

BANDROOM NOTES



~ Welcome to our Spring Edition of our newsletter ~

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Twelve months on...

Well here we are just exactly 12 months on since the band was together for our final rehearsal before the lockdown began. It has been a strange year for everyone getting used to staying at home, not meeting family or friends and not going on holiday or even a trip to the seaside.

The band had to cancel over 95% of the Christmas events due to the lockdown which meant we lost quite a lot of income. We have however been fortunate to receive a grant from Calderdale for which we are very grateful.

We did manage to play carols at Keighley for a community organisation who take care of retired residents. We played for an hour and it was very much appreciated, the weather was kind so quite a number managed to come and sit outside or at their door and join in the singing.

We also played in Leeds for a group of neighbours who had hired the band a few years ago and wanted us again. They all came out and enjoyed our group they also kept us supplied with hot drinks.

Our final Christmas playing was at the Thornhill nursing home where a group from the band stood outside and entertained the residents for an hour which was really appreciated by everyone.

After Christmas in the final week of December I received a message from a family in Rastrick asking if a few of the band could play for an 80th birthday, they wanted us to play happy birthday for their father to help cheer him up as he was very ill. I said yes of course we would be very pleased to do this for him. Six of us went and played happy birthday and a couple of pieces, the family were so grateful and he waved at us through the window.

Very sadly I was told 5 days later he had passed away. We feel thankful that we could give a little bit of happiness to him in his final days.

We are trying our best to keep in touch with everyone, our Sunday evening quizzes are still going and it's proving to be a good way to catch up with those who join us and find out what everyone is doing. Anyone can join us not just band members but patrons and friends just let me know and I can send you the details.

We are starting to have a few engagements trickle through for 2021, you can see these on the engagement page at the back of the newsletter or on our web-site www.cliftonband.co.uk

Rehearsals

Senior Band

- Tuesday & Thursday
8pm—9.45pm

B Band

- Fridays
7.00pm—9.00pm
- Sundays
10.30am—12noon

Training Band

- Saturday Morning
10.30am—11.30am

- Website

www.cliftonband.co.uk

Julian Coates 1971—2020

A number of years ago Julian came and joined the band on Bb Bass along with a couple of friends.

He was with the band when we made our first recording in 1989 which at the time was on a cassette tape recorded in Pudsey Town Hall.

Julian was in the band for a couple of years before going on to University. Unfortunately in October 2020 he very sadly passed away. His family contacted me to let me know the sad news and asked about the music we performed on the tape as theirs was missing the insert. I managed to find a copy which our present principal cornet player David Crisp has and he was able to forward it to me.

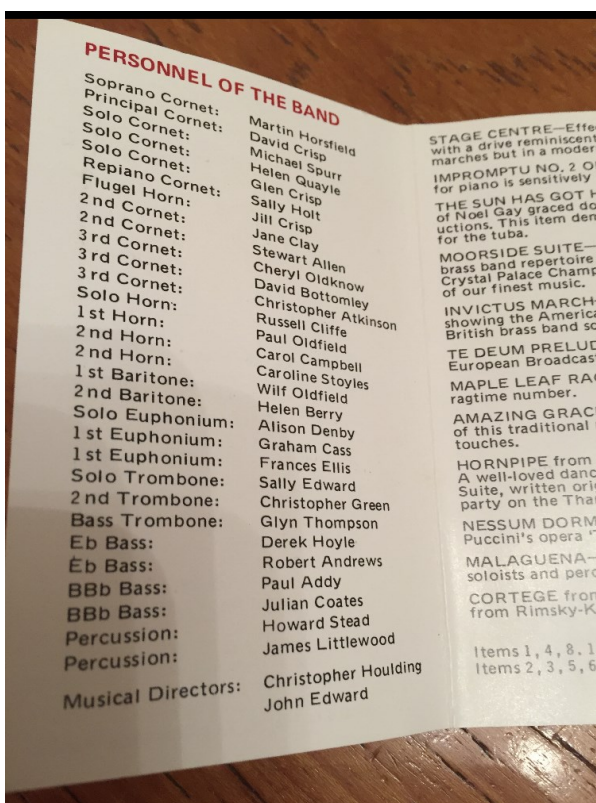
I understand one of Julian's favourite pieces on the recording is the Tuba solo 'The Sun Has Got His Hat On', which was performed by Derek Hoyle.

