

'Hark the CCB Herald'



(FC) United We Stand

THE NEW HERALD

Newsletter of

CRUMPSALL CONCERT BAND



Volume 3 Issue 1
25th September 2020

Welcome to a new **Volume** of your **New Herald** to mark the start of the **2020/21** banding season. The beginning of this season is like no other the band – along with many similar outfits - has encountered, as the global pandemic shows no sign of abating and we all face the prospect of enhanced restrictions as we play our part in the fight to defeat Covid-19. As a band, I believe that, so far, throughout these strangest of times, we have developed a collective and mutually supportive resolve. As a result, I am grateful and proud of all our members and supporters, believing that ultimately, we will all get through this and make music in a united manner once again. A significant step on this journey is about to unfold as we look towards a return to rehearsals (*outdoors only at this stage with full details in this issue*) for those that wish or are able to, starting next Wednesday, 30th September. Along with Committee colleagues, we fully understand, and respect, members wishes and concerns about whether to return or not. As a Committee it is part of our role to provide the option in as safe and Covid-secure manner as is possible in response to wishes expressed in the member questionnaire earlier this month. Ultimately then, the decision is personal to each member and their circumstances and this will always remain the case. This is an important step for the band and whether you attend or not we are all in this together and like with our lockdown recordings, whether you played on them or not, anything that happens in our name is inclusive and representative of the band as a whole. We are and will remain the sum of our parts as we navigate a path to banding normality. Enjoy the read and above all, you and yours, stay safe and well.

Yours in Banding, Rob

In this bumper double issue:

Music Matters; Green light for rehearsals, our Banding Heritage Part 6; Calendar Dates and more enjoy the read and thanks.



MUSIC MATTERS: Queen on Stage, CCF Summer Festival, Fanfare Trumpets & more

Our latest lockdown recording, the fifth in as many months, **Queen on Stage**, featuring a selection of rock classics from one of our nation's most treasured bands, premiered via YouTube on 9th September. Once again, great work by all involved and a superb audio and visual compilation once again pulled together by Stuart & Joe – thank you. The recording also featured in our virtual involvement in the **CCF Summer Festival** which streamed live on Sunday 13th September. Our performance video included a brief intro by yours truly, **When the Stars Began to Fall, Sunset** (an excerpt from our commemoration / celebration of the 75th Anniversary of VJ day last month) before being rounded off by **Queen on Stage**. Thanks again to Stuart for pulling all this together, capturing the essence of what our 'Lockdown Sessions' have been all about: **keeping the music alive. See some stills from the Queen on Stage video below:**



Fanfare Trumpets: A big thank you to our Founder and Honorary President, **Derek Farnell**, for the recent donation of a set of fanfare trumpets to the band. It is hoped we can utilise them in the future to open concerts and other special band events and perhaps also to generate income for the band by playing for weddings or other such ceremonials, when times allow. Any ideas or opportunities welcome.

Uni Bound: Congratulations To **Charlotte Ferguson** (pictured above along with her Brother Dominic and Trombonist Andrew Shaw in our latest recording), and to Trumpeter **Ed Saxelby** who have recently headed off to Uni in **Aberdeen** and **Birmingham** respectively. As a band we wish you both every success in your endeavours and thank you for your efforts on our behalf. Any time you are back and able to, you are both most welcome at rehearsals and events and will always remain honorary members of the CCB family for as long as you want to. All the very best. RF



GREEN LIGHT FOR REHEARSALS, STARTING OUTDOORS, 30TH SEPT:

Finally, the will we-won't we be allowed to return to safe, albeit at present outdoor, rehearsals debate was settled recently. The outcome being favourable to allowing organised activities, such as ours to meet outdoors subject to strict observance of Covid-19 secure guidance and regulation. Thanks to all those who responded to the questionnaire earlier this month; 42 respondents is a fantastic figure and in itself underlines the depth of feeling amongst our membership. This number is two more than the average attendance at normal rehearsals between January and March 2020 and is therefore extremely representative. 59.5% and 73.8% of respondents wanted to return to safe outdoor rehearsals by late September and early October respectively, and so, your committee have worked hard to try and make this a reality for the band. On all our behalf we have/are planning to:

- Consulted with and kept the membership informed (questionnaire, zoom meetings, newsletters and emails)
- Sourced a secure outdoor venue; a local football stadium (more below)
- Understanding essential equipment requirements for members
- Purchased a set of bell covers for band members' instruments (to be distributed at rehearsal)
- Prepared a comprehensive risk assessment and checklist to support individual and collective wellbeing
- Issue a checklist for kit and equipment for your information and comment with this newsletter
- Plan further comprehensive communication to all members before and beyond our first rehearsal next week

To help secure a positive decision for bands, thanks to all who took up the challenge and opportunity to lobby your MPs on behalf of our band and the wider music group community. On behalf of the band your Committee also corresponded with Crumpsall's MP, Graham Stringer. Something worked because here we are, able to plan for return, at least for now.

