lovely community atmosphere which raised almost £400 for a great cause.



Remembrance & Armistice Day

At 3pm on Saturday 8th November, Mandy & Rob played the Last Post and Rouse in front of a crowd of 2,200 representing the band at FC United's Broadhurst Park (the scene of our lockdown rehearsals in 2020/21).

We were joined by Victoria on Remembrance Sunday as part of the service at MCC, and then Ruthanna, Mandy & Rob played on Armistice Day itself at the annual Friends of Blackley Forest & Bowker Vale Primary School Act of Remembrance in the Top Meadow of the Forest.

"We will remember them."

Autumn Concert 2025: That's Entertainment!



This year's Autumn Concert was themed around Big Band music through the ages. Although the Training Band have participated in previous showcases, this was the first time they had the honour of opening the show, setting the scene for the Concert Band to take us through a varied programme which featured the sounds of Gershwin, a wonderful saxophone solo of Moon River and A Tribute to Amy Winehouse. Thanks to our Music Sub-Committee and Maren for all their hard work in preparing our repertoire.

This performance was also the final showcase concert conducted by Maren who joined us in 2022 and they shared with our audience a wonderful parting speech centred around the importance and joy of community music-making.

On this occasion, we were joined by special guests Nigel, Vicky, Jade, Barbara and Ivor; the family of our late founder and first conductor, Derek Farnell. The band presented Nigel with a montage of photographs showcasing Derek's illustrious musical career (as pictured left on the front of the concert programme). Thank you to all who joined us for another sell-out occasion. We look forward to entertaining you in 2026!



Focus on our Founder

Derek Farnell (1934 – 2025) – Part One:

As we know, Derek sadly passed away aged 90 on 25th July 2025 after a lifetime involved at all levels with community music making, teaching school pupils for the Salford Music Service and becoming a master craftsman with a far reaching reputation for excellence in instrument making and repairs.

We felt it only fitting therefore to spotlight key moments of his life leading to and beyond the formation of our band in 1993; all intertwined to inform our heritage, create our history and ensure an ongoing legacy.

In the Beginning

Derek Farnell was born in Beech Mount, Rochdale Road on 8th October 1934 and grew up in the family home on Chudleigh Road, Crumpsall. We pick up the story from 1948, not long after the end of WWII – rationing and National Service were still a thing as communities across the land adjusted from nearly six years of global conflict to a time of relative peace.

A member of the 209th Crumpsall Park Methodist Church Scout Group, a forerunner of the current 434th Group, the influence of one of his Scouting friends, Cliff Bevan, was to be absolutely pivotal to Derek becoming involved with music. Cliff's family had been the leading lights in the Harpurhey & Moston Silver Prize Band since its formation by Reece Bevan in 1920 (see picture top right from the 1920s) and owned the band premises above an engineering works on the right at the top of Factory Lane, Harpurhey.



Factory Lane Band Room 1930 – 1956



**Crumpsall Park Methodist Church
1909 – 1975**



**Cliff on Parade with the
Harpurhey and Moston
Band playing trombone**

HARPURHEY AND MOSTON SILVER PRIZE BAND	
Affiliated to the Manchester & District Amateur Brass Band Association Licence under the Performing Rights Society.	
BANDROOM	FACTORY LANE, HARPURHEY
Open for Engagements DANCES, GARDEN PARTIES, GALA & FIELD DAYS Up-to-date Music and a "SMART" BAND in New Military Uniforms Dark Blue. Large and up-to-date Library of Classical Music, March and Dance Music a Speciality. Estimates willingly given, Satisfaction Guaranteed.	Bandmaster: Mr. J. BEVAN. Hon. Treasurer: Mr. A. ABBOTT. Hon. Secretary: Mr. R. BEVAN - 81 Lever Street, Manchester. Regimental Band to the British Legion, Blackley Branch.

Harpurhey & Moston Band Flyer

In 1948, the band were looking to add a Junior Section to their set-up and Cliff, who already played trombone, invited Derek along to the first rehearsal. Derek was one of around a dozen lads who turned up and a selection of instruments was arrayed on the band room floor, the lads being invited to take their pick.

