

BANDROOM NOTES



~ Welcome to the Spring Edition of our newsletter ~

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Rehearsals	
Senior Band	
• Tuesday & Thursday 8pm—9.45pm	
B Band	
• Fridays 7.00pm—8.15pm	
• Sundays 10am—12.15pm	
Training Band	
• Saturday Morning 10.00am—11.15am	
• Website	
www.cliftonband.co.uk	

This years competition was held on Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th March. The venue for many years has been St Georges Hall Bradford but at present it is closed for a major re-furbishment, so the contest was moved to Huddersfield Town Hall.

The Town Hall is a lovely building to perform in, and is the venue for many concerts throughout the year, there is plenty of room backstage in beautifully decorated rooms. One of the main advantages of the Town Hall is the facility for each band to have a 15 minute warm up before going on stage.

First up on the Saturday morning was the 2nd Section which our senior band was competing in. We had to be up bright and early and met in the New North Road Baptist Church at 7.30am before the draw for order of play which took place at 7.45am.

Word came through that we had drawn number 9 out of 11 bands so we had plenty of time for a rehearsal and a cup of tea/coffee before heading down to the Town Hall.

The music for the 2nd section was Dean Goffin's Rhapsody in Brass which is quite a difficult challenge for any brass band to perform with quite a number of difficult passages as well as a beautiful second movement.

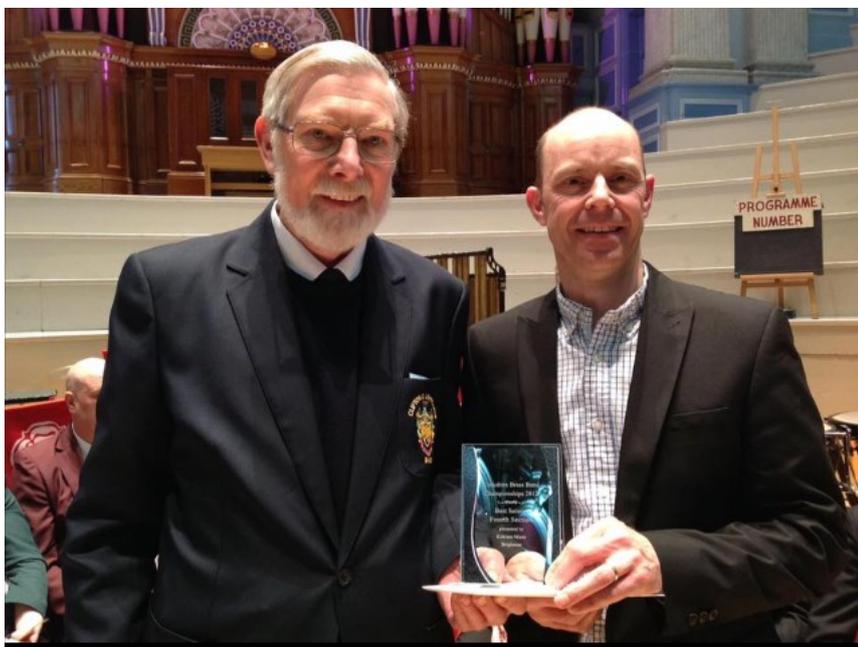
After our performance we felt we played it quite well, there were a few clips and blips but overall we thought we played reasonable, all we could do now was to wait and see what the two adjudicators thought.

When the results came we were disappointed that not only did we draw number 9 but we also came 9th overall. That's contesting and we carry on to try another day, fortunately we have enough points to stay in the 2nd section for another year.

Congratulations to the winners Wakefield Metropolitan and second placing Worsbrough Brass who both go through to the finals in Cheltenham.

Following on from the 2nd section was the 4th section in which our B Band was performing Alan Fernie's composition St Andrews Variations, a lovely little piece with something for all members of the band to play throughout its 8 short variations.

Alan Fernie is a master at writing for the lower section bands and St Andrews Variations is no exception. The band has enjoyed rehearsing the piece and we were hoping they would do well.



