

## BANDROOM NOTES



~ Welcome to the Summer Edition of our newsletter ~

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## Rehearsals

## Senior Band

- Tuesday & Thursday  
8pm—9.45pm

## B Band

- Fridays  
7.00pm—8.15pm
- Sundays  
10am—12.15pm

## Website

[www.cliftonband.co.uk](http://www.cliftonband.co.uk)

## Brassed Off

Through the eyes of Caroline Hoyle

When I first found out we were going to be doing “Brassed Off”, I was really excited and looking forward to it. I wasn’t lucky enough to do the performances at Bradford Alhambra – I wasn’t a member of the band at that time – so the whole thing was a bit of a mystery to me in terms of what it would actually involve.

It had been 5 years since I had been on stage in a show – the job of being a teacher doesn’t really lend itself to this kind of commitment. However, I was determined to do this. I even told staff at work that I would be leaving early (ie before 6pm) all week. (Part of my proof that I do have a work-life balance – sometimes).

I missed the first rehearsal (parents evenings!) Derek came home and said that they wanted us to march around the theatre going up and down the steps for the Saddleworth scene – we had to encourage the director to be more realistic. (Derek plays bass!)

By the time I got to the second rehearsal some things had already been sorted. We were rehearsing a room above the theatre with stage markings on the floor so often comments would be made like – you can’t stand there – you’ll fall off the stage.

Even after a few rehearsals it all seemed a bit of a

mystery – we would do bits of one scene then bits of another so I didn’t get an idea of how the whole thing would fit and where I needed to be.

I was keen to play as big a part as possible so I was grateful when I ended up playing all the pieces – little did I know how much hard work that would be.



Each rehearsal, I made notes about where I had to be, making sure I had the right part (sometimes I played other parts) for the right piece, with the right cuts and that I was in the right place at the right time with the right clothes on, and, of course, not forgetting my cornet. I numbered every piece and became a little anxious at all the responsibility. Woe betide anyone who messed with my music pad!

We then had two nights' technical rehearsal and dress rehearsal in the theatre – it was then a completely different ball game – we kept getting in the way. It was only narrow back stage. Everything went smoothly on stage but the back of the stage was a completely different scene with people running round, changing to the other stage exit, making quick costume changes and ensuring that all the actors had the right props (including real, freshly made chips!).

We kept having to move out of the way of the actors, moving stands and instruments wherever we could move them to, so that all the entrances and exits to the stage were clear.

It was my job to lead the bus scenes with my one and only line – “Alright Danny!” Danny didn't say much in rehearsals but on the opening night he replied “You alright, Martha?” which completely threw me. In a fit of giggles I carried on walking off stage – I was meant to stay in the corner so I crept back on – hope the director didn't see that one! From then on every night I had a different name; Mabel, Mavis, Mary to name a few. After laughing about it with Danny, I finally got my name on the last night of the show.

Each night we played to a full house. And despite feeling weary with the long nights and the nightly journey in rush hour traffic from Leeds, and a husband who is as laid back as they come (he's never on time for anything!) we all kept going on the adrenalin and the show went on. The cast were great to be with – we had a real jovial atmosphere back stage and the cast (including the band) worked their socks off to make it a big success.

We were made to feel really valued and our time and efforts were appreciated. The only time it felt differently was when we were waiting for the harness to be put on Phil, just before the hanging scene where the band plays 'Jerusalem'. This was a quick change scene and it always seemed quiet and reflective back stage. It was all hands on deck to ensure that all of the safety features were in place to make sure Phil was safe. Perhaps this scene reminded us all that, at the top and bottom of it, this film / play did have a serious message about the events around the Miners' Strikes and the impact it had on the lives of everyday working people.

If you were lucky enough to come and see the show, I hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. It was a brilliant experience with a group of very professional 'amateur' actors in a great venue. Roll on the next one in September – it is going to be tough to beat!



Phil's hanging scene



Winning the National Finals



Saddleworth round 3—Oh dear !!



Saddleworth here we come



Well done Jill with Orange Juice



Below: One over the 8 Sally



Great Acting

Its not a b\*\*\*\*y trumpet its an Eb Bass—she knows its an Eb Bass !!!



