

# BANDROOM NOTES



~ Welcome to the Spring Edition of our newsletter ~

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

*Area Contest Huddersfield*

*Opening of Band Room  
Christmas playing*

*News in Brief and Brassed  
Off Batley Town Hall*

*B Band at Wibsey*

*Up and Concerts*

*Spotlight  
20th Anniversary*

*Engagements/Contacts*

## Rehearsals **Senior Band**

- Tuesday & Thursday  
7.45pm—9.15pm

## **B Band**

- Fridays  
7.30pm—9.00pm

- **Website**

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

## Secretary:

Jane L. Clay 07990633320

[john366clay@btinternet.com](mailto:john366clay@btinternet.com)

**Bandroom** Parkview  
House

Woodvale Business Park

Brighouse HD6 4AB

## Huddersfield Town Hall Yorkshire Area Contest

- 1 Sunday 8th March was the annual qualifying rounds for the National Brass Band Championships held at Huddersfield Town Hall. The senior band was competing in the 2nd section and the test piece was Philip Harper's 20,000 Leagues under the Sea which told the story of Captain Nemo and his adventures in his submarine. The band had worked hard in rehearsals and played well on the day but did not impress the judges enough so unfortunately we did not qualify for the finals which this year will be held at York's Barbican in September. We will hopefully have more luck next year. Pictures by kind permission of Steve Jack.



## Opening of New Band Room

On Sunday 30th November we invited our friends and patrons to come along and have a look at our new band room at Woodvale Business Park in Brighouse.

It was a very busy afternoon we welcomed around 70 both new and old friends who called in to have a look around.

We had displays of photographs around the band room in a time line with the earliest being 1898 right up to the present day, these brought back many happy memories of concerts and trips with the band. In the other room we had lots more photographs and programmes. Refreshments were served and a free raffle was held.

This is a new chapter for the band and I am sure there will be many more memories in the future. Thank you to all who came and we hope to see you at one of our concerts.



A selection of photographs with some of our guests on the open day



## Christmas Playing

It seems a long time since Christmas, but this is a very important time for the band, we have lots of concerts and carol playing as do all brass bands and it is the best time to fill the coffers for the following year. Everyone seems to want a brass band to play for them at this time of year.

A brass band has a special way of making Christmas come alive. Its warm sound can turn even the coldest street into a festive scene, with familiar carols and a sense of nostalgia and community. The music drifts through the winter air, drawing people together, lifting spirits, and reminding us of the simple joy at the heart of the season. For many, Christmas doesn't truly begin until they've heard a brass band play.

Below are a few pictures of the venues we visited during December.



These various venues including outside the Old White Bear at Norwood Green where we entertained over 150 people who came along to sing carols with us.

Fulneck Moravian Church

St Pauls Church Drighlington with Allan entertaining the crowd.

St Matthews at Northowram.

Norristhorpe United Reform Church and we even had Elton John with us at Wibsey while the band played Crocodile Rock.



## News in brief

### Patrons club 20 years old this year

Back in 2006 Mary Binns one of our tenor horn players suggested an idea to raise funds for the band was to run a Patrons club. This started with just a few friends of the band donating a minimum of £20 each year and in return would receive our newsletters, CD and an invite to our concerts.

Now, here we are 20 years later and the scheme has grown to a regular 60 members each generously supporting the band and where possible gift aiding their subscription as well. This has been invaluable and has enabled us to purchase over the years much needed equipment. We are grateful to Mary for her idea and getting this off the ground.

If you are interested in joining or have friends who may be interested then do get in touch with Janet Bell our Patrons secretary on [janetbell2008@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:janetbell2008@hotmail.co.uk) and she will give you all the details of how to become a much valued member. The details are always available at our concerts.

### Brighthouse Gala

The Brighthouse Gala will be on Saturday 27th June at Lane Head. This year as usual we are looking for items for our stall which is an important fund raising event for the band.

We need items for our tombola, sweets in paper cups, small prizes for our games and help on the day.

If you have anything suitable please let Jane 07990633320 know or bring them to the band room on any rehearsal evening.

### Quiz

Another event for our fund raising was a quiz in February held at the band room and organised by our fund raising co-ordinator Julia Wood, around 40 people attended. It was a great evening ending with a light supper and raised just short of £200. Thanks Julia. We hope you will organise another one later in the year.