The band waited patiently at the Church for the 4th section draw. Word came we had drawn number 2 out of 9 bands, time to rush down to the Town Hall.

The band sounded really well and did a great job with the piece. The audience gave them a really good reception after.

Eventually the results came through.

Best Percussion section went to Deepcar

Youngest player awarded to Andrew Naylor aged 9 of the Friendly Band

Best Soloist Sheridan Fryer Euphonium with Clifton and Lightcliffe B Band. Brilliant and 4barsrest the brass band news site said:

However, it was still great to see Sheridan Fryer claim a well deserved 'Best Soloist' award in the Third Section.

Even after all those years winning prizes as a baritone player with Brighouse & Rastrick (including a World Championship in 1969) you can bet he couldn't quite believe the warmth of the reception he gained for his efforts as he did, when very modestly, he came onto the stage to accept his award as solo euphonium with Clifton & Lightcliffe 'B'



Now the placings:

6th Thurcroft Welfare

5th Gawthorpe Brass '85

4th Deepcar

3rd Loxley Silver

2nd CLIFTON AND LIGHTCLIFFE B BAND

1st Huddersfield and Ripponden

Fantastic news not only have we qualified for the finals in Cheltenham on 16th September we will also be promoted back to the 3rd section from January 2018.

This is brilliant news both for the B Band and the association and we are all very proud of them. Now we have the task of raising almost £5,000 to take them to the finals in September.

We must also say Congratulations to Huddersfield and Ripponden band on their 1st place who will be joining us in Cheltenham.

Pictures opposite show the B Band on stage, Sheridan receiving his prize from Graham Horsfield of Kirklees Music. John receiving the 2nd prize shield from adjudicator Sandy Smith. Concentration from our youngest player Conor Johnston aged 11 with dad Steve sat behind him and bottom right rehearsing hard in the band room the night before with Robert Paxman the newest member of our percussion team.



B Band 40th Birthday

In 1977 John decided to give the younger members of the senior band extra tuition on a Saturday morning. This proved to be successful and as the four original members brought their friends along to play the Clifton and Lightcliffe Junior band was born.

On Saturday 30th September 2017 the band will be 40 years old and over the years the Junior band has continued to thrive providing tuition to hundreds of young people.

Around 5 years ago we were finding more and more adults mainly parents at that time wanting to learn so we decided to change the name of the band to Clifton and Lightcliffe B Band.

We will be celebrating the anniversary with a birthday party at Crow Nest Golf Club, Hove Edge, Brighouse and we would like to get as many past and present members we can find. If you know of any past members who would like to join us for the celebration please pass on their details and I will be happy to contact them.

The current B Band will also be playing a short concert and who knows there maybe a spare instrument for you to have another go. Please get in touch. john366clay@btinternet.com



A Triple Whammy—A view from the stage

The stamina of many bandsmen was tested in this last weekend of April. The marathon began with a group at the Harrogate Flower show on the Thursday 20th. It was a lovely but chilly day but this did not stop a very large crowd listening to the band play during the afternoon.

Saturday evening, the 22nd was an after dinner affair at the Bailiff Bridge Community Centre where the Mirfield Probus Club were holding a Charity Dinner. The Band played for just over an hour with a few intermittent stories from yours faithfully to oil the wheels. The audience having sampled the fare last year knew what to expect and in TV terms they were up for it, and every piece was welcomed with enthusiastic applause. Playing conditions were very difficult. The room is brilliant and quite intimate; ideal for such an occasion, but the heat was stifling. Nevertheless the band played well and the audience were very appreciative with compliments still rolling in.

Sunday afternoon the 23rd brought yet another visit to Cleckheaton Town Hall in conjunction with the Spenborough branch of the Royal British Legion, this time a St George's day concert. These concerts are different to every other concert we do. Firstly the organisers fund the event with some sponsorship and top up with a collection during the concert. This allows them to offer admission tickets for free! This in turn all but guarantees a full house. Secondly they encourage the audience to turn up in suitable attire. This may be red white and blue as it was for the Queen's Jubilee or red and white on this occasion for St George's day.

