



Volume 2

A collection of posts
from the IBEW Blog

2019-2020

<https://ibewbrass.wordpress.com>

Gavin Holman, September 2022

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Introduction

The IBEW Blog was established in 2011 as an ad hoc collection of postings about some of the background, sources and news related to research in the history of brass bands, as collated in the IBEW website.

The IBEW website is the major reference source on the internet for the history of brass bands – as well as material and directories relating to the world of brass bands and brass musicianship today.

IBEW was founded in 1997 and the site now contains links to thousands of internet resources about brass bands. A comprehensive bibliography of brass bands is only one of many other resources freely available via the site.

There is an active Facebook group “The History of Brass Bands” where people can post and discuss any aspects of banding history. See:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/145016798904992/>

Various other documents, articles, and books about the history of brass bands are available for download from my Academia site – *<https://gavinholman.academia.edu/research>*

These blog posts, collected from the IBEW blog, are those that are unique to the blog, and not covered by any of my other documents available separately via the Academia website.

The brass bands of Boroughbridge

October 17, 2019

There is no longer a brass band in Boroughbridge, North Yorkshire, but it did enjoy the music of a number of local bands in the town from around 1855 until the last one disbanded in 1955. Aldborough is a village adjacent to Boroughbridge which has shared some of its musical endeavours. Little remains of these bands, a few memories, a few pictures and the odd appearance in the local newspapers.



Unknown band, Aldborough Manor, near Boroughbridge, June 9th 1906



Leeds Temperance Brass Band, Boroughbridge, June 16th 1906

Aldborough Brass Band – this was active in 1864.

Aldborough & Boroughbridge Brass Band – Active in 1873, when it was described as being “only young” – so it was probably formed in the early 1870’s. However there was a Boroughbridge Brass Band in the 1850’s, so perhaps this was a successor band. It was still active as Boroughbridge Brass Band in the late 1880’s. Conductor was T. Archer in 1877.

Boroughbridge Brass Band (1) – This was active in 1857 to 1887. A successor band was formed in 1894.

Boroughbridge Brass Band (2) – Founded in 1894, its first public appearance was at Christmas 1894.



Boroughbridge Brass Band, c. 1896



Boroughbridge Brass Band, 1912

Boroughbridge British Legion Band – Founded after WW1. In 1929 its conductor was Harry W. Hill and its founder was Johnny Pickering. It disbanded in 1955. After WW2, when the band reformed, clothing coupons were gathered from the townsfolk of Boroughbridge which helped the band to acquire its first uniforms around 1946. After it disbanded the instruments were stored for a while by the British Legion Club in Boroughbridge until they were finally sold off some time thereafter.



Boroughbridge British Legion Band



Boroughbridge British Legion Band, 1949



Boroughbridge British Legion Band, 1950

Brass band concert programmes on postcards

October 18, 2019

Many of the times that a brass band has performed a concert, a printed programme has been available for the audience, giving the details of the pieces played, their composers and arrangers and, where appropriate, the names of the conductor and any soloists.

Sadly, few of these reminders of the concerts have survived over the years. Most will have been discarded soon after the event; some will have been saved or collected, but later lost. There are relatively few still in existence to allow us to see what our banding forebears performed for their audiences.

In some instances, the band's programme was published in advance on posters or in the local press, or possibly printed in reviews after the event. Those in newspapers can still be found (assuming the printed or digitised issues are available), but few posters survive – ephemeral material, like the printed programmes themselves. The programmes and posters are usually simple printed sheets, but occasionally they were more elaborate – like this one from Lincoln:

Seventh Concert of the Season.

Arboretum Concerts.

THE LINCOLN
Malleable Iron and Steel Works
PRIZE BRASS BAND,
On THURSDAY, 27th of JUNE, 1895.

PROGRAMME.

EVENING AT 7.15.

1. GRAND MARCH ... "The Cornet" ... W. Runmer.
2. DESCRIPTIVE FANTASIA ... "A Night in Town" ... A. Morelli.
3. VALSE ... "Nacht und Morgen" ... Karl V. Keller.
(Night and Morn).
4. GRAND SELECTION from the works of Rossini ... A. Owen.
5. POLKA ... "The Crack Shot" ... H. Round.
6. OVERTURE ... "Beauties of England" ... E. Newton.
7. GALOP ... "Shooting Star" ... T. H. Wright.

"God save the Queen."

Conductor ... Mr. W. BELCHER.

COOPER & CO. PRINTERS, LINCOLN

Between 1904 and 1913, at least, those charged with raising funds for the hospitals and orphanages in Hull promoted various brass band concerts. These committees or “good causes” were, variously:

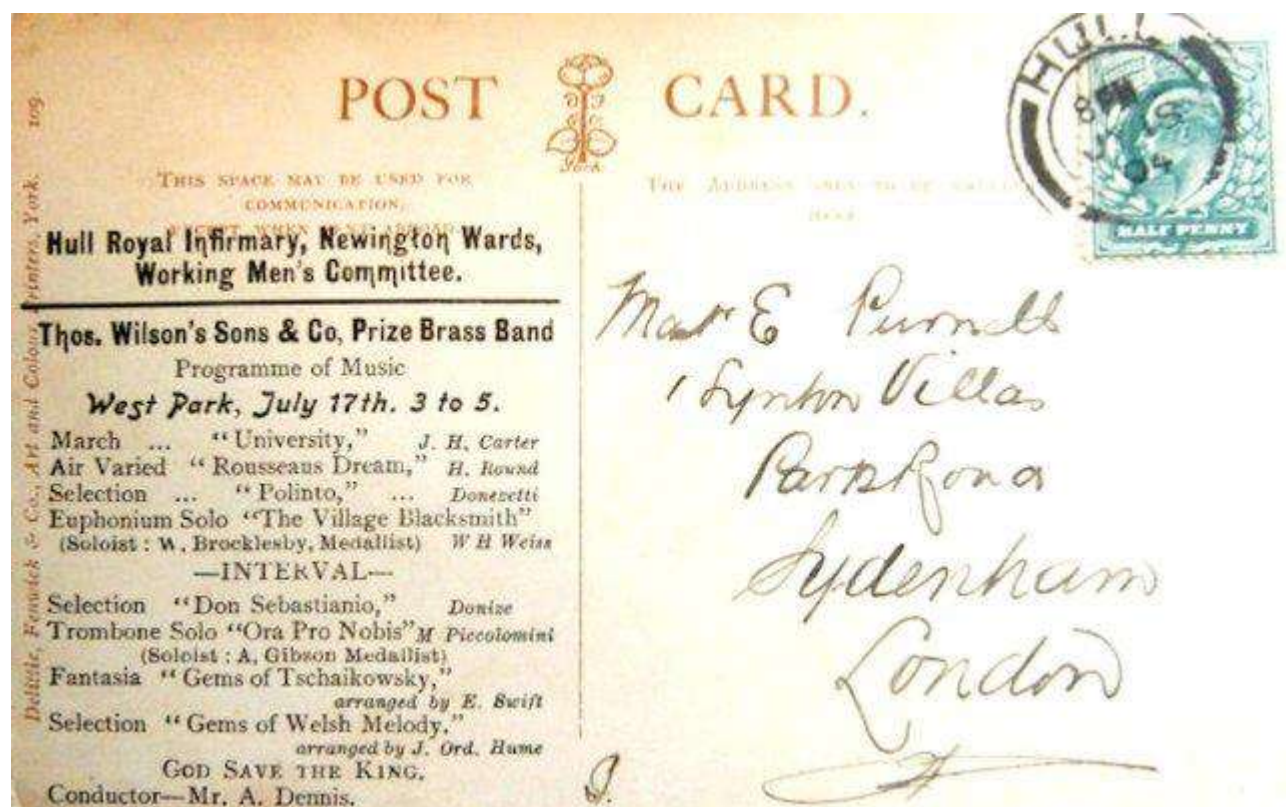
In addition to promoting the concerts in the local press (and possibly by posters around the town), they also made use of various printed postcards. These would be showing the typical pictorial scenes on one side, but on the message/address side there would be overprinted the details of the concert programme. It is not know whether these were sold in advance of the concerts, as promotional material, or if they were sold at the concerts themselves, informing the audience as would the normal paper programme, but with the added advantage of being a useful product thereafter (to send a message to friends/family).

So far have only seen such postcards representing bands and charitable concerns in Hull – but here are a dozen examples:

West Park, Hull, Sunday July 17th 1904 – **Thomas Wilson’s Sons & Co. Prize Brass Band**, conductor A. Dennis

Promoted by Hull Royal Infirmary, Newington Ward, Working Men’s Committee

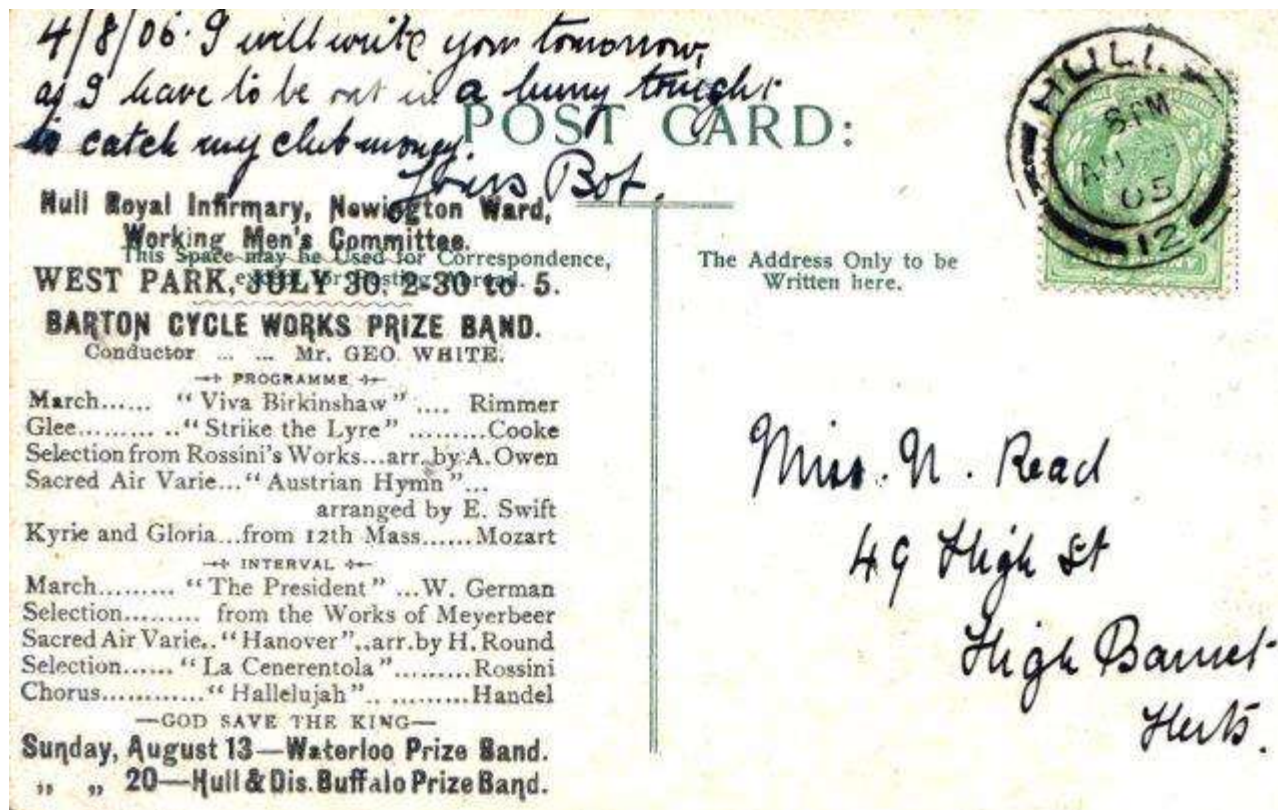
March: University (J.H. Carter); Air Varie: Rousseau’s Dream (H. Round); Selection: Poliuto (Donizetti); Euphonium Solo: The Village Blacksmith (W.H. Weiss) soloist W. Brocklesby, medallist; Selection: Don Sebastiano (Donizetti); Trombone Solo: Ora Pro Nobis (M. Piccolomini) soloist A. Gibson, medallist; Fantasia: Gems of Tschaikovsky (arr. E. Swift); Selection: Gems of Welsh Melody (arr. J. Ord Hume).



West Park, Hull, Sunday July 30th 1905 – **Barton Cycle Works Prize Band**, conductor George White

Promoted by Hull Royal Infirmary, Newington Ward, Working Men’s Committee

March: Viva Birkinshaw (Rimmer); Glee: Strike the Lyre (Cooke); Selection: Rossini's Works (arr. A. Owen); Sacred Air Varie: Austrian Hymn (arr. E. Swift); Kyrie & Gloria from 12th Mass (Mozart); March: The President (W. German); Selection: from the works of Meyerbeer; Sacred Air Varie: Hanover (arr. H. Round); Selection: La Cenerentola (Rossini); Chorus: Hallelujah (Handel).



West Park, Hull, Sunday May 31st 1908 – **Sons of Temperance Silver Prize Band**, conductor C. Norman

Promoted by Hull Royal Infirmary, Newington Ward, Working Men's Committee

March: Merry Maids (Pearson); Fantasia: Gems of Song (Rimmer); Cornet Solo: At Eventide (Ord Hume) soloist C. Norman; Selection: Old Memories (W. Rimmer); March: The 3 D.G.'s (Brophy); Air Varie: The Vesper Hymn (Round); Intermezzo: Napoli (Lewis Ham); Grand Selection: Robin Hood (Macfarren).

West Park, Hull, Sunday June 28th 1908 – **Hull Waterloo Silver Prize Band**, conductor Arthur Gibson

Promoted by Hull Royal Infirmary, Newington Ward, Working Men's Committee

March: Bravura (George Allan); Selection: Old Memories (W. Rimmer); Overture: Poet & Peasant (Suppé); Selection: Fernando Cortez (C. Godfrey) (test piece, Belle Vue, 1907); Selection: Mendelssohn (arr. C. Godfrey); Chorus: Heavens are Telling (Haydn); Selection: Tannhauser (Wagner).

Sons of Temperance Prize Silver Band
 Conductor—Mr. C. NORMAN
 HULL ROYAL INFIRMARY
 Newington Ward Working Men's Comm.
 West Park, Sunday, May 31st, 1908.

March..... "Merry Maids"..... Pearson
 Fantasia..... "Gems of Song"..... Rimmer
 Cornet Solo... "At Eventide"..... Ord Hume
 Selection..... "Old Memories"..... Rimmer
 Interval.
 March..... "The 3 D. G.'s"..... Brophy
 Air Varie... "The Vesper Hymn"..... Round
 Intermezzo..... "Napoli"..... Lewis Ham
 Grand Selection "Robin Hood"..... Macfarren
 God save the King.

W. & A. G. THE ROYAL

W. & A. G. THE ROYAL

Hull Waterloo Prize Silver Band.
 Conductor—Mr. Arthur Gibson.
 HULL ROYAL INFIRMARY
 Newington Ward Working Men's Comm.
 West Park, Sunday, June 28th, at 2-30.

March..... "Bravura"..... Geo. Allan
 Selection... "Old Memories"..... W. Rimmer
 Overture... "Poet & Peasant"..... Suppe
 Selection... "Fernando Cortez".....
 Lieut. C. Godfrey
 (Test Piece, Belle Vue, 1907)
 Interval.
 Selection "Mendelssohn" Lieut. C. Godfrey
 Chorus..... "Heavens are telling".....
 Selection..... "Tannhauser"..... Wagner
 God save the King.