Above Danny (Robin Martin) and Gloria (Rhiannon Cawthorne)—Right the ballot and below the final scene with young Shane (Theo Connolly) conducting the band.





## BRIGHOUSE GALA SATURDAY 25th JUNE

For the past 14 years the Band has had a stall at this local gala, which is held annually on the last Saturday in June at Welholme Park in Brighouse. As well as a trusty tombola, which is always very popular (and well supplied with items from band members), we've tried to ring the changes over the years with various games, which have included a coconut shy (loaned from Carr Green School), face painting, name the teddy, penalty shoot out and this year a basketball net and wet sponge throwing.

Gala day dawned brightly this year and having set up the stall we were all ready for a great, fun-filled afternoon. The procession arrived at the park, the crowds started pouring through the gates and all was going well. The tombola was busy, Andy and Max were having fun running the basketball game, Alex and Kerry were happily taking it in turns to have wet sponges thrown at them in the pillory and Tracey had arrived with her very welcome sandwiches and sausage rolls. What could possibly spoil things? Well, the good old British weather, that's what! Mid afternoon we noticed an ominous black cloud hanging over the park and then quickly came thunder and lightning followed by the heavens opening. Boy, did it rain! Luckily everyone fitted under the 3 gazebos (trying to avoid the joins) but the rain was so heavy and prolonged that it brought an abrupt end to the day. Everything was packed up and we all made our way out of the park only to find one of the exit routes over the Thornhill Beck ford impassable as the water level had risen so much, and we were told there was an enormous traffic jam on Bradford Road due to people streaming out of the park. All in all, not the best of endings to an otherwise great day!

Despite the weather, the stall managed to make £440 on the day, which is very much down on previous years but still well worth all the effort. We would like to take this opportunity to say a very big THANK YOU to everyone who contributed this year in any way. It is always a group effort and whether you contributed items for the tombola, helped in setting up the stall, ran the tombola, got wet sponges thrown at you, brought sandwiches or simply got thoroughly wet through and very cold, it just wouldn't have been possible without everyone's help. A special thank you to Alex and Kerry who courageously risked hypothermia in the pillory. Dare we ask you all if you're up for doing it again next year?



We think Rob knew the rain was coming !! And below Sheridan preparing for a soaking

Above is a very pink picture of the band playing during the afternoon at the 1976 Gala—James Hickman was conducting the band and a much younger John Clay on Principal Cornet



Every year the stall has raised a considerable amount of money for the band. The money raised by each charity on the day is then increased proportionally by a percentage of the takings on the gate, etc, and the enhanced cheques are presented to the individual charities at the Gala AGM in September. In addition, since 2006, Barclays have matched our own takings (up to £750) with their £4£ scheme. Sadly, Rob has been informed that he no longer qualifies and no claim was possible in 2016.

The band would like to re-establish this support so we're asking if there are any members of the band, or their families, who either work for, or have worked for, Barclays or any organisation that has such a scheme, who would be willing to apply for funding next year. If you feel you can help, please let Jane know and she'll put you in touch with Rob who can give advice on how to apply.

Finally, we're always looking for new ways of getting the public to part with their brass on Gala day so, whilst you're out and about this summer, please keep a lookout for any different, fun games that could be adapted for next year and report back to Jane (with a photo of the game, if possible). Many thanks and we look forward to doing it all again in 2017, but without a thunderstorm!

*Julia and Rob Wood*

## Bagpipe Lung—Cleaning your instrument

Some of you may have recently seen on the news or read an article about a condition called 'Bagpipe Lung'. This is an infection caused by breathing in mould and fungus trapped in the instrument, it has also been found in some trombones too, although this is rare it is worth noting as people have been quite ill with this.

We do try to encourage all our players to clean their instruments regularly.

We would recommend every three months the instrument should be taken apart by removing all the tuning slides and valves. These can then be placed in warm soapy water and left to soak. You can obtain a cleaning brush which can clean inside the tuning slides. The main instrument can also be soaked in a bath, so the bath is not scratched by the instrument put a towel in the bath first. (I know its impossible with the tuba's but a hose pipe outside in the garden is another good way)

Valves should be gently rubbed to clean them of oil, (washing up liquid is good for this) Clean water can then be put through the instrument, slides and valves to clean away any soapy residue.

