

'Hark the CCB Herald'



A New Year Beckons
Heralding Hope

THE NEW HERALD

Newsletter of

CRUMPSALL CONCERT BAND



Volume 3 Issue 4
31st December 2020

Welcome to your **December** issue of **The New Herald** as we sit on the cusp of bidding farewell to the strangest of years and welcoming in the 21st Century's coming of age. The last 12 months witnessed the band flourish and grow during the first quarter of 2020 with new conductor **Alan Cottrill** at the helm for the first (and last) of our nine 'normal' rehearsals of the year. For the remainder of the year, the band has been required to innovate to survive; **discovering Zoom**, undertaking home '**lockdown**' recordings (7 in total) and adjusting to 7 joint Zoom and 'Covid-secure' physical rehearsals (outdoor in the cold at FC United). We physically celebrated and commemorated the **75th Anniversary of VJ Day** and both physically and virtually marked **Remembrance weekend** last month. We were also pleased to virtually support the two events held by the **Cheetham Cultural Festival** in May and September, respectively. When 'normality' was suspended during March we were busy planning a Spring Concert for April with guests of honour to be **Derek Farnell** and **Eva Jacobs** our newly appointed **Honorary President** and **Vice President**.



Also, at that time we had several dates in the diary including Radcliffe Carnival, Bury's Bandemonium and a Summer Concert. Unfortunately plans were curtailed. However, by early summer, as rates subsided, and the restrictions eased you could be forgiven for perhaps harbouring some hope of a return to a semblance of normality during the Autumn. The virus had other ideas of course but, against significant odds, St Matthew's with St Mary's Church organised a Covid-safe outdoor **Christmas celebration held on 23rd December** and this proved to be our band's first and last 'gig' of 2020, providing a beacon of hope at the end of a year where this has been in short supply. **As with all New Years**, thoughts naturally extend to resolutions and aspirations for the year ahead and despite the pervading virus and its mutant strains, hope exists in the form of vaccines. They may not totally irradiate the virus, but hopefully they will provide enough protection to significantly reduce the impact of Covid-



19, allowing for a phased and responsible return to some semblance of where we were 12 months ago. Post pandemic, **bands such as ours**, will undoubtedly play an integral role in healing our communities going forward and, whilst I am no scientist or possessor of a crystal ball, despite the current situation, I do foresee hope for a brighter future as we usher in 2021. That is my New Year hope for us all and I wish you and yours a **Very Happy, Peaceful** and above all **Healthy New Year**. At some point during the first half of the new year, I truly hope we can reunite as a full band to make our music and serve our communities. In the meantime, have hope and keep safe and well. **My sincere and grateful thanks** to committee colleagues, the wider membership & all supporters for keeping us relevant during 2020. I hope you enjoy this packed issue of **your New Herald**. **Yours in Banding, Rob**

In this bumper issue:

New Year Hopes from our Conductor, Music Matters – Lockdown Recording Latest, News from the Library, Our first & last Gig in 2020, Our Banding Heritage Part 9, Voices from Christmases Past, Band News including Get Well Messages, Calendar Dates & much more!



CONDUCTOR'S MESSAGE: NEW YEAR HOPES FROM ALAN....

Hello everyone, compliments of the season to you all. I hope you are managing to keep safe, warm, and well. **This time last year** we were looking forward to the New Year (and new beginning with the band) with no idea what lay in store just a few rehearsals in.

However, we have survived, kept positive and enjoyed our music in whatever way we could. Things remain difficult but with the prospect of the positive effects of a vaccine in the foreseeable future we still need to maintain our vigilance in the meantime.

That, with everyone's collective cooperation, **means we can begin to hope for some sort of normality** later in the year. In the meantime, keep playing, stay positive and take care. **Happy New Year, Alan**



MUSIC MATTERS: Festive Lockdown Recordings; Back to Rehearsals; Sue's Library Corner Part 2 (Shhh); 2020 – Our First and Last Gig

Festive Lockdown Recordings 2020: Our 6th & 7th recordings of year...



Following our move into a four-week lockdown on 5th November and subsequent decision to try and record one, if not two, tunes from **Hal Leonard's** festive selection, the band rose to the challenge by recording, producing and releasing **Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow** on 3rd December and **Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer**, released, very appropriately, on Christmas Eve. Huge thanks to all who found time to take part and for the dynamic production skills of **Stuart and Joe** once again (*Love the snow effects and could that actually be Santa's Sleigh behind Caroline, pictured below or Graham the Groundsman's tractor trailer?*). **Our 2020 Lockdown Recordings** have certainly expanded the Band's internet presence on **YouTube** and have no doubt raised our profile and provided us with a real focus for music making in the absence of being able to perform live. Thanks again to everyone for your support.