Derek chose the euphonium and the rest, as they say, is history. The Junior Band rehearsed at the Factory Lane band room every Thursday and Sunday and Derek, Cliff and others from the Crumpsall contingent would walk to and from rehearsals in all weathers over the bongs (the hills/banks behind Crumpsall Hospital [NMGH]) and up 'the brew' (the 1:4 steep Factory Lane).

Often on the journey home they'd pause behind the hospital near the Jewish cemetery and hold an impromptu open air rehearsal. Directly benefiting from the experience some of its members were gaining from the Harpurhey and Moston band, the 209th Scout Group soon constituted its own Scout Band.

With Derek and Cliff at its heart, the 209th Scout Band were soon making public appearances both locally and regionally. On 24th June 1951 the 209th Scout Band were invited to play for the Cheshire & Northwest Scout Association garden party at Cumberland Cottage in Wild Boar Clough, Cheshire. The Band marched across the clough to Cumberland Cottage then played in a concert ensemble formation for dancing on the green with the repertoire including 'Blaydon Races'. The band that day also included a 'star' cornet player (name unknown) from the 199th Blackley Scout Group Brass Band. Derek, as you will see, had expanded his instrument range by this point and was playing tuba with Cliff still playing trombone.



By 1953, as a spin off from the 209th Scout Band, Cliff Bevan had created his own music group 'Cliff Bevan & His Music' who provided a concert / dance band style dynamic in contrast to the marching band scene prevalent in the area. The ensemble, pictured (below, left) outside Crumpsall Park Methodist Church in February 1953, also shows how Derek's skill with various instruments had expanded from mid/low end brass into woodwind.



From L-R: Cliff Bevan (Trombone), Maureen Potts (Vocals), Judy Greenwood (Piano), Ernie Robinson (Tenor Sax), Ron Peach (Drums), Stan Bradshaw (Trumpet) & Derek Farnell (Alto Sax).

After Cliff left Crumpsall to study trombone and composition at the Royal Academy of Music, Derek took this group/format forward as 'The Amblers' and Cliff continued his involvement, writing arrangements for them to play some, of which reside in our library today.

Meanwhile, in April 1955, Derek Farnell began his two years of National Service, serving in Iserlohn (Nr Dortmund), Germany as Bandsman 23131994 with the 3rd King's Own Hussars. Derek, already experienced playing brass and woodwind instruments, was able to serve as a Duty Trumpeter (a task that ultimately all bandsmen, woodwind or brass, had to perform) and he would be rostered onto duty every 2 to 3 weeks.



Duty started at 18:00 hours with Last Post followed by 8 other calls on an E \flat Cavalry Trumpet covering the full 24 hour cycle of life on the camp. Whilst on duty there was no luxury of your usual bed in the band block; you had to catch sleep in the cramped confines of the guard house when duty permitted, in full uniform, covered by your army overcoat for warmth.

Derek also played in the regimental band and big band on alto saxophone and became friends with Stan Howarth who came in on euphonium. Stan played with our band several times down the years to help out, particularly in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

Pictured above (courtesy of photographer, Peter Smith) the 3rd King's Own Hussars Band surrounded by admirers in Iserlohn Town Square, Spring 1957. It is likely that Derek was there in possibly his final concert before being demobbed.

During his National Service, Derek only got home to see family, friends and his sweetheart Amy a couple of times and Amy wrote to him every day for the two years he was stationed abroad. Following his service, Derek returned to Manchester and on 2nd August 1958 he and Amy were married by Clifford Cook in his last wedding as Minister at Crumpsall Park Methodist Church (George Dolby took over on 9th August). Derek and Amy are pictured cutting their cake at their reception in the church hall. The happy couple lived initially in Moston before moving to their forever home, 82 Crumpsall Lane, in 1963.



Derek continued a 5 to 7 year apprenticeship that had been interrupted by National Service, at Manchester based musical instrument makers and repairers, Mayers & Harrison. The Moss Side Factory apprentices worked 48 hours per week from 8am Monday to noon on Saturday, with two weeks annual leave plus Christmas Day and Boxing Day off. They worked initially on all aspects of bugle making – the factory specialising in making these instruments for military bands both home and overseas; some leaving the factory with the home brand stamped on the bell as per the picture of a 1965 model and others, exactly the same quality and make, leaving with branded names such as Boosey & Hawkes. This work from polishing finished instruments ahead of shipping developed into full manufacture before expanding their skills on larger more complex instruments like tubas. Could the bugle pictured here have been one of Derek's?