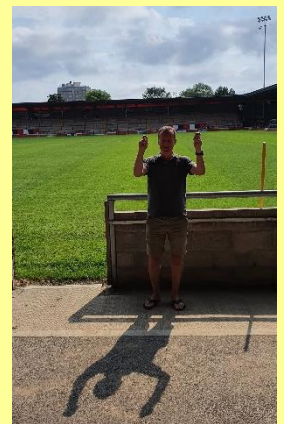
**So, where is all this going to happen and when can we expect a return to indoors?
Read on to find out the answers to these questions and more!**

OUTDOOR REHEARSAL VENUE & WHAT TO EXPECT?:



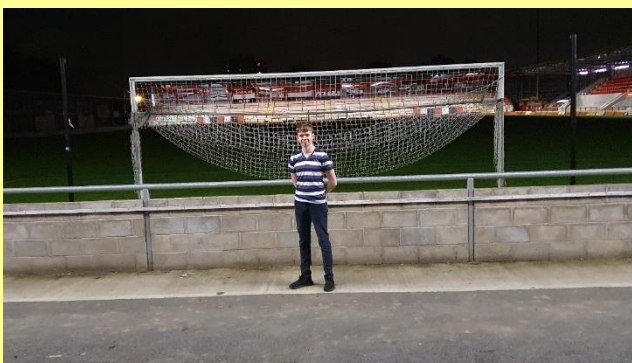
BACKGROUND:

Following our last general Zoom meeting back on 5th August, a meeting of minds between myself, and fellow trumpeters **Victoria** and **Sarah** got me seriously thinking about a club, rooted in community tradition and that is, like our band, close to my heart. An email or two later and on 9th August I was up at **Broadhurst Park**, home of **FC United of Manchester** and just three miles or so from our Crumpsall base, to speak further with the Club's Operations Manager **Paul Smith**. Paul (*pictured right in Conductor pose under the West Stand*) was immediately supportive of the idea of us looking to hold Wednesday night rehearsals outdoors, but within the secure confines of the stadium under the West Stand and two days later I chaired a special meeting of our Committee to float the idea. Again the reaction was overwhelmingly positive from Committee colleagues and work began behind the scenes to progress the idea to a proposition rooted in reality. As we are all more than aware, reality has become blurred around the edges since full lockdown was eased back in May. Despite the latest restrictions we have clarity that, for now at least, we can move forward with outdoor rehearsals initially. Indoor ones are not out of bounds but your feedback has told us that a start with outdoor first is your preference. Our grateful thanks to **Paul Smith** and all at FC United for their ongoing support.



SITE VISIT:

On Wednesday 23rd September, in conjunction with the club, we organised a site visit to FC United's ground attended by **Stuart, Sue, Joe, Nicky, Karen and myself** and our thanks to **Noel** from the Club for opening up and allowing us the time to look around and understand how safe rehearsals are going to work from next Wednesday. Again, this was an overwhelmingly positive experience, since which we are close to finalising the necessary risk assessments and are within touching distance of making the vision a reality. The pictures below, taken at the site visit on Wednesday, give you an idea of the space afforded to us under the West Stand:



The depth from the pitch perimeter to the back wall is 10m and the width goes from where the picture is taken to where stuart is stood (behind Joe) in the distant background. As you can see, the lighting is pretty good but we also advise clip on stand lights too if you feel they are necessary. The stand height is approx. 8m, affording plenty of ventilation. 😊

KEY ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT WEEK – IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

