

BANDROOM NOTES



~ Welcome to the Autumn Edition of our newsletter ~

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Rehearsals

Senior Band

- Tuesday & Thursday
7.45pm—9.15pm

B Band

- Fridays
7.30pm—9.00pm

• Website

www.cliftonband.co.uk

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Senior band compete in National Finals

After qualifying for the National Brass Band Finals last March on Friday 13th September the band travelled to the racecourse at Cheltenham to take part in the finals competition on the Saturday morning. This is where bands from all over the Country who have qualified in their rounds come together to compete against each other for the title.

The music chosen for our section was a very descriptive piece called the Shipbuilders written by Peter York. It was commissioned in 1960 and is in four movements, Web of Steel, The Launching, All Hands at Work and Maiden Voyage, as the title of the movements suggest it tells the story of the building of a magnificent ocean going liner.

We knew it would be an early start on the Saturday as the order of draw was due to take place at 7.45am with the first band on stage at 9.00am. Everyone was up and ready in the breakfast room for 6.30am.

We are very grateful to Robert and Margaret Turnbull from the Yorkshire Area Committee, who were officiating all weekend and kindly offered to go to the order of draw for us.

Once again we managed to book the St Nicolas church hall (which is always in great demand on this particular weekend as it is only a 2 minute drive from the racecourse) for a rehearsal before the competition.

The phone call from Margaret came around 8.05am with the news we had drawn to play number 7 out of the 20 band competing. This would do nicely as it meant we could have a short rehearsal before going to the venue for our scheduled arrival time of 9.30am.

The racecourse is a huge place and the Centaur is the main hall which holds over 2000 people although there is never that number of people watching any of the bands.

We took our place on stage at 10.30am, the green light was on which meant the adjudicators, Sandy Smith, John Maines and Nicholas Garman were ready for us to begin. When we had finished we felt we had played as well as we could, no big problems just a few little clicks which could be the nerves at work. So now the wait begins for the results.

During the competition the social media is at work, two sites in particular which are followed by brass banders are 4barsrest and British Bandsman, they offer comments after each band has played and it is interesting what they had to say about our performance.

4barsrest reported: A thoroughly engaging accounts from the Yorkshire representative, with neat styling and warm sounds. The opening call and response of Web of Steel were the best of the day so far, the Launch and All Hands at Work offered great contrast and the stylish Maiden Voyage set sail with echoes of the Queen Mary at full title heading to New York.

The British Bandsman commented that the standard of the bass end so far had been exceptional, WOW, What a powerful back row. (our cornet players loved this comment!) they go on to say really nice things about the band and said the Euphonium playing gave them Goosebumps.

Nice comments indeed but what mattered is what the adjudicators thought.

In their comments they said things like. “Opening has purpose well done, good tempo, good attention to detail. Opening movement three not quite settled, some nice moments, Euphonium and Cornet are both lyrical and confident” “A good show just with a few issues, A very good start, just a few insecurities, Excellent soloists and a lovely finish”

Prizes on offer were 1st £1,000 plus trophy, 2nd £750 plus trophy, 3rd £500 plus trophy, and a special trophy for the most outstanding player.

The time came for the results first six in reverse order:

6th Nailsworth Silver—West of England

5th Morecambe—North West

4th Clifton and Lightcliffe—Yorkshire

3rd Croy Silver—Scotland

2nd Flookburgh Silver—North of England

1st Goldborne—North West



Excellent result for Clifton, we were delighted to be placed in the first 6. The best is still to come.

Prize for the most outstanding player of the section was our very own Adrian Harrison on Euphonium.

A wonderful achievement, the Goosebumps must have extended to the adjudicators chamber too.

So overall an excellent weekend for the band, 4th position out of 20 band from all over the Country is a really good achievement. Due to our good results over the past two years we will be promoted to the second section from 1st January 2025.

Well done to John Clay our Musical Director for all his hard work preparing the band, Derek Broadbent who came in to a couple of rehearsals to ‘put the icing on the cake’ to the band members and especially to Adrian for his lovely playing on the day.



Pictures: Alex Smith and Sharon Morgan-Williams on trombones.

Adrian on Euphonium and the cornet section at work.



Best Soloist: Euphonium of Clifton & Lightcliffe



The National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain

Sections 1 - 4 Finals
 The Centaur, Cheltenham Racecourse
 14 - 15 September 2024
 Patron – His Majesty King Charles III



In the waiting area before taking the stage. Russell below practising his stick technique, Graham and Chris look as though they are waiting for the dentist!. Stewart is obviously very laid back with his new hat. Alan always the joker has lots of experience of contest and is very good at making everyone else relaxed.



