

Crystal Palace Progress Band MD's Annual Report April 2020

It seems a strange way to start an annual report but I will do so by saying that I hope everyone is well and surviving the rather unique circumstances we find ourselves in.

This year the band has continued to go from strength to strength and we have had a lot of engagements including:

Carols at St. Winifred's
Carols at Beckenham Recreation Ground
The gala concert
Copleston with Peckham Rye Sings
St. Luke's carols
Norwood Feast
St. Paul's Church Beckenham
Sanderstead

Once again we took part in the Bromley Music Festival in March gained honours and achieved our highest ever score of 92%.

As the band has reached a much higher standard it was felt that we could no longer cater for relative beginners and so we have set up the 6'o' clock band or 6B. This has been organised by Richard Harber and Rebecca Asker. It is being directed by Hywel Jones who has also helped the band out, playing several different instruments. My thanks go to all three of them and to the band members who turned up each week to help out. Here's wishing them every success once we are up and running again.

This year we have gained some new members in Alice, Orphy, Karen and Lucia and lost a few more due to people moving on to more advanced bands: Ambrose to the MB, Eddie to Junior Jazz Warriors and Sian (to A levels and school orchestra) and others for personal reasons including Tim, Karen, Lucia and Claire. We currently 29 players.

The band's committee continues to actively run the band and I am grateful to them and to the main committee and to Mike Gray for their continuing support.

All the best to everyone and I hope to see you all in person before too soon. I see that Mike has borrowed my phrase about 'hitting the ground running' whenever we are out of lockdown. I do feel that we need to perform as soon as possible whenever that is so keep practising. I think that playing in band is one of the best forms of therapy that there is.

Here's looking forward to some great gigs in the not too distant future. All the best.

Dave Howell