

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

Secretary:

Jane L. Clay 07990633320

john366clay@btinternet.com

Bandroom Parkview
House

Woodvale Business Park

Brighouse HD6 4AB

NEW HOME FOR BAND

Press release from Towngate plc welcoming the band to Parkview House

Towngate plc, the commercial and industrial property specialists, has strengthened its regional portfolio with the addition of two new tenants at its historic Parkview House.

The latest arrivals include the Clifton and Lightcliffe Subscription Band Association, relocating for the first time in 93 years, alongside financial advisory firm Cream Financial Solutions.

The Clifton and Lightcliffe Subscription Band Association will occupy an 820 sq ft suite on the second floor of Parkview House under a five-year lease. The relocation follows the redevelopment of the band's long time home in Bailiff Bridge, also located in Brighouse, and represents a major milestone in the band's nearly two-century legacy.

Established in 1838, the Clifton and Lightcliffe Subscription Band Association has played a significant role in the region's cultural history, having won prestigious national prizes and performed in venues as far afield as France, Switzerland, Italy, and California.

The new space provides dedicated rooms for instrument storage, rehearsals, and meetings, alongside access to modern communal facilities, offering the band a versatile base to continue its musical and community activities for years to come.

Jane Clay, secretary of the Clifton and Lightcliffe Subscription Band Association, said: "After almost a century in our former home, finding the right new space was incredibly important to us. Beyond being local, it needed to accommodate both our senior and B band, along with instruments, uniforms, and over 2,000 sets of music, which is no small feat.



"Parkview House offers the perfect setting for this new chapter. We're so grateful to the Smith family and Towngate plc, who have been wonderful to work with – supportive, welcoming, and genuinely interested in helping us find a location that suits our needs.

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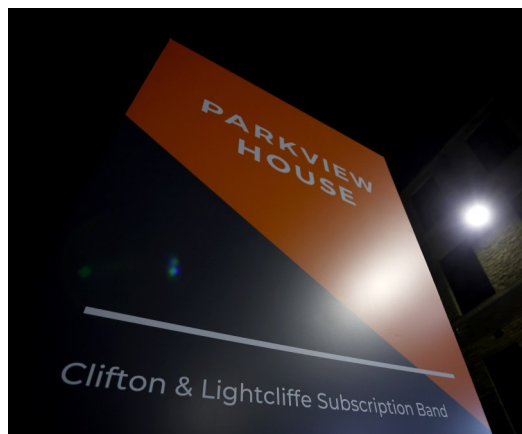
Parkview House forms part of the refurbished Woodvale Office Park, a former 1800's silk mill.

Julia Ford, marketing manager at Towngate plc, said: "These two lettings highlight the strength and versatility of our regional portfolio. We're proud to offer premises that appeal to established organisations and growing businesses alike – from a historic community band with international recognition to a thriving financial firm expanding its footprint.

"Parkview House is a prime example of how Towngate continues to preserve Yorkshire's industrial heritage while providing contemporary spaces that meet today's commercial needs."

End of press release.

As secretary of the band I can say on behalf of all our members, patrons and friends we are not only grateful to the Smith family who own Towngate plc but to my brother Christopher Helme who knew the Smith family, at the beginning of the year he contacted Julia at Towngate, to see if they could accommodate the band in one of their premises. Chris was not well at the time and he passed the information on to me to follow up. Sadly Chris passed away in April and did not see that his efforts paid off. As a thank you to Chris he was awarded Band Person of the year at our recent awards evening, a fitting legacy to him and his family.



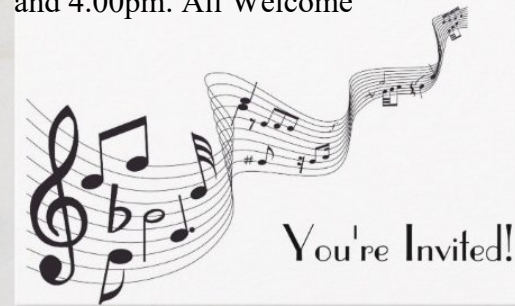
Invitation to our New Band Room

On Sunday 30th November we will be hosting an open afternoon with refreshments between 2.00pm and 4.00pm at suite 3 and 5 on the 2nd floor Parkview House. (lift available). HD6 4AB.

All our Patrons, supporters and new players are very welcome to come along and have a look around our new rehearsal facilities. If you would like to come let Jane 07990633320 or john366clay@btinternet.com know so we can organise the refreshments.

Look forward to seeing you.

Sunday 30th November between 2.00pm and 4.00pm. All Welcome



B Band at St Matthew's Northowram

Our B Band will be performing at St Matthew's Church Northowram on Saturday 29th November at 7.30pm, they will be joining the Northowram Singers led by Robert Paxman in a Christmas concert.



There will be free admission and refreshments. Donations given will be for Overgate Hospice and St Matthew's Church.

We look forward to seeing you on the 29th.



Brassed Off Again

The band is delighted to be asked once again to perform in the stage play *Brassed Off* written by Paul Allen and adapted from the screenplay by Mark Herman.