After the performance at Cheltenham

Photograph by R & P Photographic Service

Busy Summer for B Band

Norristhorpe URC 18th May

Our B Band has had a busy Summer of concerts starting in May where we were invited to play again at Norristhorpe URC. Alex had prepared the band with a programme of popular music.

Early in the morning of the concert Alex received a call from Chris our Euphonium player saying unfortunately he was unwell and would not be able to make the concert, this caused concern not only for Chris hoping he was ok but also for Alex. Who would fill his role?

After a number of calls and a few hours before the start of the concert along came our knight in shining armour in the shape of Craig Lawrance. Craig who is a long serving member of the Friendly Band is the father of our senior band cornet player Kerry who had managed to contact him and ask if he could help. He very kindly agreed to step in and after a few minor adjustments to the programme he did a wonderful job and we will always be very grateful for him stepping in at such short notice.

The afternoon went without a hitch and everyone really enjoyed the concert and the wonderful refreshment provided afterwards.

St Matthews Church Northowram 29th June

This concert was organised by Robert Paxman who as well as being our percussionist is also the choir master of the Northowram Singers. He did a sterling job alternating between the percussion and directing his singers from the keyboard. A full house enjoyed the music which cumulated with Beyond the Sea from the film and musical The Little Mermaid arranged by Robert for both the singers and band.

Thank you Robert for asking us to join you in this very enjoyable concert and we now look forward to joining you once again on Saturday 30th November for a pre-Christmas concert.

Upper Hopton Summer Gala 27th July

The B Band have been playing at the Upper Hopton Gala now for at least 8 years. This started when a group from both our bands accompanied the Carols around the Christmas Tree at the village Memorial Garden in 2012, as the time went on the organisers thought it would be nice if the band could play at the Gala. This is a lovely day and is really a well attended event with lots of stalls and children's games throughout the afternoon.

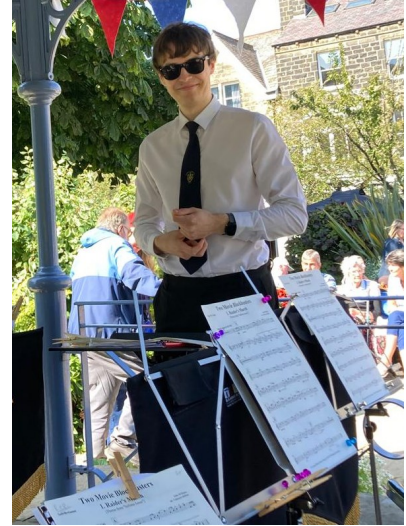
Oxenhope Vintage Steam Days 3rd and 11th August

Over the summer both our bands have attended the Vintage Steam days. This is a great job playing on the platform when the train comes rolling in bringing day trippers for the afternoon. This year I brought my two young grandchildren who initially thought the trains were miniature and would be able to sit on them for a ride, they were really surprised when they saw how big the tracks were and the noise and smoke from the wonderfully restored trains. The bands play as they pull up into the station and all the passengers alight, quite a number stand around listening to the band, as the new passengers get ready to set off on their trip they hang out of the windows singing and waving at the band as they leave.

Westroyd Park Farsley 4th August

A regular for the band are the Leeds Bands in the Parks Summer Season, and this year we played in Westroyd, it's a small park with a tennis court and bowling green and some lovely gardens. As Alex was away Steve Johnston one of our cornet players offered to conduct the band, this was his first time taking the band and he did a fantastic job. Well done Steve. It was a dull afternoon when we arrived with grey skies but not too cold. We set up with no-one around, would anyone come to listen? We sat down ready to start at 2.30pm and around 50 people turned up with garden chairs to hear the band. It ended up being a nice afternoon with an appreciative audience.

To round off our summer engagements we performed at Ilkley in the Bandstand on 31st August. This is a lovely venue, opposite Betty's on the main street. It was a beautiful warm afternoon and there were over 100 people sat around on the seats and on the grass around us. There were a few market stalls just on the main path by the bandstand and the usual Yorkshire Ice Cream van in attendance which was being very well patronised particularly by the band members at the interval.



Pictures above and left are at Ilkley Bandstand on a lovely sunny day with Alex waiting to start the band at 2.00pm. Below is Steve at Westroyd Park wondering if we would have anyone coming to listen to us and what a great job he did conducting the band for the first time while Alex was on holiday. Bottom of the page is the band playing to the travellers at the Steam Railway Day in Oxenhope.