- **Ground Address:** FC United of Manchester, Broadhurst Park, 310 Lightbourne Road, Moston, Manchester, M40 0FJ
- **Timings:** Arrive 19:15, rehearsal 19:45 to 20:45, pack down and depart by 21:00. Subsequent rehearsals will have a later arrival time of 19:30 but longer is required on the first week back. Try to arrive in good time.
- **Car Parking:** Large free car park available. **Toilet Facilities:** On site.
- **What are the rules?:** Paramount is the health and wellbeing of all members who choose to attend a rehearsal. Therefore, later this weekend we hope to be able to provide you with sight of our 20-page risk assessment giving you a small window of opportunity to let us know of any omissions and to ask any questions before a finalised version is issued to all members and our hosts on Monday. The risk assessment, appended with the checklist emailed with this newsletter, (again, open for amendment if necessary) provide you with all the necessary rules, guidelines and requirements that will ultimately ensure a least-risk scenario for anyone attending rehearsals.
- **It is important to note** that failure to observe the guidelines and protocols in the documentation we provide, could result in you being asked to leave a rehearsal and/or not attend future rehearsals and could ultimately lead to rehearsals being cancelled. Your safety, that of your fellow members, and our collective enjoyment of playing music together again depends entirely upon us all and our positive, respectful behaviours.
- **The Checklist:** Please review and advise of anything that you feel needs adding by no later than Sunday 27th. If you are intending / able to return to rehearsals next week or in the near future, use the checklist to begin getting your kit together sooner rather than later. Remember everything you bring you have to be able to carry as we will all be responsible for our own kit. If you are driving, your car will be at least 100m from the Stand.
- **IMPORTANT – Pre Rehearsal Registration:** On Monday evening (every week from Mon 28th) you will receive an email containing a link to an online registration form that must be completed on Tuesday and up to NO LATER than 12 noon on Wednesday if you wish to attend that Wednesday's rehearsal. The registration is to allow us to prepare for expected numbers and mix of instrumentation and to support test and trace protocols.
- **Failure to complete and submit** the form by 12 noon on the Wednesday will result in you not being allowed to attend that evening's rehearsal. Don't delay if you wish to attend. Any member turning up 'on spec' on the evening without completing the registration will not be admitted to the rehearsal. Once you see the form, which includes various health related statements, you will understand why pre-registration is necessary. Thanks.
- **Those members who we know have restricted internet access be contacted separately.**

Further information will be provided in the emails to follow with with the risk assessment and online registration from details however, any questions in the meantime, please email r.fullen23@gmail.com

ABOUT OUR HOSTS: FC UNITED OF MANCHESTER IN BRIEF – YEAR FORMED: 2005



WHY FORMED: The catalyst was the take over of Manchester United by the Glazer Family in May 2005. The club was and remains established as a fan owned alternative to the excesses and greed of the modern game.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES: One member one vote, elected board to run day to day affairs, affordable family football, community focussed, making friends not millionaires, showing there is a sustainable alternative way.

COMMUNITY ETHOS: Firmly enshrined in the club's constitution with some of the many examples being: opening their doors to the homeless on Christmas Day, support of homeless charities with an annual collection of warm winter clothing 'Big Coat Day', Youth United Day, providing pathways

into sport including football, Sporting Memories Sessions in support of dementia sufferers and even hosting rehearsals for a local, community focussed Concert Band 😊

BROADHURST PARK: Became the club's home in May 2015 and the result of hardwork and endeavour by the membership to raise circa 50% of the £6.3M building costs for the ground we see today. The previous 10 years had seen the club groundshare; spending the first 8 seasons at Bury FC's Gigg Lane, before splitting home games between Stalybridge Celtic's Bower Fold and Curzon Ashton's Tameside Stadium.

WELL TRAVELLED: The club has played games both near and far, making many friends along the way. **UK:** all over England, into Wales and over to Belfast. **Mainland Europe:** Salzburg, Stockholm, Leipzig, Marburg, Hamburg, Berlin and Winterthur. **Further afield:** Seoul, South Korea, Detroit, USA.

SENIOR TEAMS: **Men's Team** – currently in the Northern Premier League Premier Division; step 7 of the English League pyramid. **Women's Team** – currently in the Premier Division of the North West Women's Regional League; step 5 of the Women's English League pyramid.

LAST SEASON was cancelled due to COVID 19 with only a few games remaining. Cruelly, the men were poised for a shot at promotion lying in 2nd place in their league. The Women, almost certain of promotion, topped their league at the time it all got cancelled. Both teams had also reached the final of their respective Manchester FA Cups.

THIS SEASON has just begun and both sides will endeavour to defend trophies and earn overdue promotion all being well.

MEMBERSHIP: £15.00 pa to become a member/co-owner Interested ? 😊

FOR FURTHER DETAILS & INFORMATION: Please visit www.fc-utd.co.uk



Aerial view Broadhurst Park: West Stand- top edge, backing onto Lightbourne Road



WHEN CAN INDOOR REHEARSALS RECOMMENCE?

