

'Hark the CCB Herald'



A tale: Forever Autumn

# THE NEW HERALD

Newsletter of

## CRUMPSALL CONCERT BAND

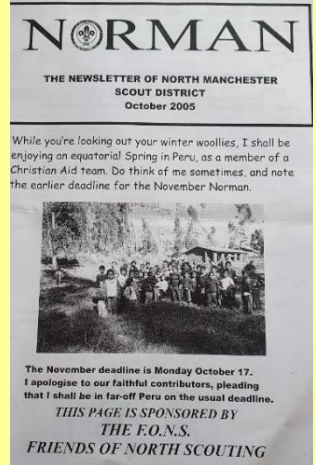


Volume 3 Issue 2  
30<sup>th</sup> October 2020

**Welcome** to your slightly delayed October issue of the **New Herald** celebrating a **recent safe return to rehearsals** along with so much more to keep you right up to date with all things band related. But first, an Autumn tale: **Once upon a time**, in the not too dim and distant past, there was, hereabouts in circulation, a popular local Scouting publication '**The NORMAN**'; an amalgam of the **NORTH MANchester** Scout District. '**The NORMAN**' was part sponsored by **F.O.N.S. Friends Of North (Manchester) Scouting**, in which our own **Norman Davies** played an active part.

The tale continues and this month has seen **our Norman** celebrate his **95<sup>th</sup> Birthday**. This is duly marked within this issue, along with a feature on Mr Davies on parade in 1963 in part 7 of our historical series. Such is the content surrounding **our trombonist brew maker**, I considered changing the name of this edition to reflect the old Scouting publication 😊.

However, whilst Norman is rightly celebrated, there is plenty of other content besides and we remain the sum of our parts as together, we navigate a path through uncertain times. Enjoy the read and above all, you and yours, stay safe and well. **Yours in Banding, Rob**



**In this bumper issue:**  
**Music Matters, our Banding Heritage Part 7, Marking a Special Birthday, Wheelie Bins 'R' Us, Member Consultation, Calendar Dates, A Competition and more. Enjoy and thank you!**  
**IMPORTANT: SEE HALLOWEEN LOCKDOWN STOP PRESS AT THE END OF THIS NEWSLETTER**

**MUSIC MATTERS:** At last, a safe return to 'combo' rehearsals, a note from our Principal Conductor, a look ahead as we continue planning for a safe, sustainable, inclusive future

Back on 30<sup>th</sup> September, after weeks of member consultation and behind the scenes planning, our band took its first tentative steps into a brave new world dominated by a global pandemic. Carefully emerging in a considered and safe way, we held our first rehearsal since 11<sup>th</sup> March, outdoors under the West Stand of FC United of Manchester's Broadhurst Park Stadium. Pictures below depict our first 'historic' rehearsal of the 2020/21 season on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 'like we'd never been away':

