

BANDROOM NOTES



~ Welcome to a Special Edition of our newsletter ~

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Band to be evicted

This is a special edition of our newsletter to let you know that the band has been told to vacate its present headquarters on 31st December 2025 by its present owners of the lease Blackshaw Holdings Limited.

I have written on page two and three the story of how the band came to occupy it in September 1932 through the goodwill of the local business at the time Firth Carpets Ltd and who's management were interested and encouraging in the local community whether it was through sport, music, education or their employees both working and retired.

This is a sad and difficult time as we now have the task of finding a place suitable for not only our rehearsals but the storage of instruments, music and uniforms.

The band has always been based in the Brighthouse area firstly in Clifton from its formation in 1838 to its move to Bailiff Bridge in 1932 which was reported in the Brighthouse Echo at the time.

This is a snippet of the report:

"Since 1920 the band have used premises in Highmoor Lane, Clifton but these have proved unsuitable, both from a point of view of position and lack of support from the public. The actual rooms were a long way from Lightcliffe" "It was about six weeks ago that the band decided to take the lease of the pavilion which was being evacuated by the bowling club. Situated as it is it becomes eminently suitable for Lightcliffe, Clifton and Wyke members while the premises themselves are of a vastly different nature from the old ones. Prior to the opening the band marched from the Martin Nest, playing a number of selections of light music.

The door was officially opened on Saturday afternoon by Mrs G.H. Aykroyd and the chair was occupied by Major G.H. Aykroyd who wished the band every success."

Major Aykroyd came from a long line of Baronets of Lightcliffe and were prominent in Firth Carpets as Directors.

Picture shows the band outside the band room with the Major and his wife.



OPENING CEREMONY
SAT. 24TH SEPT. 1932

Rehearsals

Senior Band

- Tuesday & Thursday
7.45pm—9.15pm

B Band

- Fridays
7.30pm—9.00pm

• Website

www.cliftonband.co.uk

Secretary:

Mrs Jane L. Clay

07990633320

john366clay@btinternet.com

The Band Room

The band has a long and proud history and part of that history is our current band room which we have occupied for the last 93 years.

The band room was officially handed over to the band in September 1932 in a ceremony reported in the Brighthouse Echo and has over the years seen many players progress on to professional careers, our junior band saw well over 400 youngsters learning over the time.

The band has also provided entertainment and helped with fund raising for dozens of local organisations.

T F Firth & Sons Ltd had the lease which was drawn up in 1911 for the bowling green and the pavilion (where the band is based) between Sir Algernon Freeman Firth, William Findlay and Robert Heward Goldthorpe.

Unfortunately, T F Firth ceased trading in 2002 and the factories sold off. The leases for the bowling club and green (including the bowling pavilion) were eventually sold to Blackshaw Holdings Ltd.

Blackshaw wanted to develop the land and built houses on the car park adjacent to the bowling green, then in 2024 started to build 8 houses on the site where the Bowling Club stood and are now looking at the area where the green is situated.

When the band moved into the pavilion in September 1932 the heating was a wood stove in the middle of the room that the band would sit around rehearsing, there was a very large chimney on the roof which is now an ornament in the garden adjacent, there were no carpets or curtains. Over the subsequent years we have spent over £30k on a new roof, heating, lighting, toilets, carpets, external doors, new windows, French windows to enable us to get large equipment in and out for our concerts and inside fixtures and fittings all of which were in need of replacing or repairing.

2025 saw the Bailiff Bridge Bowling Group which had 13 teams vacate after their rent was raised beyond what they could afford and now the band has received an eviction notice to quit the pavilion with three months' notice.

As the band is classed as a small business we have the protection of the 1954 Landlord and Tenant Act which means we have to have not less than 6 and not more than 12 months' notice, a reason must be given and also alternative accommodation be offered.

After discussions over the last 6 months we have now been given notice to quit by 31st December 2025, one of the reasons given is to demolish the band room for building purposes.

Alternative accommodation that Blackshaw now own was offered on the second floor at Northvale Doubling Mill in Bailiff which is not trading anymore and appears to be used as a warehouse. The mill was originally owned by Geoffrey Stott who passed away in 1990. Geoffrey was a great supporter and President of the band for many years.

After viewing the space on offer it is felt this would not be suitable for the band as there is no heating, we have expensive musical equipment as well as over 2000 sets of music (many are not published anymore and cannot be replaced) as well as uniforms costing upward of £200 each we therefore need a clean dry place for storage.

There were other problems we would be concerned about such as security and the risk of fire as the fire escape on the outside of the building was not viable and there is a large amount of second hand furniture stacked up from floor to ceiling on the floor below.

So after 93 years we are now in a position of looking for a new home for the band to rehearse. To enable us to find and equip a new rehearsal room we are looking to raise funds for the rest of 2025, we have various events planned to help towards this and also have a full calendar of engagements for both our bands.

If you would like to help us with our fundraising or any ideas for alternative accommodation we would be most grateful. We have set up a QR code for any donations to help us towards a new home.



Below are a few pictures of before and after the major refurbishment we did to the band room in 2003.



Up and coming concerts

Saturday 14th June the B Band will be performing at Norristhorpe United Reform Church, Liversedge WF15 7AR.

Tickets are available on the door at £6.00 or from the number given on the poster and include refreshments.



Pudsey Park

Sunday 15th June the Senior band will be playing in the afternoon at Pudsey Park Church Lane LS28 9RR between 2.30pm and 4.30pm.

Bring your chairs. Lets hope for a sunny day.

