

# PALATIANS



## THE NEWSLETTER OF CRYSTAL PALACE BAND

Issue: 5 (Autumn 2003)

What a summer! Packed with band jobs all over the south east, the highlight was definitely the annual band trip. This year, we went to Fort William in Scotland. The trip was an undoubtable success – and overleaf you can read all about it. Preparations are now underway for the busy Christmas period. Make a note in your diary now of our Charity Gala Concert – keep reading for more details!

### Band news

- It's been all change for the personnel in CPB, with a few new faces and a few goodbyes. Nigel Waites, who joined us on soprano cornet, has gone back to his native New Zealand, but will be stopping off at Egypt and Africa along the way. Markus Killer (cornet) has been with us for the past year whilst teaching in Bermondsey, but has now returned to Switzerland to complete his University course. We will miss both of them, and will never forget their valiant efforts to contribute to band life - Nigel battling against a downpour in Broadstairs and Markus and his taste for Guinness!

- We're also saying goodbye – but not for ever! – to Tom Whittaker. Tom, whose father Ian conducts the B Band and plays 1st baritone with the main band, received 4 As in his A Levels over the summer, and has now gone on to study an MEng in Engineering at Exeter University. Good luck Tom, we'll see you at Christmas!

- Congratulations are also in order for Nicci Maher (tenor horn), who achieved 9 GCSEs in August, including 2 As in French and Religious Studies.

- Onto music issues now - the band recently decided not to participate in the SCABA autumn contest at Folkestone, and instead will be preparing for their annual Charity Gala Concert in December. However, the band hopes to be back in Lewes for the SCABA Quartet/Ensemble Contest, and will be practising for the L&S Regional Contest at Stevenage shortly.

Crystal Palace Band is proud to present a

## CHARITY GALA CONCERT

In aid of St Christopher's Hospice  
Living Beds Appeal

Saturday 6 December  
St Bartholomew's Church, Sydenham  
7-9pm

South London's oldest brass band will once again be hosting a gala concert that promises to be an entertaining mix of festive selections and classical favourites!

Featuring guest soloists Emma Gray and Caroline Lovett, music will include Verdi's Grand March from Aida, and an arrangement of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone.

Tickets are £5 and £3 for concessions - available on the door, or in advance from 020 8776 2520.

**See you there!**

• Anyone who heard the band over the summer will have noticed the large amount of percussion which is transported to and from the gigs. Well now the “kitchen department” is set to increase, with the purchase of new timpani. They are likely to be premiered at the Charity Gala Concert, so come along and hear them for yourselves! We are also hoping to purchase a microphone and PA set, so that you can all hear the conductor’s comments loud and clear!



<b>Fixtures 2003/2004</b>	
Sunday 9th November	Remembrance Parade, Belmont, 10.00 am
Saturday 6th December	Charity Gala Concert, St Bartholomew's Church, Sydenham 7 - 9 pm
Sunday 14th Dec.	Horniman Garden Carols 4.30 pm
Wednesday 17th Dec.	Carols, The Glades Shopping Centre, Bromley, 7.30 - 9.00 pm (in aid of the Children's Society)
Sunday 21st Dec	Carol Concert, Sydenham Methodist Church, 6.00 pm
Sunday 4th January	Epiphany Concert, St Michael's Church, 4.00 pm

## **Oh you take the high road, and I'll take the low...**

*Cornet player, Maggie Stallybrass, reviews the band's successful trip to Scotland:*

After a summer packed with band jobs across the South East, CPB was looking forward to the highlight of the year – the annual trip. This year the band thought they would stay nearer home, and so over the August bank holiday weekend we set forth for Scotland. After a 13 hour coach journey we eventually reached our destination of Fort William ... having realised many hours before that North-west Scotland was not very near to Penge! Despite the tiredness from the journey, we soon settled in and relaxed for the rest of our first day on tour – in the hotel, the pool, and of course the bar! Of course, a band is never truly off-duty and we duly "entertained" the hotel's residents with our accordion playing and unique cornet-karaoke.

Saturday morning saw the first of our two concerts in Fort William in Cameron Square in the centre of the town. The second half began spectacularly when conductor, Mike Gray, was treated to a surprise rendition of 'The Celebrated Wee MacGregor'. He was expecting 'The Great Escape'! The

surprises continued, as a pipe band marched through the streets of Fort William, seemingly heading straight for us. Luckily CPB were so fearsome-looking the pipe band simply carried on marching past - but we like to think we scared them off!

After a successful concert and lunch at the hotel, we were rewarded with a trip to the local whisky distillery. After an informative and interesting tour we were then treated to free samples of the whiskey produced – a highlight and fantastic shopping opportunity for all those whisky lovers who came on tour!

Saturday evening at the hotel bar was another time to make new friends and try new experiences. The luckily couple who decided to book the hotel for their wedding at the same time as a brass band was staying didn't mind, and indeed seemed to encourage the members of the band to enjoy themselves as much as they wanted. As a result that many band members found themselves ceilidhing (Scottish Dancing!) around the dancefloor surrounded by men in kilts...

Anyway, back to Sunday morning! For those with the energy and inclination, the mountains beckoned, and we took a gondola up to the local ski resort, with magnificent views of Ben Nevis, the valley below and the lochs. Then we returned to the hotel for what we thought would be the main concert of the tour. However, the stunning weekend weather meant that very few hotel guests were around, and so we played to the few members of hotel staff who were off duty, and the midges who were swarming round!

Sunday evening was our last time to socialise in the bar, and many took full advantage of the opportunity, though they may well have been regretting it on Monday morning when we set out for the long trip home! After a stop at Gretna Green for lunch but no weddings (not with a 3 year waiting list!), listening to Basil's recording of Sunday afternoon's concert, and an awards ceremony to reward those members and incidents of the tour we will all remember, the coach finally arrived back in Penge just before midnight.

Many thanks must go to Roger Clements and Kiddles Coaches for organising such a fantastic trip. And if you want to read more about the tour, see the embarrassing photos, or find out who won the McHangover Award, visit the band website – [www.crystalpalaceband.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.crystalpalaceband.fsnet.co.uk)

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If you have a general band enquiry (e.g. you would like to join the band, or would like to book the band) please contact the Secretary, Rachel Bleach, on 020 8776 2520, or [riz.bleach@btinternet.com](mailto:riz.bleach@btinternet.com) - or visit the website, [www.crystalpalaceband.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.crystalpalaceband.fsnet.co.uk)

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