W. & A. G. THE ROYAL

East Park, Hull, Sunday July 12th 1908 – **Hull Sons of Temperance Silver Prize Band**, conductor C. Norman

Promoted by Yorkshire Foresters' Orphanage Hull District Committee

March: Amazon (Farrell); Air Varie: The Austrian Hymn (Swift); Euphonium Solo: The Village Blacksmith (Weiss) soloist T. Norman; Overture: The Viking's Daughter (Rimmer); Grand March: The King's Bodyguard (Ord Hume); Fantasia: Jubilation (Rimmer); Selection: Tutti in Maschera (Pedrotti); Chorus: Hallelujah (Handel).

West Park, Hull, Sunday August 16^h 1908 – **Hull Postmen's Military Band**, conductor P.F. Bultitude

In aid of St John Ambulance Brigade, Hull Corps

March: The Filibuster (G. Southwell); Madrigal: Sing a Joyous Roundelay (J. Barnby); Selection: La Vestale (Spontini); Intermezzo: Rose Garlands (Lilian Raymond); Selection: Opera Gems (arr. H. Round); Aria: The Pilgrim (H. Round); Serenade: Moonlight (Neil Moret); Overture: Miralda (J. Ord Hume).

YORKSHIRE FORESTERS' ORPHANAGE.
 HULL DISTRICT COMMITTEE.
 East Park, Sunday July 12th, 1908,
 2-30 to 4-30
Hull Sons of Temperance
PRIZE SILVER BAND.
 PROGRAMME.

March..... "Amazon"..... Farrell
 Air Varie... "The Austrian Hymn"..... Swift
 Euphonium Solo... "The Village Blacksmith"..... Weiss
 Mr. T. NORMAN
 Overture... "The Viking's Daughter"..... Rimmer
 INTERVAL.
 Grand March "The King's Bodyguard" Ord Hume
 Fantasia..... "Jubilation"..... Rimmer
 Selection..... "Tutti in Maschera"..... Pedrotti
 Chorus..... "Hallelujah"..... Handel
 GOD SAVE THE KING
 CONDUCTOR - MR. C. NORMAN

The Million "Archie's" Series No. 158 Wood

HULL POSTMEN'S MILITARY BAND
 Conductor - Mr. P. F. Bultitude.
A Sacred Concert
 In the West Park, Anlaby Road,
On SUNDAY, August 16th, 1908,
 3-0 to 5-0 p.m.
 In aid of the St. John Ambulance Brigade,
 Hull Corps.

PROGRAMME.

1 March..... "The Filibuster"..... G. Southwell
 2 Madrigal "Sing a Joyous Roundelay" J. Barnby
 3 Selection..... "La Vestale"..... Spontini
 4 Intermezzo "Rose Garlands" Lilian Raymond
 INTERVAL.
 5 Selection..... "Opera Gems" Arr. H. Round
 6 Aria..... "The Pilgrim"..... H. Round
 7 Serenade..... "Moonlight"..... Neil Moret
 8 Overture..... "Miralda"..... J. Ord Hume
 — God save the King. —
 ALFRED HAYES, Secs.
 ALFRED E. ROWE,
 John O. Vaughan, Supt. Sec., St. John Amb. Corps.
 HULL PRINTERS LTD., HULL.

West Park, Hull, Sunday August 30th 1908 – **Sons of Temperance Prize Silver Band**, conductor C. Norman

Promoted by Victoria Hospital for Sick Children, Working Men's Committee

Quick Step: The 3 D.G.'s (Brophy); Fantasia: Gems of Song (Rimmer); Air Varie: Sandon (Dodsworth); Selection: Gems of Mendelssohn (arr. C. Godfrey); March: The Charmer (McAlister); Euphonium Solo: The Pilgrim (Round); Selection: Crispino (Ricci); Intermezzo: Jubilation (Rimmer).

East Park, Hull, Sunday June 13th 1909 – **East Hull Prize Silver Band**, conductor J.G. Longman

In aid of the Poor Children's Summer Outing

March: Up Guards (J. Ord Hume); Fantasia: Amazona (R. Rippin); Cornet Solo: The Light of Life (J.G. Veaco); Selection: Memories of Balfe (arr. Rimmer); Overture: Crown of Merit (Bennett); Air Varie: Vesper Hymn (Round); Selection: Saffo (Pacini); Chorus: Hallelujah (Handel).

VICTORIA HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN
WORKING-MEN'S COMMITTEE
West Park, Sunday, Aug. 30th, 1908,
3 TO 5 P.M.
Sons of Temperance Prize Silver Band.

FOR COMMUNICATION THIS SPACE
MAY BE USED.

Quick Step.....	The 3 D. G.'s	.....	Brophy
Fantasia.....	"Gems of Song"	.....	Rimmer
Air Varie.....	"Sandon"	.....	Dodsworth
Selection..	"Gems of Mendelssohn"	.....	Godfrey

Interval.

March.....	"The Charmer"	.....	McAlister
Euphonium Solo..	"The Pilgrim"	.....	Round
Selection.....	"Crispino"	.....
Intermezzo.....	"Jubilation"	.....	Rimmer

"GOD SAVE THE KING."

Conductor - - Mr. C. NORMAN.

POOR CHILDREN'S SUMMER OUTING.
A. Rignall, Hon. Sec., 1 Holborn Mount.

A GRAND CONCERT will be given by
The EAST HULL PRIZE SILVER BAND
(Conductor—Mr. J. G. LONGMAN),
In the **EAST PARK**, 3 to 5,
On **SUNDAY, JUNE 13th, 1909.**
In aid of the funds of the above.

Programme.

March.....	"Up Guards"	.....	J. Ord Hume
Fantasia.....	"Amazona"	.....	R. Rippin
Cornet Solo.....	"The Light of Life"	.....	J. G. Veaco
Selection.....	"Memories of Balfe"	.....	Rimmer

INTERVAL.

Overture.....	"Crown of Merit"	.....	Bennet
Air Varie.....	"Vesper Hymn"	.....	Round
Selection.....	"Saffo"	.....	Pacini
Chorus.....	"Hallelujah"	.....	Handel

"God save the King."

PITY THE POOR BAIRNS.

West Park, Hull, Sunday June 27th 1909 – **East Hull Prize Silver Band**, conductor John G. Longman

Promoted by Victoria Hospital for Sick Children, Working Men's Committee

March: The Wizard (George Allan); Selection: Lucia di Lammermoor (Donizetti); Cornet Solo: The Lost Chord (Sullivan); Grand Selection: Memories of Weber (W. Rimmer); Overture: Poet & Peasant (Suppé); Euphonium Solo: The Village Blacksmith (Weiss); Selection: Souvenir de Meyerbeer (E. Swift); Chorus: Kyrie & Gloria from Mozart's 12th Mass.

East Park, Hull, Sunday June 26th 1910 & West Park, Hull, Sunday July 17th 1910 – **Hull Sons of Temperance Prize Band**, conductor C. Norman

In aid of Hull & Sculcoates Dispensary Working Men's Committee

March: Vigilant (J. Farrell); Fantasia: Gems of England (Rimmer); Andante: From C Minor Symphony (Beethoven); Grand Selection: Memories of the Past (Rimmer); Quick March: Senator (G. Allan); Air Varie: Sandon (T. Allsopp); Intermezzo: In the Twilight (Rimmer); Grand Selection: Robert Devereux (Donizetti).

VICTORIA HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN
WORKING MEN'S COMMITTEE.
WEST PARK, June 27th, 1909, 3 to 5.
EAST HULL PRIZE SILVER BAND.

PROGRAMME.

March..... This space may be used for Allen
Selection. "Lucia di Lammermoor"..... Donizetti
Cornet Solo. "The Lost Chord"..... Sullivan
Grand Selection. "Memories of Weber"..... W. J. Miller

INTERVAL.

Overture..... "Poet and Peasant"..... Suppe
Eup. Solo. "The Village Blacksmith"..... Weiss
Selection. "Souvenir de Meyerbeer"..... E. Swift
Chorus. "Kyrie and Gloria" From Mozart's 12th Mass
"God Save the King."

Conductor—JOHN G. LONGMAN.

POST OFFICE
HULL
JUN 28 1909
6 PM

Printed in Savoy.
E. C. London.

Hull Sons of Temperance Prize Band.
Conductor—Mr. C. NORMAN.
East Park, Sunday, June 26th, 1910.
West Park, Sunday, July 17th, 1910.
3 to 5.
In aid of the Hull & Sculcoates Dispensary
Working Men's Committee.

Quick March..... "Vigilant"..... J. Farrell
Fantasia..... "Gems of England"..... Rimmer
Andante. "From C Minor Symphony"..... Beethoven
Grand Selection. "Memories of the Past"..... Rimmer

INTERVAL.

Quick March..... "Senator"..... G. Allan
Aire Varié..... "Sandon"..... T. Ailsopp
Intermezzo..... "In the Twilight"..... Rimmer
Grand Selection. "Robert Devereux"..... Donizetti
"God save the King."

Band Secretary—Mr. H. ROE.

Copyright, Published by Lawson & Co., 19, City Road, London, E.C.

West Park, Hull, Sunday July 10th 1910 – **Hull Sons of Temperance Prize Band**, conductor C. Norman

In aid of the Poor Children's Summer Outing

Quick Step: March at Ease (Rimmer); Overture: Zampa (Herald); Intermezzo: Napoli (Lewis Ham) soloist euphonium C.H. Gray; Selection: Memories of the Past (Rimmer); Quickstep: Vigilant (J. Farrell); Fantasia: Gems of England (Rimmer); Andante: From C Minor Symphony (Beethoven); Grand Selection: Gems of Mozart (Mozart).

West Park, Hull, Sunday June 15th 1913 – **Hull Postmen's Band**, conductor P.F. Bultitude
West Hull Working Men's Committee

March: Romola (E. Hazel); Overture: A Gypsy Romance (J. Ord Hume); Intermezzo: Endoria (Ardre); Selection: Iolanthe (Sullivan); Fantasia: Euphonia (Webb); Gavotte: Editha (Carlo Mora); Song: A Dream of Heaven (Crook); Selection: Gondoliers (Sullivan); Overture: Tancredi (Rossini); Hymns: Ancient and Modern.

THIS SPACE FOR INLAND
COLONIAL, AND CERTAIN
POOR CHILDREN'S SUMMER OUTING.
A. Rignall, Hon. Sec., 1 Hofforn Mount.

A GRAND CONCERT will be given by
The HULL
Sons of Temperance Prize Silver Band
Conductor—Mr. C. NORMAN
In the WEST PARK, 3 to 5.
On SUNDAY, July 10th, 1910,
In aid of the funds of the above.

Programme.

Quickstep..... "March at Ease"..... Rimmer
Overture..... "Zampa"..... Herald
Intermezzo..... "Napoli"..... Lewis Ham
(Euphonium—Mr. C. H. GRAY.)
Selection. "Memories of the Past"..... Rimmer

INTERVAL.

Quickstep..... "Vigilant"..... Farrell
Fantasia..... "Gems of England"..... Rimmer
Andante. "From C Minor Symphony"..... Beethoven
Grand Selection. "Gems of Mozart"..... Mozart
"God save the King."

HELP THE POOR BAIRNS.

HULL POSTMEN'S BAND.
Conductor—Mr. P. F. BULTITUDE.
Band Secretary—Mr. ALFRED HAYES.
HULL ROYAL INFIRMARY
West Hull Working Men's Committee.
Secretary—Mr. A. SKELTON.

West Park, Sunday, June 15th, 1913.

THIS SPACE MAY BE USED.

March..... "Romola"..... E. Hazel
Overture "A Gipsy Romance"..... J. Ord Hume
Intermezzo..... "Endoria"..... Ardre
Selection..... "Iolanthe"..... A. Sullivan
Fantasia..... "Euphonia"..... Webb

INTERVAL.

Gavotte..... "Editha"..... Carlo Mora
Song..... "A Dream of Heaven"..... Crook
Selection..... "Gondoliers"..... A. Sullivan
Overture..... "Il Tancredi"..... Rossini
Hymns..... Ancient and Modern.....
God Save the King.

Widow's Book, London E. C.
H. Series No. 240

Brass and tobacco

October 19, 2019

While there is a clear link between brass bands and alcohol – either in the various bands that supported the temperance movement, or the enjoyment of beer, in particular, that slaked the thirst of players – a similar association with tobacco products was not so evident, though many bandsmen smoked cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco or took snuff.

I am only aware of five British brass bands that were associated with tobacco companies:

- **Wills Tobacco Factory Brass Band** (Bedminster, Bristol) – Founded in 1888, conductor G.A. Webb. Still active in 1900.
- **Cope Brothers and Co. Brass Band** (Liverpool) – Founded in the early 1880s. Still active in 1887. Conductor J.B. Ridge in 1885. Cope Brothers were tobacco manufacturers.
- **CWS Tobacco Factory Band** (Manchester) – A group of workers from the CWS Tobacco Factory got together to form a band in 1900, one which quickly made a name for itself on the concert and contest circuit. In September 1901 Mr J C Cragg, the manager of the CWS tobacco factory, built the ad hoc band of his employees, stumped up £300 for some second hand instruments and made himself bandmaster. It later changed its name to the CWS (Manchester) Band – either in 1937 or 1946 [reports differ]. The band enjoyed considerable success until the Co-op dropped the sponsorship in 1985. A short period as City of Manchester Band followed before finally disbanding in 1993.
- **Hignett's Tobacco Works Band** (Liverpool) – Founded in 1888. Active through to the 1900s.
- **Ogden's Tobacco Works Band** (Liverpool) – Active in 1893.

In the early days of cigarette packets, cards were inserted to stiffen the paper packs, these were originally printed with advertisements for the tobacco company, but gradually changed to portray pictures of actresses, sports stars and other popular images. Eventually most manufacturers adopted these cards and produced different sets that people could attempt to collect as they consumed the products. Some of these cigarette cards featured brass instruments, and some examples are given here.

This example is from a set of “Musical Instruments” by Duke's Cigarettes in the USA around 1898 – portraying a lady tuba player. Other brass instruments featured in that set included a bugle, cornet, coaching horn, french horn, herald's trumpet, hunting horn, trombone, as well as a selection of drums.



Musical Instruments
PACKED IN
DUKE'S CIGARETTES.