Carols by Candlelight – St Matthew with St Mary’s, Church Wednesday 23rd December 2020
‘Our First & Last Public Performance of the Year’ – Nothing like leaving it late 😊:



All Covid precautions observed, risk assessments completed, GM Police approval in place and 357 days into 2020 the ‘big day’ had arrived. Granted, a single festive event would not normally warrant the ‘big day’ build up but, in the context of the year we have endured the fact this event went ahead at all, was important on a whole number of levels. Credit and thanks to the Church Clergy, **Daniel Valentine** and **Ian Choularton** for organising and delivering the event. Both pictured below setting up the stage during a blustery afternoon.

For the Church and Local Community, a shared, communal Carol Service complete with music and singing, provided an undoubted tonic for collective wellbeing. Of course, the musical element was provided by our band and whilst Covid Restrictions and space limited our numbers, **this event represented every single bandmember, not just those who were able to play on the night.** The day itself never failed to threaten rain; thankfully held off by the very strong winds that were battering the country at the time. My thanks to **Karen** and former (founder) member **Ian Burke** for helping with the band related set up during the day and to Ian for stewarding our self-contained Covid-safe zone during the event itself. Our area was completely independent from the main field where the congregation gathered and grateful thanks to **Stuart** for risk assessing this area and to the



church for clearing the space, which was crucial for us to be able to take part. We also had use of the main hall to store cases and keep safely distanced and warm in advance of going out to play. As

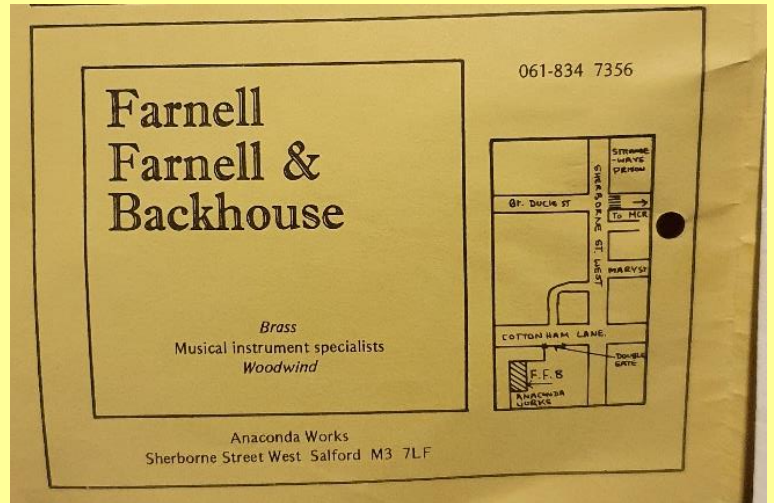


you can see below right, **Victoria** was warming up in more ways than one whilst **Stuart** warmed his digits on the keyboard ahead of plucking his bass strings out in the cold. **Doug**, in Dad’s Army Corporal Jones pose, looked ready to charge into action too. ‘Don’t Panic’ Outside and true to the name of the event, volunteer stewards from the **Rainbow Surprise Charity** lit the many candle lanterns (despite the strong breeze) that provided a real festive glow to proceedings and ahead of the 7pm start, the band was in position to provide background Carols; Deck the Halls and Past Three O’clock. At just past 7 O’clock, **Rev’d Valentine** opened proceedings and the service flowed through the traditional lessons and carols format with a break for **Jingle Bells** in the middle. The whole event ended with a couple of renditions of **We Wish You a Merry Christmas**. Thankfully, we were almost packed away when the first drops of rain began to fall. It’s always all about timing and the event was a resounding success. **Well Done All.**



CRUMPSALL CONCERT BAND – Band Heritage Series Part 9: 1966... and Christmases Past:

Last issue we covered the formation of the 191st (St Matthew's) Scout Band in late 1964 and chartered their debut appearances on the streets of Crumpsall during 1965. Around this time, **Derek and his business partners, Ian and Eric**, were making plans to relocate from their Hamerton's Farm Crumpsall base that had been their home since setting up **Farnell, Farnell & Backhouse in 1963**. In 1966 they made the move to more suitable premises; **Anaconda Works**, Sherbourne Street West, Salford, M3. After recently trawling through band memorabilia in support of this series, I came across an advert (right) that F,F&B placed in the **Moston Brook High School Band** newsletter (circa 1979/80) >>>.

