

BANDROOM NOTES



~ Welcome to our Autumn Edition of our newsletter ~

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>National Finals</i>	1
<i>National Finals</i>	2
<i>Brassed Off</i>	3
<i>Meet the band</i>	4/5
<i>Whats on</i>	6
<i>Vacancies, CD, Misc.</i>	7
<i>Up and coming concerts</i>	8/9
<i>B Band summer</i>	
<i>Engagements/Contacts</i>	10

Senior Band competes at National Brass Band Finals

Back in March the senior band qualified for the National Brass Band Finals which are held at Cheltenham Racecourse each September.

To qualify the band needed to be placed first or second at the qualifying rounds in Huddersfield Town Hall and we were delighted to go through with a second placing.

The finals took place on 17th September in the Centaur at the Racecourse, the band travelled down the day before as the competition for our section commenced at 9.00am on the Sunday. We set off from the band room at lunchtime and travelled down stopping off for a meal together at the Harvester Redgrove which I must say was great, its not easy having 41 people arriving for lunch.

We then moved on to St Nicolas Church Hall for a rehearsal after which we arrived at our Premier Inn outside Cheltenham.

Kerry one of our cornet players had organised a bowling match for the evening which was great fun, I am still not sure who came out on top but it was spot on for a bit of team building.

After a night's sleep and a very early rise (6.00am) we were on the coach at 7.45am ready to go. On the way we found out we had drawn to play number 17 out of 20 bands so a long wait once we arrived.

Time to play 2.30pm the band took the stage with a good number in the audience to listen to us. The music chosen for all the bands was Christopher Bond's Lost Village of Imber which tells the story of the Imber village on Salisbury Plain which was inhabited for over 1000 years before the 152 inhabitants were given 47 days notice to evacuated the village in 1943 to make way for American troops to train for the D Day landings.

The people never did return to the village and to this day it is still part of the military on Salisbury Plain.

Picture opposite is the abandoned St Giles Church.



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

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The music which was written in three movements firstly depicts typical village life with children playing and dancing in the streets, the sound of the blacksmith's anvil can be heard and people going about their daily business, the second movement sets a ghostly picture of the church of St Giles and the desolate feeling before finally in the third movement the military arrive and you can hear the noise of heavy equipment and gunfire.

The inhabitants never returned to the village and today you can visit this lost village three times a year, Easter, St Giles Day at the end of August and at Christmas for a service in the Church.
The music really tells the story of a lost time in history.

The band played well and the three adjudicators, Stan Lippeat, Duncan Beckley and Christopher Bond himself gave us some very good remarks and awarded us 8th place out of 20 which is a good result for the band. We held our own against bands from all over the country.



Brassed Off yet again

Once again the senior band was asked to take part in a production of the play *Brassed Off* which tells the story of the troubles faced by the village brass band Grimley Colliery based in northern England following the closure of their pit.

The play is set 10 years after the year long strike in 1984/5 by the National Union of Mineworkers.

The band's conductor Danny Ormondroyd is fighting a losing battle to keep the band together during these difficult times.

The band qualifies for the National Finals at the Albert Hall at the time Danny is in hospital gravely ill.

As the results of the National Finals are announced and Grimley Colliery take the title Danny appears on stage and makes a passionate speech. The play is full of laughter, tears and a love story along with some really good music.

This time the play was put on by the Guiseley Theatrical Production company who are based in Guiseley, but was actually staged at Yeadon Town Hall in August.

We had excellent audiences over the 5 performances and some really good reviews: "A brilliant set with its atmospheric background projections of the colliery provided a bleak picture of the threatened closure"

"While this was essentially a play, the music provided by the Clifton and Lightcliffe Brass Band added depth and superb quality to the overall performance. The acting 'instrumentalists' blended brilliantly and to be honest you could not really tell who wasn't actually playing"



A few pictures from the performance at Yeadon Town Hall with the team from Guiseley Theatrical Productions. Super people to work with. Thank you for asking us.



My story and a tribute to the late James Shepherd

On the night of 22nd June 2023 James Shepherd was taken ill which led to his passing away, I was asked by Jane to write my profile for the Bandroom Notes. I did not know Jim was ill at this time.

I was born and bred in Queensbury two hundred yards away from the famous Black Dyke band room and gardens, which is now Tesco's car park. I walked past that band room twice a day going to school. In 1975, at the age of seven, I was introduced to the school band led by Jim Shepherd with a young Simon Gresswell playing a bass tuba. I was fascinated.