 Norristhorpe United Reformed Church
Norristhorpe Lane, Norristhorpe, LIVERSEDGE, West Yorkshire, WF15 7AN.
www.abrbc.org.uk
Secretary: Christine Whitaker

**Clifton
Lightcliffe
'B' BAND**

**Saturday 14th June
2025**

**Summer
Band Concert
2pm**

Tickets: £6.00
Available from Linda and Janet
Or call Janet McDonald
07891979921 to reserve ticket and
pay at the door.
Refreshments included and will be
served after the concert.

Bradford Cathedral

On Thursday evening 19th June the Senior band are delighted to have been invited to perform at Bradford Cathedral. The Cathedral choir are holding an event for their patrons and will be singing alongside the band. The performance starts at 6.30pm.

ANNUAL CONCERT

Our Annual Concert this year is on Saturday 21st June commencing at 7.15pm at St Martins Church, Church Lane Brighouse. Both our bands will take part as a massed band. We will be performing popular music and entry is free with a retiring collection which will as last year be supporting both the band and Overgate Hospice.

St Matthews Church Northowram

Our B Band will be in concert with the Northowram Singers on Saturday 5th July at 7.30pm. Tickets on the door.



Lower Wyke Moravian Church

Saturday 12th July the Senior Band will be at the church once again for their annual Proms in the Paddock. If the weather is fine we will be outside but in the event of rain we will perform in the church.

Tickets available on the door. If the weather is good bring your chairs and picnics, If wet picnics will be done inside.





**Clifton
&
Lightcliffe
BAND**

A Musical Serenade
An evening of music featuring
both our Bands

Saturday 21st June 2025
St Martins Church Brighouse 7.15pm
Free entry with a retiring collection to support
Overgate Hospice and the Band

For more details contact Jane on 07990633320
or john366clay@btinternet.com



Wibsey Methodist Church

Senior band will be once again at Wibsey Methodist Church on Saturday 19th July at 2.00pm. Admission is free and includes their famous afternoon tea provided by the ladies of the church. This event has been kindly supported by the Bradford year of Culture.



Pudsey Park

Sunday 27th July the B Band will be playing in the afternoon at Pudsey Park Church Lane LS28 9RR between 2.30pm and 4.30pm.

Bring your chairs.



Upper Hopton Fete

Our B Band will be at the Upper Hopton Fete on Saturday 26th July performing throughout the afternoon. The band has been taking part in the Fete for over 10 years. We started the connection with Croft House in 2012 when we were asked to lead the carol singing around their Christmas Tree which we still do today. The Fete is great fun with lots of activities for both adults and children taking place from 10.30am until 4.00pm.



ST MATTHEWS LIGHTCLIFFE

The band performed as part of the 150 anniversary of the Church on Saturday 17th May.

As reported in our earlier newsletter the Church was built in 1875 with a generous donation given by Johnston Jonas Foster who lived at Cliffe Hill and was part of the Foster family, founders of Black Dyke Mills in Queensbury.

The concert was introduced by Reverend Kathryn Buck who said that as well as part of the 150 year celebrations the concert would also be dedicated to Mr Christopher Helme who passed away three weeks prior to the concert after a long illness, his funeral was held at the church on Wednesday before the concert. Chris was very well known and respected in Lightcliffe as well as being a serving police officer for 30 years he served 26 as the local officer in Brighouse, he was a well respected historian and had written a number of books about the local area and well as giving talks about local history. He wrote a weekly article for the Brighouse Echo for more than 30 years, he was editor of the quarterly Talking Newspaper Magazine in Halifax and was for 5 years editor of The Conductor the in-house publication for the Brass Band Conductors Association. He also produced a weekly brass band radio programme which was aired in several UK community radio stations as well as many overseas stations.

He started his brass band playing in the Clifton and Lightcliffe band as a 13 year old on cornet and flugel horn before moving on to the Eb Tuba. After a number of years with Clifton he moved on to join the West Yorkshire Police Band.



ENGAGEMENTS 2025

SENIOR BAND

JUNE

Sunday 15th
Thursday 19th
Saturday 21st

Pudsey Park 2.30pm—4.30pm
Bradford Cathedral 6.30pm
Annual Concert St Martins Brighouse 7.15pm

JULY

Saturday 12th
Saturday 19th

Moravian Church Lower Wyke 7.15pm
Wibsey Methodist Church 2.00pm

AUGUST

Friday 1st
Sunday 3rd

The Hartshead 7.00pm
Jowett Court Bradford 2.00pm

B BAND

JUNE

Saturday 14th
Saturday 21st

Norristhorpe URC 2.00pm
Annual Concert St Martins Brighouse 7.15pm

JULY

Saturday 5th
Saturday 26th
Sunday 27th

St Matthews Church Northowram 7.30pm
Upper Hopton Gala afternoon
Pudsey Park 2.30pm—4.30pm

AUGUST

Friday 1st
Saturday 31st

The Hartshead 7.00pm
Ilkley Bandstand 2.00pm—4.00pm

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

CONTACTS

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

Musical Director—Mr John Clay 07879883529

Musical Director B Band—Mr Alexander Smith 07758739546

President—Mr Brian Nicholson

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

Phone 07990633320, e-mail john366clay@btinternet.com

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

CD's for Sale

Our selection of Cd's are available to purchase on our web-site, our concerts, from Jane Clay on 07990633320. Prices range from between £5.00 and £8.00 or via the QR code below.

 <p>REFLECTIONS Clifton and Lightcliffe Band plus CD featuring Clifton and Lightcliffe 'B' Band</p>	 <p>Clifton Lightcliffe BAND THE LOST CHORD</p>	 <p>Christmas Joy with Clifton and Lightcliffe Band</p>	 <p>Clifton Lightcliffe BAND RISE OF THE PHOENIX</p>	 <p>Clifton and Lightcliffe Band Live in concert Regina Palace Hotel Siresa Italy 10th August 2015</p> 
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