### 30th Edition of our Newsletter

This edition of our newsletter is the 30th I have published since the Autumn 2015. I try to put at least 3 together each year. During Covid time it was difficult to find news but I managed to keep it going albeit a much shorter version. I am always on the look out for items to fill the pages so if you have any interesting news to put in the next one then drop me an email [john366clay@btinternet.com](mailto:john366clay@btinternet.com)

### Pudsey Park in August

We have managed to secure a couple of bookings in Pudsey Park during August. Pudsey Park is a very popular place for bands to perform and is a lovely venue especially if the weather is kind.

The gardens are kept well and there are usually over 200 people sat listening. Tea and Ice Creams are available from the bowling hut.

If you want to come along and enjoy the afternoon we are there on Sunday 9th and Sunday 16th August between 2.30pm and 4.30pm



**easyfundraising**  
.org.uk

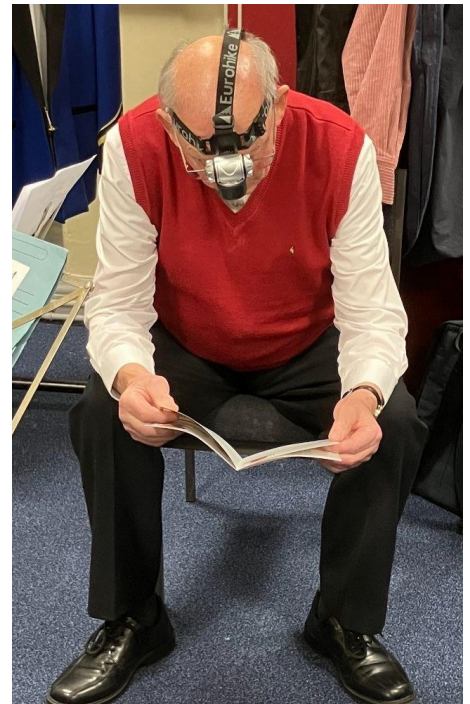
You can donate to the band using the QR code. Thank you for your support





## Brassed Off at Batley Town Hall

Last November the senior band took part in its ninth production of Brassed Off this time with the Cleckheaton and Spenborough Amateurs under the guidance of Giles Atkinson. What a super group of people to work with they were so professional and talented. Thank you for asking us to join you and we certainly hope to work together in the future.



A few pictures from back stage, is that a Darlek ? Oh no its John studying the script for the next scene !

## First concert for 2026 with our B Band

Our B Band gave their first concert of the year on Saturday afternoon 28th March at Wibsey Methodist Church, we always receive a very warm welcome at the church and this time was no exception.

The concert started at 2.00pm and Alex our Musical Director had picked a lovely and varied programme with something for everyone to enjoy.

The first half started with a march The Standard of St George written by Kenneth Alford who's real name was Frederick Joseph Ricketts he was known as the British March King and his best known work was Colonel Bogey. Following on from the march was a varied selection of music including Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy, Clog Dance, Men of Harlech, Hit the Road Jack, Waltzing Matilda, Radetzky and many more. All brass band concerts usually have a hymn included and this time the band performed Deep Harmony a lovely arrangement for brass band by Roy Newsome.

The band was received very well by an enthusiastic audience and afterwards enjoyed a lovely tea of sandwiches and home made cakes.

Thank you to the church for having us once more and we look forward to returning in July when our senior band will be performing.



*The*  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

The next two concerts for our B Band are at the United Reform Church Norrithorpe on Saturday 13th June commencing at 2.00pm. Saturday 4th July at St Matthews Church Northowram at 7.30pm the band will be appearing with the Northowram Singers. All welcome to come along



# AGM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We are holding our Annual General Meeting at the band room on Tuesday 21st April 2026 7.45pm. All invited to attend



Come and join us at St Mary's Church Hall, Green Lane, Wyke BD12 8QH on Saturday 11th April 2026 7.00pm for an evening of flag waving and rousing music but you have to be quick as tickets are selling out.