They then want (they are the customer) a much bigger say in the choice of music than we are accustomed to. More than one meeting is usually required to agree the programme. On this occasion we met up twice, had several phone conversations, and eventually by 2.00 pm on the Sunday the show was up and running. I am given full instructions as to what when and how to converse with the audience because their committee who run the concert cover every possible detail they can think of. All credit to them because they work so hard and at the end of it we all have a successful concert on our hands.

As to the programme we began with the obvious opener with "The Standard of St George". Snow White then followed and then "Annie's song" for which they printed the words for the audience to sing. No one volunteered to run down the aisle in slow motion as we played Chariots of Fire although the music was well received. I dreamed a dream will always be a winner and Hot Toddy which they requested from last year was a great success, with some particularly fine playing from Principal Cornet David Crisp. Tara's theme and the Radetsky march concluded the first half. I received several compliments about the choice of music and some excellent playing in this first half but there was a lack of opportunity for the audience to wave their flags. The second half would make up for that.

Our opener of the overture to Phantom of the Opera led onto Becky Long on Principal Trombone playing Every time we say goodbye, a lovely polished performance which was well received. Well done Becky.

From here on in the audience had words for everything except Old Comrades. Teddy Bears Picnic, I Vow to thee my Country and the regular end of the proms trio of Fantasia on British Sea Songs, Jerusalem and Pomp and Circumstance saw some really good singing; and this audience at Cleckheaton take some beating when it comes to flag waving.

The pictures should say it all – another good experience for the audience thanks to some good playing from the Band and the intense efforts of the organisers.

On the funny side I got a rollocking from a lady at the interval. Having mentioned the Big Band leader Ted Heath as using Hot Toddy as his signature tune, I was accosted by this lady for not mentioning another band leader from the same era – Ken Mackintosh, who was a local lad who played at the Town Hall apparently many times. When they say you can't win 'em all, they're right.

The President.

Pictures from St Georges Day Concert Cleckheaton Town





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

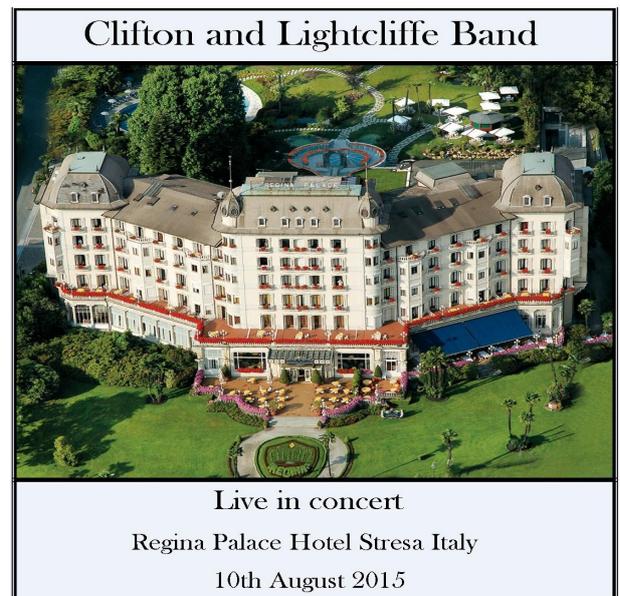
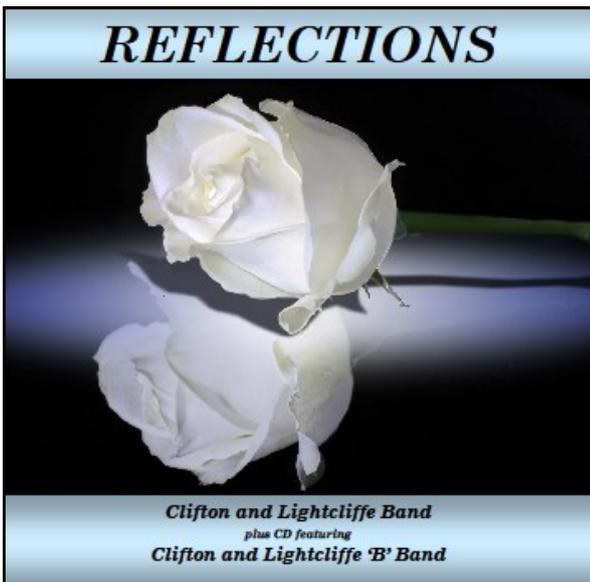
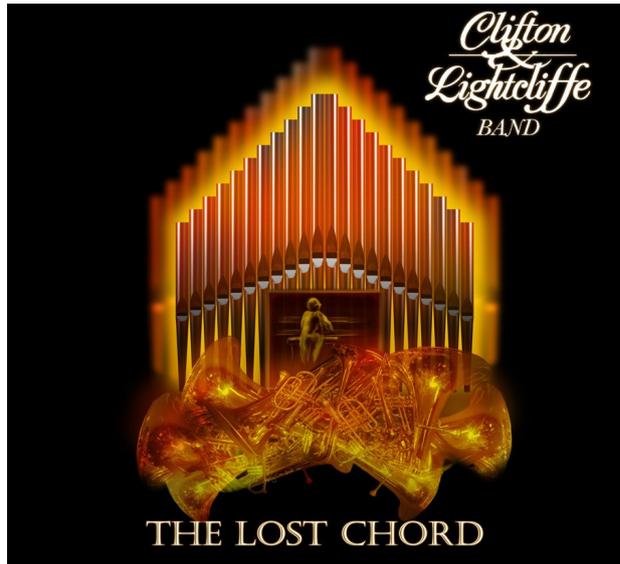
President—Mr Brian Nicholson 01924 490306

