

'Hark the CCB Herald'



'Tis the season to be Jolly'

# THE NEW HERALD

Newsletter of

# CRUMPSALL CONCERT BAND



Volume 4 Issue 4  
24<sup>th</sup> December 2021

**Hello & Welcome** to your Christmas Eve issue of the New Herald. Well, as another year draws to a close it's worth reflecting on how 2021 has shaped us as a band. Back in January we were all in full lockdown and **Zoom once again became our hub of communications and lockdown recordings**. We even held a **fundraising quiz via Zoom** at the end of Feb. May heralded **Step 3** of the roadmap allowing us to return to **outdoor rehearsals up at FC United's ground** once again, a run that ended with an **outdoor summer concert in the stadium** in July to round off the 20/21 season. Over the summer, the Country moved into **Step 4** where most formal restrictions ended, and we could contemplate a move back to **indoor rehearsals from September**; not before we had spent a busy few weeks **relocating our HQ to the Methodist Church**. A busy autumn / winter term began at our new HQ on 8<sup>th</sup> September and at the end of that month we performed at the **Cheetham Cultural Festival** before hosting our **own showcase concert at MCC** last month. The festive season started on Advent Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> November with a **snowy Christmas Fair in Herristone Park**, before the **light switch-on event at MCC** and finally Wednesday's splendid **carols by candlelight service** at St Matthew with St Mary's Church, Crumpsall. Sadly, we lost 3 stalwarts of the band, **Norman, Harry and Cyril**, during 2021 and our thoughts extend once more to their families and friends, particularly at this time of year. Thanks to all members, and supporters for helping us get through 2021 so vibrantly. **What will 2022 hold in store for the band?** All will be revealed; so together, **let's bring it on....** In the meantime, stay safe and well, enjoy the festive break and all the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

**Yours in Banding, Rob**



## In This Picture Packed Festive Issue:

A Message from our Conductor; Calendar Dates 2022;

Music Matters – a review of our December engagements; Our Heritage Series (Part 18);

Band News, Views & Banter; Episode 3: 'Almost in the Band'; and more. Thanks for Reading.

Please note: due to a busy issue with December events, Library Corner (Part 3) will now be included in Issue 5.

## CONDUCTOR'S MESSAGE: "thank you all for your hard work and dedication this past year":



**Season's Greetings!** I hope you are all managing to keep safe and well particularly during what continue to be challenging, and often confusing times. I would like to thank you all for your hard work and dedication this past year. We have conquered some challenging pieces and managed to entertain audiences along the way. I hope you have enjoyed playing together, we certainly have enjoyed some laughs at rehearsal. I hope you all have a lovely Christmas, whatever you are doing, and a safe, healthy and prosperous New Year. Let's look forward to some musical adventures in 2022.

Best wishes, Alan

## Calendar Dates:

Every member counts, please save the dates; thank you



DATE/TIMES	EVENT	NOTES
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2022	Happy New Year – Anticipated 1st Rehearsal of 2022	Keep an eye on usual channels for any updates
Sat 19 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2022	Spring Showcase Concert	Save the date please .... Details to follow!!
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup> June 2022	7 <sup>th</sup> Bury Bandemonium, Kay Gardens, Bury Town Centre	Full band event, more details to follow
Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> June 2022	Prestwich Carnival – 100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	Full band event, more details nearer the time
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> June 2022	Herristone Park Summer Fair – date to be confirmed	To be Confirmed – minimum half band required
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	Potential End of Season Showcase Concert	Full band event, more details nearer the time



## MUSIC MATTERS: Festive engagements Review – December 2021:

### CRUMPSALL TREE LIGHT SWITCH ON – Methodist Church Crumpsall, Thu 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec 2021:



Valued, Local Community Group 'Cleaner Crumpsall' who, in partnership with Manchester City Council organised the first Crumpsall Light Switch On event in December 2019; the inaugural honour for lighting up the Green falling to recently retired leader of the Council and local resident, **Sir Richard Leese**. Of course, although the lights went on in 2020, the pandemic prevented a gathering, however, this year on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, Cleaner Crumpsall, adapting the event to a mainly outdoor and therefore safer covid aware occasion, delivered a really successful evening. Superintendent Minister of the local Methodist Church circuit, **Caroline Wickens**, performed the honours prompting the arrival of **Santa Claus and one of his Elves**, much to the delight of local children in particular, as the band played Jingle Bells. In 2019, a quartet from the band accompanied local carol singing for the inaugural event and this year more than treble that number of bandmembers were present and the singing went on for much longer. **Thanks to event organisers Cleaner Crumpsall, Methodist Church Crumpsall** for use of facilities and of

course their grounds, and **all who took part from the band** and beyond for supporting this lovely event... **a beacon of joy and light in challenging times**. Enjoy the montage of pictures below (and those in the introduction) courtesy of **Barbara Shaw and Karen Fullen**.



### CAROL SERVICE – Methodist Church Crumpsall, Sunday 19th Dec 2021:

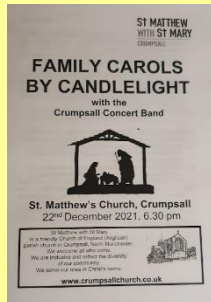
In September, after 18 months of Zoom services, the congregation of **Methodist Church Crumpsall** met for an actual 'in person' church service for the first time since the pandemic began. They made the decision to meet every other week and this meant there be no service on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent on 19<sup>th</sup> December. However, as we packed everything away following the light switch on event (above) on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, **Victoria** suggested we perhaps should consider a carol service on 19<sup>th</sup> and things developed from there. Due to not much time between the suggestion and the service we could not put this out to the wider band, however, as three of the band are members of the church and enlisting the help of good friend and church organist **Louise Gorton** on bassoon, **Victoria, Doug and I**, along with **Louise** made up the ensemble that accompanied a lovely, impromptu carol service last Sunday. My thanks to fellow



musicians mentioned above, Suzan, Daphne, Brenda and the wider fellowship of the Church and all involved in making this happen in such a short space of time.



## CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT – St Matthew with St Mary's Church, Crumpsall, Wed 22nd Dec 2021:



Months in the making, Carols by Candlelight 2021, despite the escalating transmission of the Omicron Variant and uncertainty over pending restrictions, was held in the atmospheric setting of St Matthew with St Mary Church, Crumpsall, enhanced by the cold and wet weather outside and the warm glow of 100's of flickering candles within, just a couple of days ago.

Carols by Candlelight 2020 (pictured right), the inaugural event, was of course held completely outdoors due to pandemic restrictions (just 2 weeks after the first vaccine in the world was administered to Margaret Keenan) and although our numbers were very restricted, it constituted the band's first and last ensemble appearance of 2020.



By contrast this year, despite Omicron, and after a busy Autumn / Winter term, we were able to enjoy the interior splendour of the church with 18 of the band available to take part. Thanks of course to everyone who was able to play and indeed to all the band, as many difficult decisions had to be made by our members in light of prevailing conditions and circumstances; especially being so close to Christmas. All decisions, as always, are fully respected and understood and as has been mentioned previously, in our band it is never just about those taking part it is about the whole; everyone counts.

Thanks to Priest in Charge **Daniel Valentine** and all the Team at the Church for organising and running the service and inviting us to take part once again, and to fellow performers 'Singing for Fun'; the Choir of the **College of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Age (C3A)**. On the band front, additional thanks particularly to **Tom Rose**, helping us out on Euphonium and the timely festive return from Uni in Scotland of two of our number; **Joe Atkinson** who conducted and **Charlotte Ferguson**, slotting into the back line on Tuba. Here's hoping for **Carols by Candlelight 2022 (Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> Dec 2022 TBC)** being significantly less covid affected and more inclusive than ever. Enjoy the superb selection of pictures below, courtesy of **Barbara Shaw**, that capture the atmosphere of the build up and event itself, perfectly.