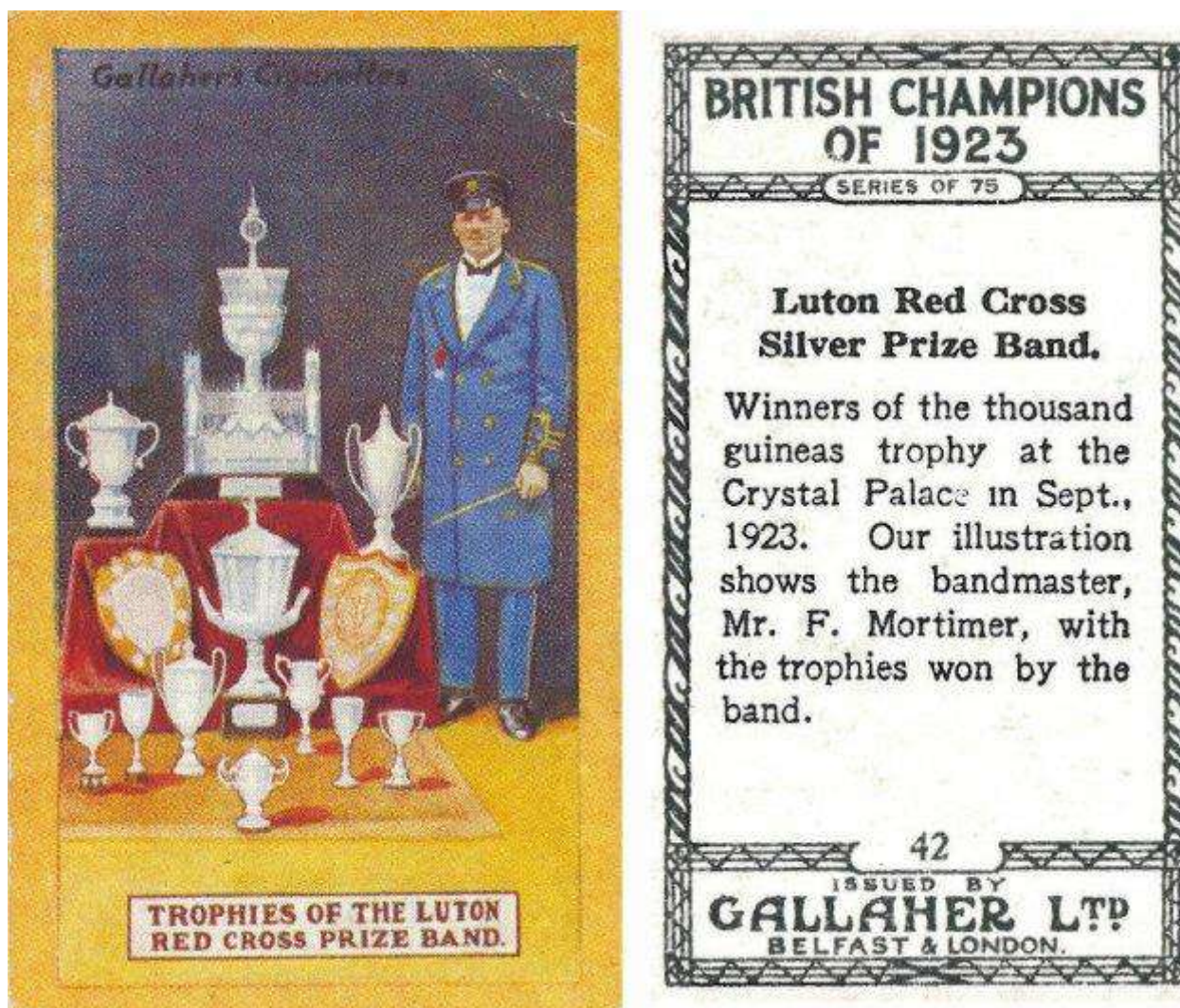
ACCORDEON	HUNTING HORN
BAGPIPE	HURDY GURDY
BANJO	JEWS HARP
BASS DRUM	KETTLE DRUM
BASS VIOL	LUTE
BASSOON	LYRE
BELLS	MANDOLIN
BONES	OBOE
BUGLE	ORGAN
CASTANETS	PANDEAN PIPES
CLARINET	PIANO
COACHING HORN	ROMAN HORN
CONCERTINA	SAXOPHONE
CORNET	SEIMSEIM
CYMBALS	SPINET
DRUM	TAM TAM
EGYPTIAN HARP	TAMBOURINE
FIFE	TRIANGLE
FLUTE	TROMBONE
FRENCH HORN	TUBA
GUITAR	TUMBLERS
HAND ORGAN	VIOLIN
HARMONICA	VIOLINCELLO
HARP	XYLOPHONE
HERALDS TRUMPET	ZITHER

MANUFACTURED BY
W. DUKE SONS & CO.
NEW YORK & DURHAM, N.C.

BEINWACHS & EITLINGER N.Y.

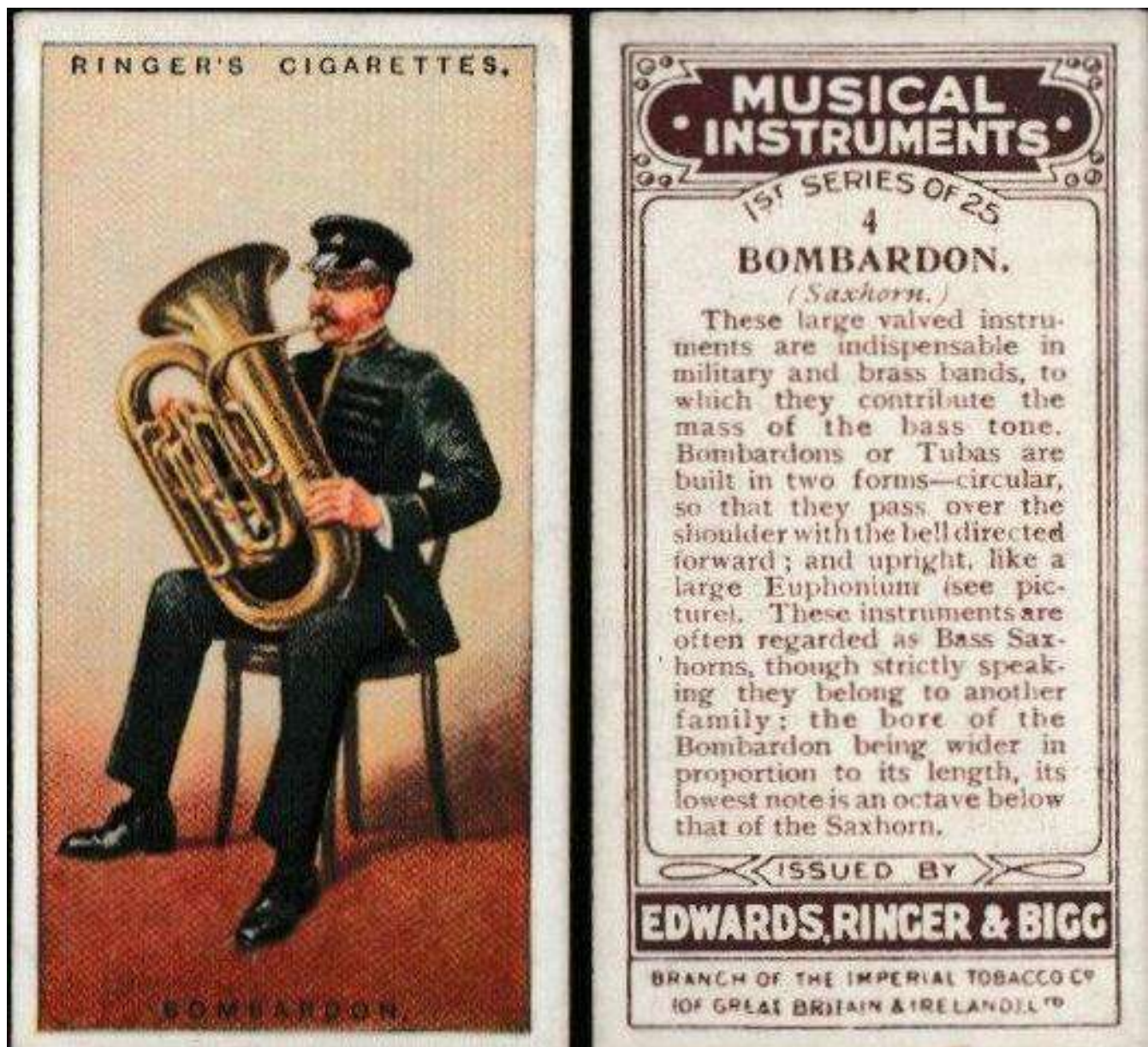


Gallaher's Tobacco Company issued a set of cards in 1923 entitled "British Champions". Among these was "Luton Red Cross Band" (number 42 of 100). "Winners of the 1000 guinea trophy at the Crystal Palace in Sept. 1923. Our illustration shows the bandmaster Mr F. Mortimer, with the trophies won by the band."

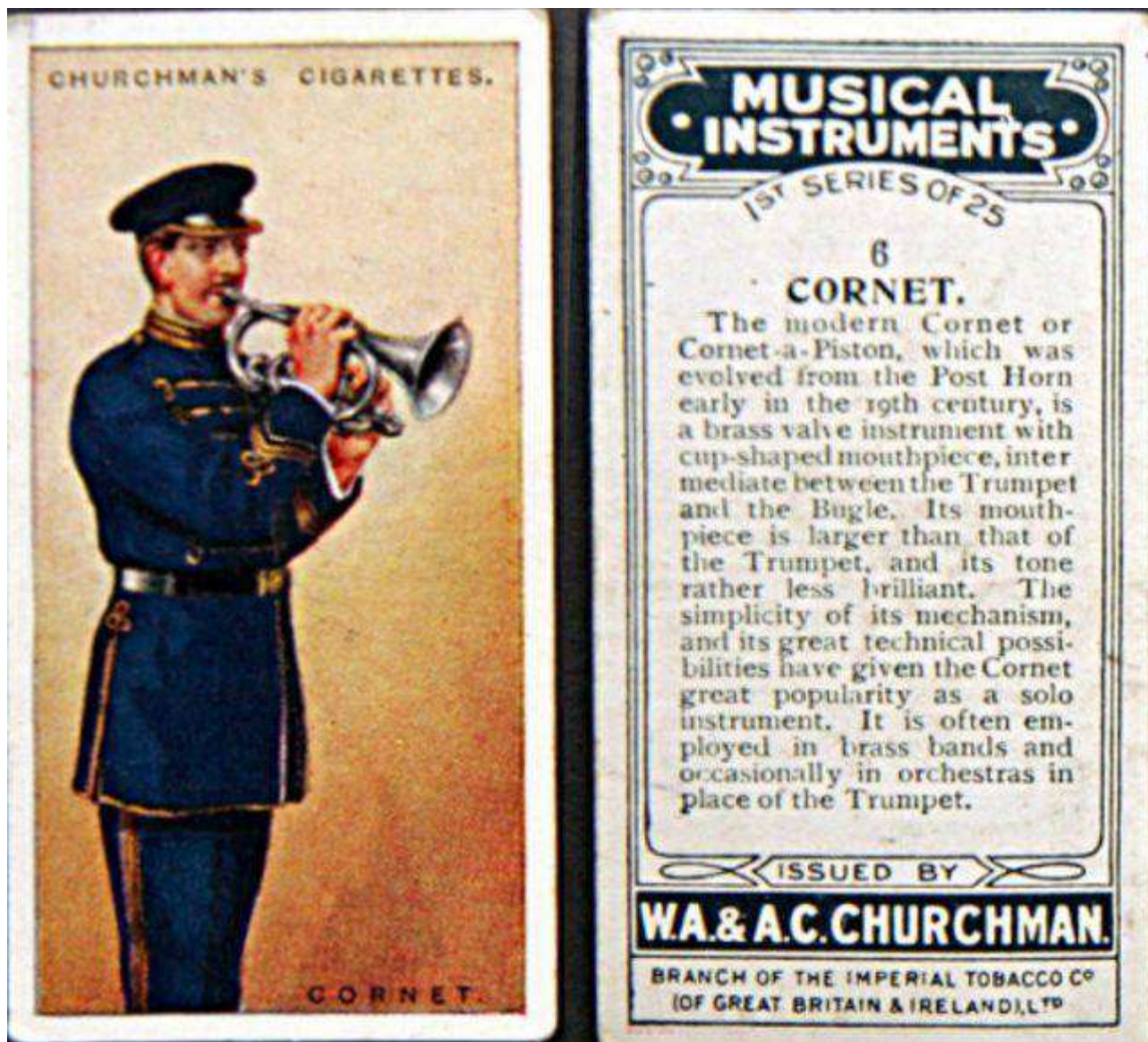


Churchman's Cigarettes (and also Edwards, Ringer & Bigg), both part of Imperial Tobacco, included the set of 25 "Musical Instruments" in 1924. Brass instruments that featured included:

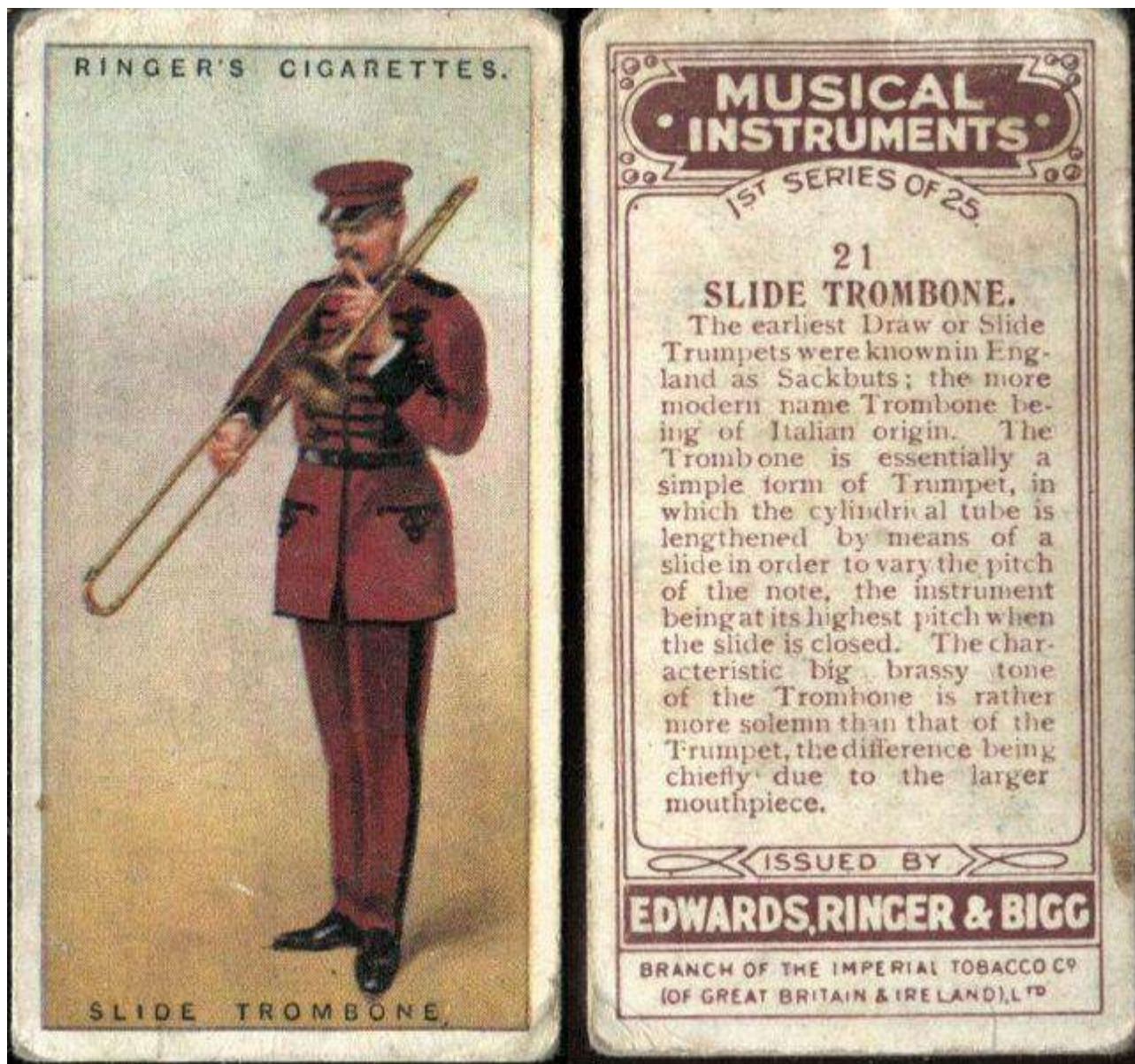
No. 4 "The Bombardon" – *"These large valved instruments are indispensable in military and brass bands, to which they contribute the mass of the bass tone. Bombardons or tubas are built in two forms – circular, so that they pass over the shoulder with the bell directed forward; and upright like a large euphonium. These instruments are often regarded as Bass Saxhorns, though strictly speaking they belong to another family; the bore of the Bombardon being wider in proportion to its length, its lowest note is an octave below that of the Saxhorn."*