They are available from Margaret Roper or any church member details on the poster opposite, or contact Jane Clay 07990633320



## Vintage Train Day

The band will be playing once again at Oxenhope Station during the afternoon of Sunday 7th June, this is part of the Worth Valley Vintage Train Days. If you have watched The Railway Children then you will have seen the iconic station at Oakworth where a lot of the filming took place. You can book tickets to ride on the trains online or from the station.

## Denis Sharp Bursary

On Friday 20th March the senior band performed at the Hollygarth Social Club in Ilkley for the Denis Sharp Bursary Fund run by his wife Elizabeth. Appearing along side the band this year was singer Mark Gregory who entertained the audience with a wonderful selection of popular songs.

The band has been supporting this event for around 18 years which started when one of our cornet players Mark Crisp won the Wharfedale Festival prize and we were asked by Elizabeth and Denis if the band would perform a concert to help raise funds for the Bursary.

Today the Bursary supports 'Stars' a variety show which this year will be on Wednesday 20th May at the Kings Hall from 9.00am until 11.45am this gives a platform for Ilkley primary school children with a wealth of different talents a chance to display them.

The show is free and all are welcome to come along and support.

## Spotlight– Christopher Bradley



Chris Bradley was born in the small village of Gotham between Nottingham and Loughborough. He started playing the drums (kitchen stool with size 8 knitting needles) at 10 years of age and played along to The Dave Clark Five when they appeared on Top of the Pops.

At secondary school he took up percussion lessons and played in most of the school's productions and joined the Nottingham Junior Philharmonic Orchestra. He also continued with the Nottinghamshire County Youth Orchestra and the Clifton College Wind Band.

He joined Desford Band and, for the first time appeared at the Royal Albert Hall for the National Finals. Desford's conductor, Robert Mandell invited Chris to be his resident drummer at the Haymarket Theatre, Leicester, which he managed to do while studying A-levels at Huddersfield Technical College. He progressed to the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, where he performed at the Wigmore Hall and Cheltenham Festival as part of the college's outreach programme. While in Manchester, he received lessons in percussion and took up the cimbalom, a Hungarian dulcimer. This led to concerts with the Halle Orchestra and the Royal Opera House, London.

In 1979 he joined English National Opera North, a new company based in Leeds, as sub-principal percussionist. His position in the orchestra allowed him to take part in other projects, such as Philip Wilby's Percussion Concerto with the Orchestra of Opera North but also with Drighlington Band. Percussion Power was produced and developed by Chris with the help from Yorkshire Youth and Music, sponsored by Yorkshire Electricity and performed in the four regions of Yorkshire. He took part in the *Powerplus Project*, led by Sheffield Music Services; *Altogether Music* for NOEL in Calderdale, Bradford, Wakefield and Grimsby; and *ZAP2K* for the Halifax Learning Zone.

He tutored the percussion sections for the East Riding Youth Orchestra, leading to a 12 year partnership developing percussion tuition in the area, and tutored for the National Children's Orchestra, becoming the Northern Director of Music for the NCO until 2014. He created and presented family shows for Leeds Leisure Services including *Rhythms My Mother Taught Me*, *Made in Britain*, *Heroes R Here*, *Bop at the Big Top* and *Cold Jelly and Custard*.

Cimbalom engagements with many of the British orchestras, including the London Symphony, Scottish Chamber, London Sinfonietta, Philharmonia and City of Birmingham, and further performances with the Royal Opera and Glyndebourne.

European engagements in Belgium, France and Germany but also with the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra under Simon Rattle in Salzburg, Edinburgh and Lucerne.

He was invited to join the World Orchestra for Peace in 2000, and he toured with the orchestra to Germany, Russia, China, Poland, the Netherlands, Hungary and Israel, as well as performing at the Proms.

He became the principal percussionist with Opera North and took part in several of the company's 'special projects', including Foaie Verde, Northing Like the Sun in collaboration with the Royal Shakespeare Company, Leeds Light Night and the Latitude Festival.

He has adjudicated at several competitions and for the BBC Young Musician of the Year, and he appeared on Ant & Dec's "Push the Button" coaching two members of the public to play the xylophone in Saint-Saens' "Fossils" from Carnival of the Animals.

