

PALATIANS



THE NEWSLETTER OF CRYSTAL PALACE BAND

Issue: 9 (Autumn 2004)

After a busy summer we are now back in contest season, with preparations well underway for the SCABA autumn contest at Folkestone. The band is also getting ready for this year's Christmas gala concert on Saturday 4 December – so look out for more details!

Band News

We'd like to pass on our good wishes to Stanley Mackney, a much-loved long-term member of
* the B Band who is currently in hospital. We hope that he makes a speedy recovery and is back at band before long – come back soon Stan, we miss you

The band has just returned from Trouville in France, where the weather didn't dampen our
* spirits (or dilute our calvados). Thanks go to Roger Clements and Basil Preuveneers for organising everything, and to Kiddles Coaches for putting up with us again!

The B Band has recently said a temporary goodbye to one of its friendly and committed members. Nicola McDermott joined the B Band when she was 9 years old and has been a member since its humble beginnings as the Training Band. Not only is she a fine baritone and trombone player in our brass band but also plays in Yellowbirds Steel Band! She is currently
* reading a BSc (Hons) in Biomedical Sciences at Kingston University and is now undertaking one year of her degree at Grand Valley State University in Michigan, as part of an exchange programme. We wish her all the best and look forward to hearing about those American marching bands on her return! Anyone who wishes to get in touch with Nicola can contact her at nicola3650@hotmail.com

Eagle eyed television viewers may have spotted a couple of CPB players in the trailer for the
* new Parkinson series on ITV1. Andrew and Clare Lipscombe were joined by Owen Rees, trombonist of 'Payback', to record the trailer in Croydon. A sousaphone was hired for the occasion and all three were provided with costumes to make them appear 'geeky'.

Wanted – a new owner for a soprano cornet! When ex-CPB member Vic Pucill passed away
* recently his wife kindly donated his soprano cornet to the B Band, who are now looking for someone to play it. If you know of anyone who may be interested then please get in touch – contact details are overleaf.

* Many congratulations to Jean and Roger Morton on their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 20 June, and also to the numerous band members who celebrated birthday milestones this summer!

Fixtures 2004

Sunday 10th October	SCABA Autumn Contest, Leas Cliff Hall, Folkstone
Sunday 14th November	Remembrance Parade, Belmont, 10.00 am
Saturday 27th November	Turning on the Christmas Lights, Crystal Palace Green

Saturday 4th December	Charity Gala Concert, St Bartholomew's Church, Sydenham, 7-9pm
Saturday 11th December	Carols for Rotary Club, Penge High Street (morning)
Saturday 11th December	Carol Concert, Sydenham Methodists, 7 pm
Sunday 12th December	Horniman Gardens Carols, 4.30 - 6 pm
Sunday 9th January	Epiphany Concert, St Michael's Church, Sydenham, 4.30 pm

Notes from a small bandstand

By Carol Maher

The weather among other things has been the cause of many laughs, triumphs, hiccups and downright disasters, not all of them ours. It occurred to me that perhaps some of our stories might make interesting reading. It is certainly enjoyable for us to recall them and muse over their entertainment value. Hence, Notes from a Small Bandstand came into existence. My apologies to Bill Bryson and the late Alistair Cooke for pinching the general idea, although not their impeccable style. I hope you will enjoy reading them.

Weather or not to play

It was as I was pegging my music to my music stand in preparation for a park concert that I began musing about the variety of the weather we have experienced on those little places called bandstands.

These structures are usually circular in form, have high roofs mounted on posts and are almost always open to the elements all the way around. Very occasionally there is a sliding screen (as at Folkestone, which is deemed unsafe to use at present) or an awning (as at Southend, which has slipped into the sea) that can be strategically positioned to protect us from the prevailing wind and rain.

We play outdoors all year round, more in the summer than the winter admittedly, though some years you hardly notice the change in the seasons. Neither the organisers of an event nor ourselves can foretell the weather and occasionally (actually frequently) it causes problems. I have to point out here that by weather I mean wind, rain and sun. All weathers can create problems and we (being English as well as tetchy) never stop moaning about it. Hot, cold, wet; shall we wear jackets or not, do we need sunglasses, how many layers of clothing will fit under my band jacket, how many clothes pegs will I need to keep my music on the stand today? These are all regularly pondered even before leaving home.

Our willingness to put up with all that the weather can throw at us is totally mercenary. The band needs to raise money in order to exist and for the band to get paid we have to turn up where ever we have been booked to play. On bandstands there is apparently a rule that what ever the weather is doing, however empty the park/promenade may be we have to turn up and show that we are ready and able to play so that a helpful parks or council official can inform us that the weather is too bad so go home. Then they pay us. In reality the officials, like other sensible people, don't go out in bad weather and so we get left in large, deserted, windswept places for two hours at a time and all there is to do is play. This not only keeps us entertained it also serves to keep the conductor warm.

Wind has a mind of its own and will lay in wait. We use clothes pegs to hold our music on the stand, – picture this. The day is dead calm until a brave soloist stands in front of the band. They begin to play... it remains calm and still... the soloist reaches the climax of the performance, detailed

complicated passages of notes, he or she is transported on the glories of the music (that is to say, with brow furrowed, concentrating like mad) and the wind picks up just a corner of the music and flaps it up and down obscuring just enough notes to put the player off.

Funnily enough most of us only feel cold when we stop playing so chilly days can often mean we get through more music. Sun bounces off white pages and dazzles us if it is behind us or just plain shines in your face making us all screw up our faces and look like cabbage patch dolls. You can end up with a funny stripy tan on your face if this happens early in the summer season.

Rain is our main problem. Besides being uncomfortable it can damage music. It can also have longer lasting effects but that is another story...

If you wish to contact the editors, please do so via the following ways:

clarelipscombe@hotmail.com or Clare Lipscombe, 60 Firsby Avenue, Shirley, Croydon, CR0 8TN or ring on 020 8655 2511. 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 crystalpalaceband@btinternet.com - or visit the website, www.crystalpalaceband.co.uk

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