



'Hark the CCB Herald'
Thank you for the Music

THE NEW HERALD

Newsletter of the

CRUMPSALL CONCERT BAND



Volume 2 Issue 9
29th May 2020

WELCOME to the latest issue of your New Herald; the third lockdown issue, but is there a light at the end of tunnel? I hope you and yours are keeping well and staying safe as the general trend of this pandemic (*at the time of writing*) is heading in the right direction. **Dare we ask the question about when we might be able to safely rehearse together once again? Of course we dare and next Wednesday, 3rd June, the zoom get together will help us explore some, perhaps, faint possibilities around how the 'new normal' might look, along with other current band topics including, what tune has been chosen for our next lockdown recording? It will have been 6 weeks since our well attended AGM so why not join in.** An informal agenda will be circulated early next week for your info. As ever this is a packed issue and hope you enjoy the read; thank you. As always, stay well and keep safe. All the very best. **Yours in Banding, Rob**

IN THIS ISSUE: A message from our conductor; Virtually our first gig of the year; Music Matters – recording project latest, Our banding heritage Part 2; VE & VJ Day Anniversaries, a special birthday and much more.....enjoy the read and thanks.

A MESSAGE / SUGGESTION FOR THESE TIMES FROM OUR CONDUCTOR: ALAN COTTRILL

Hello Everyone, I hope you are all keeping well and coping with whatever life is throwing at you at the moment. It is an unsettling time and sometimes we really don't feel in the mood for music making and are looking for something else to occupy ourselves with. One thing Jane and I have found interesting is setting a music themed question then researching (Googling) the answer. For example, What are the differences between a Piano and Harpsichord? Or, Which is the most modern orchestral instrument? Reading up about such questions has reinforced our existing knowledge and also taught us some new and interesting facts. Perhaps this might appeal to some of you to occupy a few minutes. Keep playing, stay safe and **Best Wishes, Alan**



(Editor's suggestion to all members: based on Alan and Jane's idea above – why not submit musical facts that you have researched / discovered to r.fullen23@gmail.com for inclusion in a 'Did you know?' column in a future issue?)



VIRTUALLY OUR FIRST GIG OF THE YEAR – PREVIEW: CHEETHAM CULTURAL FESTIVAL'S – SPRING FLING - SUNDAY 31ST MAY

Following publicity surrounding our first lockdown recording – Celtic Crest, **Cheetham Cultural Festival** organisers contacted us to see if we would like to 'appear' at their 2020 Spring Fling. Thanks to **Nicky** who liaised with CCF throughout and to **Stuart** who put together and submitted our finished performance, this coming **Sunday, 31st May**, will see us on the **Spring Fling bill** and we are set to **appear at 16:45**. The whole event starts at mid day and why not tune in for a watch and listen by searching **on-line for Cheetham Cultural Festival Spring Fling You Tube or Facebook link**. Search before the event to see the whole line up for the afternoon and you can then select which performances / features you might wish to watch, besides us, on the day. **Our appearance features** a brief introduction by yours truly followed by the main event: our latest recording video; **Mamma Mia** and concluding with first recording **Celtic Crest**. Hopefully, CCF's planned September 2020 gala might go ahead as a physical event but whatever prevails, we have made a good impression with our M8 neighbours and this could become an annual fixture affording great publicity for the band and supporting community cohesion and mutual appreciation. **We wish the organisers and the event every success. Enjoy the show 😊**

MUSIC MATTERS: RECORDING PROJECT LATEST



Following on from the success of our first lockdown recording, **Celtic Crest**, we embarked and largely embraced the significant challenge of the **ABBA Selection** from **Mamma Mia**. As individual parts flooded into Stuart, many on or around the 15th May deadline, production began in earnest with the finished recording now released. It was a tough one and brilliant work by all involved, especially at the production end of the operation; big thanks to **Stuart and Joe**. Although the release stalled slightly due to You Tube T&Cs all's good now and as you will have seen above, it streams live at this Sunday's Spring Fling.



What to do next? Have your say by this Sunday 31st May from a selection of twelve pieces from our repertoire. Chose your top 3 tunes from the list, vote only once and the result will be announced early next week and no doubt discussed at our **Zoom meeting / get together on Wednesday 3rd June**. Go to <https://forms.gle/uk49vUNC8YAAtjmnW9> to make your choices and hurry if you haven't done so as yet. Even if you are not wishing to take part in the actual recording, you can still influence what we play by voting. Thanks to all who have taken part so far including guests **Sarah** on Tuba, **Adie** on kit and mallets and **Kate** on keyboard and don't worry if you haven't played as yet or think you would struggle. There are people in the band that can help you with the technology and whether you decide to have a go or not, please be assured when something goes out in the band's name, everyone connected to CCB gets the credit. We're all in this together 😊

CRUMPSALL CONCERT BAND – BAND HERITAGE SERIES PART 2: 1951 – LOCAL BANDS IN ACTION: Part 1 of our series looked at the origins of the first known Scout Band in Higher Crumpsall, formed from the 209th Crumpsall Park Methodist Scout Group, and how our founder, **Derek Farnell**, was a key early member building on his experiences with friend and fellow Scout, **Cliff Bevan**, in the junior section of Harpurhey & Moston Prize Silver Band. **Part 2** features the said Scout Band, featuring Derek and Cliff, in action in 1951 along with St Luke's (Cheetham Hill) Church Lads Brigade Band featuring bugler **Eddie Humphries**; more on this character later: **On 24th June 1951** the 209th Scout Band were invited to play for the Cheshire & Northwest Scout Assn garden party at Cumberland Cottage in Wild Boar Clough, Cheshire. The Scouts recorded the event in pictures and text in their '*Bat Patrol*' (Derek's Patrol) log book from which all the following pictures and captions are taken. The band 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:



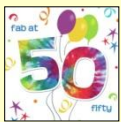
The band marched to the cottage to signal the opening of the Garden Party. The night before many of the band had stayed over at the cottage and erected a band stand 'Scout Camp Style' (see right) from where on the day itself, after tea, they played a series of tunes including 'Blaidon Races' to facilitate 'dancing (and no doubt some singing) on the green' by the cottage. The final picture on the right is a really good close-up of **Derek** on Tuba next to pal **Cliff** on Trombone. It is not lost on me how 42 years later our own band started life as a marching outfit combined with the concert format just as the 209th did back in the early 50's. Thanks Derek for loan of the 'Bat Patrol' log.



