



'Hark the CCB Herald'
Didn't we have a 'lively' time.....

THE NEW HERALD

Newsletter of the

CRUMPSALL CONCERT BAND



Volume 2 Issue 12
28th August 2020

WELCOME to the final issue of your New Herald, Volume 2; the sixth lockdown issue and, are we edging nearer a potential return to 'safe' rehearsals? I sincerely hope we can begin **Volume 3** with news to that effect. For now though, your Committee continue working hard behind the scenes, delving through the plethora of recent guidance, preparing risk assessments and method statements and liaising with our landlords. As part of our inclusive commitment of engagement, very shortly, possibly over the coming weekend, a questionnaire will be heading the way of all members that we would be grateful if you would complete and return. Your responses will help us understand the appetite for a safe return and what equipment needs you may require. A significant milestone towards playing together again was reached back on 15th August to commemorate VJ Day and full details are included in this issue. This is a packed bumper issue and hope you enjoy the read; thank you and all the very best. **Yours in Banding, Rob**

IN THIS THREE PAGE SUMMER SPECIAL: Band on Staycation; Music Matters; New Member Welcome; our Banding Heritage Part 5; Celebrating a special birthday; VJ Day 75th Anniversary & Calendar Datesenjoy the read and thanks.



BAND ON STAYCATION - SUMMER 2020 – YES, WE'VE WHEELIE BIN TO ALL THESE PLACES ☺

Thanks for all your fab pictures & sorry couldn't accommodate them all but, the wheelie bins, a staple of Zoom banter, do make an appearance or two. In the words of the song: **'Didn't we have a 'lively' time the day we went to (everywhere except) Bangor'**. But, we did get to Barry Island, Burrs, Cumbria, Eccles, Kent, Littleboro, Lytham, Pennines, Somerset, Southport, Stonehaven, Tadcaster, Ulverston, Waddington, Wellesbourne, Whitby & York. Happy Days in the strangest of times ☺

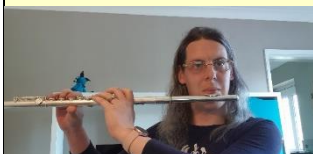


MUSIC MATTERS: RECORDING PROJECT LATEST:



Earlier this month, after another tremendous effort by all involved and probably our best production outcome to date, our fourth lockdown recording session **'When the Stars Began to Fall'** was released via YouTube. Many thanks to everyone involved, particularly Stuart & Joe for fantastic visuals and sound. At our last general Zoom meeting on 5th August, it was decided that our fifth recording project in as many months would be the fabulous selection, **'Queen on Stage'**. In a departure from the last two sessions, the Queen arrangement features rock classics such as **'We Will Rock You'**, **'We are the Champions'** and **'Another one Bites the Dust'**. The deadline is Saturday 29th August. Good luck everyone and thanks to those who have submitted parts already. This is a tight deadline because we need to have our compilation video featuring recent recordings, including **'Sunset'** from the VJ Day Commemoration event, with **Cheetham & Crumpsall Festival** organisers by 4th September to feature in their summer event on 13th September. See Calendar Dates for more details. Thank you, RF.

WELCOME TO FLAUTIST SAMANTHA HEYWOOD:



Samantha enquired about joining the band earlier in the year, but timing was unfortunate due to the early stages of the pandemic and subsequent lockdown. However, on 5th August, Samantha joined the post-Zoom meeting chat and therefore, on behalf of the band, it gives me great pleasure to welcome her to the CCB from this date and she is hoping to join in with our latest recording, **'Queen on Stage'**.

As with all new joiners, we ask them to kindly give us a brief summary of their musical background and Samantha has kindly obliged: Samantha has only been playing flute around 6 months and being a fast learner, estimates her progress to be up at around Grade 3 at present. She has a rich and varied background in music and has achieved Grade 5 on both Piano and E \flat Alto Saxophone complimented by Grade 5 Theory and GCSE Grade A Music. She is also learning guitar and bass guitar (tab only) and has played various percussion instruments including 1st & 2nd Bass Drum in her local Samba Band – Bloco Ashe.

We asked Samantha for any other facts or anecdotes and received a fascinating reply: *"I spent the first half of my life as a touring circus performer, working with Disney, Royal Caribbean Cruises and Cirque du Soleil. I am a fast learner with ASD so please be patient if I do not understand something, I just learn a little differently than most. I have had the pleasure of playing music with the Assistant MD for Hamilton (he's my brother in law) and one of the Drummers for The Lion King"*. Once again, welcome to the band Samantha and we hope you enjoy your time with us. RF

Monthly YouTube Stats to 14th July 2020:

The band had 544 minutes watched this month. That's 9.07 whole hours across 233 views with 6 likes and 5 shares...