No. 6 "The Cornet" – *"The modern Cornet or Cornet-à-Piston, which was evolved from the Post Horn early in the 19th century, is a brass valve instruments with cup-shaped mouthpiece, intermediate between the Trumpet and the Bugle. Its mouthpiece is larger than that of the Trumpet, and its tone rather less brilliant. The simplicity of its mechanism, and its great technical possibilities have given the Cornet great popularity as a solo instrument. It is often employed in brass bands and occasionally in orchestras in place of the Trumpet."*



No. 21 "The Slide Trombone" – *"The earliest Draw or Slide Trumpets were known in England as Sackbuts; the more modern name Trombone being of Italian origin. The Trombone is essentially a simple form of Trumpet, in which the cylindrical tube is lengthened by means of a slide in order to vary the pitch of the note, the instrument being at its highest pitch when the slide is closed. The characteristic big brassy tone of the Trombone is rather more solemn than that of the Trumpet, the difference being chiefly due to the larger mouthpiece."*



Lambert & Butler (from London) merged with Imperial Tobacco in 1901 but retained its own brand name. The "London Characters" set of cards from 1934 featured "The Cornet Player" (number 8 of 25). *"A character never lacking in London streets is the Cornet Player, who provides a type of music that draws dogs like a magnet to him. He relies chiefly upon licensed houses for his living, and can usually be recognised by his bulk. Cornet players may be divided into amateurs and professionals, the latter being readily recognised by their superiority in breathing. They receive many requests for an encore of their most popular number "Home Sweet Home" which they so regularly play. Why a bowler or hard felt hat should be part of their uniform, no one has ever been able to discover!"*

LAMBERT & BUTLER'S CIGARETTES



"London Characters"—
THE CORNET PLAYER

THIS SURFACE IS ADHESIVE. ASK YOUR TOBACCONIST FOR THE ATTRACTIVE ALBUM (PRICE ONE PENNY) SPECIALLY PREPARED TO HOLD THE COMPLETE SERIES

LONDON CHARACTERS

A SERIES OF 25

8

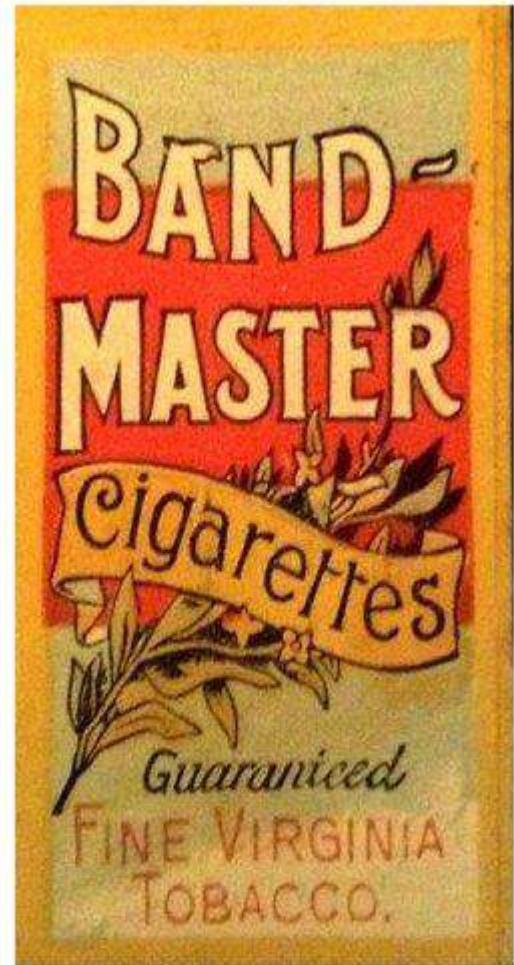
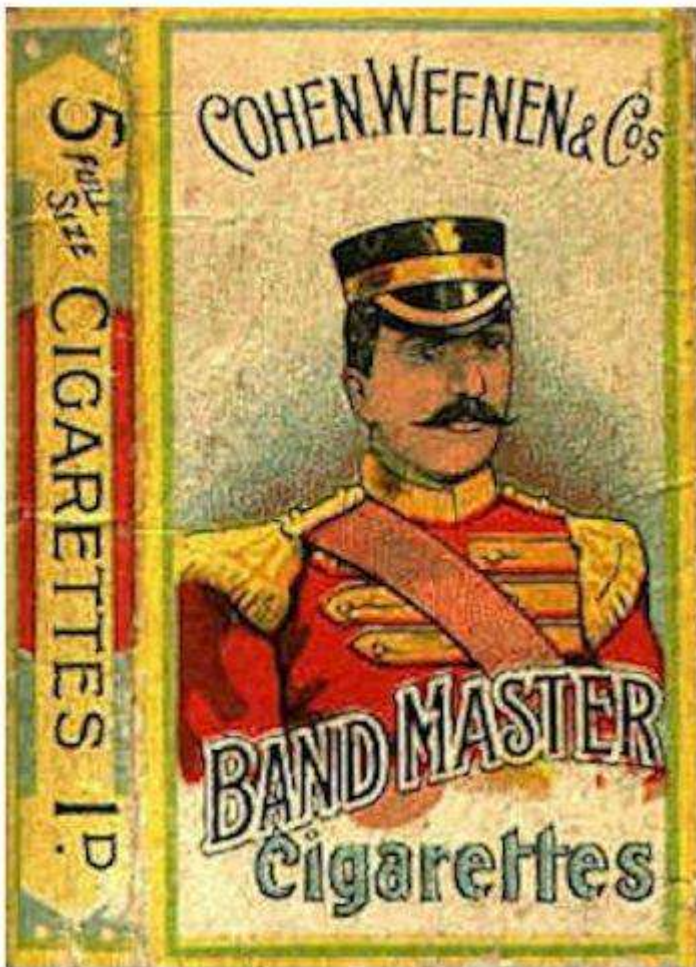
THE CORNET PLAYER

A character never lacking in London streets is the Cornet Player, who provides a type of music that draws dogs like a magnet to him. He relies chiefly upon licensed houses for his living, and can usually be recognized by his bulk. Cornet players may be divided into amateurs and professionals, the latter being readily recognized by their superiority in breathing. They receive many requests for an encore of their most popular number, "Home Sweet Home" which they so regularly play. Why a bowler or hard felt hat should be part of their uniform, no one has ever been able to discover!

LAMBERT & BUTLER

ISSUED BY THE IMPERIAL TOBACCO CO.
OF GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND, LTD.


Two companies produced cigarettes branded "Bandmaster". The first was Cohen, Weenen & Co. of London, the second Major Drapkin & Co. (also of London).




20 Bandmaster 20
CIGARETTES

Bandmaster

STRAIGHT CUT CIGARETTES



MAJOR DRAPKIN & CO LONDON
BRANCH OF
THE UNITED KINGDOM TOBACCO CO. LTD.



BANDMASTER
VIRGINIA CIGARETTES
10/4
Latest List of BONUS GIFTS

Bandmaster
STRAIGHT CUT CIGARETTES



MAJOR DRAPKIN & CO.

- And now five for twopence



BANDMASTER
CIGARETTES ARE NOW PACKED IN 2^D PACKETS

SAVE YOUR EMPTY 2^D PACKETS TWO OF THEM COUNT AS ONE COUPON TOWARDS ANY GIFT IN THE **BANDMASTER** GIFT SCHEME

**BANDMASTER
CASH BONUS SCHEME**

THE BANDMASTER WILL ALLOW YOU A CASH BONUS OF

2/-	IN EXCHANGE FOR	100 COUPONS	6/4	IN EXCHANGE FOR	300 COUPONS
4/2	"	200	8/6	"	400
10/9 IN EXCHANGE FOR 500 COUPONS					

NOT LESS THAN 100 COUPONS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR THE CASH BONUS.

SEND YOUR COUPONS TO
THE BANDMASTER, 92, MIDDLESEX STREET, LONDON, E. 1.

THESE COUPONS ARE OF THE SAME VALUE AS PAYMASTER COUPONS AND WILL BE ACCEPTED EITHER SEPARATELY OR TOGETHER WITH THE PAYMASTER COUPONS TOWARDS ANY OF THE GIFTS FEATURED IN THE PAYMASTER AND BANDMASTER GIFT BOOK.

IF YOU PREFER GIFTS FOR YOUR COUPONS, SEE OTHER SIDE.

BANDMASTER

10
for
4^D

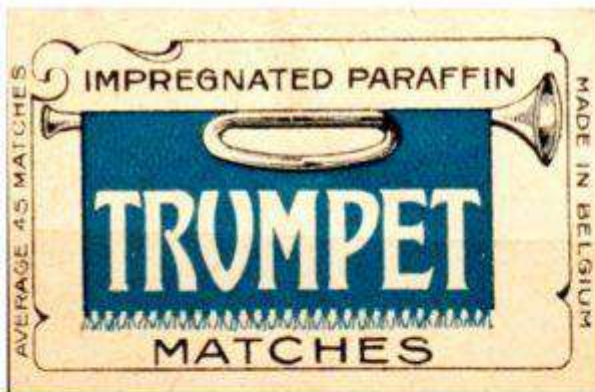
WITH
THE
BEST
GIFTS

Bandmaster
STRAIGHT CUT
CIGARETTES

John Player & Sons produced a brand of cigarettes called "Drumhead" – more military in association than "Bandmaster" perhaps, but they should have appealed to all drummers in bands!



Finally, all these tobacco products (apart from snuff) are no good without a suitable flame to light them. Here are three "trumpet" branded matches – two from Belgium and one from Sweden.



Test piece blues

October 19, 2019

Don't you just love it when the MD rolls out a new test piece for an upcoming contest – perhaps even one you've heard before and enjoyed – until you see your part. All those notes and accidentals! Never mind, let's have a go...









There again, my usual excuses for split notes and missed entries has never been a large piece of fluff in the bell – but there is always a first time!







Rabbits and antimacassars: raising money for band funds

November 6, 2019

Concert fees, contest prizes (where lucky), carol playing and busking, and sponsorship (either through corporate patronage or individuals' subscriptions) have always been the traditional main sources of income for brass bands. Many other mechanisms have been used over the years – merchandising (postcards, badges, mugs etc.), events (such as dances, balls, benefit concerts, bazaars, fetes), raffles and prize draws, more recently sponsored activities (e.g. play-a-thons, silences!). Here are few examples from the past – a larger selection of items will feature in a future paper of mine on brass band ephemera.

Hartlepool Temperance Band held two prize draws in 1895 and 1896, which featured some magnificent prizes – e.g. a 10 stone bag of flour (63.5 kg in “new money”), a woollen shirt, a gent’s felt hat, half-cwt [hundredweight] of Best Pilot Biscuits (25 kg), 1 cheese, couple of rabbits, a pair of antimacassars, a piece of cloth. All for a penny a ticket.

No. 7610 HARTLEPOOL TEMPERANCE PRIZE BAND.

GRAND CHRISTMAS PRIZE DRAWING.

ON SATURDAY, DEC. 21st, 1895.
To raise Funds towards cost of Silver-Plating the Instruments.

PRIZE.	GIVEN BY	PRIZE.	GIVEN BY
1. 10-Stone Bag Flour	Bandsmen	11. Half-Cwt. Best Pilot Biscuits	J. Foxtan & Son
2. Woollen Shirt	R. N. Storey	12. Gent's Felt Hat	S. Page
3. 2-Lbs. Tea	J. Harrison	13. Couple of Rabbits	R. Corner
4. 1 Ham	T. H. Peverell	14. Electro-plated Teapot	J. Proctor
5. Piece of Cloth	G. M. Graham	15. 1 Ham	R. H. Rowe
6. Leg of Pork	R. Horner	16. Pair of Trousers	Gray, Peverell & Co., Ltd.
7. Gent's Felt Hat	A. Charlton	17. 2-Lbs. Tea	J. F. Burch
8. Pair of Boots	E. S. Pinder	18. Pair of Pictures	J. Burn
9. 2-Lbs. Tea	Birks Bros.	19. 1 Cheese	M. Harrison
10. Leg of Mutton	T. Harbron, Junr.	20. Lady's or Gentleman's Umbrella	A. Sanderson

TICKETS, ONE PENNY EACH.

The Winning Numbers will be published in the "Northern Daily Mail," and the "Newcastle Daily Chronicle," on Monday, December 23rd, 1895.

All Prizes not claimed in 7 days will be forfeited. All Money, unsold Books and Duplicates to be sent to the Secretary, Geo. W. FORBESGILL, 87 Crooks Street, Hartlepool, not later than Monday, December 16th, 1895.

Prizes can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

No. 8008

Hartlepool Temperance Prize Band.

Grand XMAS PRIZE DRAWING

ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19th, 1896.

LIST OF PRIZES:

1—10-st. Bag of Flour
2—Gents' Felt Hat
3—Pair of Slippers
4—Leg of Pork
5—Woollen Shawl
6—Couple of Rabbits
7—1 Cheese

8—Pair of Trousers
9—Gent's Felt Hat
10—1 Ham
11—Pr. of Antimacassars
12—Electroplated Teapot
13—Woollen Shirt
14—Leg of Mutton

15—Framed Photo
16—2-lb. of Tea
17—1 Ham
18—1 Cheese
19—2-lbs of Tea
20—Piece of Cloth

TICKETS: ONE PENNY EACH.

The Winning Numbers will be published in the *Northern Daily Mail* and the *Northern Daily Guardian* on Monday, December 21st 1896. All prizes not claimed in 7 days will be forfeited.

Prizes can be obtained on application to the Secretary, G. W. Fothergill, 8, Crook Street.

E. T. ORD, Printer, Middlegate, Hartlepool.

Another raffle, in 1894, by the Newtown Cornet Band of Pennsylvania, offered a slightly better prize – that of a gold watch – but this would cost 10¢ a ticket.

Ticket No. 285

entitles the holder to one chance in

A GOLD WATCH,

to be chanced off at the fair for the benefit of the

Newtown Cornet Band,
commencing November 10th, 1894.

Chances

10 cents.

Two bazaars, or sales of goods, were held by the Mealsgate Rechabite Brass Band in 1890 and the Penmaenmawr Silver Band in 1902.



