

BANDROOM NOTES



~ Welcome to the Spring Edition of our newsletter ~

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National Finals

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Success for the band

The senior band competed once again at the Yorkshire Regional Qualifying Rounds of the National Brass Band Championships early in March and were awarded second prize in a field of 10 bands which means we have again qualified for the National Finals in September at Cheltenham Racecourse.

This is the second year in a row we have qualified and is due to the hard work of our Musical Director John Clay and all the band members.

We would like to thank Derek Broadbent who came and took a couple of rehearsals and passed on his vast experience to John and the band.

The music chosen was Christopher Bond's Corineus a lovely descriptive piece which tells the story of the trials and tribulations of the mythical founder of Cornwall.

The two adjudicators were impressed with the bands performance with Tom Davoren saying "Thank you for your performance, some great moments of style and good sounds" and Nicholas Garman commenting "An excellent opening, some lovely rich sounds. Thank you for your performance which had some moments of excellence, but also some points to consider"

As we have been consistent over the last few years and qualified for the finals two years running we will be promoted to the second section from 1st January 2025.

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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john366clay@btinternet.com



We will now be raising funds to take the band to Cheltenham, starting with our Annual Concert on 27th April at St Martins Church Brighouse at 2.30pm where both our bands will be performing. The concert will be ticket free with a retiring collection at the end which will be shared with Overgate Hospice and the band funds. We hope to see you there.

Busy time ahead for our B Band

Our B Band under the direction of Musical Director Alex Smith have a busy time coming up with concerts starting the year with an afternoon at Wibsey Methodist Church on Saturday 23rd March.

Bradford Council supported the Church for this event with their warm space project which provided the people of Wibsey a place to spend time in the warm church during the afternoon being entertained by the band and having a tea provided after the concert.

We were delighted to see so many people attending and listening to a programme of popular music featuring items from musicals and films including a selection from West Side Story, Lord of the Rings, Willy Wonka, Sister Act and many others. Thanks to Richard and the team for inviting us.



There are plenty of opportunities to come and listen to the B Band including our Annual Concert on Saturday afternoon 27th April at St Martins Church Brighouse starting at 2.30pm where they will be joined by our senior band.

Norristhorpe United Reform Church is another venue where they have been asked to appear again this time on 18th May again in the afternoon, and on 29th June at St Matthews Church Northowram at 7.30pm. There are also a host of concerts throughout the summer months which can be seen on our website www.cliftonband.co.uk

The B Band are looking for new players and welcome anyone who is starting out or going back to playing after a break so if you are interested in coming along then please contact us for more details we have instruments available.



AWARDS EVENING

Our Annual Awards Evening was held once again at Crow Nest Golf Club Hove Edge and was attended by 60 members and friends.

B Band

Most Improved Player—David Briggs Eb Bass. Chosen by the Musical Director Alex Smith.

All the other awards are voted for by the band members themselves.

Best Section—Cornets

Players Player—Christopher Ainley Euphonium

Senior Band

Most Improved Player—Samuel Paley Eb Bass. Chosen by the Musical Director John Clay.

Best Section—Basses

Players Player—David Crisp Principal Cornet

Band Person of the year—This award is for the person who has contributed a lot of time and effort to the band over the year and can be either a player or non player. This year it was awarded to Kerry Murray.

In addition we had two new awards. The Alfred Crouch Shield for the most improved cornet player in the association. Alfred Crouch was a member of the band and secretary for a time many years ago and his family wanted to give an award in his memory. This was chosen by both our Musical Directors and given to Kerry Murray who plays 2nd cornet with the senior band.

The second award is the Derek Garside Shield, this is to be given to the best player of the year.

Derek Garside was born in 1930 and not long after his ninth birthday started to play the cornet. At the end of 1941 or possibly early 1942 he had progressed enough to join Clifton and Lightcliffe.

A year later he joined Brighouse and Rastrick. When he was 17 he became the principal cornet for the C.W.S (Manchester) Band where he stayed for many years. He is very well respected in the band world for his wonderful playing. This was awarded to David Crisp our principal cornet player with the senior band. The awards were presented by our Band President Brian Nicholson.

Congratulations to all our winners.





Piece Hall for Culturedale

The senior band played in the Piece Hall on Saturday 13th April for the opening of the Calderdale year of Culture. We arrived at 2.15pm and the place was already packed with several hundred people. We were scheduled to perform at 3.15pm until 4.00pm. Apart from being very windy we were lucky to have the sun shining during our performance.

The crowd seemed very pleased and sang along to some of our music which included a selection ABBA songs, Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy, Our second cornet player Kerry Murray stood for the first time with the senior band as a soloist and played Ben which was originally written for Donny Osmond by Don Black and Walter Scharf for the 1972 film of the same name. As Donny Osmond was on tour at the time and was unavailable for the recording it was offered to Michael Jackson instead, Also on the programme was the West Riding March which features the tune Ilkley Moor, a selection from Calamity Jane, Floral Dance and we finished off with the great song made famous by Morecambe and Wise Bring me Sunshine.



