

'Hark the CCB Herald'



'Forever Autumn'

# THE NEW HERALD

Newsletter of

## CRUMPSALL CONCERT BAND



Volume 4 Issue 2  
25<sup>th</sup> October 2021

**Hello & Welcome** to your October 2021 issue of the New Herald as we look back on a 7 week run of indoor rehearsals to seal our first half term of the season. We look ahead to the next half term, our Autumn Concert, Remembrance Sunday and on into the festive season; traditionally a busy time of year for all bands. Of course, all this against the backdrop of the continuing pandemic and traditional seasonal illnesses and operating all rehearsals and events as safely as is practically possible. Thanks to all for your efforts and resilience as times continue to be challenging in all aspects of our lives. Also in this issue, we feature the beginning of a mini-series by an anonymous author, take another glimpse into our library archives, and look back to our heritage at the end of the 1970s.

Enjoy the read. Yours in Banding, Rob

**In this 5 page issue:** A Message from our Conductor; Calendar Dates; Music Matters – incl' Autumn Concert Preview, potential set list; Calendar Dates; Heritage Series Part 17 – end of the 70's; New Series: 'Almost in the Band' Part 1; 'Library Corner' Part 2; Band News including – Welcomes, 'Stats Entertainment', and more. Thanks for Reading!

### CONDUCTOR'S MESSAGE: "The 'indoor' bit does make a difference" for ensemble playing:



**Hello again.** Sitting here in our caravan enjoying the sunshine and autumn colour I have been thinking about how pleasant it has been to get 'back to normal' with a full half term of indoor rehearsals. The 'indoor' bit does make a difference to what we can all hear when we are playing as an ensemble and also allows us to work on details like dynamics which get a bit lost outside. I've also realised how soon it will be Christmas and that we need to start looking at a festive program after the concert in November. I'm really looking forward to the next half term when we can continue to build up our playing repertoire and enjoy concerts and carol services together. Enjoy the half term break, practise your parts when you can and see you soon. **Best wishes, Alan**



### Calendar Dates:

Every member counts, please save the dates; thank you



DATE/TIMES	EVENT	NOTES
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2021	Autumn Concert – at MCC. Set up 6.30pm. Start 7.30pm	Our first autumn event since our 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert in 2018. Full Band Uniform
Wed 27 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2021	No Rehearsal – Half Term Break	Return to rehearsals Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> November
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2021	Remembrance Sunday – Methodist Church Crumpsall	Bugle party on duty – from 10:15am
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2021	Herristone Park – Christmas Fair – 12:30 to 14:30	Afternoon event– more details to follow
Thu 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec 2021	Crumpsall Christmas Tree Light switch on	Evening Carol event – Methodist Church
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2021	Last rehearsal before Christmas / New Year Break	But not our last event .....
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec 2021	Carols by Candlelight – St Matthew with St Mary's Church	Full band event, more details to follow
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2022	Return to rehearsals	Happy New Year !!

### MUSIC MATTERS Incl: Autumn Concert Preview, Pieces to Practise, Acts of Remembrance

**Autumn Concert Preview:** St Matthew's Parish Hall, 24<sup>th</sup> November 2018, the band held their last Autumn Showcase Concert, celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as pictured right. A change of conductor in the autumn half term 2019 saw that year's event cancelled and we all know why no concert took place last year. However, now nearer our 30<sup>th</sup> than 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we are delighted to be augmenting the colourful autumn landscape by once again hosting a showcase concert: **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at Methodist Church Crumpsall.** For supporters: doors open 6:45pm with the concert starting at 7:30pm. **There will be very limited parking at the church itself.** Band to arrive by 6.30pm and volunteers required in the afternoon to set up the venue please. Help will also be required post concert to ready the church for the Remembrance Sunday Service the following morning. Full band uniform to be worn (as per the CCF concert in September) and any queries, please let us know. **Thanks**



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The event will be fully risk assessed and entry for supporters will be strictly **by ticket only** priced **£7.50 adults** (£1.00 children accompanied by an adult). The adult price includes a programme and both prices include interval refreshments. We request supporters wear a face covering on arrival and until seated and also in any communal areas where social distancing protocols should also be observed. Hand sanitiser will be available and the venue will be suitably ventilated. **Tickets will go on general sale (online) during week commencing 1<sup>st</sup> November** and all supporters who subscribe to this newsletter will be emailed the link and all relevant information to ensure you don't miss out. **Although numbers will be limited due to safety reasons**, there should be enough tickets to satisfy demand but we would urge you get yours at the soonest opportunity once the link is live. **Live Music is Back, Folks! Thank you.**