Julian's mother said as it was a happy time in his life she would like to make a donation to the band and would like to purchase a Bb bass from the family. This was an extremely generous gift as they are very expensive. I said the band would be very grateful and offered a small group to play outside at his funeral at Rawdon in January.

The family said this would be a lovely gesture and we played Amazing Grace and Hyfrodol as the cortege arrived.

During his funeral they played three pieces from our tape which included Impromptu No 2, Amazing Grace and The Sun Has Got His Hat On.

Its always very sad to hear about the loss of anyone but someone so young as Julian makes it even harder. All the band members send their condolences to the family.



Brighouse Railway Station and the Band– by David Bedding

As some of our more ‘senior’ members may remember Brighouse did not have a Railway Station for many years until it was reopened in its current position in 2000. This was actually the third position for the station, earlier ones being more under the bridge towards Halifax with the first one being opened in 1840 when the line coming through Brighouse was the first Trans-Pennine route.

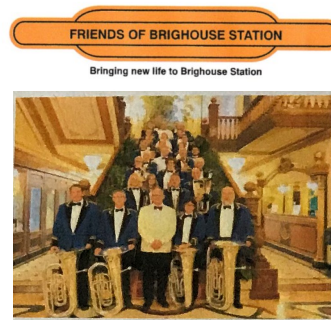
For the re-opening ceremony on Saturday 27th May 2000 our band was there playing for the VIP’s and guests. Fast forward 15 years the station was looking a little neglected and a group came together to form ‘The Friends of Brighouse Station’ with the objective of generally tidying the station up creating flower-beds, installing floral displays and making the Station ‘A Gateway to the Town’ and one that was pleasing to the eye.

They have succeeded in doing this and have received many awards in recognition of their efforts. Although the group has been able to get several grants from both the Railway industry and the local councils they are mainly financed by support from local businesses.

The connection to our band has been maintained by our euphonium player Graham Cass (who himself is now a train driver) and who’s mother Anne is secretary of the Friends along with myself being a band patron for a number of years and also the Friends Chairman.

It will be no surprise then that when the group decided to install a number of information boards featuring local people, companies and groups on the Station platforms C&L Band were on the list. The boards are A1 sized and will be mounted along the fences on the platforms so that they can be easily read by passengers.

Covid has delayed the production and installation of the boards so we cannot yet tell you exactly where our boards will be however I will let you know in the next newsletter.



Clifton and Lightcliffe Band

Formed in 1838 the Band is one of the oldest in the Country. Originally the Clifton Band, the name was changed in 1932 when Lightcliffe business man Newton Brooke rescued the band from financial difficulties – but on condition that the name was changed to ‘Clifton and Lightcliffe Band’.

In the early 1900’s the band won several major prizes at the National Brass Band Championships at The Crystal Palace in London. More recently the band qualified for the National Championships in 2006, 2007, 2010 and 2012. In 2012 the band was promoted to the First Section in the UK Brass Band ratings for the first time in its history.

Over the last 15 years the Band has performed in France, Switzerland, Austria, Italy and the USA. 2010 saw them performing concerts around the California area including the famous Disney Park. In 2015 they visited Lake Maggiore in Italy making a return visit In August 2018 when the Band again performed at venues around the lake.

As well as the Senior Band there is a ‘B’ band made up of 25 players who when the opportunity arises progress through to the senior band. All members of both bands are amateur musicians with ages ranging from under 14 to over 70.

The Senior Band has featured in a number of productions of the play ‘Brassed Off’, the most notable being at the Alhambra Theatre Bradford in 2014 where they performed at seven sold out performances. The Band also performed at the re-opening ceremony of this railway station in May 2000.

Performing around 55 concerts each year in and around the local area the Band helps to support other groups such as local churches, schools and hospitals with their fund raising activities.

The Band has no commercial financial backing and all the funds are raised by the hard work and dedication of its members.

*Clifton
Lightcliffe
BAND*

Famous People

In our last newsletter I asked for any photographs featuring yourself with someone 'famous' here are a few I have received.