**Week 1:** Safely, the band sets up as Joe gets ready to put us through our paces, starting with Celtic Crest



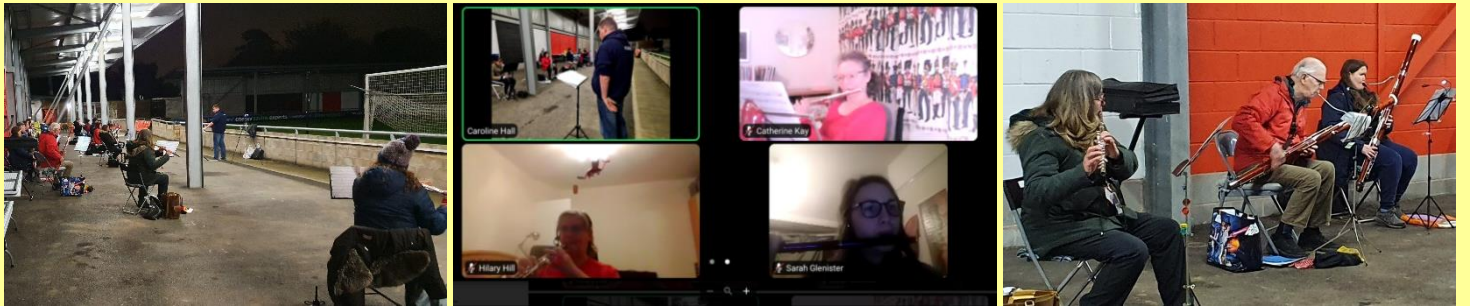
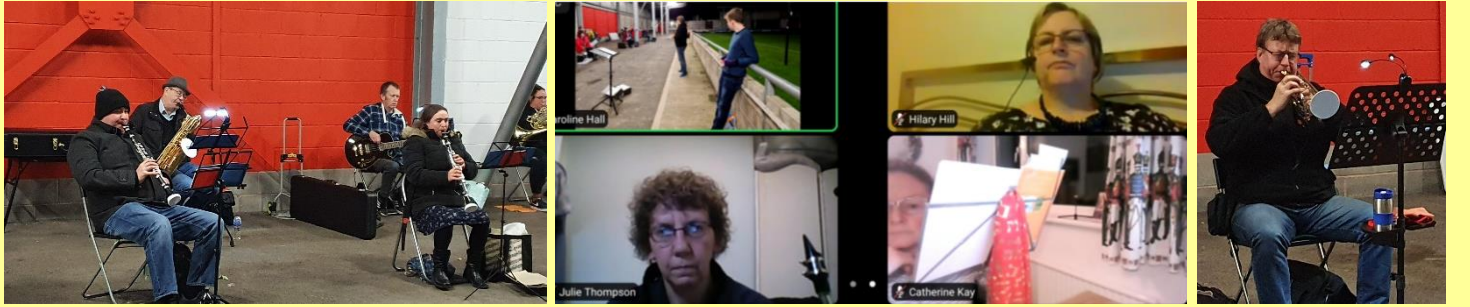
**Week 1:** Zoom experience - Caroline preps the link in Moston, and Julie joins in from home in Crumpsall



Our inclusive commitment to all members being absolute, we have managed to engineer combined rehearsals; physical for those who wished and were able to attend in person and virtual via Zoom for those that wanted to watch initially and then join in with instruments as the half term progressed. Now, four rehearsals in, 21 of the band have felt able to physically attend at least once this half term and a further 8 have tuned in at least once via zoom. Very respectable given the circumstances.



The following montage shows a combination of physical and zoom experiences during October, up to the half-term break:



Grateful thanks to our hosts, Paul, Noel and all at FC United of Manchester, all those who have wished us well, stand-in conductors Joe & Robbie, Stuart for the risk assessment and bell covers, Victoria for the online questionnaires and registration forms, Caroline and Julie for the Zoom technicals, Committee Colleagues for your endeavours and support, Karen for capturing the essence of rehearsals on camera and video and last, but by no means least, everyone who has taken part physically or virtually. Onwards and Upwards. RF

Principal Conductor Alan and his Trombonist wife Jane, have joined us at rehearsal via Zoom a couple of times (see pics above) and whilst difficult to comment remotely, both pass on their "good wishes to everyone" along with the message to "follow the rules, keep playing and keep safe". Thanks Alan and Jane and we look forward to welcoming you back when you feel able and ready.



**What Next?** After the half term break this week, **rehearsals resume next Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> November, up at FC United** where they will continue for the time being whilst work goes on behind the scenes to carefully risk assess our **Crumpsall HQ** to ensure we are as prepared as possible to recommend a safe return to indoor rehearsals if this is the consensus of the band (see questionnaire section on the next page) or a lockdown prevents otherwise.



We are in the process of formally securing our booking at St Matthew's, officially from 4<sup>th</sup> November, and consequently will be paying double rental (for indoor and outdoor venues) for the coming weeks unless a speculated lockdown dictates otherwise. We are negotiating with St Matthew's for a reduced rental payment whilst we are not physically using the venue and await Church approval of this proposal as I write.



