

Crystal Palace Progress Band MD's Annual Report April 2019

This year has seen further expansion and improvement for the Progress Band and membership now stands at a healthy 34 regular playing members. As well as the band's overall progress many players have shown a good deal of personal improvement in their playing and I am especially pleased with the development of our younger players. The band can now boast our own regular soprano cornet and Bb bass. We could however usefully use a second percussionist. We are reaching a point where we need to discuss the band's open door policy as we are not able to add further players in some sections.

Summer gigs saw a return to the Sanderstead Horticultural Show (conducted by Alan) and to Norwood Feast. We had a busy Christmas run of gigs which included the Copleston Christmas Concert with the Lewisham School's Brass Band and Peckham Rye Sings, the combined Christmas Concert with the Main Band and Beckenham bandstand. There was also a band outing to Tradegar and the band once again gained honours at the Bromley Music Festival in March.

The band remains ably supported by its own committee and I am grateful to the main committee and to Mike Gray for their continuing support. Thanks are also due to those Main Band players who have filled the gaps in the past when needed.

I am lucky to have several deputy conductors who are able to step in when I can't make rehearsals. We are also lucky to have our own in house arranger who produces many bespoke arrangements for the band.

I am looking forward to yet another year of progress.

Dave Howell
21 April 2019