When you put your instrument back together remember to grease your slides so they are free for tuning purposes and most importantly once you have oiled the valves make sure you put them back in the right order, you will find they are numbered 1, 2, 3. If they go in the wrong way round the instrument won't work.

Then clean dry and polish the outside of the instrument with a duster. The mouthpiece is another part that needs regular attention I would suggest at least every two weeks push a mouthpiece brush through and you will be amazed what comes out!!!.

All this sounds so easy but it is amazing how many instruments we have where the slides don't work or how many we get back that are really dirty.

So take time and spend an hour cleaning your instrument you will be amazed that all the wrong notes that keep popping out will disappear in a flash.



*Jane Clay*



## Back Room Staff

As with all organisations there are lots of people who are involved in all sorts of ways doing the jobs behind the scenes and Clifton band is no exception.

We have a team of what we call 'back room staff' who take on the task of keeping the band running. These people don't often get recognised and I would like to name and thank all these hard working members.

First of all is our Band President Brian Nicholson who has been connected one way or another with the band for over 60 years starting off as a young boy playing the euphonium and eventually many years later returning to become our President and resident compere.

We have our Patrons administrator Janet Bell who tries her best to recruit new patrons for the band, for £20 a year you can become a patron and for this you will receive our regular newsletter and two complimentary tickets for our Annual Concert which is usually held in the Autumn. So to sign up go to our contact page and get in touch with Janet.

Helen Woodcock has looked after our 125 club for many years, this is a regular task which entails collecting all the 25p per number each week and doing the weekly draw. These two jobs patrons and 125 club are so important to the band and raise between them over £2,000 each year.

Our fundraising team is very important as the band is not commercially sponsored in any way and Julia Wood, Julie Thornton and Frances Rogers are the group who help to keep the coffers filled and you will see from the articles in the newsletters the events which have been organised each year by them.

Librarians are Stephen White and Anne Schofield. The band has almost 2,000 pieces of music in the library all of which needs to be catalogued and kept in good order, this is a never ending task and Stephen in particular spends his time during the B Band rehearsals on a Friday evening and Sunday mornings sorting, tidying, repairing and backing the music, making sure pieces are ready with all the parts when they are required. I remember being appointed to do this job when I was a young 14 year old in the band and along with my brother Chris Helme we sorted and catalogued hundreds of pieces which is probably why I can tell you exactly what is in there.

Then there are the committee members who help keep the running of the band under control, solving problems and discussing ideas for the future, not everyone likes to be on a committee as they think it will take up a lot of time and effort but I think we get on well together.

Finally away from the 'back room staff' there are the members themselves. We have a dedicated team who care about the band, some of who have been members for many years and this goes a long way to do the extra thousand and one things that need to be done from those who help tidy up the band room, carry the equipment to and from engagements, help organise the trips abroad including collecting and sorting out the finances, looking after the uniforms and running the tuck shop.

So this page is a thank you to everyone who is connected with the band and has contributed in some way to help make it successful.





CLIFTON & LIGHTCLIFFE BAND

SOCIAL EVENING - GREEK NIGHT

AT THE LANE HEAD HOTEL, BRIGHOUSE,  
HD6 2AL

SATURDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER  
@19.00HRS

PRICE £19.95 PER PERSON

LIVE MUSIC (NOT US) – GREEK DANCING- PLATE SMASHING  
FREE OUZO ON ARRIVAL

PLEASE INDICATE IF VEGETARIAN

FOR BOOKINGS CONTACT JULIE THORNTON  
07803 895730  
JT.THORNTON-WRIGHT@BTCONNECT.COM

COME AND JOIN US

**GREEK NIGHTS**

GREEK MEZE  
FREE OUZO ON ARRIVAL  
LIVE MUSIC AND GREEK DANCING

COME AND JOIN IN, YIAMAS..!  
BOOK EARLY to avoid disappointment



Fancy a night out then come and join us on our Greek Night at the Lane Head Hotel Brighouse on Saturday 26th November at 7.00pm.

Julie Thornton is organising this and if you are interested in coming along contact her on the number or email above.

## 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, Easter and the Summer

The funds from the 125 Club over the years has provided the band with new equipment such as music, mutes, music stands, percussion items, ties and outdoor coats.