I started on a trumpet with Jim giving one to one lessons. After a few months, my mum and dad bought me my first cornet, there was no looking back. At that age I had good weeks and bad weeks (I still do), if I hadn't practiced Jim would know and would say "You are not tonguing" and once threw his Parker Fountain Pen on the floor which broke into pieces. Over the next few years I took private lessons with Jack Oldham of the Black Dyke Junior Band, school lessons every week with Jim and played in the school band and each Saturday morning at the Queensbury Music Centre. I became a front row cornet player. As I grew up, I started to struggle with the higher notes and played flugel horn for a short while before starting off on a single Eb bass, just larger than a euphonium. I remember playing outside the Co-op in Queensbury with Jim leading in three foot of snow and frozen valves. (That was the summer in Queensbury!).

In 1981 Jim Shepherd founded the Jayess Band. I was a founder member, playing BBb Bass. We won nearly every contest or were in the top three, and went from 4th section to Championship in a few years. We made several albums. A few of us from the Jayess also played with the James Shepherd Versatile Brass Group to make a short film for Yorkshire TV called "The Silver Cornet". We filmed and recorded at various Yorkshire locations. We also toured Europe three times giving me the love of the Swiss Alps, The Black Forest of Germany, the lowlands of France and the Netherlands. In 1985 we won the 1st Section National Championship in London playing St. Paul's Suite by Gustav Holst. My banding led me to listening to classical music. This period shaped my whole life. I auditioned for the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain and I did three courses, Devizes in Wiltshire, Harrogate and Darlington. We worked with the best and the famous Eric Ball, Harry Mortimer and Roy Newsome to name but a few. Whilst at the Harrogate NYBBGB course I leant on the fire alarm button at lunch time and three North Yorkshire fire engines turned up. Oops!

During my teens I auditioned for Black Dyke. I was not successful but was told to come back when I was a bit older. They treated me very well. I had a choice of nine new basses to play.

I started work at the Inland Revenue in Shipley in 1985 and applied to join the Fire Service during this time. Jim was my character reference for all of my jobs.

March 1988 I joined the West Yorkshire Fire Service and resigned from the Jayess Band. I had a full year out. I returned to the Jayess Band as if nothing had happened. However, we had lost players and Jim was not happy. At one point we were given a redundancy notice from the committee of the Jayess and I transferred to the Yorkshire Evening Post Brass Band. Just before I left the Jayess I was approached by Fred Ellis of Black Dyke to do a concert with them covering for Simon Gresswell. I wore the Black Dyke uniform, gave a concert in Leeds, played next to Derek Jackson, had a salmon supper and got paid £30 by cheque. I nearly did not cash that cheque. I looked at it in awe for months. What a night!

At some point I was invited back to Black Dyke to audition. It was the night they ousted James Watson their conductor. It was an awful experience. Only half a band was present and I was the only bass. That was the last time I ever set foot in the Black Dyke band room

Yorkshire Post was a good concert band but not consistent on the contest stage. I did many years at the Yorkshire Post, even when it dropped to a ten piece where I played EEb bass.

Whist playing for The Yorkshire Post I was poached By Hepworth. I had seven good years with Hepworth, the most successful band at Championship level I have ever played with. I left just before The British Open 2004 because of work commitments with The West Yorkshire Fire Service. From here I went to Yorkshire Imperial Metal Band and won the National Finals 1st Section at Harrogate, playing Pageantry in 2005. Due to some political business between the band and my former girlfriend who was also playing with “Imps” I felt obliged to support her and left after the finals. Basically, as soon as I had finished with “Imps”, Skelmanthorpe picked me up, where I stayed for over sixteen years. We had some lovely times, several contest successes, concerts with Paul Potts, Haley Westenra, and headlined at The Hull Freedom Festival with a top Indy Band mix and an audience of over four thousand people.

I met and worked with Angela in the Fire Service, after a long relationship we married in 2017 at St James Church, Thornton. Skelmanthorpe band played for our wedding and were fantastic. The wedding was fantastic and Jim Shepherd and his wife Anne both attended.

I left Skelmanthorpe after the National Finals in Cheltenham, 1st Section in 2018. I was then approached and asked to play for Clifton band. The rest is history in the making.