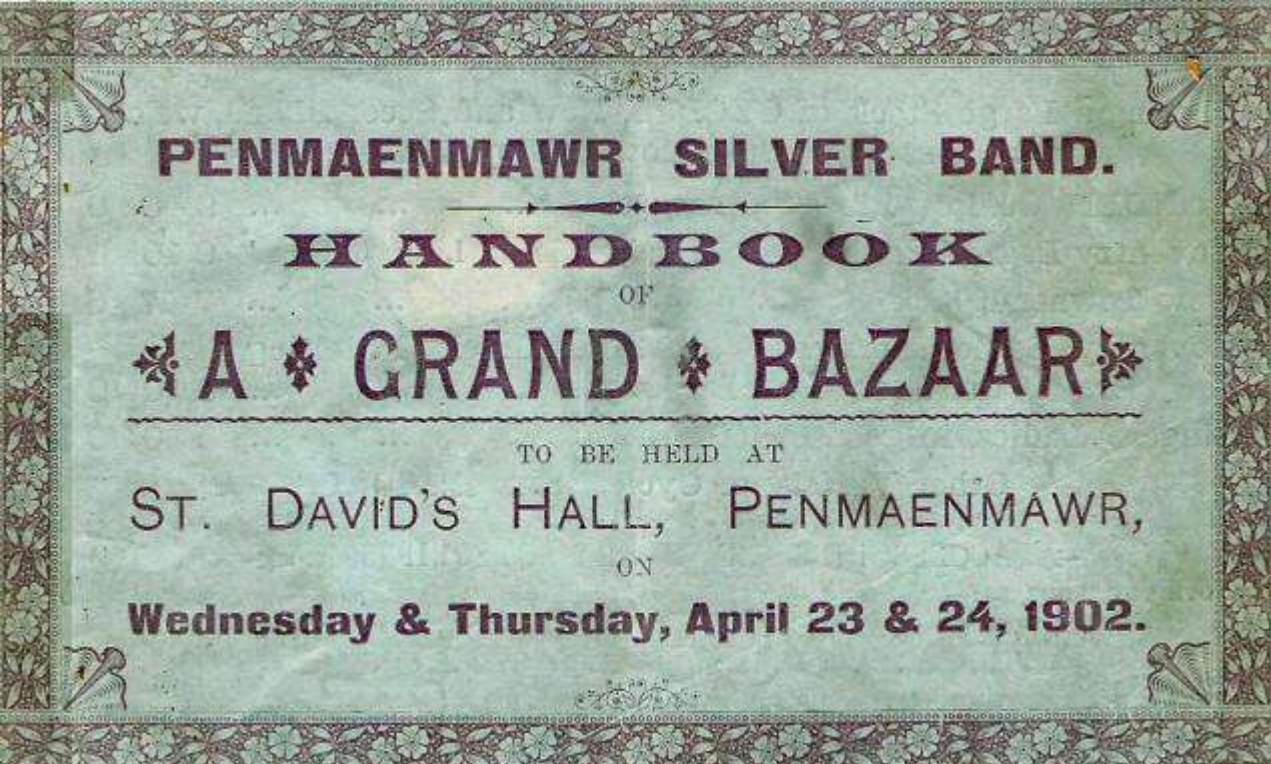
Mealsgate Rechabite Brass Band.

—*—

BAZAAR

—*—

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 19TH & 20TH, 1890.



PENMAENMAWR SILVER BAND.

—*—

HANDBOOK

OF

*** A * GRAND * BAZAAR ***

TO BE HELD AT

ST. DAVID'S HALL, PENMAENMAWR,

ON

Wednesday & Thursday, April 23 & 24, 1902.

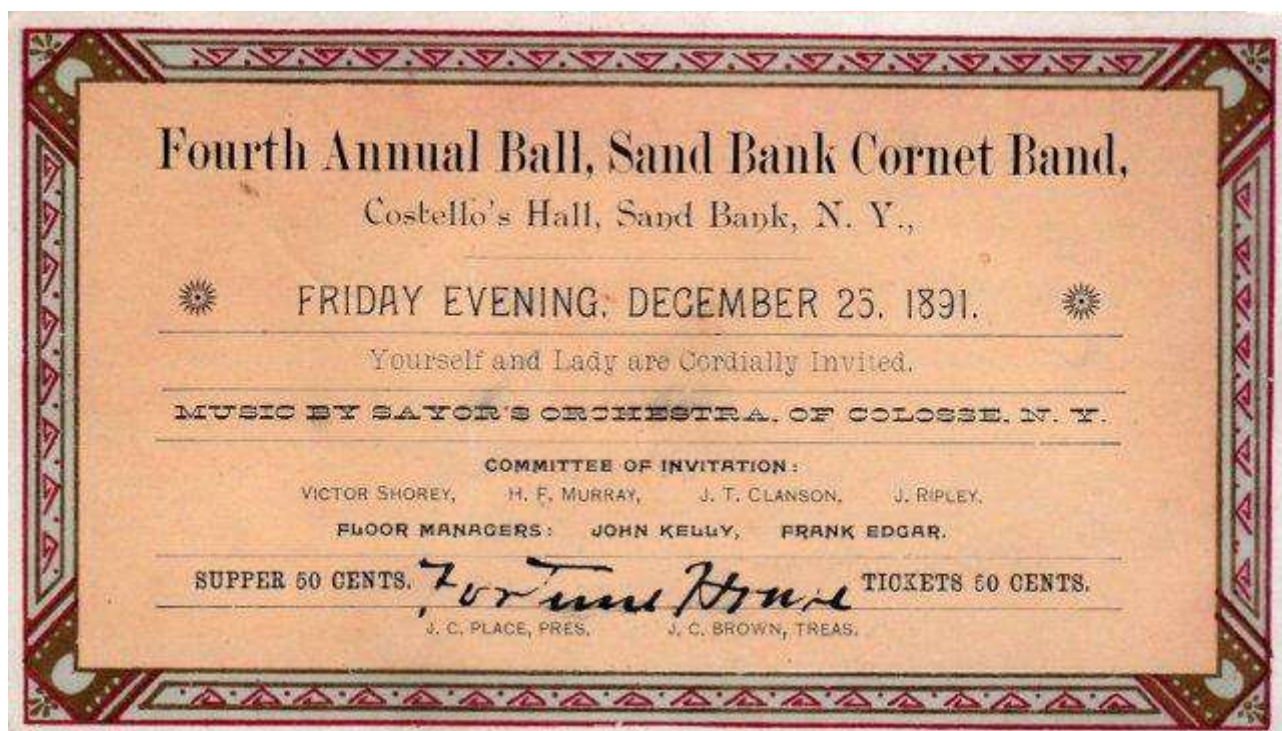
A benefit concert on behalf of the Tapanui Brass Band (New Zealand) was held on 12 April 1889 at the Athenæum Hall.



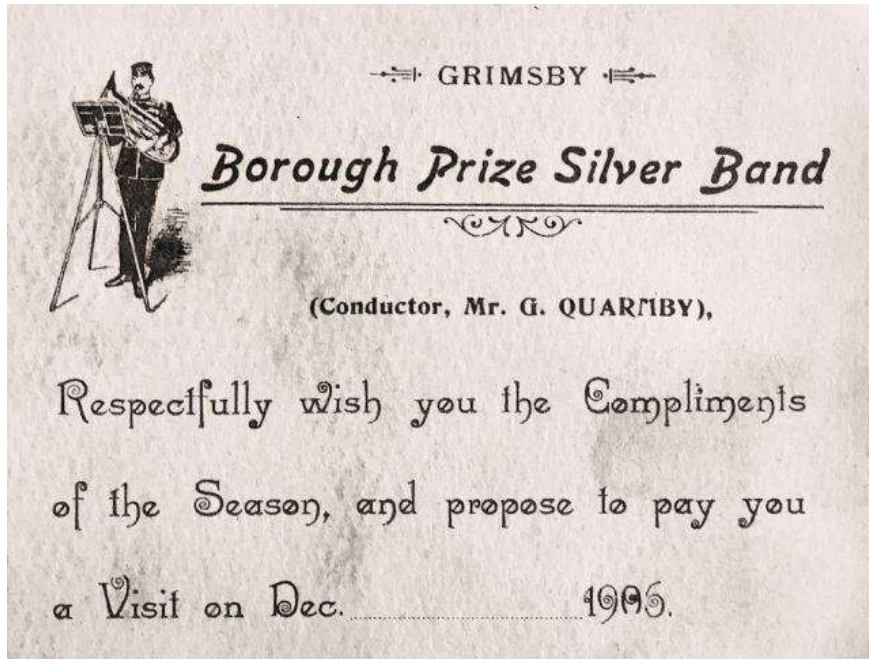
Fund-raising dances or balls feature in these following items – the Schaghticoke Brass Band (New York) held its second annual ball on 27 December 1855, while the Canal Ironworks Band held its Carnival Dance at Saltaire on 9 November 1929.



The Mandurama Brass Band (NSW, Australia) held a Grand Ball on 16 November 1906, and the Sand Bank Cornet Band (New York) held its fourth annual ball on Christmas Day, 1891 – tickets 50¢ and supper an extra 50¢!



Busking and carol playing was a key way to raise money for a band, some even announced their intentions in advance – e.g. Grimsby Borough Band's Christmas season offering in 1906.



Finally, one of the more peculiar merchandising products sold by bands is this Phul-Nana Perfume “Bouquet of Indian Flowers” on behalf of the Pendleton Old Prize Band. The card itself was perfumed, to persuade the recipient to buy the product. The perfume was launched in 1891, containing notes of bergamot, orange, neroli, geranium, tuberose, ylang-ylang, patchouli, benzoin, cedar, sandalwood, opoponax, tonka bean and vanilla. It paved the way for oriental fragrances today – and is still available...



Brass on postage stamps

January 10, 2020

How is your knowledge of brassy philately? Mogens Andresen, a Danish conductor, composer and author, has produced a website which contains an extensive history of brass instruments from ancient times to the 20th century. An additional feature is a collection of postage stamps from around the world which feature brass instruments, players and ensembles (see examples here). If you know of any such philatelic items that he does not show, I am sure he would be pleased to hear about it.



See: <https://mogensandresen.dk/history-brass-instruments/brass-on-stamps/>

As an aside – did you know that the placement of your stamp(s) (should you choose to ignore the “official” positioning) indicates certain messages? Something like the “language of flowers”, but with perforations and gum, and long before the emoji ...

THE LANGUAGE OF STAMPS.



LOTS OF LOVE.



YOURS FOR EVER.



WRITE SOON.



DO YOU LOVE ME?



I LOVE YOU TRULY.



YES.



I LOVE ANOTHER.



NO



IM FEELING LONELY.



LONGING TO MEET YOU



High and low pitch

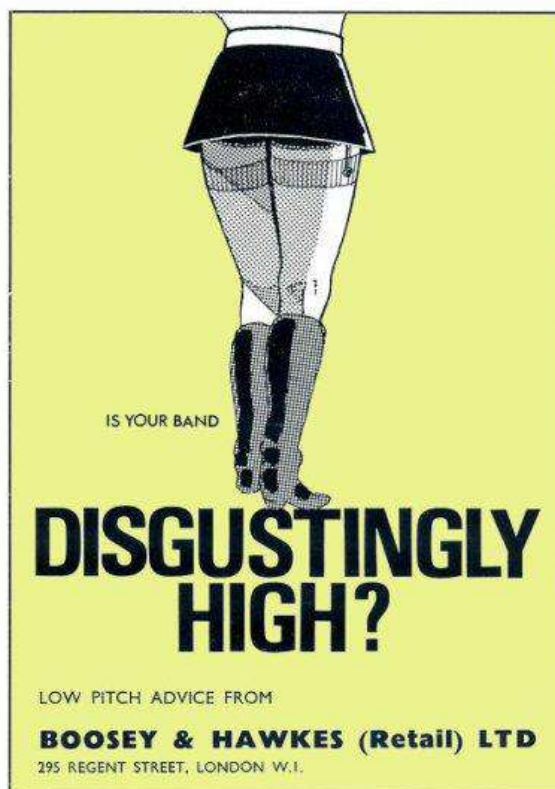
January 11, 2020

As instruments became standardised, they had to be manufactured and/or tuned to similar frequencies so that they would play in tune. It appears that in the 19th century most brass instruments played at a pitch not far from the current standard of A = 440 Hz. Levels of pitch rose during the century generally, with brass bands keeping in line with other instrumental and orchestral ensembles, arriving at the “Old Philharmonic” pitch of A = 452.5 Hz. Towards the end of the century pitch standards dropped again for orchestras, followed later by military bands. The latter adopted A = 439 Hz in 1929, and the former finally fixed on the international standard A = 440 Hz in 1939, led by Germany. It has to be said that it took many more years to get full international agreement, and the occasional country, ensemble or instrument were still at variance with the standard (either significantly up or down) in the early 1970s.

Brass bands, however, remained in high pitch, around 453 Hz until the early 1960s when there was a gradual conversion to low (standard) pitch. The decision by the brass instrument manufacturers to cease production of high pitch instruments (e.g. Besson in March 1965) accelerated this trend. The makers followed these decisions with the provision of tube and slide extensions to enable the conversion of existing high pitch instruments to low pitch. A by-product of this change was to open up the British brass band market to foreign instrument companies, who quickly started to make inroads into the brass band scene.

The full story of pitch changes, standards and the conversion of instruments is complex and includes many changes of direction and compromises. I am not aware of a “standard text” on the subject, but it is partially covered and referenced in many publications and online resources.

In 1969 Boosey and Hawkes were still trying to persuade bands to convert (hopefully by buying new instruments) – though their advert of that year might raise a few eyebrows today!



An asylum band – though not brass!

February 6, 2020

Tidying up a folder I came across these images left over from a visit to the West Yorkshire Archives. As they were not brass band related, I ignored them for the research I was undertaking, but since they had been un-archived for me I added them to my bundle.



Music in institutions was not confined to brass bands, indeed many of the orphanages operated drum & fife bands or bugle bands (being easier to learn, play and buy the instruments). String and orchestral groups were not so common, but did exist and a long-standing example is this “band” of the West Riding Pauper Lunatic Asylum, Wakefield.

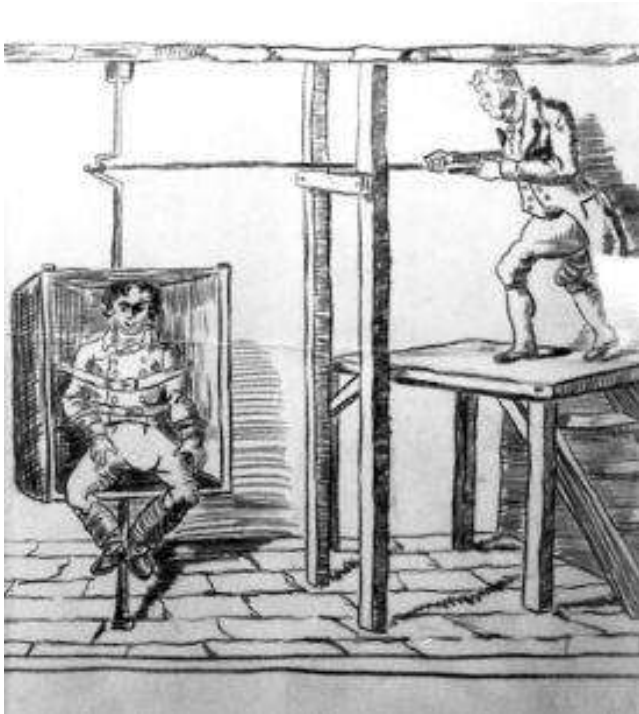


MENTAL HOSPITAL BAND. 1929.