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

Our CD's can now be purchased on line. Visit our web-site 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.

Our new training and is now up and running on Saturday mornings 10.00am for an hour. If you know anyone who would like to come along And have a go then please feel free to invite them. Our senior band Principal Trombone player Becky Long is taking the class.

We are delighted to report that one of our training group Sophie Hobbins has just passed her Grade 1 on Tenor Horn with a merit. Congratulations Sophie.



B Band Vacancies: Cornet players and Kit player

Senior Band Vacancies: Back Row Cornet and Kit player

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 11th May the band are holding their Annual General Meeting at the band room commencing at 7.30pm

This year we would like as many as possible to attend as we would like after the meeting to have a joint rehearsal with both bands coming together for an hour after which we can have a drink together.

SATURDAY 13th MAY IS THE ANNUAL PRESENTATION EVENING

Everyone is invited to come along, this year it will be held at the Crow Nest Golf Club, Hove Edge, Brighouse, commencing at 7.30pm There will be a hot and cold buffet, games and of course the presentations. Cost are £12.00 for Adults and £6.00 for children under 12.

Stewart Swallow and David Crisp are organising a 9 hole round of golf for anyone who wishes to take part at 5.00pm before the evening commences. If you are interested in having a go (you don't have to be a serious golfer) then contact either Stewart or David at s-swallow@sky.com or crispbfd@btinternet.com And they will give you details.

This is a good opportunity for us to get together and have a great evening. Let me know if you have not already put your name down. This evening has been organised by Julie Thornton and she has worked very hard to make it a success so please support her.



Picture from the successful 1980's how many young faces can you recognise—Darren Smith, David Berry (who looks as though he has his pet mouse on his shoulder) Howard Stead, Bill Harrison, Peter Bebb, Brian Burns, Graham Horsfield, James Clegg, John Edward, John Clay Edward Quincey, Joanne Clegg, Jane Clay, Simon Tinker, Michael Nuttall, Derek Hoyle, Pat Ashton, Nigel Fawthrop, Warren Wood, and Chris Helme. Sorry if I missed anyone.

