

## BANDROOM NOTES



~ Welcome to the Spring edition of our newsletter ~

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Contesting</i>	1/2
<i>Little Gomersal Gala</i>	3
<i>Cleckheaton Town Hall St Georges Day</i>	4/5
<i>Spotlight</i>	6
<i>Brassed Off</i>	7
<i>Contacts</i>	8
<i>Patrons etc</i>	9
<i>Awards Evening</i>	10
<i>Adverts</i>	11
<i>Engagements</i>	12

**Rehearsals****Senior Band**

- Tuesday & Thursday  
8pm—9.45pm

**B Band**

- Fridays  
7.00pm—8.15pm
- Sundays  
10am—12.15pm

**Website**[www.cliftonband.co.uk](http://www.cliftonband.co.uk)**BOTH BANDS FAIL TO IMPRESS JUDGES**

The Yorkshire area qualifying rounds for the National Championships were make or break this year for both bands.

On the weekend of 5th and 6th March both bands were competing at St Georges Hall in Bradford. The senior band competing in the first section and the B band in the third section.

Rehearsals had been going well for both bands on their test pieces with Essay by Edward Gregson for the seniors and Cambrian Suite by Michael Ball for the B band. It was important for both bands to finish in the top six to retain their position in their respective sections but unfortunately this was not to be.

The senior band finished 12 out of 13 bands and the B band were 11th out of 12. Not a good result for either band. The remarks were pretty good from the adjudicators but obviously not good enough for a mention. So as from 1st January 2017 the senior band will compete in the second section and the B band in the fourth.

Competing as we all know is a funny thing in any event, it can be surprising, unpredictable, disappointing and elating. We do it to try and better ourselves from a personal and team point of view but it must also be seen as not the 'b all and end all' of what we are doing. The main purpose of any musical group is to make music and entertain.

Most bands taking part have since Christmas spent hours practicing trying to perfect their piece of music but despite all the time spent it all comes down to what happens on the day. As with all performers we have our own customs and superstitions before the big day.

I know that opera singers have a tradition of looking for a bent nail in the theatre which is supposed to bring good luck and a great performance, this stemmed from when Luciano Pavarotti was singing early in his career and did not have a lucky talisman, as he walked through the wings of the theatre he spotted a bent nail on the floor which he slipped in his pocket. From then on stagehands are known for scattering bent nails around the theatre for the singers.

I was reading a couple of interesting and amusing articles in the Bandsman and Brass Band World magazines about the strange things we do running up to the contest we clean our instruments but only on the outside so as not to interfere with the tuning.

We avoid eating too much on the morning of the contest as this affects the breathing, nothing too salty as it dries the mouth as does alcohol, some like to clean their teeth before playing. Not listening to any other band performing in your section as you may be brainwashed! Finding your lucky items, James Gourlay said in the Bandsman some have lucky underpants only to be worn on contest day !!!

John did find his although too small for him now he sported them in his top pocket like a fancy handkerchief much to the amusement of the band. He decided after the results they did not do their job so they are now assigned to the rag bag.

Contest day usually brings a warm up rehearsal for the band at some unearthly hour in a strange hotel room. Hymn tune to get everything moving and a quick tune up before a 'top and tail' of the test piece, we go over any bits that are still giving cause for concern (although its getting a bit late now for that). Then, THE DRAW, we wait in anticipation for the telephone call from our able volunteer who we have sent for the draw and told them in no uncertain terms not to come back if they draw number one.

No-one seems to want the dreaded number one 'who ever wins off number one anyway' well both our senior and B band have done so in the past so maybe a number one draw is not that bad after all and if your section is first thing in the morning you can have a warm up on stage playing the National Anthem. Equally we don't want to be last on as we have to hang around all day waiting and this is not good for the nerves, also will the judges still be awake at the end of so many performances or will they have they lost the will to live by then. I am sure that is not the case they do a fantastic and difficult job, they will be the prize winners best friends until the next contest and will require a fast getaway car for the rest of the bands.