This time the band will join the Cleckheaton and Spensborough Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society between 19th and 22nd November in Batley Town Hall.

Brassed Off was written in 1996 and reflects the troubles faced by the Grimley Colliery Brass Band and the closure of their pit at the time of the miners strike in 1984.

Tickets are available from the Town Hall box Office, Cast and Band members.

B Band Concerts

Saturday 14th June on a very warm sunny afternoon our B Band were at Norristhorpe URC performing to a full audience.

They entertained the crowd with pieces including Mr Sandman featuring Anne Schofield and Steve Johnston on cornet, Caribbean Cameo very appropriate for the lovely weather, a baritone solo Rainy days and Mondays with Tracey Shaw, the English Folk Song Suite by Ralph Vaughn Williams all in the first half. The second half included Hawaii Five O, Waltzing Matilda and Clog Dance among others.

After the concert the church provided some lovely refreshments which was enjoyed by all who attended. The B Band will perform for the Church's Christmas concert on Saturday 6th December at 2.00pm



Other concerts by the B band over a busy summer were St Matthew's Northowram organised by Robert Paxman our percussionist, the band performed to a full church with the Northowram Singers.

Upper Hopton Gala day on 26th July and Pudsey Park a lovely and very popular venue on the 27th.

Ilkley Bandstand on 30th August where they were so lucky as they played their last piece for the afternoon it started raining, unlike the senior band who should have played there in September but due to the terrible weather it had to be abandoned. The B Band also had their last rehearsal at Birkhouse Road on Friday 12th September prior to the move to Parkview House. Alex our MD joined the B band as an 8 year old on Euphonium and the first piece he played with us was Men of Harlech, so now as MD he wanted to play Men of Harlech as the last piece ever played in the old band room which was quite an emotional send off for us.

FUND RAISING—Jane Clay

As with all organisations funding can be difficult. We are always looking for ways to raise money now particularly as we have had the cost of moving the band room and also rent, heating and lighting before we even think about instruments, uniforms and music.

A full set of instruments today cost over £100k which means bands with no sponsorship cannot possibly replace them in one go. It takes many years replacing them one by one and like painting the Forth Bridge by the time it's completed you have to start again. Uniforms too can be very expensive and more and more bands are now appearing in coloured shirts or waistcoats; long gone are the highly decorated jackets.

When I first joined the band in the early 1960's there were two committees, one made up of predominantly men who dealt with the day to day business and the other was the ladies committee, their job was to help raise funds for the band to purchase instruments, music etc.

There are notes dotted throughout the minutes of that time stating that items were purchased by the ladies committee and handed over to the band, one in particular was a new marching drum purchased for the princely sum of £30 (which was a lot of money then) presented to the band as the picture below shows on Sunday 27th November 1955.



I well remember attending functions both in the band room and at the then Ebenezer Chapel in the village which included Beetle Drives and Whist Drives after which would be either a fish and chip or pie and pea supper provided by the local fish shop or the ladies preparing the pie and peas. This was a real treat on a Saturday evening and we used to get dressed up for the occasion, no sitting at home on computer games or watching television then.

Jumble sales were also popular, I remember going to a couple we held in the Ebenezer and was amazed at how many clothes and shoes there were piled up. Our job as youngsters was to go around picking things up off the floor after everyone had been rummaging around with clothes flying everywhere! It just seemed to be a shambles but everyone went away with something and the band made money.

Over the years things have changed and new ways of raising money have to be devised, we have events like the Brighthouse Gala with our tombola/games stall which has been going for quite a number of years and has raised a lot of money for the band. Coffee mornings, book sales, quizzes and the odd race night have proved popular. Both our bands today are doing a lot more concerts with around 50 between them each year. This not only helps the band financially to raise funds but also the organisation's we are performing for so everyone benefits.

We also have some very generous Patrons who support the band throughout the year and we are very grateful to them all for their support. As Christmas is approaching you too can help as you do your Christmas shopping by joining Easyfundraising. They will donate part of what you spend to the band, also now with mobile phones you can also donate to the band with a QR code which we have taken on board, so if you would like to help the band with our continued work then please feel free to donate. Thank you.

easyfundraising
.org.uk



Concert at St Michael's Church Headingly

On Saturday 4th October the senior band performed at St Michael's Church Headingly in the afternoon. That day saw the tail end of storm Amy, the weather was terrible and we were worried that no-one would come along to listen to the concert. However, as the time approached there was an influx of around 50 people who had braved the weather. They enjoyed an afternoon of popular music with a welcome glass of wine at half time.

During the concert we got to know that one of our audience members was celebrating his 90 birthday so of course we played a rousing rendition of Happy Birthday much to the delight of him and his family.

Picture shows the band and action and on the right Panette and Caroline performing Pie Jesu.



St Martins Church Brighouse.



The senior band were invited once again to perform for a Proms Evening at St Martins Church Brighouse on Friday evening 5th September. The event raised money for the Mayor's charity which this year is for Overgate and the Yorkshire Air Ambulance

A packed audience had a super time with their picnics, singing and flag waving.

