

The Progress Band Report 2010-2011 by the Musical Director, David Howell

As you are aware I have been the Musical Director since January 2011 so much of this report is before my time as MD. However this information comes from a reliable source!

We began the year since the last AGM by entering and playing at The Croydon Music Festival where, although the only entrants in our category, we performed well playing Slaidburn and gaining a trophy and many positive comments from the Adjudicator. We played under the strict baton of Chris Mackay to whom we are grateful to for his guidance and leadership, He showed us true professionalism and dedication- not only at this event but right through to Christmas 2010.

The Progress Band has been in greater demand for events such as church fetes, Bromley Council gigs and concerts in the park. Amongst its achievements The Progress Band has helped to raise money for charity at a Children in Need event at St John's, Eden Park and has played at Friends of the Alexandra Park events during the year. In total we have undertaken 11 events.

In July we had a wonderful sunny barbeque where our families joined us to celebrate our successes and so had a chance to socialise over some delicious food in David Charlesworth's lovely garden.

In October some members took the opportunity to see the British Army Brass Band perform at The Hawth, Crawley on a Progress Band outing where it was beneficial to watch a professional band play.

The Progress Band Chairman, David Charlesworth, has worked tirelessly with the Crystal Palace Band Chairman to develop our Constitution and carry the band forward. David retires as our excellent Chairman today and it would not be right if we didn't give our thanks to David for all his hard work. David hopes to stay on the Committee in another role.

As with other bands, membership has highs and lows and we have lost a few members recently due to reasons outside that of the band but we know that this is just a temporary hiccup and we shall build up again with our active approach and commitment. We have found that our rehearsal time is not ideal and we are looking alternatives to improve this

Our thanks go to the members of the main band who have supported us during the year and at our rehearsals. A special mention to Adam Payne and Richard Lovett for their time and support. Some members of The Progress Band have played at main band rehearsals and have supported a small number of the main band events.

We remain an enthusiastic group of people, keen to play together. We are here to improve our skills and look forward to our future together.