Baldy	Rhodes	Greenfield	Adams	Baldy	Jest
Rudge	Huntington	Cartwright	Crowford	Rowley	Westwood
Hawcroft	Stephenson	Smith	Smith	Dunstone	Martha
Wilcock	Cuder	Wright	Robison	Mickelthwait	Westwood
				Westwood	Matlock



The life in these institutions was grim, especially by today's standards, and especially so in those "caring" for the disable and mentally ill – some of the treatments were barbaric at best. Much has been written and documented about these organisations, but this image of a man in a restraint chair in 1869, and an earlier drawing of the "spinning chair" treatment serve to illustrate some of what the patients had to endure.



For further information see: <http://www.wakefieldasylum.co.uk>
<http://northernlifemagazine.co.uk/tales-from-west-riding-pauper-lunatic-asylum/>

There are also many books about both the West Riding Asylum and other such institutions.

A benefit concert

February 8, 2020

Bands of the past had benefit concerts, much as we do today to a lesser extent. In those days it was usually a means to raise funds for new instruments (or at least some instruments) to start or maintain the band. There are many examples of such concerts being arranged with singers, instrumentalists, comic turns etc. and, occasionally, the band itself playing or contributing individual performances of one sort or another. Quite often the first report of the existence of a band can be seen in the concert(s) arranged to raise the initial funds. This concert, for Cheadle Village Brass Band, was to fund replacement instruments, as the band itself had originally been founded in the 1850's.

CHEADLE VILLAGE BRASS BAND.

A GRAND CONCERT,

(In aid of the Fund subscribed for the Purchase of Instruments,) consisting of

VOCAL AND INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC,

Will be given by the Members of the Band,

ON TUESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 22nd, 1868,

IN THE NATIONAL SCHOOL ROOM, CHEADLE,

Under the kind Patronage of the following Ladies, viz. :

Miss BOWER.	Mrs. GODSON.	Mrs. MOULD.
Mrs. DOUGLAS.	Mrs. HODGKINSON.	Mrs. OCCLESTON.
Mrs. ENTWISTLE.	Mrs. JOWETT.	Mrs. RIDLEY.
Mrs. FARMER.	Mrs. KENDAL.	Mrs. ROSS.
Mrs. FISHER.	Mrs. MILNE.	Mrs. TOLSON.

And other Residents in the Village.

PROGRAMME.

QUICK MARCH	" Evening Bells "	.....	BAND
SONG .....		.....	MR. AKED
PIANOFORTE SOLO .....		.....	MISS LEACH
QUICK MARCH	" Hours of Happy Childhood "	.....	BAND
DUET .....		.....	Messrs. HAMPSON and CASH
SONG .....		.....	MISS SUTCLIFFE
GALOP	" Night Bell "	.....	BAND
SONG .....		.....	MR. GIBSON

INTERVAL OF FIVE MINUTES.

SELECTIONS, from " Norma " .....	.....	BAND
SONG		MR. AKED	
PIANOFORTE DUET		The Misses LEACH	
SONG		MR. GIBSON	
SONG		MISS SUTCLIFFE	
POLKA	" Cheadle Village " (Composed by the Bandmaster for the occasion)	BAND
SONG	MR. LORD

NATIONAL ANTHEM.

Bandmaster.....Mr. McARDLE. Pianist Mr. S. LORD, Organist, Cheadle.

Doors open at Half-past Seven, Concert to commence at Eight. Carriages may be ordered at Ten.

TICKETS, Front Seats, 2s. 6d. ; Second Seats, 1s. ; Third Seats, 6d. May be had from Mrs. SUTCLIFFE ; Mr. MARSH, Stationer, and at the Post Office, Cheadle.

WILLIAM MARSH, Printer and Stationer, Cheadle.

Todmorden Old Brass Band

February 8, 2020

This band was active in 1853 through to the early 2000's, when it finally disbanded following its move away from Todmorden to Rochdale. However its memory is being kept alive by past members of the band in a Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/todmordenoldbrassband/>

Todmorden is still served by a brass band – the Todmorden Community Brass Band, which was established in 2001 following the departure of the Old Band.



Todmorden Old Brass Band c. 1930

The original Todmorden Old Band found itself in debt by £50.00 in 1868 – a large amount of money at that time – which it eventually repaid. This was not unusual with bands having to purchase instruments and music. The band's conductor was Eli Fielden in 1871, Arthur Hirst in 1879-1881. R.H. Howarth was secretary in 1879-1881. Ebor Pickersgill was vice-chairman in 1881. Pilling Greenwood and Eli Marstrand were players in 1888. President was J.S. Hodgins in 1879 (having been a playing member since 1858. Secretary was Robert Cunliffe in 1900 (having been a member of the band for 21 years).

Members of the band in 1938 were: Tom Sunderland (Committee), Ashton Greenwood, Jimmy Hawksworth, Herbert Wadsworth, Albert Higgins, John Ackroyd, Crossley Crowther, Ernest Playford, Robert Horsfall, Harry Robinson, Billy Nuttall, Harold Eastwood, John Lord, Willy Robertshaw, Wilfred Oldfield, Wilfred Crabtree, Walter Mitchell (Band Master), Frank Lawton, Leslie Bridges, Sam Marshall, Walter Duffield, Leslie Baron, Harry Turner, Harold Potentier, Greenie Speak (Committee).

A concert in August 1883 was: *Dauntless* (J. Robinson), *Forest Queen* (H. Round), *Light and Shade* (H. Round), *Iolanthe* (Sullivan), *Hours of Beauty* (H. Round), *The Roach* (E. Swift), *The Wild Rose* (J.H. Garbutt), *Reminiscences of Verdi*, *Patriotic* (J. Frost).

A concert in August 1894 was: *The Revenge* (J. Ord Hume), *Poet and Peasant* (Suppé), *Eldorado* (H. Round), *The Heavens are Telling* (Haydn), *Elixir of Love* (H. Round), *Hohenlinden* (A. Owen), *Rieselnder Strom* (K.V. Keller), *Pomona* (H. Round), *Invitation* (Eugene Rose), *Kiss in the Ring* (T.H. Wright), *Fairy Footfalls* (L. Carolan), *Theodora* (H. Round), *Valley of Ferns*, *Heroic* (I. Marsden).

Records of the band 1908-1967 are held at the West Yorkshire Archive Service, Calderdale. For further information – see: Dowling, J. – *An aspect of nineteenth century leisure: the development of the brass band with particular reference to Todmorden Old Brass Band* – a project submitted in partial fulfilment of B.A. (Hons.) degree, Manchester Polytechnic, Department of English and History, 1984.

Here are some tickets from Todmorden concerts in the early part of the 20th century:



TODMORDEN OLD BRASS BAND,
GRAND CONCERT
By the Band, assisted by other Artists, in aid of the
WIGAN DISASTER FUND,
Town Hall, Todmorden,
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th, 1908.
Gallery - - - 6d.

Todmorden Old Brass Band,
GRAND BAZAAR
AND
NATIONAL FETE
EASTER, 1910.
SATURDAY, 6d.

HIPPODROME, Todmorden.
Grand Benefit Night,
FOR TODMORDEN OLD PRIZE BAND,
WEDNESDAY Novr. 5th, 1913.
A SPLENDID PROGRAMME has been arranged for this
Night, SPECIAL ARTISTS having been engaged.
Admission Ticket to PIT, 4d.

FEB. 17th

TODMORDEN BRASS BAND.

POPULAR CONCERT,

In the TOWN HALL.

Saturday, February 17th, 1923.

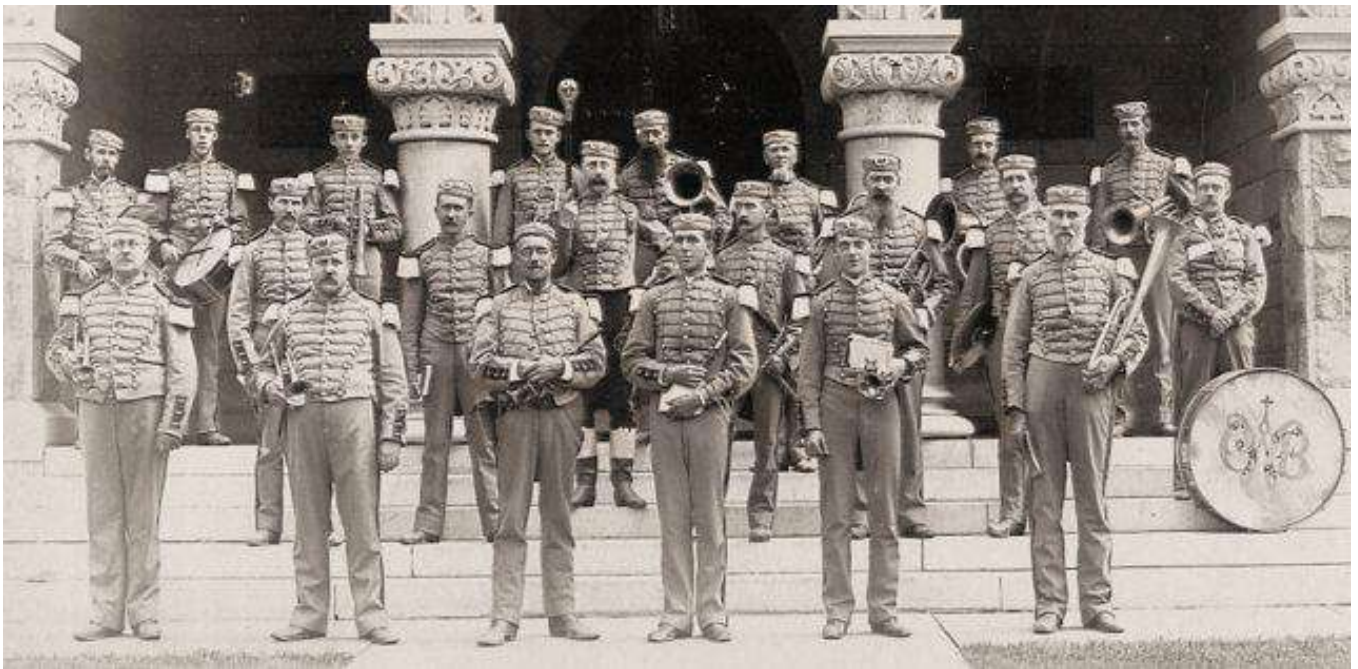
ADMISSION - - 1s. 3d.

<p style="text-align: center;">TODMORDEN OLD BRASS BAND.</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">GRAND CONCERT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">IN THE TOWN HALL,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, November 10th, 1923,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TO COMMENCE AT 7.30 P.M.</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Reserved Seat - - 1s. 6d. plus tax.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Seat No.</i> <i>Row No.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Seats booked at J. Bentley & Sons, Halifax Road.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TODMORDEN OLD BRASS BAND.</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Grand CONCERT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NOVEMBER 10TH, 1923.</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Reserved Seat - 1s. 6d. plus tax.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Seat No.</i></p> <p><i>Row No.</i></p>
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Worcester Brass Band, Massachusetts

February 16, 2020

The Worcester Cornet Band, Massachusetts, was originally founded some time before 1852. It disbanded during the Civil War when most of the band signed up with the 15th Massachusetts Regiment Band for the duration of the hostilities. Nathum P. Goddard was leader at that time. After the War, Goddard returned to Worcester and founded the Worcester Brass Band, which was still active into the 1930's. The conductor was Thomas C. Richardson in 1870-1881, with 24 players in 1878.



Worcester Cornet Band

At a band festival at Rocky Point, Rhode Island in August 1878 their contribution to the music was a march, a selection from *Norma* (Bellini), waltz *Leitartikel* (Strauss), and selection from *William Tell* (Rossini). The other bands involved were Dodworth's Band (New York), American Band (Providence), Germania Band (Boston), Medford 5th Regiment Band, and the Leominster Band.

In February 1883 it performed at a Costume and Skating Carnival in Worcester.



WORCESTER SKATING RINK,
 FEBRUARY 8, 1883,
 GRAND CARNIVAL

WORCESTER SKATING RINK.

The Management take pleasure in announcing to their Patrons and Friends that their Annual

COSTUME AND SKATING CARNIVAL

will take place on
 Thursday Evening, February 8, 1883.

Arrangements have been made with Mr. A. SLOCUM, of Providence, who will furnish an elegant line of Costumes from 50 cents to \$3.00. *No person will be admitted to the surface during the evening except in Costume. NO MASKS ALLOWED.*

GRAND ENTREE OF COSTUMES AT 8 O'CLOCK,

previous to which, from 7:30 to 8, there will be a CONCERT by the full

WORCESTER BRASS BAND,

which will furnish music during the evening.

Fancy and Burlesque Skating at 9:15.
 Mr. Slocum, the Costumer, will be at the Lincoln House Tuesday morning, February 6, and until after the Carnival.
 PRICES AS USUAL.

By request a limited number of seats have been reserved, for which coupon tickets are now on sale at the office, at 35 cents each.



Skating could be dangerous!

The band's leader was L.D. Waters in 1887-1895, and F.W. Clement in 1900-1932. Charles G. Marcy was a member in the 1890's.



Another band in the town was the Worcester City Band. It is not known what association it had with the Worcester Brass Band.



The long and short of it

February 21, 2020

Some months ago there was a brief discussion about which was the longest brass band name. I looked into my database and came up with the following top four from past and current bands:

- Alexandra Band of the Carriage and Wagon Department of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway
- Port of Hull Society's East Coast Mission and Sailor's Orphan Home and School Band
- London, Brighton and South Coast Railway Operatives Literary Society Brass Band
- National Union of Operative Boot and Shoe Rivetters and Finishers Brass Band (an earlier name for Northampton Shoe Trade Brass Band)



Hull Sailors' Orphan Home Band

As for the shortest name, there are several contenders – ff you leave off the “brass” and/or “band” then there are a number of three-letter candidates after the winner “BT”: Ark, Ash, BD1, BTM, Cam, Cwm, Ely, Eye, GEC, GUS, Hay, HFC, Hoo, Ide, Ivy, J36, KES, Lee, LGB, Moy, Old, Ore, PCA, Rye, Ton, UDI, Ury, Wem, Wye, and YBS. (not an exhaustive list). With “band” or “brass” in the name the winner is still “BT Band”.



Hoo Band – 1912

Louverne Ladies' Brass Band – fleeing France during WW1

March 10, 2020

A recent post in the Australasian Brass Bands Facebook group about Hilda Tansey, leader of the Sydney Ladies' Brass Band, led Eric Brisse, a French brass band enthusiast, to ask if there had been any French ladies' bands. The only one that I am aware of is the Louverne Ladies' Brass Band.



This was a professional band that fled France during WW1 and toured the USA with the Billy "Single" Clifford Company, which provided musical theatre entertainment. The Band was used by Billy Clifford to advertise his evening show, of which they were part, by them giving a free lunchtime concert in whatever town they were appearing in. One report states that the 14 band members were originally studying at the Louvre Seminary in Paris, before fleeing to the USA, another that they had been playing for years in France before coming to the USA.

The band, together with some other, American, ladies [Ruth Coughlin, Florence Bentley (leader), Sylvia Kelly, Grace Fields, Evolena Guthrie, Cozy Lewis, Jessie West, and Glentora Wolf] made up the Imperial Orchestra.