MBE Awarded to one of our former members of the band

Laurie Thraves a local lad from Lightcliffe came to the then Junior band along with 3 or 4 of his friends from Rastick High School. He joined the cornet section and quickly showed his talent and progressed to the senior band, where he remained until he left to take up studies at St Hugh's college Oxford. After University he moved to London.

Laurie has always remembered with fondness his time with the band and prior to him getting married came home each Christmas and joined with us on Christmas morning to play carols around Lightcliffe.

He invited the band to play at his wedding where he again joined with the band for a couple of numbers.

We all wholeheartedly send our congratulations to Laurie on this amazing award.



St Hugh's alumnus appointed MBE in King's New Year Honours List 2024

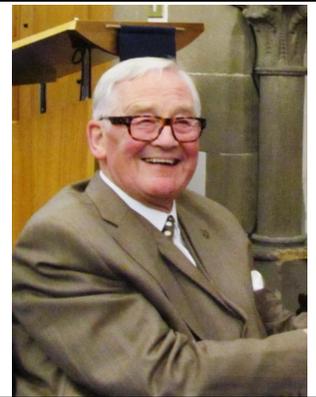


Laurie studied Archaeology and Anthropology at St Hugh's and Arabic at the School of Oriental and African Studies and University of Kuwait. Laurie is currently the Head of the Cabinet Office's National Situation Centre. This was established in 2021 to provide data, open source intelligence and analysis to the government's crisis management COBR.

Passing of our Vice President Roger Whittaker

It is with sadness we report that Roger Whittaker one of our Vice Presidents passed away prior to Christmas. Roger and his wife Elizabeth were great supporters of the band for many years. He first heard the band when he attend one of our concerts around 15 years ago in his capacity as Deputy Lieutenant of West Yorkshire. He showed a lot of interest in encouragement of the young players we had in the band at that time and was keen to keep in touch. He was invited to become a Vice President and we were delighted he accepted. Both he and Elizabeth attended our concerts in Ilkley every year.

Condolences from all the band members to Elizabeth and the family.



Helping Hand

Brass band players are very good at helping one another whenever they can and Easter Sunday was one such case. John our Musical Director received a call on Saturday from a friend Glenn Crisp who now lives in the dales asking if John was free to come and help the Muker band. They had a concert booked for the afternoon and unfortunately their conductor was taken ill. Of course I can said John and off we set early in the morning so he would have time to look over the music before the concert. Not knowing how many people would turn up for the concert as it was Easter the band were delighted that the hall was packed when it came time to start. The concert went really well and everyone had a great afternoon. Thanks Glenn for asking us to help it was a real pleasure.



Vacancies

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

Senior band require a front row cornet player.

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.

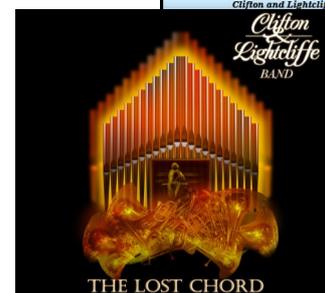
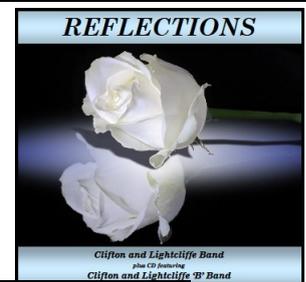
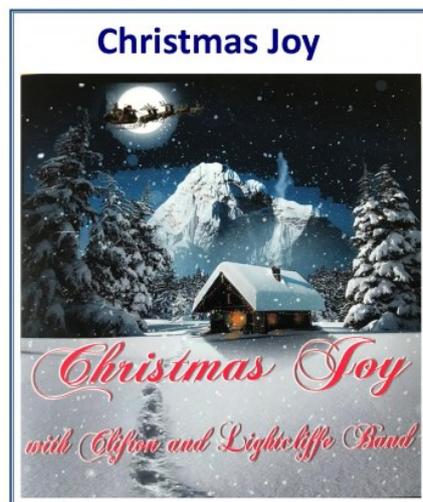
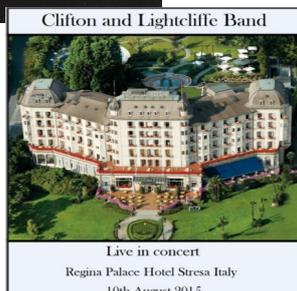
Numbers are 25p each per week to purchase and a £5.00 weekly draw takes place plus three times a year a prize of £50.00 is given at Christmas, Spring and the Summer

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



A SPRING SERENADE
**An afternoon of music featuring
both our Bands**
Saturday 27th April 2024
St Martins Church Brighthouse 2.30pm
Free entry with a retiring collection to support
Overgate Hospice and the Band

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

A SPRING SERENADE

Come and join us for an afternoon Spring Serenade at St Martins Church Brighthouse on Saturday 27th April commencing at 2.30pm.