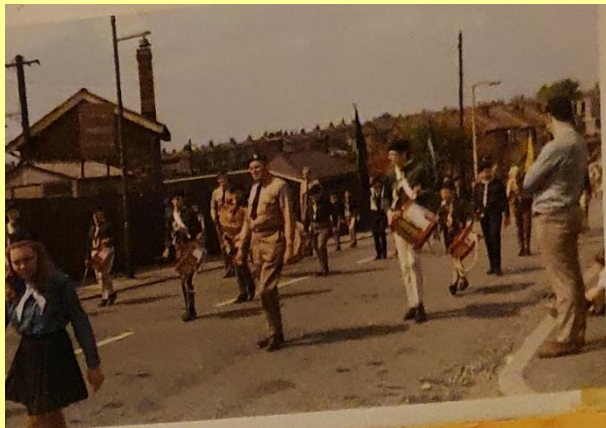


Significantly, in terms of our future, around the early to mid-60's **Derek**, along with the Leader of the **Birmingham Concert Band**, established the **Association of Concert and Military Bands** (including Marching Bands) and between them secured member bands from all over the Country. Further research is required to understand if the current **Association of Concert Bands (ACB)** is a continuation of the Association co-founded by Derek all those years ago? **Any volunteers?**



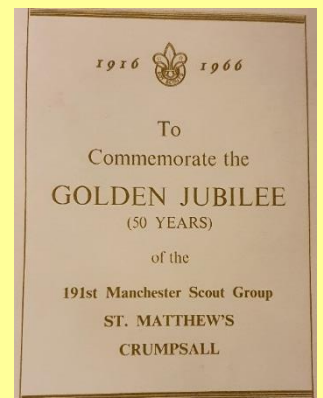
1966 was of course a special year for English Football; the **National side** hosting and Winning the World Cup and **Eric Cantona** being born too; Oo Ah! The World Cup kicked off on 11th July with the Final, held at a packed Wembley Stadium, taking place on 30th July when **Sir Alf Ramsey's** side overcame the mighty West Germans.

Back in Crumpsall, and 1966 was also a special year for the 191st Scout Group as they celebrated their **Golden Jubilee**. Celebrations began with a service of thanksgiving held at St Matthew's Church on Sunday 1st May 1966 with an open invitation extended to the Pack and Troop night on Thursday 5th May held in the 'Schoolroom' (Parish Hall). The weeklong celebrations culminated in the Schoolroom on Saturday 7th May with a re-union and social evening from 7pm featuring a Free Buffet / Barbecue and Dancing. Speaking to **Charles Ashton** many years later, he revealed that the



main motive for forming the band was to have it ready to help mark the 1966 celebrations and create a lasting legacy. If Charles were still with us, I'm sure he'd agree that our very existence today would prove testimony, in no small part, to that legacy. This will become clearer as we progress our series through the 1970's.

A month after the Golden Jubilee Celebrations, on 5th June 1966, the band, bathed in sunshine which gleamed off the polished brass drum shells, are pictured left, on Bank Road, Crumpsall, on the local **Trinity Sunday parade**. Group Scout Master **Charles Ashton** is pictured leading the band front and centre as it appears that Bandmaster, Joe Allen, was pressed into service in the bugle ranks.



As a special festive feature and pre dating the above events by more than a decade I am pleased to bring you a couple of seasonal recollections from **Crumpsall Christmases Past** with both remaining true to our band's heritage: **First of all we hear the recollections of a 90 year old Doug Graham as he remembers Christmas Eve in Crumpsall from his University Days around 70 years ago:**



*"In the early 1950's, as an undergraduate at Manchester University, I looked forward to Christmas Eve. I didn't enjoy the social (at the Parish Hall) hosted by the 42nd Company of the Boys Brigade very much, although I always attended, because my Youth Club pals did, and I was enamoured of one of the girls. However, I was not a dancer – my best dance was the 'Gay Gordons', as long as I could perform it with my best mate's girlfriend, who was as light as a feather, and allowed me to clumsily usher her round the floor without complaining. **The best part came later, after the ball!** Intending carol singers - including several of our pals from the Forum, such as **Derek and Amy** - would meet at Crumpsall Green about 11pm, well wrapped up against the cold. Equipped with small green carol books and torches, we trundled round the streets of Crumpsall, stopping at intervals to sing a couple of carols, entertaining or irritating the natives. We were generally well received, although I remember occasional instances of abuse from short-tempered or undiscerning inhabitants. **Our singing was basically unaccompanied**, although some of us experimented in later years, using instruments. By the time we finished back at Crumpsall Green in the early hours of the morning, it was Christmas Day, and we all went home to bed. Now, that's the way to do it!" Doug Graham (Dec 2020)*

A LITTLE OF THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT or 'The Gas Lamp in Cleveland Road'

by Cliff Bevan
with drawings by Roy Lance

The fresh frost glittered in the midnight moonlight shining on Manchester's northern suburbs. I sat on someone's low garden wall and thought of the first sentence in the Methodist Hymn-Book: "Methodism was born in song".