So all said and done no doubt we will continue to compete which I believe we should and continue to do our funny rituals beforehand. Now! where did I put that bent nail? *By Jane Clay*



Top left B Band on Stage, above St Georges Hall Bradford  
Left Pam helping Allan with his tie !!

## Little Gomersal May Day Gala

For the 15th year the B band was invited to play at the Little Gomersal May Day Fair at the Wheatsheaf Pub. The fair had the usual wide range of stalls including plants and produce, face painting, tombola and bric a brac.

The weather this year set off quite windy and drizzly but after a little while the sun began to shine and this brought out the crowds and the ice cream.

Our B band played three spots during the afternoon and the organisers always put out seats in front of the band with notices saying reserved for the Clifton and Lightcliffe B Band appreciation society which always raises a smile. The seats by the way were full.

Funds raised from the day help pay for the Christmas Tree and an evening of community carol singing in the village as well as other events throughout the year. We are grateful to the organisers for asking the band once again and they have already booked us for 2017.



Who are these two ? The weather was not that bad, as you can see by Jane's face the sun has just come out



## Cleckheaton Town Hall Sunday 17th April 2016

The band were invited by the Spenborough Branch of the Royal British Legion on Sunday afternoon 17th April to give a concert in celebration of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's 90th Birthday.

There was a packed audience of enthusiastic revellers who wanted to raise the roof with their singing. The concert was compered by our Band President Brian Nicholson who provided the audience with his usual witty comments. There was also a surprise visit by the young dances from the Elaine Howarth Centre Stage School in Cleckheaton who danced around the Town Hall to the music of ABBA.

The band finished off the second half with the traditional Last Night at the Proms music and there was plenty of singing and flag waving.



As we played happy birthday for Her Majesty a birthday cake was brought on stage by Olivia Roche and as we sang happy birthday again she blew out the candles. After the concert the cake was cut up and the audience members each took a piece home



### St George's Day Parade Brighouse Town Centre Sunday 24th April

A group from both our bands took part once again in the St George's Day Parade in Brighouse. This year the route was very busy as the Brighouse street market was in full flow. The band set off from the Central Methodist Church with a huge following of Scouts, Brownies, Guides and Beavers.

We walked along Commercial street leading the way for St George on horseback and the dragon which was made by the youngsters taking part. We then marched round onto Bradford Road and along Bethel Street and into Thornton Square where the parade took the salute before returning to the Central Methodist Church. It is great to see so many young people involved in these local organisations.



## Spotlight features: Bb Bass Player Andy Shaw

I started playing the trumpet when I was 7 at school, I was taught by Barry Crozier on a Thursday evening, I can remember the day because it always used to clash with football practice after school so was never happy and always arguing with my mum because I wanted to play football and not the Trumpet.

I played with the Huddersfield senior wind band from 1985 and changed to the Euphonium in 1989 because the Trumpets/Cornets were too serious the Euphoniums and Basses always seemed to be having a laugh and a joke rather than anything serious. (nothing changes there then!)

My first brass band was Grangemoor Youth band I was asked to help them at the Slaithwaite Youth contest although 18 I could play as they allowed two over 18's at the time in the band, I enjoyed the music and never left. I played with them over the next couple of years and met Carol now my wife.

We evolved from a youth band to a senior band as the players got older and remember playing with Mathew Grimes who later went on to play for Grimethorpe his 3 brothers also played. I also played with Joanne Griffiths who is now principal of Slaithwaite Band. We did not do any contesting at the time just local concerts and Galas around the local area.



I first met John Clay in December 1995. I was working for a company called Elliott Hallas who sold conveyors and drive belts to the textile industry, my colleague introduced me to John while visiting W & J Whitehead a textile firm that John worked for at the time, I told him I played Eb Bass for Grangemoor band and I left him my card so he could contact me when he needed a conveyor belt. That evening I got a call from his wife Jane asking me if I could help them out at West Bowling Golf club on the Saturday night. I agreed and did a couple more jobs with them over the Christmas period.