**"Whose that behind the masks?" Setting the scene the night before, Tuesday 21/12/21:**

**The intrepid volunteers: Andrew, Barbara, Daniel, Joe, Les, Nicky, Rob, Stuart, Sue & Victoria**



**The event itself, Family Carols By Candlelight, Wednesday 22/12/21:**





## CRUMPSALL CONCERT BAND – Band Heritage Series Part 18: 1979/80 #1:



In Part 17 of our Heritage Series (*October 2021 issue*) we journeyed through 1979; a year that ended with Bandmaster of the Crumpsall Scout & Guide Band, Andrew Robinson, moving away due to work after the band had performed a successful display evening (pic left) at St Matthew's Parish Hall (our former HQ) in a bid to attract new recruits.

Before moving into a new decade in our story, other banding exploits, with links to our heritage, were taking place in the area; **not least the arrival of a Crumpsall based Concert Band some 14 years before our formation** and the beginnings of a short lived chromatic

diversion for the Scout & Guide Band.

**The Music Service Concert Band**, under the baton of Manchester Education Committee Music Teacher who was also a Tuba player by trade, **Mr Bernard Northwood**, was a direct spin off from the highly successful **North Music Centre Concert Band** run by two other Education Committee Music Service Teachers, **Allan Jones** and **Malcolm Cockrell**; both renowned trumpet players. The Crumpsall spin off rehearsed on Saturday mornings at the **Abraham Moss Centre** in their relatively new theatre. Membership was drawn from school bands in and around North Manchester .

Being a member of **Moston Brook High School (for boys) Band** (pictured on the front lawn of the school spring 1979) and living a short walk from Abraham Moss, I decided to give the band a go and was surprised to be put straight in on 1<sup>st</sup> Cornet alongside **Debbie Pelham**; an excellent cornet player, from **St Matthew's High School Band, Moston**. Moston Brook and St Matthew's enjoyed a friendly rivalry and on occasions shared players for each other's respective concerts to plug any gaps. (*Many years later Debbie was a guest soloist with our band at the now demolished North Manchester Hospital Social Club, Delaunays Road, for an Autumn fundraising Concert organised by Derek Farnell in the late 90's*).



About the time the Scout and Guide Band were holding their display evening pictured above, the Abraham Moss based Concert Band had been rehearsing for an autumn showcase event of their own which took place in early November 1979 in the aforementioned theatre. A particular memory from the concert was a piece celebrating Handel's Music for the Royal Fireworks which went down really well with the audience. Being my final year at school (year 11 in new speak) I couldn't maintain commitment to both the Scout and Guide and Concert Bands and so shortly after the November showcase I decided to leave the concert band as I felt my longer term loyalty lay with the Scout and Guide Band. Had I decided differently, I may not be writing this now!

In the school band picture above there are three with links to **Crumpsall Scout & Guide Band**, and they would go on to help that band develop a short-lived chromatic diversion from the usual bugle repertoire. As an aside, the teachers pictured at either end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> to back row are left, Roger Pearce, Head of Music and our Conductor (now Chair of Werneth Concert Band) and right, the aforementioned Trumpet Teacher, **Malcolm Cockrell** in the 'shades' and Woodwind Teacher **Mr Dunderdale** in the jacket. Mr Dunderdale didn't like me as, to the delight of my fellow musicians, I beat him two years running in the semi-finals of school band Christmas table tennis tournament on my way to being crowned champion - happy days 😊.

**Part 19, next month, will chart the startling decline of the Scout & Guide Band** following the Bandmaster's departure as we move the story into the second half of the 1979/80 season. **Could the band bounce back?** All will be revealed. Thanks for reading. RF

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

**Get well soon – Very Best Wishes** (We hope the Santa caption raises a smile, even an ironic one, to the tune 'Let it Snow') Why not sing along to the video on our website of our 6<sup>th</sup> lock down recording from last December? Or even channel your inner poet to pen some additional verses?