**Registration for next Wednesday's rehearsal opens at 8am Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> November and closes at Noon on Wed 4<sup>th</sup>. Keep an eye on your emails for the link.**



**Questionnaire:** Another member ask, if you don't mind. Very soon (within the next week or so – unless a wider lockdown intervenes) a questionnaire will be circulated to all members to understand current, broader thinking across the membership regarding rehearsal preferences and timescales. We will use the intelligence from your responses to inform rehearsal strategy up to and beyond the Christmas break. Being as consultative as possible, this is unlikely to be the last questionnaire as we fully understand how feelings, perceptions and realities change in tune with the times we are living through. Thanks as always for your continued participation, support and cooperation. The more responses, the better our understanding and more effective our strategy. Thank as always from *Your Committee*.



Member Questionnaire - Autumn 2020

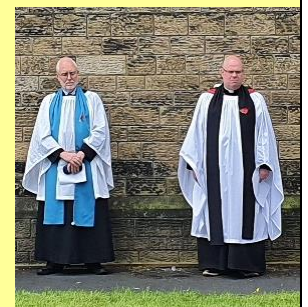
## CRUMPSALL CONCERT BAND – Band Heritage Series Part 7: The early 1960's

Last issue we swung into the 60's with **Cliff Bevan** and the Temperance Seven. **Derek Farnell**, home from National Service with the Kings Own Hussars in Germany (1957), married Amy (1958) and finished his apprenticeship at Mayer & Harrison in the early part of the new decade. **Derek and Amy** moved back to Crumpsall from Moston in 1963 and formed the Musical Instrument Makers & Repairers firm Farnell, Farnell and Backhouse. This was a partnership that was to last for several decades with the principal partners being **Derek**, his brother **Ian** and colleague **Eric Backhouse**. All three of course became pivotal members of our band; Derek as Founder in 1993, Ian as long-standing percussionist and Eric who served for many years as the band's baritone saxophonist. The fledgeling company's initial engineering works, between 1963 and 1965, was located a stone's throw from Derek and Amy's new home on Crumpsall Lane in the outbuildings of Hamerton's Farm, Sherdley Road behind Crumpsall Lane Primary School. The redeveloped site is now occupied by the elderly residents' complex of Sherdley Court. The picture above right shows the band (Crumpsall Comets Concert Band - Comets being dropped from our name around the turn of the Century) performing in the late 1990's at a nursing home in Charlestown (adjacent to the old Booth Hall Children's Hospital) featuring Derek's business partners **Ian** on drums in the background and **Eric** on Baritone Sax sat rear right. **Derek** would have been conducting and notice his eventual successor, **Kathryn Burke**, in the foreground, on clarinet.



**Back to 1963 and enter the story, Mr Norman Davies.** Later in this issue as we spotlight Norman again in celebration of his 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday, we will take a look back over his early years and exploits predating much of what has gone before in this series. In the early 60's **Norman** was a member of the **Gravel Lane Methodist Church (Salford) Brass Band** and this fabulous picture depicts him in the middle of their front rank, behind the Drum Major, playing his main instrument to this day, the trombone. The parade is the Whit Friday Walks on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1963 and this picture, a rare colour snap, appeared in the Salford City Reporter at the time.

The local marching bands continued to thrive in Crumpsall and a certain **Mr Ian Choularton** moved to Crumpsall in 1961. Ian, since that time and up to the present day has been associated with St Matthew's Church and is currently on the clerical staff as the Parish Reader pictured in the blue stole alongside Priest in Charge Daniel Valentine, when we held our celebration and commemoration event for the VJ Day 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary back in August. In January 1962, Ian, then aged 10, joined the 42<sup>nd</sup> Manchester Boys Brigade Company in their Junior Section, the Lifebuoys. In September 1962, Ian moved up into the main BB Company and joined its famous band on bugle. Within 10 years he would become bandmaster of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Manchester - more of his and the band's exploits in a later issue.