In January John and Jane asked if I could help them out at the Yorkshire Area contest at St Georges Hall Bradford and if anybody from Grangemoor could also help as well, six of us helped out and four of us decided to stay after the contest to carry on playing with Clifton. I moved on to the Bb Bass for the contest and played alongside Geoff Northin who had played for many years and helped me develop as a Bass player. When we played in the areas for the first time we were in the 4<sup>th</sup> Section and have progressed nicely in to the 1<sup>st</sup> section under John direction.

The band has grown and developed over the years and I and my family have enjoyed all the trips away that we have been on from the first one in Evian then to Lake Garda and California, Carol, Kate, Laura and Max have always been made to feel welcome on all the trips and have made long lasting friends.

One of our favourite trips was to Lake Garda which was brilliant because of all the excellent venues and fantastic appreciative audiences, plus excellent beer and wine! The trips away are always well organised by Jane but I do feel for the people checking on to the same flight as us as they have to queue behind us while we juggle instruments and luggage allowance between everybody.

Our trip to California was an experience that I will never forget, the first rehearsal we had with the Golden State British Brass Band was a massed band rehearsal, Jim Shepherd who came with us on the trip playing his cornet came up to the bass section after the rehearsal and said 'Well done lads I think you out blew them' That trip was the pinnacle of an excellent year as we also went to Cheltenham for Brass Band Championship Finals not a great result for us but we did celebrate after with a few beers in Cheltenham and a curry!!

Over the years I have met and played with some excellent players and have made some fantastic friends through banding. I hope to continue for a few years yet just one thing disappoints me John never did buy a conveyor belt off me!

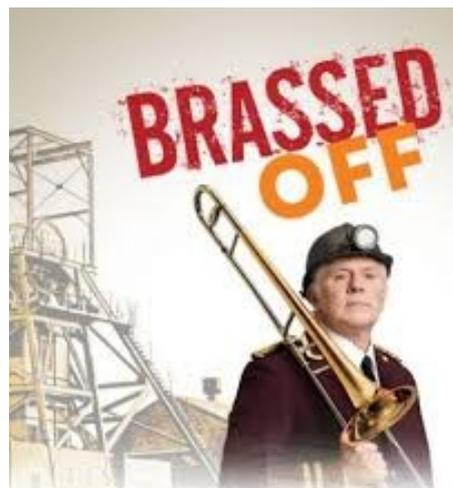
## BRASSED OFF

The band has appeared in a number of productions of Brassed Off most notably two years ago at the Alhambra in Bradford where we were involved in 7 sold out performances.

Brassed Off is a drama adapted by Paul Allen and tells the story of Grimley Colliery and their brass band. The story is based on real events in the West Yorkshire village of Grimethorpe, the play captures both the resilience and despair of the miners, with the focus being on the colliery brass band's triumph in the National Championships within a week of the pit closure. Our senior band will be appearing in two productions of Brassed Off during 2016. The first is at the Bingley Little Theatre starting on the 4th July through to the 9th commencing at 7.30pm. Tickets can be purchased from the box office 01274 567983 Monday to Friday between 11.00am and 3.30pm or online at [bingleylittletheatre.co.uk/blt-tickets.html](http://bingleylittletheatre.co.uk/blt-tickets.html)

Our second performance is from Wednesday 21st to Saturday 24th September at the Karla Sangam Theatre, Bradford. Tickets will be on sale shortly.

We are all really looking forward to taking part in this iconic play once again.



## 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, Easter and the Summer

The funds from the 125 Club over the years has provided the band with new equipment such as music, mutes, music stands, percussion items, ties and outdoor coats.

If you would like to join please contact either Helen Woodcock or Jane Clay for more details.