**To all who are struggling with longer term conditions, those suffering with covid or the effects of having to isolate and take additional precautions to help protect the vulnerable and elderly. Or to those suffering with traditional winter ailments or struggling in any way particularly at this time of year; very best wishes for complete and speedy recoveries, from all your friends in and around Crumpsall Concert Band.**

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

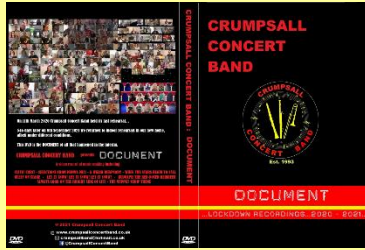
Date >>>	01/12/2021	08/12/2021	15/12/2021	22/12/2021 Event	Average	Season High
Attended >	24	15	19	18	19	29 (24 <sup>th</sup> Nov)

Individual musicians who have attended at least one rehearsal/event in Dec: 32 Season to date: 43

Co2 Concentration Analysis: Rehearsal Date	Average Co2 ppm Store Room End	Average Co2 ppm Foyer End	Overall Average Co2 ppm Rehearsal Hall
1 <sup>st</sup> December 2021	516.0	539.0	527.5
15 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	615.0	534.6	574.8
Detector Location Average	565.5	536.8	551.2

Recommended maximum Co2 indoor measure (schools and offices) 1,000 ppm.

## Update - Apologies - Slight delay with the release of our Commemorative DVD:



At our Autumn Concert and in last month's issue of your Newsletter we invited orders for our commemorative DVD, pulled together to recognise the unprecedented impact on the band and capture the spirit of survival during the pandemic. Although we committed to have it ready to fulfil early orders by Christmas, after many hours of detailed pre-production work by Stuart, the initial sample from the publishers, received last week, was not quite where we would like it to be. Before we sign off on the finished article, the publishers are undertaking some detailed tweaks at our request and unfortunately this has resulted in a delay in fulfilling early orders. Apologies to those who have ordered a DVD as a Christmas present for someone and should you wish to cancel your order, we will of course respect this and if prepaid, refund any monies. However, we feel it is important to get the quality spot on before general release and we ask that you please bear with us for a little while longer. It should be worth the wait. For any queries or to place an order, please email [crumpsallband@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:crumpsallband@hotmail.co.uk) or let any member of the committee know. Thanks for your understanding and support and particular thanks to Stuart for all his work on this project. RF

## Fundraising & Finance - Proceeds from our Autumn/Winter engagements & other fundraising:

Cheetham Cultural Festival – 26 Sept 2021:	£ Donation Pending
Autumn Concert ticket sales / donations – 13 Nov 2021:	£ 363.15 (less expenses)
Herristone Park Christmas Fair – 28 Nov 2021:	£ 100.00 (Donation from Friends of Herristone Park)
Crumpsall Christmas Tree Light Switch on – 2 Dec 2021:	£ 50.00 (Donation from Cleaner Crumpsall Group)
Christmas / Greetings Card sales:	£ 47.50 (Handmade cards by supporter, Enid Smith)

Thank you to Enid Smith for making & donating the cards for sale and thanks to everyone who has supported the band this term.

## Committee News - Latest from Your Committee:

Of course, our primary focus this term has been to reinstate safe indoor rehearsals ✓ and as safely as possible, get the band back out and playing live once again ✓. As we approached the festive season, traditionally a very busy period, our focus was increasingly honed to mitigate the spread of the new Omicron variant of Covid 19 whilst still being able to put out a viable band, not just at rehearsal but at all autumn / winter events. We are delighted that, with your support and as the newsletters this term have recorded, we have successfully and safely negotiated the end of our busiest term for 2 years. We strongly suspect that similar challenges await your committee and indeed all of us after the festive break, but, building on our collective experiences, we hope to continue on a positive trajectory. Any queries, or suggestions on how we might do things better/differently, please let us know. Many thanks and all the best, *Your Committee*.