We have Pam Lumb with Princess Anne, a very young Graham Cass with Ken Dodd and his tickling stick. Helen Woodcock seems to have done well appearing with William Shatner also the Yorkshire Vets Julian Norton and Peter Wright. Julie and Annie Thornton with comedian Hugh Dennis, Janet Bell and John McCardle from our time performing *Brassed Off* at the Alhambra Theatre.

Over the page we have Alex Murry receiving his degree from Patrick Stewart, Kerry Lawrance with Dean Smith and Josh Bolt from *Last Tango in Halifax* fame.

A young John Clay with Black Dyke Band he is third from the left back row with Paul McCartney and his sheep dog whilst doing a recording with him and finally me with one of the three tenors Placido Domingo but I think most of you would have guessed that !!

If any of you have anymore do let me have them for the next newsletter.





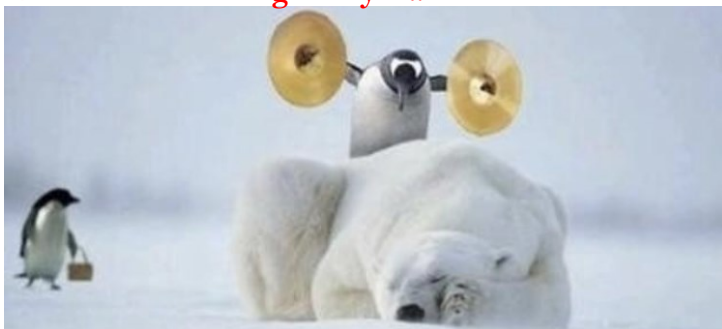
A few lighter moments

Wonder how many of us will be like this !!



Do one brave thing today.....

I cannot believe our trombone players would do this



Raising Funds

Once things start to return to normal I would think a lot of organisations will have to think up ways of raising funds and we may even see some of the old events taking place. I remember as a 12 year old member of the band we used to hold all sorts of events like whist drive evenings jumble sales, beetle drives and coffee mornings.

The main event for the year was the Sale of Work which was organised by the then Ladies committee. Looking through some of the historical items for the band I have found a programme for the Clifton Subscription Brass Band Grand Bazaar which was held over three days during Easter in April 1903. If you wanted a season ticket for the three days it would cost you the princely sum of one shilling (5p today) children of course are half price.

It makes fascinating reading of what they were doing and the stalls which included:

Two Matron's Stalls which were named Ye Whyte Rose and Ye Red Rose. I wonder what that was?

Young Ladies Stall called Ye Silver Thymble.

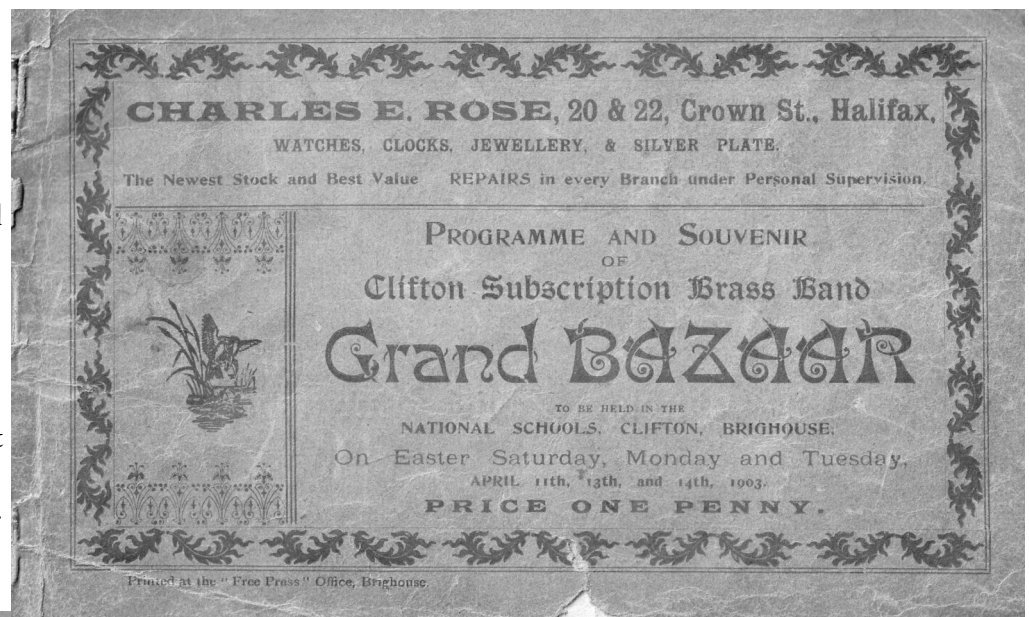
Members Stall called Ye Robin Hood which the men ran.