Conscious that this newsletter has necessarily focussed on the immediacy of a return to rehearsing, concentrating on outdoors at this stage, following questionnaire feedback. The basis for the outdoor preference is around reassurance of it being a least-risk route back into playing together and as a Committee we totally understand and respect this. However, recognising the time of year we are now entering and the large age range demographic of our membership, until we try outdoors, we are not able to predict how sustainable this option will be due to the onset of autumn and winter.

Now an outdoor rehearsing venue has been established, we can begin the process of understanding the guidance for indoor rehearsals, what constraints the space will have on numbers able to attend safely and making any necessary tweaks to our risk assessments and guidance. All this will take time and we will be working closely with our partners at St Matthew's to ensure we develop an indoor option back in our home base of **Crumpsall Community Hall** at the soonest opportunity. A further update will be provided via the usual channels in due course. Thanks, RF

CRUMPSALL CONCERT BAND – Band Heritage Series Part 6: Into the 1960's

As our series enters the swinging 60's, we see our central character, **Derek Farnell**, close in on the completion of his apprenticeship, interrupted by National Service, at Manchester based musical instrument makers and repairers, Mayer & Harrison (see 1965 M&H Ltd Brass Bugle Right – could this have been one of Derek's?). His good friend **Clifford Bevan**, without whom Derek would never have taken up music as a profession, had left the Crumpsall area in 1956 and headed to the Royal Academy of Music to study Trombone and Composition.



The Very Best Of THE TEMPERANCE SEVEN



Following graduation, he went freelance including brass teaching and occupying the first trombone seat in Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet Orchestra where he was to meet his harpist wife Jeannette. In 1961 Cliff became the chief arranger for the **Temperance Seven**, a band playing 1920's Jazz and they enjoyed several chart entries including a **No1 'You're Driving Me Crazy' on 31st May 1961**. No2 that week was 'Blue Moon' by the Marceles and down at No7 was Elvis Presley with 'Wooden Heart'. I am surmising that the trombonist lying across the bottom of the record sleeve pictured left, is none other than Mr Bevan? 😊

Banding carried on locally with Crumpsall being represented, as in the 50's, by the St Matthew's based 42nd Manchester Boy's Brigade Band and Crumpsall Park Methodist based 209th Scout Band.



Pictured left: The 209th Scout Band with Crumpsall Park Methodist Church Sunday School Banner and all the units (see Guides in the background) behind. This is on the local whit walks circa 1960 with **Ian Farnell** on Bass Drum – photo taken from outside Derek & Ian's parents' house, 35 Chudleigh Road, and the Methodist Minister was the recently arrived George Dolby.

Ian also features right on side drum in front of bass drummer **John Critchley** (whose future daughter **Joanne** went on to play cymbals in the Crumpsall Scout & Guide Band in the mid



1980's) on a Church parade photograph taken on Ash Tree Road (then Oak Road) adjacent to the Methodist Church with Crumpsall Park across the Road. Ian, featuring on both bass and snare drum here, was clearly destined to become a kit drummer of some repute and of course served with our band for many years up until his retirement from our drum stool in summer 2019. **Next issue** we feature a first incarnation of a Scout & Guide Band in Crumpsall as well as throwing the spotlight on our own **Norman Davies** on Parade in 1963; all this in the month that will see **Norman celebrate his 95th Birthday**. RF

Calendar Dates

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
Wed 30/09/2020	Back to rehearsals – Outdoor – FC United of Manchester Don't forget pre-registration to attend required	19:15 – 21:00 (Rehearsal time 19:45 – 20:45) (No break)
Wednesdays 07, 14 & 21/10/2020	Outdoor Rehearsals - FC United of Manchester Don't forget pre-registration to attend required each week	19:30 – 21:00 (Rehearsal time 19:45 – 20:45) (No break)
Wed 28/10/2020	No Rehearsal (To be Confirmed)	Half Term Break

Please Note: We are hoping to share rehearsals on Zoom to allow those that are not able to attend to still be involved in the experience as they wish. Please bear with us as we test the technology from next week onwards and full details to follow.

Next Issue due 30/10/2020 and will include a feature on our own Norman Davies as he reaches the milestone age of 95 on 16th Oct

Belatedly, next issue we will also feature news from our basement store room clearance project that started on 12th September with grateful thanks to Stuart, Sue, Karen and Victoria for all their help so far. This will tie in nicely with an update on any potential return to indoor rehearsals if circumstances allow. Best wishes and thanks for reading, Rob