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



**125 Club Draw**



## CONTACTS

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

Musical Director—Mr John Clay 01422 201875

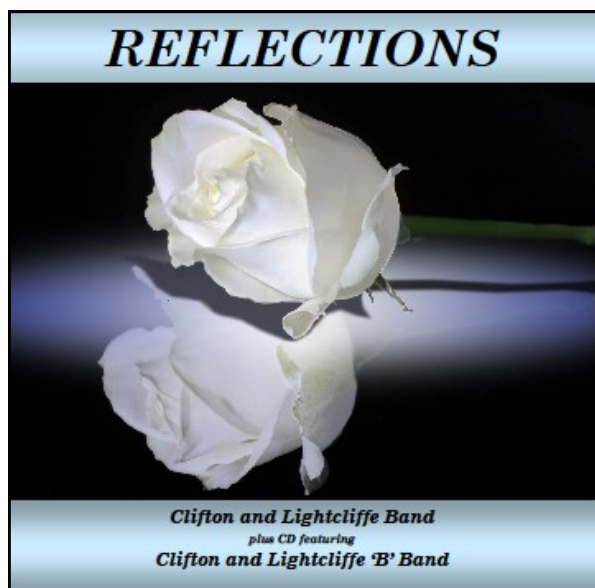
President—Mr Brian Nicholson 01924 490306

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

Phone 01422 201875, 07990633320, e-mail [john366clay@btinternet.com](mailto:john366clay@btinternet.com)

Patrons— Mrs Janet Bell, [janetbell2008@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:janetbell2008@hotmail.co.uk)

Web-Site—[www.cliftonband.co.uk](http://www.cliftonband.co.uk)



### CD's for Sale

The two top are £5.00 each and include a wide selection of music, Reflections has two CD's and features both our bands, this is priced at £10.00, and our newest is Live in Concert which was recorded on our very successful tour to Italy August 2015 is priced at £7.50 each. All CD's are available at our concerts or by contacting the band secretary



## 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 quarterly newsletter 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 are in the contacts section opposite, or ring the Secretary Jane Clay.

### On the move

We say goodbye this time to our 3rd Cornet player in the Senior band Paul Harris. Paul has decided to move on to pastures new. Thank you for your services and all the best with your new venture.

On Saturday 17th September we are organising a taster day and coffee morning between 10am and 12.00 noon and would welcome anyone who would like to learn to play an instrument to come along and have a look at us. If we have lots of interest we are wanting to start a training band each Saturday morning from 1st October between 10.00 and 11.15am.



**B Band Vacancies: Cornet players and Kit player**

**Senior Band Vacancies: Kit player and 3rd Cornet**

## COFFEE MORNING AND TASTER DAY

In October we would like to start a training band and so with this in mind we are organising a coffee morning and taster day where you can have a look at some of our musical instruments with a view of having a go if you want. This is being held on Saturday 17th September 2016 between 10.00 and 12.00noon at the bandroom. We would like to invite everyone to come along and see what we do.

Next year is the 40th anniversary of our B Band and we are looking at organising a celebration later in 2017. Our B Band is very important to us as it has provided up and coming players into the senior band for many years. We are now at a point where we need some new members and this is the reason for holding the coffee morning where hopefully we will encourage some new people both young and not so young to come along.

**Contact secretary Jane Clay mobile 07990633320 or Musical Director John Clay if you would like more details 01422 201875 or e-mail [john366clay@btinternet.com](mailto:john366clay@btinternet.com)**

## B Band Summer Engagements

Our B band has been quite busy over the summer with engagements at Ilkley, Scholes, Pudsey, Wyke and Gomersal.

First up was our annual visit on 21st May to the bandstand on The Grove at Ilkley. This is a lovely spot for the band to play and right opposite Betty's tearoom although you would need lots of cash to pay them a visit. The band was conducted by David Crisp on this occasion as John was away on holiday. Various popular tunes were played throughout the afternoon and apart from a heavy shower things went very well.

Scholes Church garden party was next on 11th June this again is an annual visit which the band has done for many years now, starting with a short 15 minute parade around the village to encourage everyone to come and spend their cash. John was again first at the cake stall looking for the fruit cake which he managed to bag much to the dismay of Pam Lumb who was hoping to get there first. We also had a visit from one of our players who is now at university Harry Ridler who sat in for a couple of pieces, good to see you Harry.