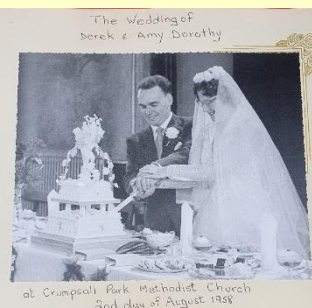
CRUMPSALL CONCERT BAND – BAND HERITAGE SERIES PART 5: FAREWELL TO THE 50's



Last issue we featured Blackley's 199th Scout Group Brass Band, and we begin Part 5 with a further reminiscence. **Cliff Bevan**, who has featured throughout our look at the 1950's, contacted me following the last issue to say how our *heritage series* had the uncanny ability to reawaken memories, long forgotten. **Cliff recalls**, "When I was (very) young I went to the Independent Methodist Church in Hopkinson Road [Blackley] and then joined the 199th Cubs there. I greatly admired the [Scout] band, which sometimes actually marched past our house, always playing [the Brass Band Standard] 'Slaidburn', which I thought (and still think) a great march. Although, at the time I didn't realise that this is the first piece of 'real' music a band plays once the members have learnt how to read music and press the right knobs down. It was a huge thrill for me, then, when I was about eleven and the Harpurhey and Moston band had got going again after the war, we [including Derek Farnell] had sat beneath the gas lamps in the band room [top of Factory Lane, Harpurhey] at long tables learning our theory, and eventually began to practise a piece of real music - 'Slaidburn'! I can clearly remember the thrill of realising that this was the piece that the 199th Scout Band had played." Later, Cliff went on to join the 209th Scout Band with Derek, in Crumpsall. Pictured left, **Cliff Bevan** on Trombone with the **Harpurhey and Moston Silver Prize Band**, Whit Walks Summer 1955 on Rochdale Road, Harpurhey. Picking his lip, probably after

playing Slaidburn for the 5th time during the procession 😊

Meanwhile, in April 1955, **Derek Farnell** began his two years of National Service, serving in Iserlohn (Nr Dortmund), Germany as **Bandman 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 bandmen, 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 Eb 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



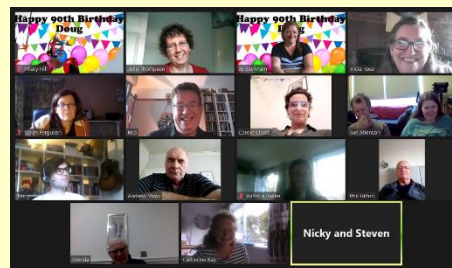
down the years to help out, particularly in the late 1990s and 2000s. Pictured above right (courtesy of photographer Peter Smith) the 3rd King's Own Hussars Band surrounded by admirers in Iserlohn Town Square, Spring 1957. It is likely that Derek was there in possibly his final concert before being demobbed. 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 his pre-army musical instrument maker/repairer apprenticeship at **Mayers & Harrison**, 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). The happy couple lived initially in Moston before moving to their current home in Crumpsall in 1963. **Congratulations to Derek and Amy** who earlier this month celebrated their 62nd Wedding Anniversary and are pictured cutting the cake at their reception in 1958 & similarly at Derek's retirement concert as our conductor in 2012.

In Part 6, our story transitions from the 50's to the 60's as local bands continued to play an important role. We learn of the continued endeavours of **Derek and Cliff** as Derek's younger brother and former long term CCB percussionist, **Ian** also joins the story. Thanks for reading. RF



A VERY HAPPY 90th BIRTHDAY TO DOUGLAS GRAHAM - 27th AUGUST 2020: Some weeks before the

auspicious occasion of **bassoonist Doug's 90th Birthday**, our Zoom Champion, **Julie Thompson**, liaised with Mr Graham's significant other, **Brenda**, to plot how we as a band might mark this special milestone given the current restrictions. So it was that during our two-week Zoom break, Julie compiled videos submitted by band members and wove them seamlessly into a lovely tribute. Then, on the resumption of Zooms on 26th August, Brenda held Doug back in the virtual waiting room giving those able to attend the opportunity to get logged on and, in some cases, have celebratory backgrounds set. Upon his admittance to the zoom meeting, **Doug was regaled** with a chorus of Happy Birthday and a run through Julie's video. It's fair to say that in the many years I have known Doug I have rarely seen him lost for words, but briefly, that's what happened and he was absolutely surprised and delighted (a bemused Doug pictured bottom left on the Zoom screenshot). Job done Julie and Brenda, well played.