Earlier I mentioned a certain pivotal character, **Eddie Humphries**, who, since the age of 14 has played the bugle. In the 70's he began helping with the 434th Scout Group and being a bugler from his childhood, Eddie also helped with the 434th Scout Band. In 1976 he was instrumental in helping the 434th and 191st Scout Bands merge to become the **Crumpsall Scout and Guide Band (CSGB)**. Later he was also responsible for asking **Derek** to help with the CSGB in 1982 and the rest, as they say, is history. Anyway, back to the 50s and the pictures left show Eddie's first band: St Luke's CLB, on Cheetham Hill Road taking part in the Whit Walks, **3rd June 1951**. The pictures bottom left show **Eddie** making his parade debut with the CLB **29th May 1950** aged 14 and 55 years later in July 2005 with the CSGB. Eddie featured in our last post line up last November just a month short of his 84th birthday. He along with wife Margaret, remain avid supporters of our band, enjoy the newsletter and Ed still loves playing the bugle.



The 209th Scout Band was not the only band in Higher Crumpsall in the 1950's and Part 3 will feature the 42nd Manchester (St Matthew's) Boys Brigade Band from 1955, featuring one of our current members..... can you guess who? No? All will be revealed in Part 3. Thanks for reading. RF



CCB SOCIALS & CELEBRATIONS with all the above talk of the 50s, the theme continues as **Sunday 10th May** was **Julie Thompson's Big 5 Oh! Congratulations and best wishes Julie** from your many friends in and around the band. To perhaps help her feel younger again, **Julie** is pictured right in July 1986 with **trophy winning bell lyre section colleagues Alison Roberts (nee Gould) and Shane Royle**. 'Brings back fond memories I hope Julie?' **Julie** has been the chief convenor of our lockdown zoom get togethers on a Wednesday evening and this past month we have undertaken some innovative activities and held interesting discussions – not least the merits and colours of **wheelie bins** locally and around the world. Lockdown is just flying by ☺! **On 13th May** **Tricia** organised and was the 'caller' for a **CCB Night in the Bingo** the Ferguson's cleaned up on card 1; **Charlotte** winning the line and **Sarah** the House. Card 2 saw birthday girl **Julie** win both line and house. Other winners over the remaining four cards were **Stuart, Victoria, Caroline** and **Sue**. Huge thanks to Bingo caller **Tricia** who also donated prizes of wine and chocolate for all winners that will be delivered post lockdown – something to look forward too. A week later, **Jo** organised a 'fastest finger first' Kahoot Quiz with **Caroline** topping the leader board, **Sarah** and **Rob** coming 2nd and 3rd respectively. Great fun and big thanks **Jo**.



To join in and keep in touch on the CCB WhatsApp Group please contact Julie Thompson on 07960 149364



VE/VJ DAY ANNIVERSARIES PAST & PRESENT

The 8th May Bank Holiday marked the 75th anniversary of WWII Victory in Europe with many planned events sadly curtailed due to the current situation. However, in true brit style, various members of the band posted their own tributes with **Robbie** (pictured left) producing a musical montage of **We'll Meet Again** (very apt for these times). **Jo** played a hauntingly beautiful rendition of **Last Post** on flute whilst **Sarah** performed the same on a more traditional instrument for the piece. Households also marked the occasion with **Nicky's** children making **cakes** and **Union Flag pennants** and **Catherine** enjoyed a patriotic back garden picnic. More videos and pics on our

WhatsApp Group chat. **Well done all.**

On 10th July 2005 Crumpsall's bands came together to celebrate the **60th Anniversary of VE & VJ day**; the date being roughly half way between both occasions. A thanksgiving service was held at the Methodist Church in the morning and **Crumpsall Scout & Guide Band**, pictured below left, played before and after this. The rest of the afternoon was then given over to **Crumpsall Comets Concert Band** as we were still known then. The main band, conducted by a military uniformed **Derek Farnell** pictured top right chaperoned by a cornet playing air raid warden, played a series of traditional period pieces and audience singalongs over two sets and in the break **Doug Graham** conducted the **Junior Comets** (supplemented by some of the main band for support) who went down well with all concerned.



Middle: Bandmasters Rob & Derek.
Below: Crumpsall Comets Junior Band led by Doug Graham.



Advanced Notice – National Event, primarily for Trumpet & Cornet players (but no reason why we can't open this up to other sections locally?) to commemorate the **Anniversary of VJ day and the end of WWII on Saturday 15th August 2020**. Full details in our next issue, due end of June.

IMMINENT CALENDAR DATES – (PLEASE NOTE: ZOOM GATHERINGS EACH WEDNESDAY AT 7PM – ALL WELCOME)

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
Sun 31/05/2020	Cheetham Cultural Festival – Spring Fling 2020	Event streamed on line (You Tube) from mid day with our Band scheduled to appear at 16:45
Wed 03/06/2020	CCB General Meeting via Zoom 7pm, link as follows: https://zoom.us/j/97067958074 Meeting ID: 970 6795 8074	Open to all members & would be great to see you all to discuss current topics / future plans