## Behind the scenes - December Rehearsals:

When we appear live, we obviously aim to put on the best performance possible with those able to take part and as with anything in life, a lot of work goes on behind the scenes to ensure we can always give of our best to our audiences and supporters in general. Coinciding with our busiest period of public performances in two years, the virus decided to make things more difficult for us as the term neared its end. This affected our preparations for the Candlelight Service, not least depriving us of members at rehearsals. This can be clearly seen in the 'Stats Entertainment' section above with rehearsal attendances down significantly for the last two of the term. We managed however and thanks to Steve Millington (8<sup>th</sup> December), Sarah Moran and Nicky Kay (15<sup>th</sup> December) for grasping the baton and keeping us on festive message ahead of Carols by Candlelight on Wednesday and to Joe Atkinson for conducting that event. Along with Alan who was building the repertoire nicely up to 1<sup>st</sup> December, they must have done something right because reviews from Wednesday night's performance have been very favourable. Well done everyone who has put a shift in at rehearsals behind the scenes this term. The result when performing is well worth the effort. Five conductors, (pic L-R) Alan, Steve, Sarah, Nicky & Joe, over four Wednesdays must be some sort of record?





## In Loving Memory - Margaret Lynch 02/07/1939 – 13/12/2021:

Margaret sadly passed away peacefully on 13<sup>th</sup> December at her home in Crumpsall after a mercifully, relatively short battle with a very aggressive cancer. Many of the current band may never have known Margaret but many of our supporter readership will have and as will those who have passed through our ranks and remember the heady days of the late 1980's and early 90's when our forerunner, Crumpsall Scout & Guide Band (CSGB), enjoyed a hugely successful spell in the limelight, regionally and indeed nationally. Margaret, whose son and my very good friend David (Dave) was a **founder member of our band** and previously a leading light in the CSGB, was, along with her late Husband Mike, a big supporter of the band.



Margaret lived a full and active life with many years voluntary service given to the Guide movement locally. She was a Guide Leader with the Cheetham Hill Methodist Guides who merged with the 7<sup>th</sup> Crumpsall Guides at MCC in 1976 where Margaret took on the Leadership of the Ranger Unit (the Senior Section of Guiding).

Around 1982 her Ranger Unit began holding joint weekly meetings and activities with the 434<sup>th</sup> Scout Group Venture Scout Unit and many lifelong relationships and friendships evolved as probably an unintended consequence 😊. It was at this time that the CSGB started building a head of steam and year on year from 1983 to 1993 the band grew in size and stature, ultimately earning national recognition. Pictured left, Margaret, in full Guide Leader Uniform is pictured with son Dave in his bright CSGB sweatshirt and future Daughter in Law, Julie outside the Royal Albert Hall, March 1990 in a moment of down time after the CSGB's first appearance in the famous old hall in the National Championships.

My strengths lay in the band side of Scouting and Guiding and I channelled my efforts almost exclusively in that direction at the expense of more traditional Scouting endeavours and accolades. Margaret being shrewd and discerning, spotted my unspoken direction of travel as early as 1984 and whilst we often skirmished over it, we always ended up smiling afterwards. One Friday evening at MCC during our weekly Venture / Ranger Unit meeting things came to a head. A hike was being planned and Margaret spotted me off to one side talking about the band practice that had preceded the meeting and sought to tear a strip off me calling me out as **"only being in the Unit so I could stay in the band"**. There was no hiding the fact so I rather glibly replied **"Yep"**. Not the best move if you know Margaret, but it did clear the air once and for all and we were henceforth mutually appreciative good friends and as mentioned earlier, Margaret became one of the band's biggest supporters 😊.