# 125 Club Draw



## CONTACTS

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

Musical Director—Mr John Clay 01422 201875

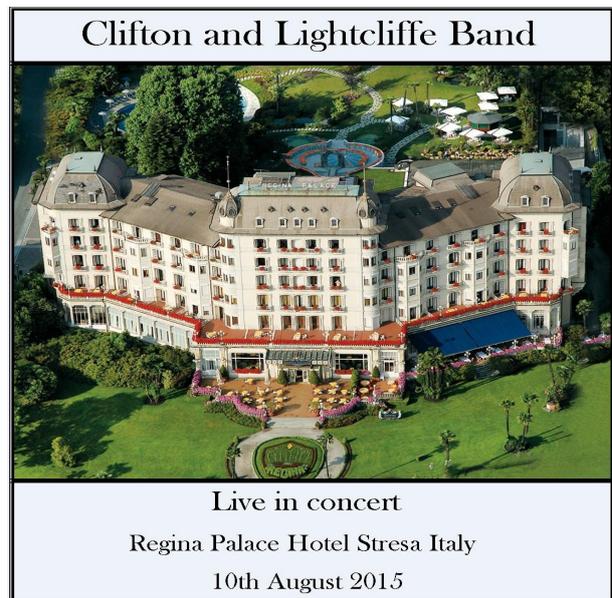
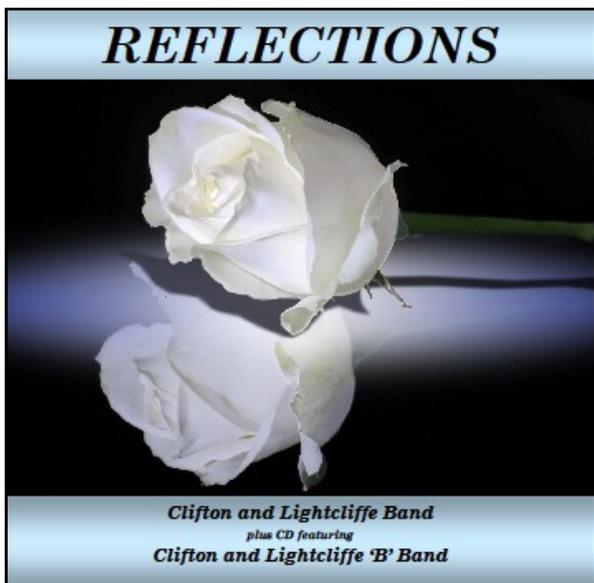
President—Mr Brian Nicholson 01924 490306

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

Web-Site—[www.cliftonband.co.uk](http://www.cliftonband.co.uk)



### CD's for Sale

The two top are £5.00 each and include a wide selection of music, Reflections has two CD's and features both our bands, this is priced at £10.00, and our newest is Live in Concert which was recorded on our very successful tour to Italy August 2015 is priced at £7.50 each. All CD's are available at our concerts or by contacting the band secretary

## 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 to our Annual concert held usually in the Autumn and our quarterly newsletter telling you what the band is doing throughout the year.

Please contact our Patrons administrator Mrs Janet Bell if you would like to join, all our contact details are in the contacts section opposite, or ring the Secretary Jane Clay.

## Hello/Goodbye .

We have had a few changes recently in both bands. Robert Andrews Eb Bass with the senior band has retired from playing due to his work commitments. Bob has been with the band on and off for a number of years, he has his own successful printing business and now is finding it difficult to commit to the band.

We are delighted to welcome Allan Holdsworth into the senior band on Eb Bass. Allan will replace Bob Andrews. We are sure Allan will be a great asset to the band with his long experience of top section playing.

The senior band are also pleased to announce the appointment of Alexander Smith to the position of Bass Trombone. Alex has come through the ranks of our B Band and we are now pleased to welcome him in the senior band. Alex will continue to sit in the B Band along with his father Andy who plays the Eb Bass.

This time we also say goodbye to two of our B Band players who have decided to go to pastures new. Cornet players Lisa Milnes and Simon Jarman. They have been in the band a couple of years and have both been a tremendous help.

We would like to thank all the players for their support.