Concert at Wibsey Methodist Church
Saturday 9th November 2.00pm
Tickets on the door inc Afternoon Tea.



Up and coming concert at St Peter's Church Morley on 7th December 7.00pm. This is the first time the band will perform John Rutter's Gloria and Magnificat with Morley Musical Society Tickets £15.00 with £8.00 concessions. Available from Deanna Hirst 07415272087 or on the door



Passing of Derek Garside

Derek Garside one of the country's finest cornet players in his day sadly passed away on 28th July aged 94. Derek started his playing career as a 9 year old and shortly after with lessons from Fred Roberts he joined his local band Clifton and Lightcliffe where he stayed until he was invited to play with the Brighouse and Rastrick Band. In 1947 at the age of 17 he was invited to play Principal Cornet with the then famous CWS Manchester Band where he was also offered employment in the accounts department. During his time with CWS he recorded many solos which are still revered today. Derek never forgot where he started his playing and returned to Clifton to take part in a concert during the 1970's with his wife Janne accompanying him on the piano. The picture shows Derek, his wife Janne and James Nuttall conductor of Clifton.

Last year the band presented a new trophy called the Derek Garside Shield at our Annual Dinner which is presented to the best instrumentalist of the year and it was awarded to David Crisp our Principal Cornet in recognition of his leadership.

Derek's funeral was held on Thursday 29th August at Central Methodist Church Brighouse and was very well attended by many of the banding fraternity.



Brighouse Gala 29th June

The Gala this year was held at Lane Head Recreation ground due to Wellholme Park being closed while the flood defences are carried out. We had our usual fund raising activities including, teddy string pull, tombola, chicken in a basket and guess the teddy's name. The weather at the start was quite poor and drizzly but this did not dampen anyone's spirits and when the gala was finally in full swing the sun had come out and so had the crowds.

We raised over £400 for the band funds which was a good effort by all those who helped. A special thanks to Robert and Julia Wood for co-ordinating the day for us.

Going forward the feeling was that the Gala went very well at Lane Head for all the charities who took part and the feeling is it may well be there again next year if the work in Wellholme Park has not been completed.

Vacancies

We are needing Cornets, Euphonium, Bb Bass and a Baritone player for our B Band.

Senior band require Trombone Bass and Tenor

If anyone is interested get in touch with Jane 07990633320

www.cliftonband.co.uk

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, our newsletters telling you what the band is doing throughout the year and a free band CD.

Please contact our Patrons administrator Mrs Janet Bell 07799270955 or the Secretary Jane Clay 07990633320 if you would like more information.

125 CLUB

A very valuable source of income for the band over a number of years now is our weekly 125 club draw.

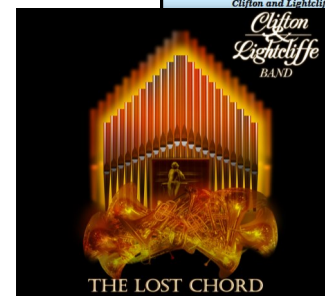
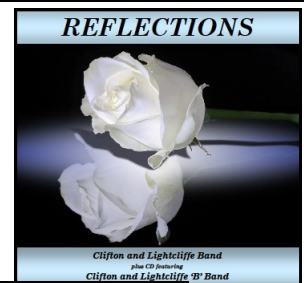
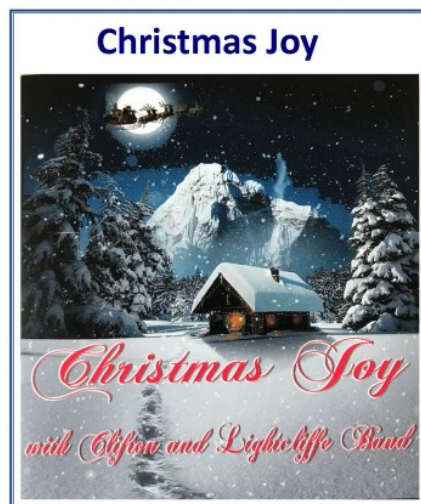
Numbers are 25p each per week to purchase and a £5.00 weekly draw takes place plus three times a year a prize of £50.00 is given at Christmas, Spring and the Summer

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

125 Club Draw

CD's for Sale

Our selection of Cd's are available to purchase on our web-site, our concerts or from Jane Clay on 07990633320. Prices range from between £5.00 and £10.00



Senior band has also had a busy Summer

Like our B band the senior band has also had a busy summer with concerts in and around the area.