Margaret, who survived her husband Mike by 8 years, was a loving Mother to David, Mother in Law to Julie and Grandma to their sons Dominic and Elliot and will be much missed by the immediate and wider family and circle of friends. Rest in Peace Margaret, thanks for the memories and all your many years of service to others. Our sincere condolences to Dave and family at this sad and difficult time. Margaret's funeral will be held at Blackley Crematorium at 1pm on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022. RF

## Episode 3 – "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!!" we present the next episode in our feature **"Almost in the Band"**. This time we present famous Mancunian Liam Gallagher.

No, not *that* Liam Gallagher. We mean the character in CH4's *Shameless*, played right by Johnny Bennett (and actually anyone else who attends his school), because as you can see, the school tie bears a startling resemblance to the 2019 (to date) CCB neckwear. Yes, it's largely red, with a yellow stripe. You couldn't make it up!



For further musical connections, in the above episode (s7 ep3) Liam plays in the school orchestra, and, according to Wikipedia at least, Johnny Bennett actually plays the balalaika. And these are the tenuous reasons why Liam Gallagher from *Shameless* (plus anyone else at his school) is **"ALMOST IN THE BAND"**.



### Post Script

We received a missive from a Mrs. M. Carta of Runnymede, Surrey, together with the photograph left.

Mrs. Carta writes:

"I have been following your monthly item with marginal interest and thought you should take a look at this picture of Gary Numan. It's from the rear of the album sleeve for the 1981 release *Living Ornaments '79*. I think this may qualify for inclusion in your list, or whatever it's supposed to be".

Thank you, Mrs. Carta for your kind correspondence, and yes we are familiar with the album. The sound quality is excellent, and you really feel you are right there at the Hammersmith Odeon on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1979. The only misgiving is that it could have been longer, perhaps a double-album even. There's only 4 tracks on side 2 for goodness sake! But down to business. The poor lighting in the photo may have confused you a little. Gary is actually wearing a *blue and red* tie on his black shirt, and for this reason is not "**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**".

## **THE LAST BIT:**

**Vote of thanks – Thanks to all contributors this month** including photographers Karen Fullen and Barbara Shaw.

**Next Issue –** Due late January will include all regular features, plus Episode 4 of "**ALMOST IN THE BAND**" and the delayed Part 3 of Library Corner. Sue has uncovered some fascinating relics from our Library after passing the impressive milestone of sorting over 700 scores. Well played and many thanks Sue.

### **To end this issue –**

I leave you with the festive editorial of the Chief Executive of **Making Music** (the body we are affiliated to), Barbara Eifler, from the Christmas edition of i-Notes. In many ways it sums up our pandemic journey as a band and as Barbara says, give yourselves a "big round of applause" 😊

While politicians dither and scientists warn, music groups have risen splendidly to the challenge thrown out to them since the summer by the governments of the four nations: they have done risk assessments, put in place mitigations, conquered complacency, re-done it all as circumstances change, and taken bold and difficult decisions about activities taking place or not.

And all this alongside bravely wrestling to reconcile the wide variety of views represented among group participants and within committees on this one topic.

**So, please give yourself a very big round of applause.** You have taken responsibility, you have kept people safe, you have held the group together. Most importantly, you have thought about all these things carefully and with due regard for everyone. So whether others like or don't like your decisions, and whether with hindsight they were the right decisions, is neither here nor there: you have done your best with the information you had at the time.

**This Christmas and New Year, celebrate the positives:** what you have achieved, and that you and your group are, as Elton John might have it, still standing after all these years...

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas.

Barbara Eifler  
Chief Executive, Making Music

### **And Finally –**

**You and Yours keep safe and well and all the very best for a very Happy Christmas.**  
Enjoy the festive break and thanks for reading, Rob

The logo for 'making music' is displayed in white lowercase letters on a red rectangular background with rounded corners.