Meanwhile, the **209<sup>th</sup> Scout Band** was evolving and a **very recent revelation** has uncovered the fact that the Crumpsall Scout and Guide Band from which our band was largely formed in 1993, was not in fact the first Scout and Guide Band in Crumpsall. Between 1963 and 1966 the 209<sup>th</sup> Crumpsall Park Methodist Scout Band was augmented by girls from the 7th Crumpsall Guide Company and although not in evidence on the Remembrance Sunday Picture of the band in 1963 below, they were certainly active with the band around that time as is recalled by former Girl Guide **Alison Tennant (nee Mace)** writing back in July this year:



"I was in the Guides for at least 4 years from being 11 in 1962, the last few of which I was also in the band. We went on parade and I remember we played on a St George's Day March that took us down into Broughton, Salford and we must have marched for an hour and a half to get there.

I loved our Guide Leader **Mrs (Rosa) Slater** [more on the great character of Rosa Slater in future issues] and she took us on several camps to Disley and I realise now how much time and effort she put into it. I still have my horse riders and collector's badges somewhere.

In 1963/64 it was decided that us guides could join the Scout Band and learn bugle. **Alan Mann** associated strongly with the renowned 42<sup>nd</sup> Manchester BB Band at St Matthews, came to teach us and I along with fellow guides, **Joan Bagnall**, **Margaret Heywood** and others were taught to belt out such numbers as Lancashire Lads and Yorkshire Girl after two threes and a seven beat roll on the drums. Happy Days". **Alison Tennant 10/07/2020.**

**Part 8 of our band heritage series** charts the arrival of a new band on the Crumpsall Scene as we move into the mid 1960's. As always, I hope you are finding this series of interest and please share any historical references you have as we meander through the decades to the present day. Thanks for reading. Rob

**CRUMPSALL CONCERT BAND – SOCIAL & NEWS:**

**BIN BANTER 2020** – Being a mainstay of lockdown Wednesday Zoom banter since the end of March, I feel justified including a Wheelie Bin article in this issue, not least because, for three consecutive weeks up to Wednesday just gone, at least one of our bins has failed to be collected on the appointed day

leading to Karen emailing the powers that be for a swift resolution. However, bin chatter becomes more sociable here on in as the picture right from one of our last regular lockdown Zooms back on 16<sup>th</sup> September sees Julie, top left, showing off her miniature blue wheelie bin. If that's enough for all you bin heads out there, then did anyone see breakfast TV with Piers and Suzanna back on 29<sup>th</sup> September? No? Well I stand guilty as charged, but, in my defence, only for newsletter journalistic reasons, as you will see! The programme featured Swindon Engineer **Andy Jennings** setting a Guinness World Record for the fastest Wheelie Bin at **45.35 mph** all in aid of charity. **That's Wheelie faster than our recent weekly collections for sure!**



What a happy ending to our series of regular Bin Banter for 2020 and thanks to all for your pictures and bin tales. Lockdown wouldn't have been the same without them. Hold on though, the feature could return as lockdown talk gathers momentum once more..... watch this space ..... but let's hope not. eh!