An exhibition of curiosities consisting of Model Ships, Boer Relics, A Great Swimming Match and Uncle Tom plus other attractions.

Entertainment included the band of course along with a Children's Concert and McCarty's Minstrel Troupe. There was refreshments which offered a plain tea for 6d, with meat it was 9d and a cup of tea was 1d, in old money (12d made a shilling or 5p today) this gives you some idea of the costs. There was no alcohol of course.

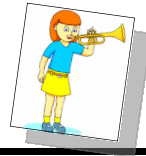
The total income after all expenses was just over £101 which would be equivalent to £12,600 today, a huge sum of money then which cleared the band of all its debts paying off Messrs Besson instrument makers £100 as settlement of their outstanding account.

I am wondering what sort of event we would need today to make over £12k.



TRAINING BAND

Our training band is on Saturday mornings 10.30am—11.30am. If you know anyone who would like to come along and have a go please feel free to invite them. We are looking to recruit new members. We have instruments available. Contact Secretary Jane Clay for more details 01422 201875



Vacancies

We are needing cornet players for our B Band. We have instruments available.

If anyone is interested do come along either Friday evenings 7.00pm or Sunday mornings 10.30am we will be very pleased to see you.

Our Senior band requires Percussion players

PATRONS

We have around 60 Patrons who support the band throughout the year, This scheme was set up in 2006 and we are very grateful for the support they have given over the years.

If you are interested in becoming a Patron we ask for a minimum payment of £20.00 per year which entitles you to 2 tickets to our Annual concert held usually in the Autumn and our newsletters telling you what the band is doing throughout the year.

Please contact our Patrons administrator Mrs Janet Bell if you would like to join, all our contact details

125 CLUB

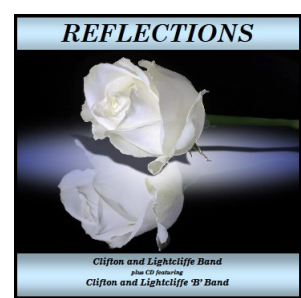
A very valuable source of income for the band over a number of years now is our weekly 125 club draw. Numbers are 25p each per week to purchase and a £5.00 weekly draw takes place plus three times a year a prize of £50.00 is given at Christmas, Spring and the Summer

If you would like to join please contact either Helen Woodcock or Jane Clay for more details.

125 Club Draw

CD's for Sale

All our CD's are priced at £5.00 each and include a wide selection of music, Reflections has two CD's and features both our bands, and the latest one is Live in Concert which was recorded on our very successful tour to Italy in 2015. All CD's are available at our concerts, on line or by contacting the band secretary Jane Clay 07990633320.



ENGAGEMENTS 2021

DATES RECEIVED SO FAR HOWEVER THESE COULD BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DEPENDING ON THE GOVERNMENT RULES

SENIOR BAND

MAY

Saturday 29th Wedding at Standedge Tunnel

JULY

Saturday 17th Moravian Church Bailiff Bridge Proms in the Paddock 7.15pm

AUGUST

Sunday 22nd Pudsey Park 2.30pm—4.30pm

B BAND

JULY

Saturday 10th Scholes Church Garden Party afternoon

Sunday 25th Pudsey Park 2.30pm—4.30pm

CONTACTS

The Band room—Band Headquarters, Birkhouse Road, Bailiff Bridge, Brighouse, West Yorkshire HD6 4EW

Musical Director—Mr John Clay 01422 201875

Musical Director B Band—Mr Mick Silson 07734869922

President—Mr Brian Nicholson 01924 689846

Secretary—Mrs Jane Clay, 260 Wakefield Road, Lightcliffe, Halifax West Yorkshire HX3 8TY

Phone 01422 201875, 07990633320, e-mail john366clay@btinternet.com

Patrons—Mrs Janet Bell, janetbell2008@hotmail.co.uk 32 Westroyd Avenue Hunsworth BD19 4DS