Doug has been with the band almost from the beginning and conducted the Junior Comets from the late 1990s until mid -2000s. Born and bred in Crumpsall and christened at St Matthew's Church, he's been involved in music from his school days and played in the ICI works band/orchestra whilst still at school (I believe trombonist **Norman Davies**, 5 years Doug's senior, was also playing with ICI at the same time). As well as being an accomplished instrumentalist, the bassoon just one of his fortes, he has always loved choral singing and is still a stalwart of the Methodist Church Choir but for many years performed the same for his first Church, St Matthew's. Pictured below are a series of photos of Doug in action stretching back to his time in the choir at St Matthew's to last year's Christmas Fair at the Methodist Church:



VJ DAY 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION/COMMEMORATION EVENT – SATURDAY 15TH AUGUST 2020



On Saturday 15th August, we were privileged to represent the **Crumpsall Concert Band** in a National Event to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of VJ Day and the end of WWII. This unique event, taking place against the backdrop of a global pandemic, was important on so many levels, not least to recognise and remember the ultimate sacrifice of so many for all our benefit and to perform this in the knowledge that at the same time, right across the country and indeed abroad, simultaneous tributes were being made. Our solemn duty began at 10:55 with some poignant words and prayers from St Matthew's Clergy, Revd. **Daniel Valentine** and **Ian Choularton**, before, suitably risk assessed and socially distanced, the two bugles (**Victoria & Les**), 1 trumpet (**Sarah**) & 1 cornet (**Rob**) of the CCB Trumpet section sounded **Last Post** at 10:58 followed by two minute's silence broken by the sounding of **Rouse** at 11:02.

We gathered again at St Matthew's in the evening and following a similar format to the morning, after further prayers and words of reflection, we played a verse of **Abide With Me** before closing the day's events with a fantastic rendition of **Sunset** at the designated time of 20:18 hours. Reflecting the emotion and gravity of the occasion, it was not lost on those of us privileged to take part - including **Stuart** who filmed the whole event and subsequently produced the excellent footage now available on YouTube - that this was the first time any part of the band had officially performed together since our last pre-lockdown rehearsal back on 11th March. Making this happen, for even a few of us, has provided us with reassurance that as guidance becomes clearer, we may be able to get back to some form of safe rehearsals in the not too distant future? Thanks to all involved for your efforts and support on the day. A copy of this newsletter and link to our video has been emailed to the event organisers.



Unfortunately, trumpeter **Phil Hilton** (left), pictured as part of our bugle party on Remembrance Sunday last November, was away on 15th August, unavoidably missing the event. However, in a very unique twist, tying him firmly into the day's events, Phil has a very personal story to tell regarding his Uncle, **Albert Guest**, providing an integral local link, spanning the decades from 1945 to 2020. Thanks Phil and your Cousin Ian for sharing your story with us:


The story of a young local man's experience of war: *In memory of **Albert Guest**, my uncle, a VJ day veteran, an inspirational and kind man, the father of my cousin Ian and husband to my late Aunty Kathleen.* At the age of 18, **Albert** was conscripted and joined the Gloucester regiment on 13th September 1941 and by coincidence, his home address was 13, Gloucester Avenue, Whitefield. He was to be changed forever as he entered one of the most brutal conflicts the world has ever witnessed in the jungles of Burma, against a fierce foe, the Japanese army. All innocence was soon lost in the battle of Arakan where many allied servicemen and civilians lost their lives. The regiment was forced to retreat, passing deserted villages as they did so. During the retreat he found a terrified kitten which he adopted and fed from his rations. On the third night however, as the mountainous terrain of the jungle closed in evermore, he sadly lost the kitten.



Many stories could have been told of the war, but like many others who had served, he chose not to talk of the horrors he had witnessed. On returning to England he married, built a new life, became a trade unionist and a pacifist, and prayed that Mankind would never descend into such brutality again.

On Albert's death, aged 76, in April 1998 after a long and cruel illness, his funeral was held at St Margaret's Church, Prestwich, where members of Broughton House Veterans' Home were present, and he was given a military service. His coffin was draped in the Union Jack, the last post was played, and powerful words were delivered by a retired Colonel. This VJ Day we remember not only Albert, but the many who sacrificed their lives in the Far East war. **Phil Hilton & Ian Guest.**

CALENDAR DATES – (PLEASE NOTE: ZOOM GATHERINGS EACH WEDNESDAY AT 7PM UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE - ALL WELCOME)

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
Sun 13/09/2020	 Virtual Summer Festival that we have been asked to take part in; Email link nearer the time.	Similar to the CCF Spring Fling, we will aim to put together a small virtual performance based around our latest available recordings.
Wed 02/12/2020	Crumpsall Christmas Tree Light switch on (Methodist Church Crumpsall). Usual rehearsal for those not playing; subject to restrictions.	7pm – 8pm – small band for the tree light switch on / rest at rehearsal subject to restrictions.

Your New Herald Volume 2 covering 12 issues, 6 pre lockdown and 6 post, stretching back to September 2019, is now at an end. On behalf of the Committee, I sincerely hope you have enjoyed the read and I would like to thank everyone who has contributed, read and hopefully enjoyed the series. Volume 3 Issue 1 due out Friday 25/09/2020. Thanks, Rob