Looking back at Contesting—John Clay

After the second world war brass bands tried to return to normal which was difficult initially as there was a shortage of players, many bandsmen had been away fighting and sadly not all returned.

The National Brass Band Championships which are held in London resumed in 1946 with Brighouse and Rastrick becoming champions after performing Oliver Cromwell under the baton of Eric Ball.

That same year on the 6th April in 1946 Clifton and Lightcliffe band competed in the 2nd Section qualifying contest along with 22 other bands at the Central Hall Bradford playing Eine Kleine Nachtmusik conducted by Luther Dyson, unfortunately the band were not placed, and the following two years did not compete which meant they were dropped through to the 4th section. In 1949 they tried again playing Pride of the Forest under the baton of Ronnie Teal who's son Peter played cornet with the Brighouse and Rastrick for many years. Sadly once more we were unplaced.

It was to be another seven years before the band actually qualified for the Nationals Finals in 1956 after gaining 2nd prize in the qualifying rounds. This time the band was conducted by Fred Rimmer who again was connected with Brighouse and Rastrick Band having played Baritone with them for many years.

The band travelled to London on 27th October to perform at the Hammersmith Town Hall which in 1956 must have been a great adventure and cost a lot of money which will have taken a huge amount of fund raising. The test piece was James Hook written by Henry Geehl. On arrival at the venue the band had unfortunately drawn what a lot of bands think is the dreaded number one in order of play.

The band duly went on stage only to find there were no chairs or music stands and had to wait stand around for half an hour waiting until someone brought them, as you can imagine this was not good for the nerves and needless to say their performance was not good enough to be placed. I cannot imagine that happening today thankfully as things are much better organised.

Since that time the band has qualified nine times ranging from the 4th to the 2nd section to compete in the finals and in recent years our B Band have qualified twice most recently being this year 2017 where they will take part along with 18 other bands in the 4th Section at the Cheltenham Racecourse in September. **Best of luck to our B Band we are all very proud of you.**



A grainy picture from the 1977 Area Contest at St Georges Hall Bradford taken by the Telegraph and Argus and conducted by the marvellous band teacher James Hickman, that year we played Rococo Variations on a theme of Tchaikovsky by Allen Street, I know we played number 4 but I don't know the result can anyone remember ?

Pictured Pat Ashton, Jane Clay, Peter Bebb and of course Jim Hickman.

Little Gomersal May Day Gala

2017 is the 15th Year that the band has entertained at the Little Gomersal Gala on Monday 1st May. We get together a group from both our Senior band B Band to play at the Gala which has been run by the Community Association for 17 years.

It is held at the Wheatsheaf Pub and is very well supported by the local community. There were stalls there from the local churches, schools and playgroups with everything from hot dogs, tombola, sweets, plant stall, a nice pint from the pub and of course the cake stall which John was first there looking for his fruit cake which he managed to bag before Pam got there. The weather was cool to start with but by 3.00pm the sun and the ice cream had come out.



ENGAGEMENTS

SENIOR BAND

2017

MAY

Saturday 6th

Ilkley Bandstand 2.00pm

Saturday 13th

Presentation Evening Crow Nest Golf Club

Friday 19th

Harrogate International Centre

JUNE

Saturday 17th

Ecumenical Church Rodley Evening Concert

Saturday 24th

Brighthouse Gala

JULY

Saturday 1st

Wibsey Methodist Church Proms Concert 7.30pm

Friday 7th

Hoyle Court Baildon

Saturday 8th

Proms at Clifton 7.30pm

Saturday 15th

Moravian Church Bailiff Proms evening 7.30pm

B BAND

MAY

Saturday 13th

Presentation Evening Crow Nest Golf Club

JUNE

Saturday 10th

Scholes Church Garden Party afternoon

Saturday 29th

Upper Hopton Gala

JULY

Saturday 1st

St Mary's Church Garden Party 2.00pm

Sunday 2nd

Oxenhope Vintage Railway 1.00pm

Saturday 29th

Upper Hopton Gala