Quite a number of our concert performances are repeat bookings and we are thankful for being asked back to contribute in raising funds for the various organisations each year. Below are a few pictures taken at the various venues including: The Hartshead, Wibsey Methodist Church, Jowett Court, St Martins Church and Lower Wyke Moravian Church.



Not quite sure what they have lost here



Brian doing his excellent job compereing



Alex at Wibsey playing his solo Romance from the Fair Maid of Perth and Panette and David who played Pie Jesu



Making sure you come in at the right place Where are your cornets Panette and Caroline



John taking a bow at St Martins.



Conor on percussion.



The music is supposed to be on the stand Janet

Great day at the Hartshead again on the straw bales



Spotlight—Adrian Harrison

Adrian was delighted to have been awarded the Most Outstanding Player at the Cheltenham Brass Band Finals last month. Adrian as you can read has had a number of spells with the band and is currently our principal euphonium along with his wife Panette who plays the soprano cornet. After winning the award at Cheltenham I asked Adrian to write a piece about himself and his playing career.



I was first taught to play in 1961 aged seven on flugel horn with the Brighouse Salvation Army, later switching to cornet and also spells on tenor horn and baritone. When I was fourteen I taught myself the trombone by listening and working out the slide positions. I left the Salvation Army in 1971 and went to join Clifton and Lightcliffe as a Bb bass player, mainly due to the fact that my father was their drummer at that time. During my time there I was asked to join the younger members of the band to go on Saturday mornings to the Queensbury Music Centre under the direction of James Shepherd.

In 1972 I decided to enlist in the army and was auditioned and accepted on Eb bass with the Regimental Band of the Irish Guards where I stayed for the next three years. During my last year with them I also travelled back and forth to Hammonds Sauce Works band based in Bradford on a weekly basis travelling back to London via the night mail train. After leaving the army I returned to Clifton as solo euphonium, then on to Lindley band. I took a break from playing in 1982 but eventually was asked to join Clifton again.

In 1985 I joined the Yorkshire Volunteers Territorial Army Band but continued with Clifton. I also played with various other bands but eventually work interfered and I had to put by brass banding on hold. I eventually joined the West Yorkshire Police Band on bass trombone and was their first civilian member, this is an association I still have today helping them on many occasions.

Once my working hours settled I joined the Jayess 87 band under the direction of James Shepherd and this was when they had their golden spell working through the sections, eventually they integrated with the Jayess Queensbury band and became the Yorkshire Coop Band.

My time with the Yorkshire Volunteers Band came to an end as the defence budget was cut in 1999, however, I could transfer to the Lancashire Artillery Band based at Bolton. This was also that year I received the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate for my services to the TA. Unfortunately ill health forced me to relinquish my brass banding for a number of years but after three years I started playing again this time on trumpet with the Bradford Metropolitan Concert Band and once again ended up on euphonium playing with the band and various dance bands. I answered an urgent appeal from the City of Bradford band and more latterly I enjoyed spells with Clifton B Band, BD1 Brass, Drighlington Band and Yorkshire Imperial before returning once again to Clifton following the Covid pandemic.



ENGAGEMENTS 2024

SENIOR BAND

NOVEMBER

Saturday 9th	Wibsey Methodist Church 2.00pm
Friday 22nd	Fulneck Moravian Church 7.30pm
Saturday 30th	Ashworth Grange (Group) 2.00pm

DECEMBER

Saturday 7th	St Peters Church Morley 7.00pm
Wednesday 11th	Rodley Carols by Candlelight 7.00pm
Friday 13th	St Thomas Church Greetland 7.30pm
Saturday 14th	Upper Hopton Carols 7.00pm
Tuesday 17th	St John Church Clifton 7.15pm
Wednesday 18th	Woodsome Hall Golf Club 7.00pm
Thursday 19th	Woodsome Hall Golf Club 7.00pm
Saturday 21st	The Hartshead 7.00pm

B BAND

NOVEMBER

Saturday 30th	St Matthews Northowram 7.30pm
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DECEMBER

Sunday 8th	Norristhorpe URC 2.00pm
Wednesday 11th	Rodley Carols by Candlelight 7.00pm
Saturday 14th	Upper Hopton Carols 7.00pm
Sunday 15th	St James Church Tong 4.00pm
Saturday 21st	The Hartshead 7.00pm
Sunday 22nd	Wibsey Methodist Church 4.00pm

For more dates look at our web-site www.cliftonband.co.uk

CONTACTS

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

Musical Director—Mr John Clay 01422 201875—07879883529

Musical Director B Band—Mr Alexander Smith 07758739546

President—Mr Brian Nicholson 01924 689846

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

Phone 07990633320, e-mail john366clay@btinternet.com

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