The concert will feature our Senior band and B band with a selection of popular music.

This year the concert is ticket free but we will be taking a retiring collection which will be supporting both Overgate Hospice and the band. Contact Jane on the number opposite or drop me an email for any more details. Look forward to seeing you there.

HARROGATE FLOWER SHOW

A group from both our bands will be there performing at the showground on Friday 26th April between 3.15 and 5.00pm



OCTOBER

Friday
18

Save the Date

CLIFTON AND LIGHTCLIFFE INVITE YOU TO:

AWARDS NIGHT

CROW NEST GOLF CLUB, HD6 2LN
19:00 ARRIVAL FOR 19:30 START

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW LATER



The
**United
Reformed
Church**

NORRISTHORPE

Our B Band will be once again performing at the Church on Saturday 18th May 2.30pm.

Tickets £6.00 and includes refreshments.

If you would like to join us for an afternoon of popular music contact Jane on 07990633320 or revchriswood@mypostoffice.co.uk

News in brief

The senior band performed at the Hollygarth Club Ilkley on Friday 22nd March, to help raise funds for the Denis Sharp Bursary which provides performance opportunities for young people in the Ilkley district to perform on a professional stage at the King's Hall, Ilkley at the 'Stars' event. This is the 12th year the band has taken part supporting this event.

The Brighouse Gala will be held once again this year the last Saturday in June. However, it will not be in Wellholme Park. Construction work in the park is now underway as part of the Brighouse Flood Alleviation Scheme. A large proportion of the park is now closed to the public for approximately two years. The Gala will therefore be held on the Lane Head Recreational ground on Halifax Road. The band will have their usual stalls, Tombola, Chicken in a basket, Teddy string pull and other items. We are now on the lookout for things for our tombola so if you have anything you would like to donate please get in touch.

Recognition was paid on 8th March which is International Ladies Day to all our lovely ladies in both our bands, without them there would be quite a number of empty seats around the stand. Ladies started playing with the band during the 1960's and numbers have grown every since. Today out of 45 members we have 18 ladies. Also our backroom staff has quite a number of ladies too so well done to all of them.



Our Musical Director John Clay and bass player Allan Holdsworth were invited to attend a concert at the Royal Welsh College of Music given by the National Youth Band of Great Britain on Saturday 6th April. The Youth band offer two residential courses each year around the country where young musicians between the ages of 13 and 18 have the opportunity to perform with professional tutors and conductors.

The concert was in part a tribute to Geoffrey Brand who was a very well known and well respected musician and at one time the Professional Conductor of the Black Dyke Mills Band. Geoffrey passed away last year at the age of 96. Both John and Allan were members of Black Dyke in 1967 when they won the National Brass Band Championship at the Royal Albert Hall with the test piece Journey into Freedom written by Eric Ball under the direction of Geoffrey. During his 5 years with Black Dyke he won 2 National Championship contests, 2 British Open Championships and 1 World Championship. He also had 3 seconds and 1 third prize.

The tribute was organised by Geoffrey's daughter Gill and son Michael. The concert performed by the 78 members of the Youth Band was conducted by Dr Robert Childs and included Journey into Freedom along with pieces arranged by Geoffrey. Also included on the programme was the world premier of Fragile Earth written especially for the Youth Band by Sir Karl Jenkins CBE who was in the audience.

Over the years quite a number of our band members have been members of the National Youth Band including John who was their principal cornet player for six courses. Mark and Alex Crisp and Nick Walker to name a few.



Pictured on left
Allan Holdsworth Eb
Bass, John Clay Flugel
Horn and John Clough
Principal Euphonium all
with Black Dyke during
their 1967 victory.
Right is Geoffrey Brand



ENGAGEMENTS 2024

SENIOR BAND

APRIL

Sunday 21st St Georges Day—Brighouse 2.30pm
 Friday 26th Flower Show Harrogate 3.15pm
 Saturday 27th Annual Concert St Martins Church Brighouse 2.30pm

MAY

Saturday 11th Rodley Ecumenical Church 7.30pm

B BAND

APRIL

Sunday 21st St Georges Day—Brighouse 2.30pm
 Friday 26th Flower Show Harrogate 3.15pm
 Saturday 27th Annual Concert St Martins Church Brighouse 2.30pm

MAY

Saturday 18th Norristhorpe Church 2.30pm

JUNE

Saturday 29th St Matthews Church Northowram 7.30pm

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

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