**B Band Vacancies: Cornet players and Kit player**

**Senior Band Vacancies: None at present**

## Come and listen to the bands in June

### Senior Band

Friday 10th Proms Concert on the green at Clifton commencing at 7.30pm

Saturday 11th Rodley Ecumenical Church 7.30pm

Saturday 18th Almondbury Methodist Church 7.30pm

Sunday 19th Ilkley Bandstand 2.00pm come along and have a coffee at Betty's

### B Band

Saturday 11th Scholes Church Garden Party 1.00pm onwards

Sunday 26th Enjoy an afternoon at Westroyd Park Farsley 2.30 till 4.30pm

For more details on any of our concerts contact Secretary Jane Clay 01422 201875

## Presentation Evening Saturday 14th May

This years presentation evening was held at Brighthouse Sports Centre and was attend by around 60 members and friends. The event was organised by Julie Thornton who did a marvellous job organising lots of games throughout the evening and everyone took part, Thank you Julie.

The evening was rounded off with the annual presentations which were given out by our President Brian Nicholson. We added a new award this year for the best section in the B Band.

Best Section B Band—Horns

Players Player B Band—Olivia Gregory (Solo Horn)

Most Improved B Band– Alex Smith (Bass Trombone)

Best Section Senior Band—Horns

Players Player Senior Band—Jill Crisp (Flugel Horn)

Most Improved Senior Band was a tie with Alex Murray and Joanne White (both cornet players)

Band Person of the year—Jane Clay

Congratulations to all the winners and thanks to all those who voted and who attended on the evening.



Julie Thornton with Brian



Top left to right Best Section B Band, Horns.

Players Player B Band, Olivia Gregory

Most Improved B Band, Alex Smith.

Most Improved Senior, Alex Murray and Joanne White

Bandperson of the year, Jane Clay

Best Section Seniors, Horns

Players Player Seniors, Jill Crisp



# Great night at the Presentation Evening



**SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup>  
JUNE, 2016**

**START TIMES FROM 1PM**



**Only £3 per person**

**Lots of fun for all ages**

**Mobile phone essential  
(Yes you can bring your phone!)**

**Raise a bit of money but have loads of fun!**

**Finish at a pub for a BBQ  
(Food price not included)**

**Starting point  
– Pudsey Park,  
Main gate  
Sign up now!**

## ENGAGEMENTS

### SENIOR BAND

#### June

Friday 10th	Proms concert at Clifton 7.30pm
Saturday 11th	Rodley Ecumenical Church 7.30pm
Thursday 16th	Brighouse Sports Centre—Concert for Heartbeat 7.45pm
Saturday 18th	Almondbury Methodist Church 7.30pm
Sunday 19th	Ilkley Bandstand 2.00pm—4.00pm
Saturday 25th	Brighouse Gala

#### July

Mon 4th to Sat 9th	Brassed Off—Bingley Little Theatre 7.30pm <b>Tickets available 01274 567983 Mon to Fri 11am—3.30pm</b>
Saturday 16th	Moravian Church Bailiff Bridge—Proms Concert 7.15pm
Saturday 30th	Wedding Bailiff Bridge Community Centre 4.00pm

### B BAND

#### May

Saturday 21st	Ilkley Bandstand 2.00pm
---------------	-------------------------

#### June

Saturday 11th	Scholes Church Garden Party afternoon
Saturday 25th	Brighouse Gala
Sunday 26th	Westroyd Park 2.30pm—4.30pm

#### July

Saturday 2nd	St Mary's Church Wyke Garden Party 2.00pm
Sunday 17th	Worth Valley Railway Oxenhope 1.00pm
Saturday 30th	Upper Hopton Gala Afternoon



sublime  
Accountants & Business Advisors

Expert business advice and solutions aimed at helping your business grow and prosper in the modern marketplace

Dean Clough Mills, Halifax, HX3 5AX ~ 01422 300698 ~ www.sublime.uk.com  
enquiry@sublimebusinesssolutions.co.uk



Clifton  
&  
Lightcliffe  
BAND