Westroyd Park in Farsley this year on Sunday 26th June is another of the bands regular engagements only this year we moved onto the nearby recreation ground where they were holding a family day. The sun blazed down during the afternoon and the large crowd appreciated the band throughout the afternoon.

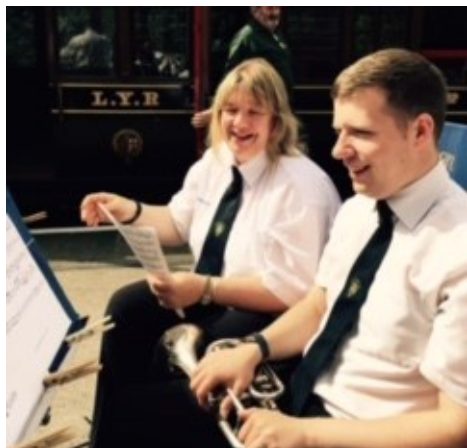
The garden party at St Mary's church at Wyke always the first Saturday in July was a job our then junior band did way back in the 1980's and has been invited to do every year since up to last year when the church decided not to hold the event. However, this year I was contacted by Joyce Lakey who said they were starting it again and would love the band to come. We had to play in the church as the weather was poor but this did not stop the villages supporting the event. Great to be back Joyce.

Red House Museum at Gomersal was a new venue on Sunday 10th July they were holding a flower festival in the house for the 250th Anniversary of the Bronte's. The band played on the lawn to a small but appreciative audience during the afternoon.

Most recently Sunday 17th July we were once again on the platform at Oxenhope station and what a lovely afternoon it was. Jackets off as we were all getting a lovely sun tan. With plenty of visitors travelling on the trains and listening to the band.







**Clifton & Lightcliffe Band**  
PRESENT

**Curtain Up**  
MUSIC FROM  
THE STAGE & SCREEN

**Clifton & Lightcliffe Senior Band**

TICKETS  
**£7**  
...  
EACH

SPECIAL GUESTS BY POPULAR REQUEST  
SINGING CABARET GROUP 'ENCORE'

**SATURDAY 15TH OCTOBER 2016 AT 7:15PM**  
BRIGHOUSE CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND TICKETS CONTACT**  
JANE CLAY 01422 201875 OR PAUL ADDY 07775774084

The Bradford Players Present

# Brassed Off

With the Clifton and Lightcliffe Band

**21st - 24th  
September**

Venue: Kala Sangam Art Centre,  
Bradford City Centre. Tickets £10/£12

By Paul Allen  
From the screenplay by Mark Herman

This amateur production of "Brassed Off" is presented  
by special arrangement of SAMUEL FRENCH, LTD

Park at Broadway Shopping Centre until 1am for £3!

## ENGAGEMENTS

### SENIOR BAND

#### September

Friday 16th	Harrogate Flower Show 11.30am—1.15pm
Saturday 17th	St Peter's Church Sowerby Musicals and Theatre concert 7.30pm
Weds 21st—Sat 24th	Brassed Off Karla Sangam Theatre Bradford 7.30pm

#### October

Saturday 1st	St Mary's Church Wyke 7.15pm
Saturday 15th	Annual Concert Central Methodist Church Brighouse 7.15pm
Saturday 29th	St Luke's Church Norland 7.30pm
Sunday 30th	St Paul's Birkenshaw Group for Songs of Praise 4.00—5.00pm

#### November

Sunday 6th	Yorkshire Cricket Club Headingley 7.30pm
Sunday 13th	Remembrance Day Parade Mirfield 2.00pm
Saturday 19th	Wibsey Methodist Church 2.00pm

#### December

Tuesday 13th	Christmas Cracker—St John's Church Clifton 7.15pm
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### B BAND

#### October

Saturday 15th	Annual Concert Central Methodist Church Brighouse 7.15pm
Sunday 19th	Pogson Bray Contest Berties Elland All Day

#### November

Sunday 13th	Remembrance Day Parade Mirfield 2.00pm
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#### December

Sunday 11th	Wibsey Methodist Church Carol Service 4.00pm
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