Away from banding, I love driving for pleasure, motorcycling, walking and fishing. My favourite past time now is sitting in a nice garden and enjoying a cup of tea with Jane’s jams, or a nice meal with John’s garden produce.

I would like to thank Mr James Shepherd for encouraging me down the path I followed, music, the Fire Service, good manners and respect. Cheers Jim and thank you.

Michael Smith—BBb Bass

Opposite the Bass team at Clifton, Allan Holdsworth, Sam Paley, Michael Smith and Andy Smith.

Below left with my pal Allan Holdsworth who tries to keep me on the straight and narrow !

And right is me in my Sunday best.





The band are holding their Annual Awards Evening on Friday 17th November 7.30pm at Crow Nest Golf Club, Coach Road, Hove Edge, Brighouse.

Everyone is invited to come along and join us for a lovely evening. There will be a meal and games as well as our presentations.

If you would like to come along either let Kerry Murray know on 07939571016 or email Jane Clay on john366clay@btinternet.com

Clifton and Lightcliffe Band Awards Evening

Friday 17th November 2023 Crow Nest Golf Club 7.30pm
2 Courses £23.00—3 Courses £28.50

Fishcakes & Sweet Chilli Sauce on mixed leaves
Cajun Chicken Skewers baby leaf and mint yogurt
Celery & Stilton Soup with Crusty Roll
Pate, red onion chutney toasted bread, mixed leaf

Steak and Ale Pie creamed potato, vegetable & gravy
Poached Salmon dauphinoise potato, steamed broccoli
Mushroom & Red wine Chicken breast herb infused potatoes
tender stem broccoli

Sweet Potato & Lentil Tagine served with rice

Bailey's & Toffee Cheesecake mango coulis
Apple Pie creamy custard
Chocolate Brownie Chantilly cream & chocolate sauce
Sherry Trifle
Tea and Coffee



CONGRATULATIONS

We extend our congratulations to our Euphonium player Graham Cass who married Kerry Brown on Saturday 7th September at the Coniston Hotel Skipton

Graham has been a member of the band for 40 years. We send him and Kerry all our best wishes.



Vacancies

We are needing Cornets Euphonium and Bb Bass players for our B Band. Senior band require 2nd Baritone, 2nd Trombone and front row cornet.

If anyone is interested get in touch with Jane 07990633320

www.cliftonband.co.uk

PATRONS

We have around 65 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 07799270955 or the Secretary Jane Clay 07990633320

125 CLUB

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

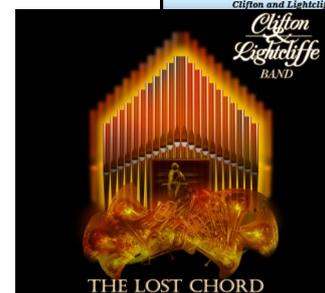
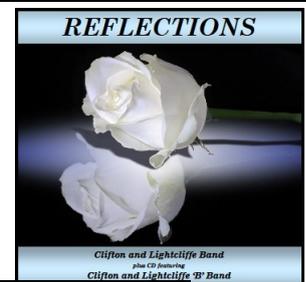
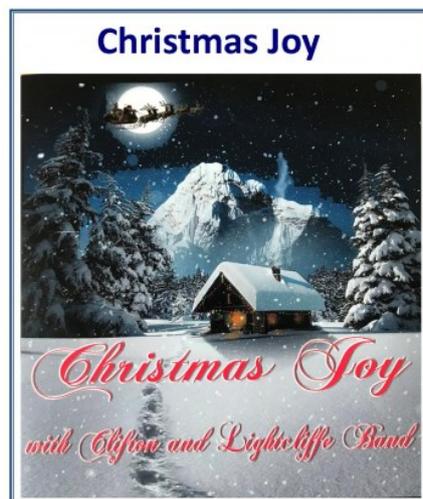
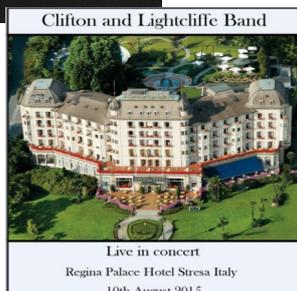
Numbers are 25p each per week to purchase and a £5.00 weekly draw takes place plus three times a year a prize of £50.00 is given at Christmas, Spring and the Summer