Thanks to Howard

Blagborough for asking once again.

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 for 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, the Secretary Jane Clay 07990633320 or visit our web-site www.cliftonband.co.uk if you would like more information.

WIBSEY METHODIST

On Saturday 8th November the senior band will be performing at Wibsey Methodist Church for their Annual Remembrance Concert and afternoon tea. This event is being supported by the BMDC Community Chest.



Our B Band will be taking part at the church's Christmas Carol Service on Sunday 21st December 4.00pm



Photographs from over the summer with our bands. Including Ilkley Bandstand, The Hartshead on Yorkshire Day, Brighouse Gala Stall, Panette and Adrian's Barbecue afternoon with strawberry scones and our very own Kerry gaining her nursing degree. And even performing on the roundabout in Thornton Square Brighouse for the St George's Day Scout Parade as well as making the front page of the Brighouse Echo.



Awards Evening

Our awards evening was held at the Brighthouse Sports Club. After a lovely meal and a chat our awards were presented by Alex and John.

B Band—Best Section Horns Pam Lumb, Julie Thornton and Conor Johnston

Most Improved—Robert Paxman Percussion

Players Player—Chris Ainley Euphonium

Senior Band—Best Section Basses Andy Smith, Michael Smith, Allan Holdsworth and Sam Paley

Most Improved—Sarah Kershaw Tenor Horn

Players Player—Panette Harrison Soprano

Special Awards

Alfred Crouch Award—Panette Harrison

Derek Garside Award for Best Instrumentalist—Allan Holdsworth Eb Bass

Band Person of the Year—Christopher Helme

Congratulations to all our winners





Thanks to Kerry Murray for organising another lovely evening which was attended by 50 members, family and friends.

Pictures show our award winners—left B Band Players Player Chris Ainley euphonium who unfortunately could not be with us on the evening. Best Section the horn section and Most Improved Robert Paxman our intrepid percussionist.

Senior band awards above are—Players Player and Alfred Crouch Shield Panette Harrison. As Panette was on holiday the awards were presented to her dad Stewart. Most Improved Sarah Kershaw who plays tenor horn and Best Section to our amazing Bass team.

The Band Person of the Year is presented to anyone player or non player who has played a major part in helping the band over the last year. This year it was a unanimous decision by all the members that it be awarded to Chris Helme for his invaluable help in securing the new band room. It was collected by his sister Jane.

ENGAGEMENTS 2025

SENIOR BAND

NOVEMBER

Saturday 8th
Wednesday to Saturday
19th—22nd

Wibsey Methodist Church 2.00pm
Brassed Off at Batley Town Hall 7.15pm evenings
2.15pm Saturday. Booking open at the Town Hall

DECEMBER

Friday 5th
Saturday 6th
Friday 12th
Sunday 14th
Tuesday 16th
Wednesday 17th
Wednesday 17th
Thursday 18th
Saturday 20th
Sunday 21st

Fulneck Moravian Church Pudsey 7.30pm
St Peter's Church Gildersome 7.00pm
St Thomas's Church Greetland 7.30pm
Rawdon Golf Club 3.00pm
St John's Church Clifton 7.15pm
Rodley Ecumenical Church 7.00pm Carols
Woodsome Hall Golf Club 7.00pm
Woodsome Hall Golf Club 7.00pm
Upper Hopton Carols around the Tree 6.00pm
The Hartshead 7.00pm

B BAND

NOVEMBER

Saturday 29th

St Matthew's Northowram 7.30pm

DECEMBER

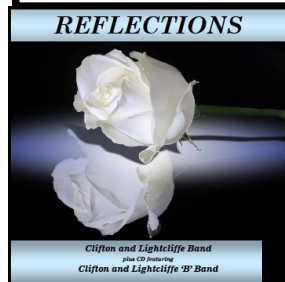
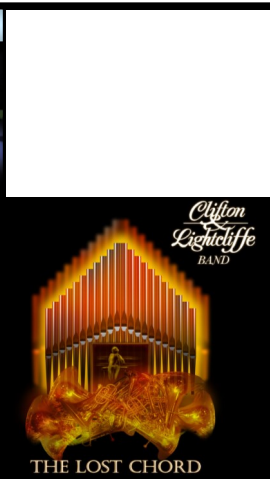
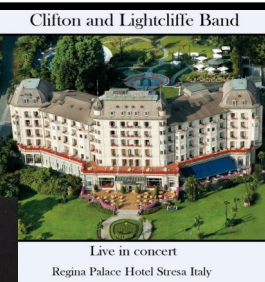
Saturday 6th
Sunday 14th
Wednesday 17th
Saturday 20th
Sunday 21st
Sunday 21st

Norristhorpe URC 2.00pm
St Bartholomew's Church Tong 6.00pm
Rodley Ecumenical Church 7.00pm Carols
Upper Hopton Carols around the Tree 6.00pm
Wibsey Methodist Church Carol Service 4.00pm
The Hartshead 7.00pm

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

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 £8.00

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