**Potential pieces in the set list:** To allow for some half term practice, thanks to Alan for providing this early indication of pieces under consideration for inclusion in the final set list, as follows:

**Bring Him Home; Celtic Crest; Disney at the Movies; Greatest Showman; Highland Cathedral; Lord of the Dance; Mamma Mia; Pop & Rock Legends – Neil Diamond; Queen on Stage; River Kwai March; When the Stars Began to Fall.**

**Acts of Remembrance 2021:** After last year's Covid-ravaged, yet surprisingly busy period of remembrance, things are scheduled to be a little more like normal this year. Ideally, we would like to cover the 11am Act of Remembrance on the Sunday itself (14<sup>th</sup> November) at both Methodist Church Crumpsall (our traditional venue) and St Matthew's with St Mary's Church too, where we played outdoors last year. Last year's MCC service was held via zoom and we provided a pre-recording of the Last Post and Rouse so that both churches were covered. Unfortunately, bugler availability this year will only allow for us to play at MCC and the schedule for this year's acts of remembrance so far is as follows:



**Armsitice Day: Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021 11am** – Rob and Sarah will be representing the band playing Last Post and Rouse in Blackley Forest, organised by the 'Friends of Blackley Forest' and in the presence of staff and pupils of Bowker Vale Primary School.

**Remembrance Sunday: 14<sup>th</sup> November 2021 11am** – Rob and Victoria will be representing the band and uniformed organisations at the Methodist Church Crumpsall as has been almost uninterrupted tradition since 1982.

#### **October 2021 Rehearsals in Pictures:**

To conclude our first half term of indoor rehearsals, we met three times during October; weeks 5 to 7 of our 2021/22 season:

**Week 5: 06/10/2021** – welcome back clarinetists Alan Bernstein (his first rehearsal since Jan 2020) and returner Duncan Cross:



**Week 6: 13/10/2021** – highest turnout of the season so far:



**Week 7: 20/10/2021** – good to welcome Dominic Ferguson (F.Horn) and MaySon Scanlon (Trumpet) back to rehearsals:



Our first rehearsal after the half term break will be held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 at the usual time.



## CRUMPSALL CONCERT BAND – Band Heritage Series Part 17: 1978/79:

In Part 16, we reviewed how the Scout & Guide Band contributed to the Queen's Silver Jubilee Celebrations during 1977, with a settled band and leadership structure. Sadly, all that was to change as we approached the end of the decade:



After the celebrations of 1977, the founding Bandmaster of Crumpsall Scout & Guide Band, **Mr Tom Lock**, (pic left, June 1976), became ill and was only very occasionally present at band practices during 1978. Week to week running of the band fell to long standing member **Andrew Robinson** who took on the bandmaster role full time following the sad passing of Mr Lock in early 1979. Looking back, having utmost admiration for the man, I like to think that during his illness, Mr Lock found comfort from the band continuing in his absence and no doubt he could hear us practising each Friday evening as his house was less than 100 yards away from our 'blue hut' HQ.

**Andrew's banding exploits** began as a side drummer in the 191<sup>st</sup> Scout Band in the early 1970s and had progressed under Mr Lock from 1973 through the transition to the joint Scout and Guide Band in 1976 and onto the end of the 1970s. Before becoming Bandmaster he also undertook command of parades as Drum Major (pic right June 1977) and played the bass drum on parades and at events many times, too. Although a percussionist by trade, utilising skills, no doubt learned from his father, Norman, who was an accomplished woodworker and fervant supporter of the 191<sup>st</sup> Scout Group and the Band, Andrew proved a hit with us buglers by making a set of bugle cases of which three are known to still exist to this day; one being pictured below. Prior to this, bugles were recklessly unprotected; transported to and from practises and parades via a bugle cord slung over the shoulder of sometimes less than careful young buglers.



Andrew, filled with the vigor of youth, had big plans for the band's development. Unfortunately, however, these remained unfulfilled as he had to leave Crumpsall and his voluntary aspirations and ambitions, to further his professional career which ultimately saw him working in Singapore; a big ask for him to get to band practise at the 'blue hut' in Crumpsall by 7pm each Friday 😊.