The thought was no wild aberration, as only a few yards away there actually was a group of Methodists engaged in the very act of singing. "Angels from the realms of glory, their strong young voices gave forth, 'Wing your flight o'er all the earth; Ye, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth...'" and in the light from the gas lamp I saw several of the singers look round for the instrumental support they needed in singing the ensuing refrain with its complex vocal entries. "Come...". entered the sopranos and contraltos. "Come...". echoed the basses, less confidently.

But the band needed their own mutual support. We were all on the low garden wall, arms round each other's shoulders, shaking with helpless and irrational mirth, tears in our eyes, diaphragms aching, breathless with the effort of laughing.

It was always like this, year after year, every Christmas Eve.



hills and count the mill chimneys belching smoke in this Lowry landscape. Proud housewives brushed the soot and smuts from the window-ledge each morning, donkey-stored the flags each Saturday. And on Christmas Eve was celebrated the full glory of the love of making music which had

three of us: Stan, small and squat like his cornet, played the melody line; Derek, tubby as his euphonium, played the bass part; and I, long and thin in my adolescence, the tenor line on my long, thin trombone.

We began operations at about ten o'clock and finished around one in the morning. There were traditional places where we stopped to perform: an enthusiastic church supporter's house; within the hearing of an old lady long bedridden; acroft, a patch of waste land and rusty rubbish, where we could be heard by the people in the surrounding houses. And at the end of the tour there was the delight and relief of the Minister's kitchen. Here choristers and instrumentalists together would flav their numb lips with cups of scalding tea and mince pies steaming from the oven offered from a white plate with a blue rim and letters beneath the glass reading "Trinidad and Tobago Mission" by the Superintendent's daughter.

What a vision of perfection, the Superintendent's daughter! What a miracle of creation that such a comely being should have resulted from the union of a long-gated mother and a father like Quasi-

Secondly, referencing carol playing in Crumpsall around 1953, flowing nicely from Doug's recollections above, we hear from Mr Cliff Bevan who has featured several times in our legacy series so far and are privileged to feature extracts from a 1970 published article entitled: **A Little Of The Christmas Spirit or "The Gas Lamp in Cleveland Road"**. Also depicted are some humorous cartoon illustrations, courtesy of Roy Lance, of the musicians featured in the article described there in as follows:

"There were just three of us: Stan (Bradshaw), small and squat like his cornet, played the melody line; Derek (Farnell), tubby as his euphonium, played the bass part; and I (Cliff Bevan), long and thin in my adolescence, the tenor line on my long, thin trombone" and here they are (right) caricatured in the article and



looking forward to refreshments served by the desirable daughter of the Methodist Superintendent after finishing their stint of carolling. Essentially, as a trial cure for frozen lips, but ultimately at the detriment of their musical prowess, the 'Jolly' musicians discover the virtues of rum midway through their circuit of Crumpsall's gas lit streets. I have no desire to spoil the conclusion of their festive exploits as superbly penned by Mr Bevan and Cliff has kindly given permission for his article to be available in full. **I thoroughly recommend a read and should you wish to be sent the full transcript, please email me.** Grateful thanks to both Doug and Cliff for their seasonal contributions. **In Part 10**, we get back on chronological track to chart our heritage from the end of the 1960's looking ahead to a new decade. **Thanks once again for reading. Rob**

CRUMPSALL CONCERT BAND – BAND NEWS, VIEWS, BANTER & A SPECIAL TRIBUTE..

Get Well Soon – to any members who need our best wishes at this time including:

Norman Davies (trombone) – who in recent weeks has been in and out of hospital and went back into NMGH before Christmas and will remain in hospital over New Year. However, we are reassured that Norman is being well looked after and there is talk of him moving into a rehab unit at the Crumpsall Vale facility. Remaining in good spirits, he is very grateful for all our thoughts and best wishes.

Harry Hudson (tenor saxophone) – I have recently been made aware that Harry has been taken into hospital and whilst I am unsure of his situation at the time of writing I am sure you will join me in wishing Harry a speedy and complete recovery.

Cyril Weinkove (bass clarinet) – many of you will be aware that Cyril is going through post-operative recovery at this time and like Norman, is grateful for our thoughts and best wishes. The latest is that Cyril is well and walking around more. So far, he is not requiring any new medication and is looking forward to receiving the Covid vaccine so he can see his family. **Fingers crossed yours will be soon Cyril.**



Congratulations to **Doug Graham** who received the first instalment of his COVID-19 vaccine on 16th December and is pictured later that day attending our rehearsal at FC United and, with no ill effects, played at the Christmas Carol Event a week later.

