



'Hark the Herald'
Festive Season 2019/2020

THE NEW HERALD

Newsletter of the

CRUMPSALL CONCERT BAND



Volume 2 Issue 4
11th December 2019

WELCOME to Your **NEW HERALD**. This final issue of 2019 provides a festive feast with all the trimmings as we look back on our seasonal gigs so far, preview ones to come and quiz our future conductor. On a personal note I would like to thank you all for reading our newsletter and hope you have enjoyed our story of 2019, so far. Thanks also for all your support throughout the year at rehearsals and gigs, to Kate and Joe for stepping in in our hour of need and to my fellow committee members working hard behind the scenes in support of the band's growth and development. Wishing you and yours a very happy festive season and the very best for a happy and healthy 2020. Yours, Rob.



Facebook best post: From Tangled Dance Company after they visited our rehearsal on 19th November: A fantastic evening visiting our 'Frosted by Magic' partners including the wonderful **Crumpsall Concert Band**. So excited listening to their fabulous magical Christmas sound ahead of our performances at Ordsall Hall this December.

MEET & GREET: With ALAN COTTRILL: On 8th January 2020, our first rehearsal of the New Year, **Alan Cottrill** takes the reins and becomes our band conductor. Ahead of him taking up post, **Alan** and his wife **Jane** (pictured right) visited us back on 27th November and I took the opportunity to ask a few questions:



How long have you been conducting and having conducted a concert band what do you enjoy the most? I have been conducting for 18 years and like the challenge a concert band presents and the enjoyment of the band members.

What Musical instrument do you prefer to play and what are your career highlights? Tuba and all brass. I started playing brass instruments at school in Manchester and achieved my performance diploma on Tuba by the age of 16. I went on to play for the National Youth Orchestra and National Youth Brass Band in the 1970s and since then have deputised with a variety of pro and semi pro bands and orchestras including **Fairie Engineering Brass Band** and the **Halle Orchestra**. Playing at the Royal Albert Hall and Bridgewater Halls have been highlights along with tours with the National Youth Orchestra and Brass Band and Werneth Concert Band.

What are your musical preferences in terms of concert band repertoire? Lots of variety including quality arrangements of popular medleys. **How about your preferences away from the band scene?** Classical, Orchestral and Swing. **Hobbies and past times away from music?** Caravanning and looking after our pets: cat and dog.

What are your initial early impressions on hearing the CCB this evening? A pleasant, mellow sound with fairly balanced sections. **And where do you think you can take us?** Onwards and Upwards!! **What are your thoughts on collaborations and contests?** Joint concerts would be good and I would do contests (National Band Festivals) if the band wanted to do so.

Are you able to support us with recruitment and retention of new players? Yes and there may be several who would be interested in joining in the New Year. **Would your wife Jane be interested in joining us also?** Yes (Jane is an accomplished trombone player and also plays flute and percussion).

We are a community band with a wide age and ability range. How much emphasis do you put on the community and fun aspect of such a set up? Absolutely Essential – First Priority.

Finally, if you had one wish for yourself and the band and could wave a magic wand, what would it be? That the band prospers and grows in music and friendship.

Thank you Alan and we look forward to welcoming you and Jane in January and in advance of then, to seeing you at our end of term social next Wednesday. Thanks, Rob

FESTIVE FOCUS 2019: So far, in this traditionally busy period for all bands and ensembles, we had a good turnout of 22 and played well for the **Christmas Fair at MCC back on 30th November**. Well done to **Victoria** for organising this Community Event, to our interim Conductors **Kate** and **Joe** who did a great job, (Kate on Kit too) and special mention to **Hilary Hill** on *Sleigh Bells* and *Whipping Boy* **Phil Hilton** in the spotlight during Sleigh Ride 😊. Congratulations also to Sarah (flute) making her debut for the band. A day later, a smaller band (by design) braved the cold and played for the annual **Christmas Fair in Herristone Park**, and we shrunk still further as a quartet represented the band with a selection of Christmas tunes & carols at the inaugural **Crumpsall Christmas Tree light** switch on last Wednesday. My thanks to fellow players **Victoria**, **Shirley** and **Peter** for helping out backed by an enthusiastic community crowd choir 😊. As the tree lights went on we opened with Jingle Bells and the singing didn't stop until we finished our final Carol, O Come all Ye Faithful, 20+ minutes later. Pictures from all the above, below:



GET WELL SOON: Following a fall recently, our former long standing percussionist **Ian Farnell** found himself in hospital with a fractured right hip and femur and is currently in post op rehabilitation in Crumpsall Vale, adjacent to the main Hospital, on Delaunays Road. We wish Ian a speedy return to full mobility and hope he is soon back behind a drum kit. For visiting details, please ask.

PREVIEW & DETAILS: This coming weekend 14th & 15th Dec, we have a representative band playing Saturday and Sunday for the Tangled Dance Company's **Frosted by Magic** Show at Salford's Ordsall Hall. See the timings of each show listed in Calendar Dates below and ensure you please observe the following:



- Aim to arrive **at least 45 minutes** before the first performance each day.
- Bring refreshments to last you all day
- Ensure you have a stand light
- Wear all black uniform (no ties or badges required).
- We will be wearing costume on top of our uniform – see pic left as an example
- Listen out for instructions tonight regarding parking, music, stands etc.

AUTUMN / WINTER TERM CALENDAR DATES 2019 / 20

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
Sat 14/12/19	Frosted by Magic Show – Ordsall Hall, 322 Ordsall Lane, M5 3AN	Timings 14:30, 16:30, 18:30. See above
Sun 15/12/19	Frosted by Magic Show – Ordsall Hall, 322 Ordsall Lane, M5 3AN	Timings 16:30, 18:30, 20:30. See above
Wed 18/12/19	Band Festive Social, The Wilton Arms Hotel, M24 4RF	Table Booked for 7pm
Thu 19/12/19	Community Carol Service – Methodist Church Crumpsall Arrive 6.15pm to set up ready to play by 6.45pm.	Full Band & Full Uniform for our last gig of the year; Many thanks
Wed 08/01/20	First rehearsal of 2020 – Let's get the year off to a good start as our new conductor takes his first rehearsal.	Set up from 6.30pm Rehearsal 7pm – 9pm

STOP PRESS: As many of you will be aware, sadly, **Eva Jacobs** is retiring from the Band, Committee and as our standby 'brewer-uppa' at the end of the year and having insufficient room this issue for a deservedly fitting tribute, **our next issue, due 15th January** will remedy this. In the meantime, as the opportunity presents, please join me in thanking Eva for all her service, wisdom and friendship to the band as we wish her all the very best for the future. Eva still intends to support us where and when able.