The following pictures define the all too brief 'Andrew Robinson' era in charge of the band as the 1970s drew to a close:



**Local Whit Walks, June 1978:** Both pictures left are noted for their lack of visible bands. However, both the Scout and Guide Band and 42<sup>nd</sup> M/cr Boys Brigade Band were on parade that day. Pictured far left, the local Clergy with Rev'd **Fred Cheal** (leading St Matthew's and the recently expanded Parish including St Mary's Church following its 1978 closure) pictured front and centre, lead the procession off

Crumpsall Lane into Bank Road. In the background you will note the ranks of the 42<sup>nd</sup> M/cr Company following their band, led by **Ian Choularton** and whilst not visible, the band is sandwiched between the BB Company ranks and the entourage behind the clergy. Near left, at the top end of Bank Road, bringing up the rear of the procession, the 191<sup>st</sup> Scout Group followed by the 434<sup>th</sup> and respective Guide Companies, marching behind the not pictured Scout and Guide Band led by **Andrew Robinson**.



**To close the decade, in October 1979, Bandmaster Andrew Robinson** organised a band showcase for supporters and group members (no doubt to attract new members to the band) at St Matthew's Parish Hall. Pictured left, the band display their marching credentials. Shortly following this, event Andrew left the band and moved away due to work as mentioned above.

**Pictured right, the showcase event 'team photo' in front of the Parish Hall stage:** Back Row L-R: Alison Gilfillan (Bugle), Michael Robinson (Side Drum), Colin Heil (Lead Side Drum), Andrew Robinson (Bass Drum and Bandmaster), Paul Wainhouse (Lead Bugle) Roger Willescroft (Bugle), Phil McConville (Side Drum), Ian Phair (Side Drum).

**Front Row:** LR: Darryl Connor (Side Drum), Linda Collison (Cymbals), Chris Le Carpenter (Bugle), Gillian Collison (Side Drum), Rob Fullen (Bugle)

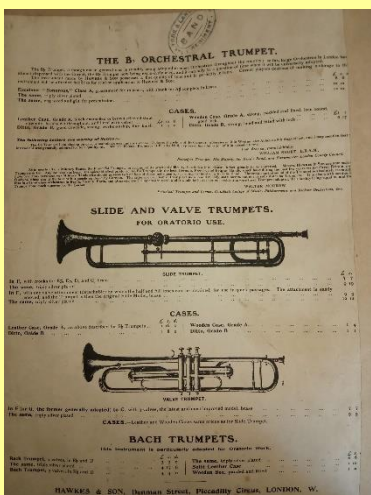
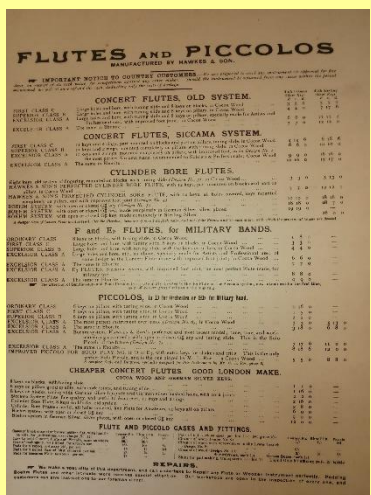


**Next issue, in Part 18,** following the departure of Andrew Robinson, the decline of the Scout and Guide Band hits a new low as we move our heritage story into the 1980s. **Could the band bounce back?** Find out next issue and thanks for reading. **RF**



## Library Corner – Part 2 – Vintage Instruments at Crazy Prices:

With 659 pieces now on the shelves of our music library, librarian Sue Atkinson continues to make significant inroads into cataloguing the vast quantities of music we possess. During her sojourn through the archives, Sue has unearthed some real gems as emphasised by the following adverts appended to scores, some of which are in excess of 100 years old:



From Mouthpieces to Trombones, music stands, to flutes and piccolos and valved and natural / slide trumpets, if you zoom in you'll find the prices (obviously pre decimal) are a pittance by today's standards but no doubt as relatively expensive to musicians of their time as they would be today. **The emphasised band stamp**, above right, shows the music containing the Trombone and Music Stand Adverts once belonged to the long disbanded York & Lancaster Regiment Band. The infantry regiment, garrisoned at Pontefract, West Yorks, was in service from 1881 – 1968, serving in both World Wars and chose to disband with honour in 1968 rather than amalgamate. Their regimental march is available for a listen on YouTube and fascinating history on Wikipedia.