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



Up and coming Concerts

WIBSEY METHODIST CHURCH
SCHOOL LANE
Presents
CLIFTON AND
LIGHTCLIFFE BRASS
BAND
REMEMBRANCE
CONCERT
On
Saturday 11th November 2022
At
2:00 p.m.
Admission £10 (CASH OR CARD)
including Afternoon Tea

A Right Royal Afternoon !
A concert by
The Clifton & Lightcliffe Brass
Band
Sunday 19th November 2023
St. Mary's Church, Green Lane, Wyke
at 2pm
including refreshments
Tickets £10
Contact Margaret Roper 07785 777648

Autumn Concert
With the Clifton and Lightcliffe Band and B Band
St Martins Church, Church Lane, Brighouse
Saturday 25th November 2023 at 7.15pm
Tickets £8.00 each children under 14 Free of Charge
Available on the door
from Janet Bell 07799270955
email janetbell2008@hotmail.com
Or email john366clay@btinternet.com

 **Norrsthorpe United Reformed Church**
Norrsthorpe Lane, Norristhorpe, LIVERSEGE. West Yorkshire. WF15 7AN.
www.space.urch.org.uk
Secretary: Christine Whitaker

Back by popular demand!

Clifton & Lightcliffe BAND

Saturday 2nd December 2023
2.00pm

Clifton and Lightcliffe "B" Band will be performing on behalf of Church Funds and the Band.

Tickets: £5.00

Coffee and mince pies will also be served afterwards for which we will ask a donation.

Clifton and Lightcliffe are returning for the second time this year and the concert will include Festive Music.

News in brief

Our B Band has had a very busy summer with a number of concerts.

St Matthews Church Northowram on 1st July with the Northowram Singers proved very popular with a packed church, thanks to Robert Paxman conductor of the singers and our percussionist for organising this, we are back again for a Christmas concert on 9th December at 7.30pm so look out for tickets.

Upper Hopton Gala was another venue for the B Band this was at the end of July, the band has taken part in this for around 8 years although we have been playing carols around the tree each year at Upper Hopton since December 2012.

Oxenhope Vintage Railway Steam Days is another regular for the B Band this time it was on Sunday 20th August playing for the passengers throughout the afternoon. We managed to get wet at one point with a quick shower but it did not dampen the spirits and as they say 'The show must go on'

Pudsey Park in July and August for both bands. This is a lovely venue and if the weather is fine the park is packed, we were lucky with both days and the weather was kind and thanks to the bowling club who supplied their usual tea, coffee, cake and biscuits at half time.

This year the Stray in Lightcliffe held an event to celebrate the centenary of the park on Sunday 3rd September. A group from both our bands took park and played throughout the afternoon. There were plenty of stalls along with around 500 people in the park, the day was very hot, and we managed to get a gazebo at the last minute which we were very grateful for.



ENGAGEMENTS 2023

SENIOR BAND

NOVEMBER

Saturday 11th	Wibsey Methodist Church 2.00pm
Friday 17th	Awards Evening Crow Nest Golf Club 7.30pm
Sunday 19th	St Mary's Church Wyke 2.30pm
Saturday 25th	Annual Concert St Martins Church 7.15pm

DECEMBER

Friday 1st	Fulneck Moravian Church 7.30pm
Friday 8th	St Thomas's Church Greetland 7.30pm
Tuesday 12th	St John's Church Clifton 7.15pm
Wednesday 13th	Rodley Ecumenical Church Carols by Candlelight 7.00pm
Friday 15th	St Paul's Church Birkenshaw 7.30pm
Saturday 16th	Carols around the tree Upper Hopton 6.00pm

B BAND

NOVEMBER

Friday 17th	Awards Evening Crow Nest Golf Club 7.30pm
Saturday 25th	Annual Concert St Martins Church 7.15pm

DECEMBER

Saturday 2nd	Norrithorpe Church 2.00pm
Saturday 9th	St Matthews Church Northowram 7.30pm
Wednesday 13th	Rodley Ecumenical Church Carols by Candlelight 7.00pm
Saturday 16th	Carols around the tree Upper Hopton 6.00pm
Sunday 17th	Wibsey Methodist Church Carol Service 4.00pm
Wednesday 20th	St James Church Tong Carol Service 7.00pm

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 Alexander Smith 07758739546

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



Clifton
&
Lightcliffe
BAND