Published at the end of 2013, Denis Wedgewood's memoirs 'And did those feet', recalling life as a brass instrument apprentice, gives Derek a mention:

"The top floor of Mr Mayers' Kingdom was a kind of Brass Instrument Repairer overflow. One of these inmates has been a friend of mine for over 50 years – Derek Farnell, and he is still working going into his eighties; for himself now of course. In my estimation he is the best Brass Tuba technician in the country. He has also conducted and plays with the Greater Manchester Police Band". [Amongst other bands - Ed].

So, around the mid 60s, aged 30, Derek is a fully qualified instrument maker and repairer and a seasoned musician across a range of instruments. Part Two of this feature will skim over the remainder of the 60s and move on through the 70s and 80s. Thanks for reading. - Rob

Quick Reminder: Subs 2025/26

Payment options:

Concert Band

(including those who play in the Training Band as well):

Term 1: £37.50 due September 2025

Term 2: £37.50 due January 2026

Term 3: £37.50 due May 2026

Annual option if you wish to pay up front for the season: £112.50

Training Band (exclusively those who only play in this ensemble):

Term 1: £30.00 due September 2025

Term 2: £30.00 due January 2026

Term 3: £30.00 due May 2026

Annual option if you wish to pay up front for the season: £90.00

Payment method options:

Via **debit card** at any rehearsal during the first month of each term.

Via **bank transfer** during the first month of each term to the band's account:

Bank: Santander

Acct Name: Crumpsall Concert Band

Sort Code: 09-01-55 Acct No: 96906706

Ref: Your Name and the word 'Subs'

Via **Standing Order** to the above account:

£9.38 per month for Concert Band

£7.50 per month for Training Band

Cash option for the termly amount payable during the first month of each term - payable to Barbara Shaw for Training Band and Stuart Atkinson for Concert Band.

A Trip to the Bridgewater Hall

Angie Barrett's Concert Review:

The Massed Bands of His Majesty's Royal Marines Friday 19th September Concert Tour 2025

We went to see the Royal Marines Band at the Bridgewater Hall and it was a sell out! Met some fellow band members at the concert too - Rob, Karen, Victoria and Louise.

What a concert this was!

They played a wide variety of music and included singers in their performance which was a treat. The Corps of Drums were out of this world! JJ Chalmers was also a surprise guest - an ex-Royal Marine who helped in the percussion section and did quite a good job to be fair.

There were also some solo performances, including Grace's friend, Sarah, on flute. Absolutely amazing! Grace and Sarah had attended Rochdale Music Service whilst growing up and played in various training groups. Sarah was a credit to her peers and family.

There was a lovely section with a video feature - looking back at the evacuees of the war. The stories and background music were so moving. Very special.

One of my favourite slots was the xylophone duet - wow wow wow!

A night I will remember for some time - magical! - Angie



The Last Bit ...

Thanks for reading this issue and we hope you enjoyed it sufficiently to share with family and friends as you wish. Grateful thanks to all contributors including Angie, Maren and Eve and to the design team of Victoria and Julie.

Thanks to my long suffering Exec colleagues, Barbara, Caroline, Julie, Stu and Sue for their endeavours and support so far this season, not least during the intense weeks that resulted in the appointment of our new Principal Conductor, Eve. Thanks to Eve for saying 'yes' too 😊

Finally, as 2025 draws to a close thanks to all musicians across both bands and support team members for all your efforts and support this year. All the very best to you and yours for this period of Hanukkah and Christmas and a very happy, music filled New Year. Your efforts certainly contribute to us looking ahead to 2026 with positivity and optimism and we look forward to welcoming you all back to rehearsals on 7th January.

So, on behalf of the publishing team, thanks again for reading and the next issue is due out in early March and will feature a review of our busy festive schedule amongst much more.

Yours in banding, Rob and the publishing team.

Visit our website or follow us here:

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crumpsallband@hotmail.co.uk

www.instagram.com/crumpsallconcertband