To outline relative prices, the natural trumpet pictured above (without valves) is listed at circa £70 in decimal terms and would today retail in excess of £1,000. More gems from the archives in the next instalment (December's issue) when we look at some of the stunning decorative artwork found on scores of old. **Thanks to Sue, Stuart and Eva for their continued library management.**

## CRUMPSALL CONCERT BAND – BAND NEWS, VIEWS & BANTER...

### Welcomes – To New Recruits this month:

In truth, it's **welcome back to band** after a brief initial spell with us in 2018 to clarinettist **Duncan Cross**, who re-joined us on 6<sup>th</sup> October. Like many of the band, Duncan has a demanding job away from music and we sincerely hope the few hours on a Wednesday prove a midweek oasis of calm and pleasure and a welcome distraction from the daily toil. It certainly works that way for many and long may that continue. Enjoy your time with us Duncan and thanks for giving the band another go. To anyone out there who knows anyone interested in joining us, please spread the word. Thanks, RF



### Come and Join Crumpsall Concert Band!

We are a community wind band based in North Manchester and are looking for new members to join our ranks.

We are based at the Methodist Church, Crumpsall and rehearse on Wednesday evening.

Contact us on 0161 275 1100

If you wish to join, check out our website <https://crumpsallconcertband.co.uk> or email us at [crumpsallband@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:crumpsallband@hotmail.co.uk)

### STATS ENTERTAINMENT – October Rehearsals - Facts & Figures:

Date >>>	06/10/2021	13/10/2021	20/10/2021	27/10/2021	Average	Season High
Attended >	24	27	26	Half Term Break	25.67	27 (13 <sup>th</sup> Oct)

**Individual musicians who have attended at least one rehearsal in October: 33 and season to date: 37**

Co2 Concentration Analysis:	Average Co2 ppm Store Room End	Average Co2 ppm Foyer End	Overall Average Co2 ppm Rehearsal Hall
Rehearsal Date			
6 <sup>th</sup> October 2021	563.3	523.3	543.3
20 <sup>th</sup> October 2021	523.7	531.3	527.5
Detector Location Average	543.5	527.3	535.4

Recommended maximum Co2 indoor measure (schools and offices) 1,000 ppm. We are operating at 46.4% below the maximum limit.

## Fundraising & Finance - Greetings Cards:



Thanks to bandmembers and the congregation of Methodist Church Crumpsall, hand made greetings card sales have so far raised £25.00 towards band funds. Now reduced to 50p per card, why not stock up ahead of the festive season and to support this, the stall will be available at each rehearsal and Sunday morning church services throughout November and December 2021. Grateful thanks to Enid Smith for handmaking such a lovely selection of cards and for all those who have supported our fundraising. *Your Committee*

## As previewed last issue - New Feature: Part 1 – “ALMOST IN THE BAND !!!” – Anon

As a nod to all those times you've seen someone and thought “Hmmm, the way they're dressed they look like they're in the band – but they're not!!” (or is that just me?) we present a brand new feature called “Almost in the Band”. Let's kick off straight away with a clip from series 1 episode 1 of CH4's *Phoenix Nights*.



Here's TV's own Roy “It's a good answer – but it's not the right answer” Walker playing himself, in conversation with character Kenny ‘Dalglish’ Senior, played by Archie Kelly. Note how Roy is attired with the CCB uniform circa 2014-2019. The observant reader will note he has not yet acquired his stripey 2019 tie. But we all know that as Mr Walker and CCB have never crossed paths, that tie will never arrive, **and that's why Roy Walker is “ALMOST IN THE BAND”**.

Have you seen a picture of a celebrity wearing something which bears some fleeting resemblance to any piece of uniform the CCB used to or currently wears? Let us know and we can clear up the confusion by letting everyone know they were only “ALMOST IN THE BAND”. *Anon*

## THE LAST BIT:

**Vote of thanks – Thanks to all contributors this month.**

**Next Issue – A Bumper One' –** Due 30th November and will include all regular features, plus Part 2 of “ALMOST IN THE BAND”. The issue will also review our Autumn Concert, Remembrance Observations and the first event of our festive programme.

Library Corner will be taking a break next issue to return in the December newsletter.

**And Finally –** Remember, get your Christmas cards early from our Merchandise Stall, enjoy the half term break and we look forward to welcoming those who are able, back to rehearsals from 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

Thanks for reading. Rob