NORMAN'S WISDOM - More wisdom and (cracker) humour from and for our times:



According to research, 9 out of 10 people don't notice when you replace words with random musical instruments.

1. Why didn't Santa lose any presents this year? **He'd downloaded Sack and Trace.**
2. Why couldn't Mary & Joseph let friends know where they were that first Christmas? **Because there was no Zoom at the inn.**
3. Why did the pirates have to go into lockdown? **Because the "Arrrr!" rate had risen.**
4. Why were Santa's reindeer allowed to travel on Christmas Eve? **They had herd immunity.**



Member Questionnaire Update - Still delayed sorry, this time due to Tier 4 Restrictions...

In previous issues we mentioned that a questionnaire will be circulated to all members to understand current, broader thinking across the membership as to rehearsal preferences and timescales. The outcomes would then be used to inform rehearsal strategy as we move into 2021. This exercise is still on the cards but has been delayed firstly by the lockdown period which ended 2nd December and secondly by the New Year's Eve move into Tier 4 restrictions. Pragmatically we will pause for a few weeks to better understand the direction of travel in terms of restrictions. Thanks for your continued patience & understanding. *Your Committee*

Band Finances Update – Ensuring sustainability and viability...member communication pending:

A more detailed communication regarding finances and sustainability options is still being drafted and will be going out from the Committee to all members at the soonest opportunity. Thanks again for your patience and any continued support. Much appreciated. *Your Committee*

A Tribute – To an influential, highly regarded Bandmaster and Good Friend – Dr Don Lord:

It was with great sadness that I learned recently of the passing of **Dr Don Lord**, former Bandmaster of the once nationally renowned **4th Bramhall, St Michaels, Scout & Guide Band**. In many respects, Don's influence on the banding scene in Crumpsall was, from the early 1980's, highly significant and to those of us who had the privilege to get to know him well he was a real gentlemen, excellent mentor and good friend. In 1982 a group of us from the **Crumpsall Scout & Guide Band** asked if we could go along to Bramhall practices to improve our personal abilities and so in turn benefit our band in Crumpsall, which at the time was not even licensed to be able to perform in public outside of our church parades. Don welcomed us with open arms and in the intervening years we became integral to Bramhall's Band and their influence in turn allowed us, with Derek, to develop Crumpsall's band into a National presence. Massive when I reflect on it now at this moment of sadness and personally, I will always be grateful for Don's mentorship and friendship.



Pics: Far left, 4th Bramhall on parade at the Mellor Carnival 29th June 1985; Don in red sash furthest right in the heart of his drum section.

Middle: Don, as County Band Advisor, presenting our National Champion Drum Major David Hartley, with the Band's Inspection Certificate 25th April 1991.

Near left: Bandmasters: Don

(4th Bramhall) and our own **Derek Farnell** (CCB, then Crumpsall Comets) 8th May 1994 at an all-day rehearsal up at Bramhall's HQ culminating in a joint evening concert performed by both bands. A long but highly successful day that further cemented the Bramhall/Crumpsall relationship. Don remained a friend to Crumpsall's bands, attending and supporting our awards evenings and continuing to inspect the Scout & Guide Band up until the point he retired and emigrated with his family to the US in 2007. On behalf of the band, lasting and grateful thanks to Don for all the good times and our sincerest condolences to Wife Glenys, Daughter Samantha, Son Matthew and all their family at this sad and difficult time. **Rest in Peace Don 13/01/1944 - 18/12/2020. RF**

Calendar Dates

| DATE | EVENT | NOTES |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wed 13/01/2021 and/or | CCB Wednesday get together via Zoom at 7.30pm. Link as follows: https://zoom.us/j/97067958074 Meeting Password: 760690 | If no physical rehearsal is possible this meeting will be open to all members & would be great to see you all to discuss where we are at. |
| Wed 13/01/2021 | Possible Outdoor Rehearsal - FC United of Manchester At the time of writing, this is very much reliant on two key factors: 1. Will Tier 4 restrictions allow for Covid secure community activity 2. Will FC United's facilities be available in Tier 4. | We will keep members informed and updated via the usual channels as our understanding of the new restrictions becomes clearer. Thank you for your understanding. |

THE LAST BIT:

A very happy, healthy and hopeful New Year to all readers and your families.
We hope you enjoyed this issue with the next one due towards the end of January. In the meantime, stay well, keep safe, thanks for reading and all the best.



HAPPY NEW YEAR