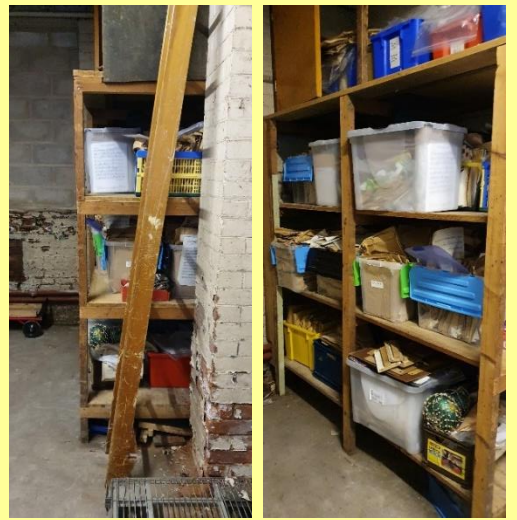
**GRATEFUL THANKS** to Marilyn Stewart and family for the recent very generous donation to the band of her late husband's instruments following the sad passing of Ian back on 1<sup>st</sup> July. A tribute to Ian featured in our July newsletter along with our messages of condolence. Ian is pictured left playing one of the donated instruments, his Alto Sax. Marilyn insisted it was what Ian would have wanted and I am sure, being quality instruments, they will benefit the band for many years to come. Thanks again Marilyn and Family.



## BASEMENT CLEARANCE – Sept / Oct 2020



Back on 12<sup>th</sup> September, a socially-distanced working party of **Stuart, Sue, Karen, Victoria** and me began a basement store room clearance project. Although long overdue, this was at the request of St Matthew's as the downstairs room was to be utilised by an expanded tenancy of the College of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Age; relocating many of their classes from the Abraham Moss Centre to the Crumpsall



Community Hall. Other than the shelving we built back in 1994, the downstairs storage is completely cleared and the Church/College are happy for us to keep the music on the shelves as pictured, on the understanding that the room is shared. In the meantime, our librarian, **Sue Atkinson**, has redoubled her efforts to sort the old stock of music and last Wednesday took another couple of boxes home to sort. Thanks to Sue & the wider working party and to our Honorary Vice President **Eva Jacobs** who continues to support Sue's librarianship, recently printing over 50 cover sheets for pieces Sue has catalogued. Wow, and thanks again.



## A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY – HAPPY 95<sup>TH</sup> TO NORMAN DAVIES

**In our August issue we celebrated Doug's 90<sup>th</sup> and this time around Norman's 95<sup>th</sup>. Anyone know their secret?**

Norman was born an identical twin with Leonard to Ernest and Elizabeth Davies in Crumpsall Hospital, a stones throw from the then relatively newly built, St Matthew's Church, on **16<sup>th</sup> October 1925**.

Their family home was on Queens Road, Cheetham Hill and Norman & Leonard attended Temple Primary School. Aged 5½ it was at infant school where tragedy struck. Diphtheria entered the school and sadly Norman's brother Leonard succumbed to the illness and passed away whilst fortunately Norman escaped infection. The family remained in Cheetham Hill until Norman was 15 and then moved to No 4A Wilton Road in Crumpsall.

A teenaged Norman had a brief spell in St Margaret's Scouts before joining the 191<sup>st</sup> Scouts at St Matthew's. He didn't settle at either and his friend, Eric Rogerson, came to see him and persuaded him to join the 209<sup>th</sup> Scout Group at Crumpsall Park Methodist Church where he felt instantly at home. The Scout Master at the time was a Scottish Gentleman by the name of Mr Letchnick; known to his charges as 'Skip'.

Being of an age, it wasn't long before Norman graduated to the Rover Scouts (much later to be known as Venture Scouts and latterly Explorers) and he became Treasurer for the famous Rover Scout County camp base, Cumberland Cottage, in Wildboar Clough, Cheshire quite a while before Derek Farnell and Cliff Bevan played there with the 209<sup>th</sup> Scout Band in 1951; as featured earlier on in our historical series. Following Rover Scouts, Norman joined the Army during WWII and

afterwards, once he resumed his civilian life, his commitment, away from work, to voluntary service, never wavered even, no especially, once he entered retirement 30 years ago.

Indeed, wherever Norman has volunteered, whether it be Banding (and he's played in a few) Scouting, Amateur Dramatics or Church, he has always ended up with positions of responsibility ranging from Treasurer, Pianist / Organist to the most important job of all, **chief brew maker**. Norman loves his cuppa. Whilst trombone has long been Norman's instrument of choice he has always embraced new musical challenges and very recently, after being charged to look after a violin by a retired colleague who emigrated to Australia many years ago, he has had the instrument overhauled and begun learning. This makes the Laurel and Hardy card (violin / trombone duet) on the following page all the more appropriate 😊 😊.