Further cimbalom engagements in London, Dijon, Paris, Helsinki, Berlin, Dortmund, Essen, Cologne, Frankfurt, Dublin, Cork and recently Oslo.

He teaches at his studio in Sowerby Bridge and taught David Clay for several years, leading to an invitation from his parents to join the Clifton and Lightcliffe Band. He thoroughly enjoys playing with the band and the camaraderie within.

He left Opera North in December 2024 and is pursuing a freelance career for as long as his brain is willing. He has performed as an extra with the Halle, BBC Philharmonic, BBC Scottish Symphony and Opera North. He is a visiting tutor for the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire.

Jo, his wife, is a professional double bass player and Kodaly specialist music teacher and worked for 16 years as a music tutor for Rishworth School. Their daughter Elsa is a freelance percussionist and hammered dulcimer player based in London, and William, their son, fits in music production gigs as well as being an authenticator for eBay.

To stay active, Chris has joined the Valley Beats Samba Group in Holmfirth and attends Tai Chi classes in West Vale. He still has a passion for travel and has recently visited South Africa, Sri Lanka, New Zealand, Singapore, Raratonga in the Cook Islands, and Borneo and is planning a trip from Halifax UK, to Halifax Nova Scotia, via Newfoundland.

We at Clifton and Lightcliffe Band are so grateful to Chris for his help with the band and coaching our small team, we hope he continues to be with us for many more years.

This is a Cimbalom



## Musical Director John Clay—20th Anniversary

2026 marks 20 years since our Musical Director John Clay took over the baton after our previous conductor left.

During his tenure we have entered the Yorkshire Area Qualifying rounds each year and have been placed in the top 6 no less than 12 times, the top 2 placings qualify for the National Finals and on 6 occasions we have done this with the best result at the finals being placed 4th in 2024 out of 20 bands from all over the country as well as picking up the best soloist prize which was awarded to our euphonium player Adrian Harrison.

As well as conducting our many concerts each year he has also taken the band on a number of our band tours including Italy and California.

John came back to Clifton and Lightcliffe after 15 years playing with the Black Dyke Mills Band. On his return in 1977 he formed a Junior band with the firm belief that the youth are the future of any organisation and need nurturing. The Junior band over the years has seen many youngsters go through the ranks, some on to professional musical careers in the forces as well as with top section bands. Competitions with the Junior band also proved fruitful as well with over 20 top 6 placings.

Over the years the Junior band changed in what is today our B Band and includes adults and is conducted by Alex Smith who is the senior band principal trombone player. Alex started as an 8 year old euphonium player with the band and has progressed eventually returning to conduct the B Band. He is doing an excellent job.



# ENGAGEMENTS 2026

## SENIOR BAND

### APRIL

Saturday 11th St Mary's Church Wyke 7.00pm

### MAY

Sunday 3rd Garden Party Gildersome (Private Event) Afternoon  
Saturday 16th Rodley Ecumenical Church 7.30pm

### JUNE

Saturday 6th Ilkley Band Stand 2.00pm  
Sunday 7th Oxenhope Station Vintage Train Day Afternoon  
Saturday 20th St James Church Bolton Road Time TBC

### JULY

Saturday 11th Wibsey Methodist Church 2.00pm  
Saturday 18th Moravian Church Wyke Lane Bailiff Bridge 7.15pm

### AUGUST

Saturday 1st The Hartshead Yorkshire Day celebrations afternoon  
Sunday 2nd Jowett Court Bradford 2.00pm  
Sunday 9th Pudsey Park 2.30pm

## B BAND

### JUNE

Saturday 13th Norrithorpe URC 2.00pm

### JULY

Saturday 4th St Matthews Northowram 7.30pm  
Saturday 25th Upper Hopton Gala Afternoon

### AUGUST

Saturday 1st The Hartshead Yorkshire Day celebrations afternoon  
Saturday 8th Ilkley Bandstand 2.00pm  
Sunday 16th Pudsey Park 2.30pm

For more dates look at our web-site [www.cliftonband.co.uk](http://www.cliftonband.co.uk)

## CD's for Sale

Our selection of Cd's are available to purchase on our web-site, concerts or from Jane Clay on 07990633320. Prices range from £5.00 to £8.00. You can use the QR code below also to donate to the band. Thank you