Some of the tour dates that the Louverne Ladies' Brass Band fulfilled as part of Billy Clifford's shows were:

- 19 September 1914 – Bristol, Tennessee
- 29 September 1914 – Staunton, Virginia
- 3 October 1914 – Greensboro, North Carolina
- 5 October 1914 – Winston-Salem, North Carolina
- 6 October 1914 – Durham, North Carolina
- 16 October 1914 – New Bern, North Carolina

- 17 October 1914 – Lumberton, North Carolina
- 2 November 1914 – Salisbury, North Carolina
- 9 November 1914 – Greenville, South Carolina
- 4 December 1914 – Lakeland, Florida
- 7 December 1914 – Orlando, Florida
- 4 January 1915 – Tuscaloosa, Alabama
- 25 January 1915 – Monroe, Louisiana
- 10 February 1915 – Pawhuska, Oklahoma
- 16 February 1915 – Chanute, Kansas
- 28 August 1915 – Billings, Montana
- 2 December 1915 – Lawton, Oklahoma
- 12 January 1916 – Demopolis, Alabama
- 4 April 1916 – York, Pennsylvania
- 7 January 1917 – Jackson, Mississippi
- 28 March 1917 – Columbus, Indiana

Also travelling with Billy Clifford, between 1913 and 1917, were the Weston Sisters (Carrie, Florence, and Juliette) who had performed as a cornet trio since around 1905 (after their father Sam Weston, a former minstrel artist, went blind).



The Nationals in 1910

March 15, 2020

Now that the British regional contests are finished, the qualifying bands will be looking towards the finals in the autumn at Cheltenham and the Royal Albert Hall. Here is the programme for the National Finals of 110 years ago, at which Fodens took the first place, but also with 6 other sections on the same day at the various venues within and outside the Crystal Palace.



See: <https://ibewbrass.files.wordpress.com/2020/03/nats1910.pdf>

Details of the bands' placings in 1910 can be found at:

<https://brassbandresults.co.uk/contests/GREAT-BRITAIN-NATIONAL-FINALS/1910/>



Band competing at the Crystal Palace in 1902

St Patrick's Day – a quiet celebration of the bands of Ireland's past

March 17, 2020

To mark St Patrick's Day, as we probably can't celebrate it as we normally would, here are a few Irish brass bands of the past, together with a few celebratory postcards – which I suspect were not produced by an Irishman!

Those wanting to find out a bit more about the bands of Ireland, whilst self-isolating or otherwise, can read the "Brass Bands of Ireland"

[https://www.academia.edu/38234853/Brass_Bands_of_Ireland - a historical directory](https://www.academia.edu/38234853/Brass_Bands_of_Ireland_-_a_historical_directory)



Sinn Fein Brass Band, 1919



Limerick Victuallers Brass Band



Kilfenora Brass Band, 1909

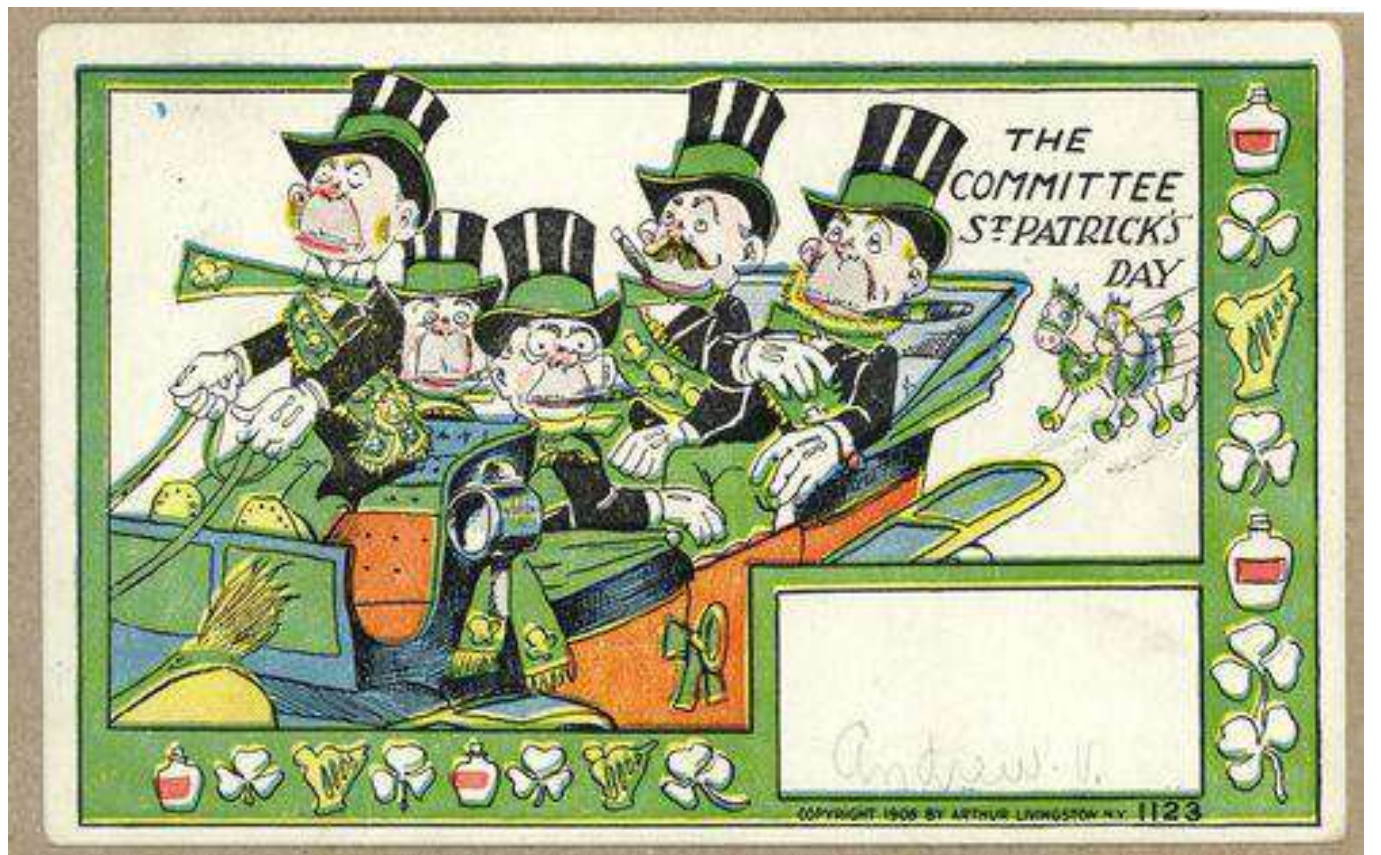


Gurteen Brass Band, County Leitrim



Dungarvan Brass Band, 1909





THE IRISH BRIGADE

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

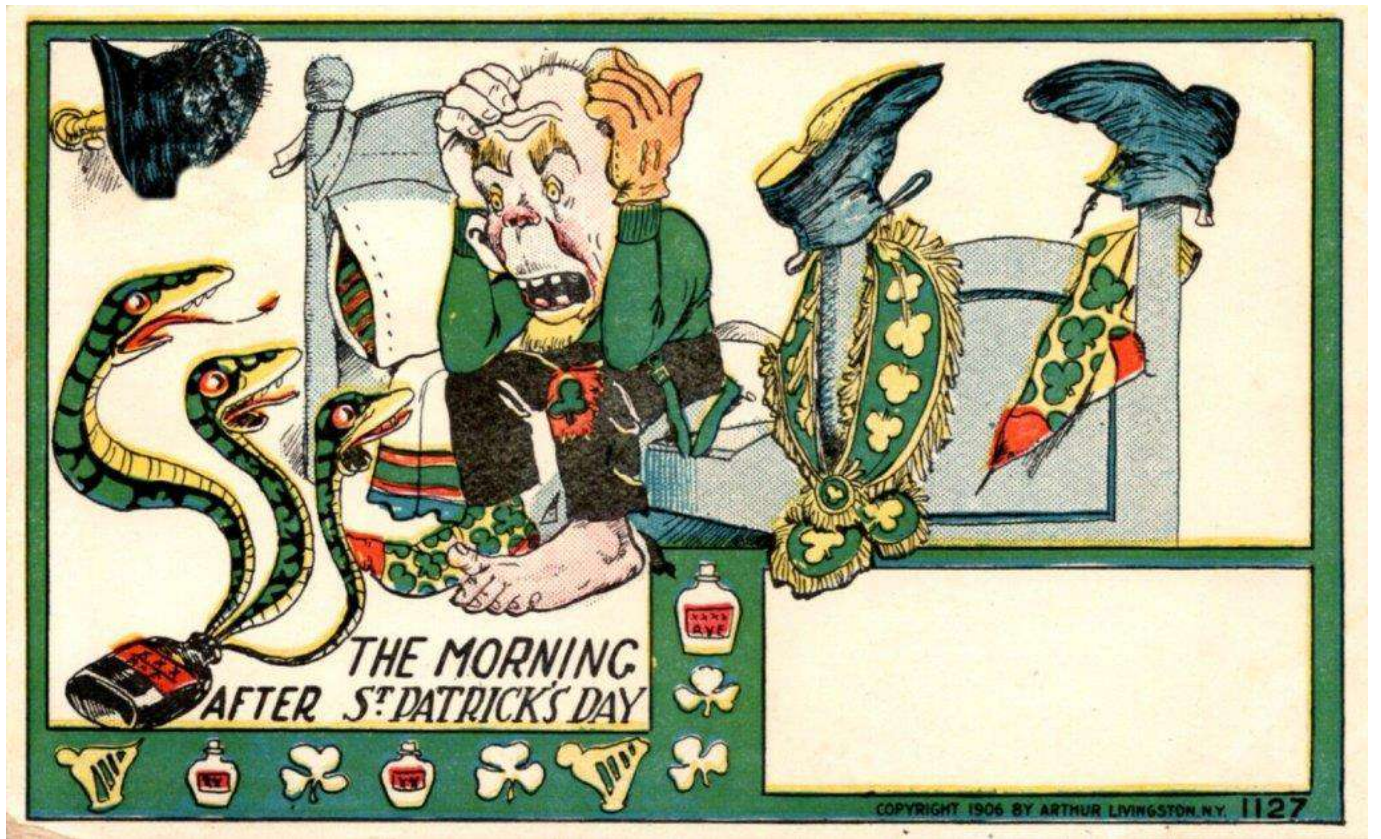
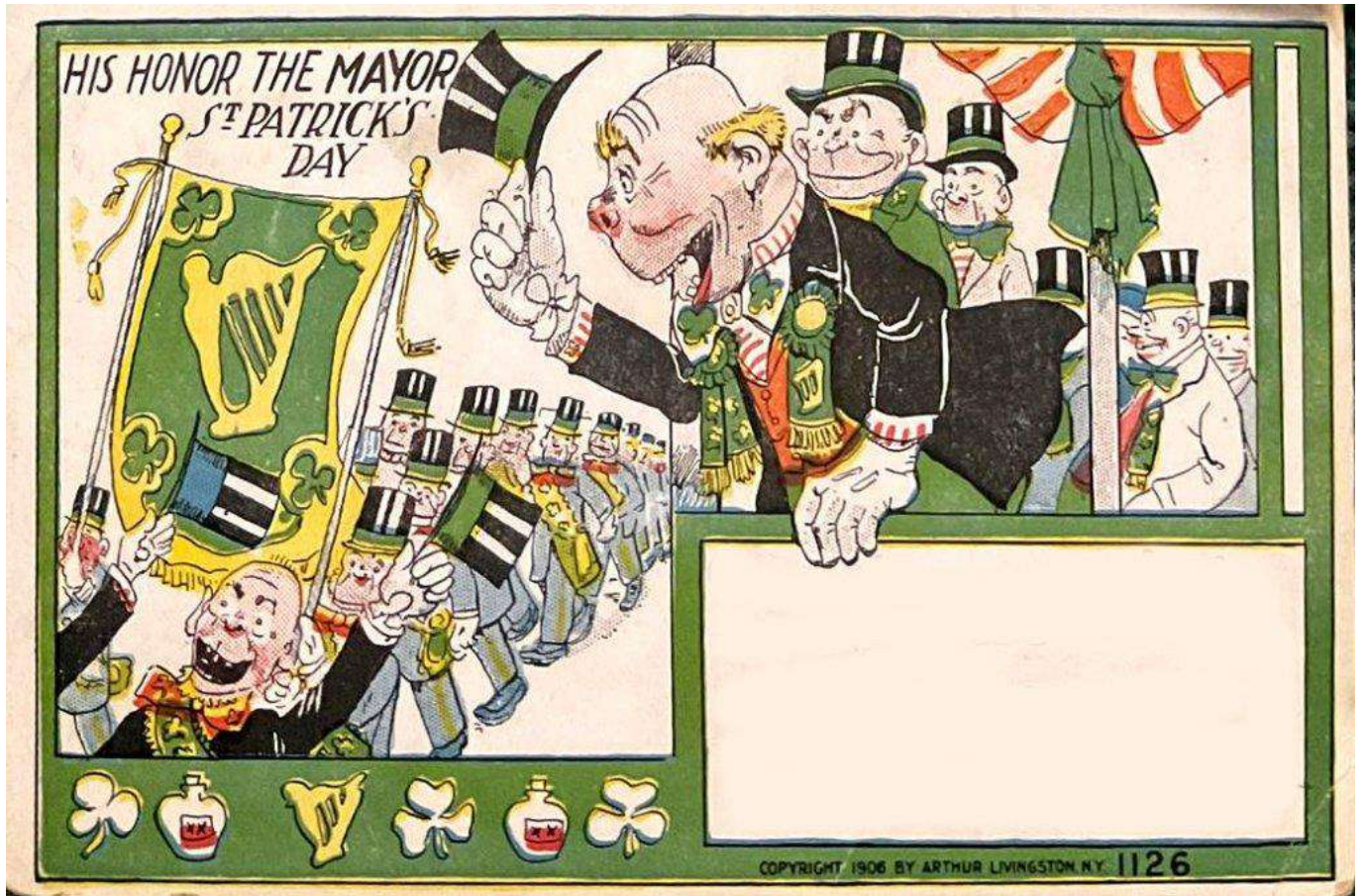


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WATCHING THE PARADE
ST. PATRICK'S DAY

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Cambridge Town Band 1927-1943

March 29, 2020

Having digitised, last year, the records of the earlier Cambridge Albion Silver Band (1921-1927), I have now completed those of the subsequent volume relating to the amalgamated Town Band. It covers the day to day details of their engagements, contest wins and losses, occasional notes on members and events elsewhere, with a selection of photographs, contest and concert programmes. The band performed well over this 17 year period under their talented conductor Robert Austin. The books (of which the second volume is in a very poor physical condition) have been offered to the current Cambridge Band (or the Cambridgeshire Archives) for long-term preservation now the digitisation and processing has been completed. Here are some sample items from the book. The full set of 36 PDF files amount to 95MB, and will be available to view/download via [IBEW](#) in the near future.



Cambridge Town Band, 1928



Borough of Cambridge

Town Council Concerts Committee

Chairman: Capt. Coun. E. A. Longley, D.C.M.

THE EIGHTH

Promenade Concert

On CHRIST'S PIECES

SUNDAY, JULY 9th, 1933

At 7.30 p.m.