Have a  
Enjoy a  
brew on  
us Norman  
😊



To Norman

CONGRATULATIONS !!  
HAPPY 95<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY  
From all your friends in and around  
CRUMPSALL CONCERT BAND 🎵



Norman is also tackling the euph, has tried his hand at conducting school up at Giggleswick (Nr Settle) as well as being an accomplished pianist. Is music the secret of a longer life therefore?




Unfortunately, the day following his 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday (pictured left) Norman was admitted for a few days to North Manchester General (Crumpsall Hospital) but is home now and, although battling an infection, was in good spirits when we spoke just a few days ago. Despite his morning routine post breakfast comprising half hour spells on Piano, Euphonium & Trombone (not sure where the violin fits in) he is really missing band, not least the brewing up for everyone. He is delighted that we are back rehearsing up at FC United and fully intends to be back with us as soon as circumstances allow.

All the above goes to show what a truly inspirational character Norman is and he appears to view age and ill health as relatively minor inconveniences. Is this along with a good cuppa & busy retirement the secret of a longer life therefore?

Norman was truly grateful and delighted with all of the best wishes from many within and around the band that filled two sheets of A4 and accompanied the card shown on the previous page. Chuckling, he also thanked everyone for chipping in towards the enclosed 20p and tea bag 😊 . I am sure you will join me once more in wishing Norman a swift return to good health and many happy returns. **All the very best Mr Davies.**

**Lockdown Competition:** How many times does the name **Norman** appear in this newsletter? Answers by email and the winner(s) will be revealed in the November issue due Friday 27<sup>th</sup>

### Calendar Dates

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
Wed 04/11/2020	Back to rehearsals – Outdoor – FC United of Manchester Don't forget, online pre-registration to attend is required. Those joining on Zoom, details to follow.	19:15 – 21:00 (Rehearsal time 19:45 – 20:45) (No Break)
Sun 08/11/2020	 Remembrance Sunday – Bugle party from the band will be playing Last Post and Reveille during St Matthew's Service of Remembrance	Bugle party to meet at 10am in full band uniform. Act of Remembrance will take place during the service at the traditional time either side of the 11am silence.



**HALLOWEEN LOCKDOWN STOP PRESS:** Apologies for the slight delay to your October newsletter largely due to rife speculation of a pending lockdown during yesterday as I was finalising this issue. Speculation is now fact as confirmed in this evening's Halloween Press Conference by the Prime Minister and his Scientific Advisors.

As things stand and after consultation with Committee colleagues, we are going ahead with a safe outdoor rehearsal on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> in advance of heightened restrictions scheduled for introduction on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>. As with all rehearsals since we resumed on 30<sup>th</sup> September, attendance is a matter of personal choice, via the on-line registration process and in full regard of our comprehensive risk assessment.

Beyond this, we await guidance on whether bands can continue to rehearse (at least outdoor) under the new restrictions that run through to Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December in the first instance. We are also seeking clarification on whether FC United will be allowed to hire their facilities out during this period even if we are allowed to continue to rehearse. We are pretty certain that indoor rehearsals will not be an option during this period and will therefore hold back on the member questionnaire referenced above. In addition, I have asked the question of St Matthew's as to whether their planned Remembrance Sunday Service on 8<sup>th</sup> November will be going ahead.

At this stage I'm afraid the only certainty after Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> is uncertainty, but please be assured I, along with committee colleagues will be keeping across all avenues of guidance and will keep you fully informed via the usual channels.

In the meantime, hopefully see some of you, if you wish and feel able, on Wednesday up at Broadhurst Park and all, please keep safe and well. Thanks once again for reading, Yours in Banding, Rob **END OF STOP PRESS**