CAMBRIDGE TOWN
SILVER PRIZE BAND

(Champions of the Eastern Counties)

W. S. GENTLE,
Hon. Sec. Town Council C.C.

Price Twopence

Jarrold's, Printers, Cambridge.

CAMBRIDGE BAND'S TRIUMPH Shield Won at Crystal Palace Sept 1933

At the National Band Festival held at the Crystal Palace on Saturday, at which bands from all over Britain competed for trophies in various sections, the Cambridge Town Silver Band, conducted by Mr. R. E. Austin, was awarded first prize in its section of 24 bands, thus becoming the holders of the Cassell's Challenge Shield, value 50 guineas.

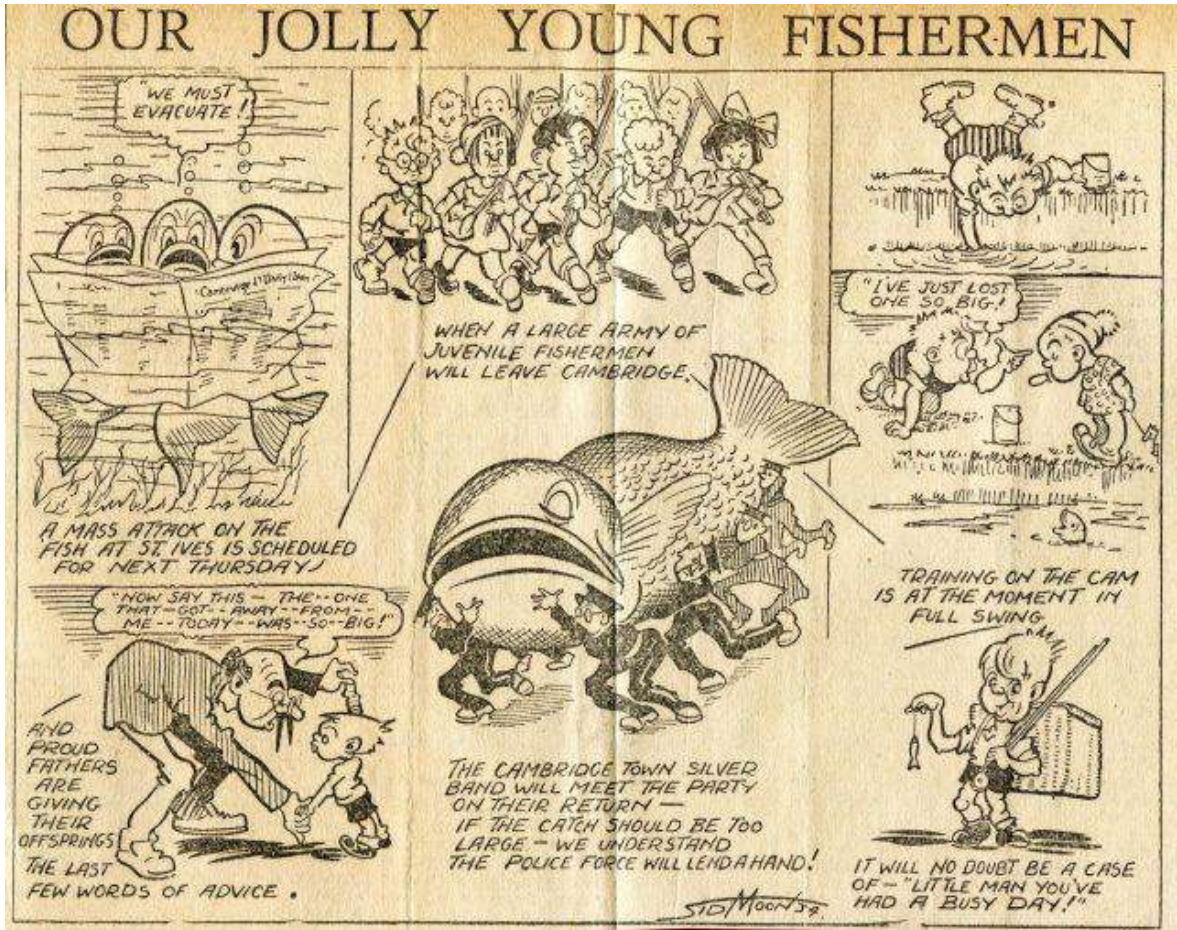


Mr. R. E. Austin.

The band was selected for this award by the adjudicators, Messrs. Rogan and W. J. Parry Jones, in front of a number of well-known colliery and works' bands, including two late championship class competitors.

This fine success at the Crystal Palace, following, as it does, upon the gaining of the Eastern Counties championship earlier in the year and a heavy list of summer engagements, concludes the most successful season in the band's history.

A public presentation of the trophy is to be arranged at an early date.



Cambridge Town Band, 1908

Monday 7th March 1927.

The Band on this date played at the 5th Popular concert given by the Bible class. There was a "full house" & the Bands items were well appreciated.

The items were :- Eileen Blannah (Waltz) Cornet solo
Little Grey Home in the West - Two Step Imperious
& Oh who will see the Towns so free" Present :-

C. Brown. A. Brown. F. Todd, J. Neek, W. J. Last, P.

Shinn, C. Fishenden, W. Benstead, A. Taylor, H. Hamman

A. W. Long. S. Brown, F. Stonebridge, G. Collins. G. Lilley

Jul Osborn, J. Barrett H. Brown. H. Holder. R. Pierson

S. Hawkes. A. Andrews F. Brown, G. Stokes, Payne

& the Bandmaster (Mrs. R. E. Austin) A. Brown

$\frac{1}{2}$ hour late.

CO-OP.'S DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS.



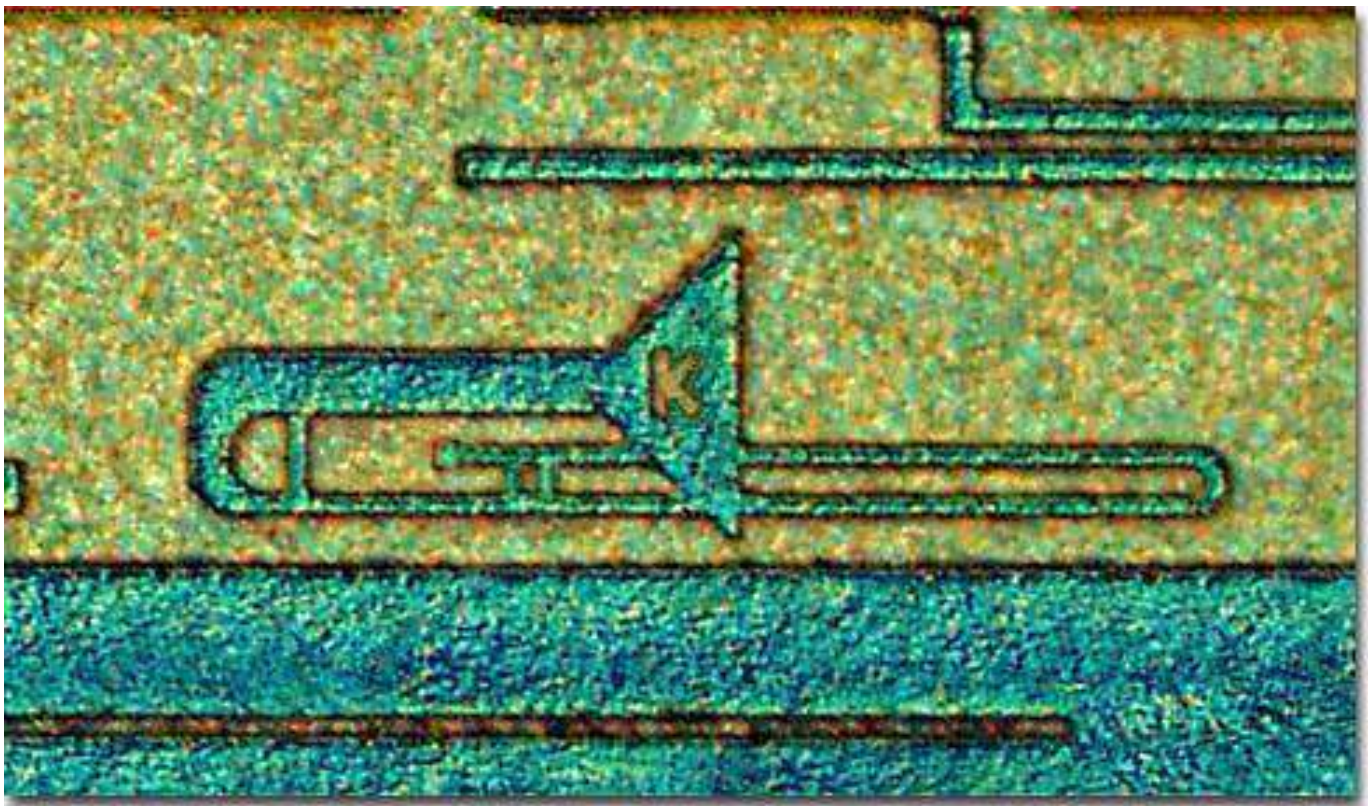
May 17th 1928.

From this photograph one can see how the band traveled the town on this occasion. Our Euphonium and double bass ^{player} can be seen well to the fore, while the smiling face of our secretary and Solo Trombone can be seen on the back seat. It was a wretched afternoon and the band had to pack up in one particularly heavy shower on Mill Rd. The band items were a mixture of marches and Fox trots. The procession dispersed on the main Bauseway at 5^o and we were all pleased to get home after a drenching.

The World's Smallest Trombone

March 29, 2020

This tiny rendition of a slide trombone was discovered near the pad ring on a 1983 vintage Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) 7990 Ethernet controller integrated circuit. The letter “K” in the trombone bell is the surname initial of Stephen Kolbacher and was created by mask designer Teresa Lester, who drew it on a section of Mylar during down time in the design. At the time, mask design was being done at AMD both on Mylar and on the newly introduced Calma GDSII Cad system because there were more designers than computer stations with the software. Steve liked the idea of the customised trombone bell so he digitised it (making some spatial modifications to ensure it was design rule clean) and placed it on at least a dozen chips between 1981 and 1987.



A couple of character sketches – literally

March 30, 2020

1. This is a sketch made of George Belton, bandmaster of Kilburn Brass Band in London, during a visit to the Ring O' Bells Inn in 1870.

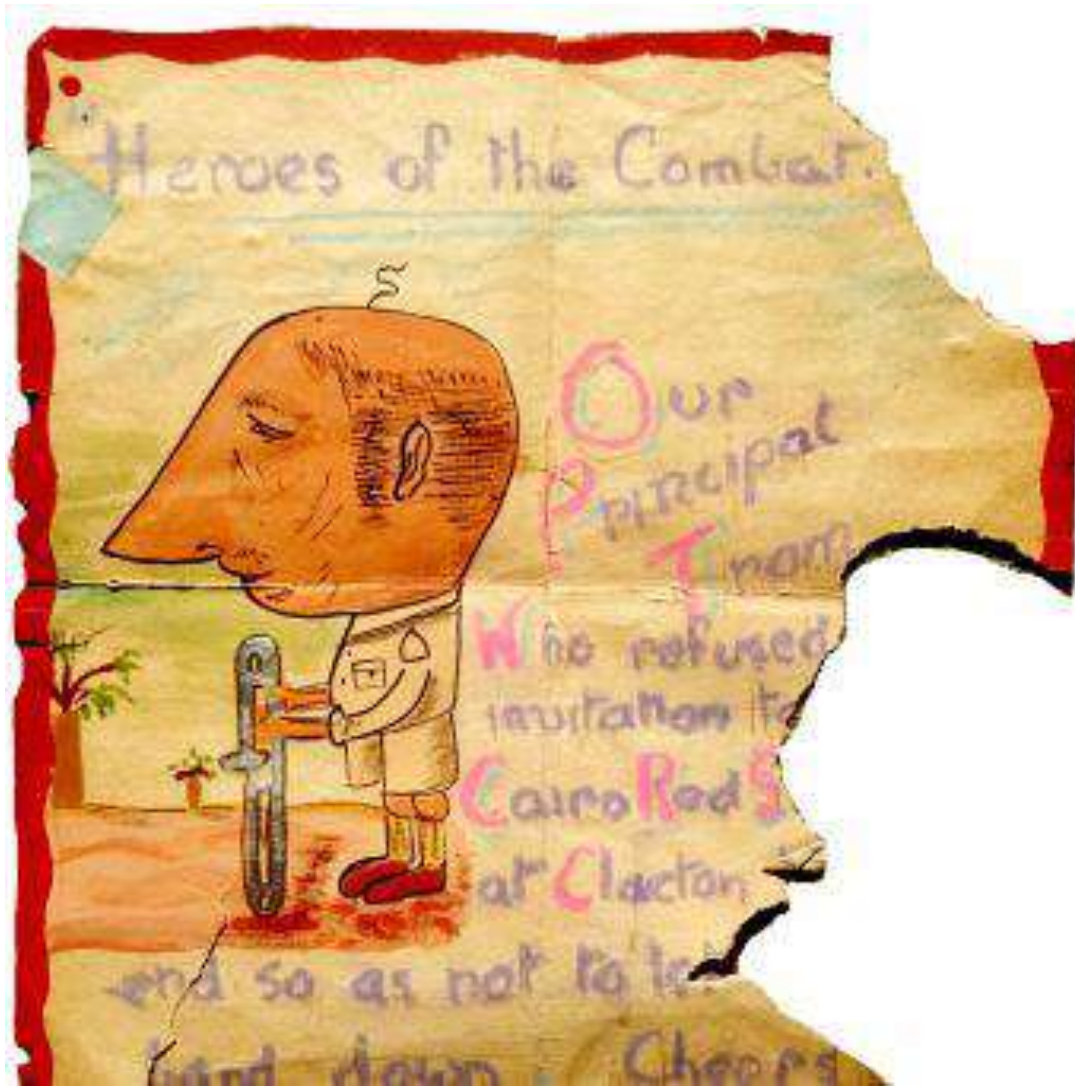
Kilburn Brass Band (Middlesex) – Active from 1868 at least. Bandmaster George Belton in 1870. The band organised a “Monstre Fete and Gala” to raise funds on 1 August 1870 at a large field adjoining Mr Bannister’s farm, Kensal Green Lane and engaged the bands of the 20th and 36th Middlesex Volunteers to provide entertainment.

They held a “Grand Vocal and Instrumental Concert” in aid of the Kilburn Dispensary at the Queen’s Arms Hotel, Kilburn on 20 October 1870. In December 1872 they felt it necessary to remind the public that they should not make any payments to the band unless it was to an official representative with a signed card.

Officers included secretary Edmund S.G. Ronchetti in 1870, Mr Biggs in 1874. Conductor M. Seaman in 1871-1873, George Belton in 1877-1879. The band folded in 1879. A successor band (Saxby and Farmer’s Brass Band) being formed in 1880 with M. Seaman as conductor.



2. As I was transferring some old copies of the Musical Progress & Mail from box files to plastic archive boxes, a folded, torn poster fell out of a 1938 bound volume (not one I’d got round to reading/extracting data from yet). It features the solo trombonist of a band “who refused ... invitation to ... Cairo Red S ... at Clacton ... and so as not to let ... band down. Cheers”. Below this (not shown here) was a hand-drawn map for a suggested route for Sunday, 10am from a location in Uttons Avenue to another in Glendale Gardens. This, together with other road names on the map, pinpointed the town as Leigh-on-Sea (which also fitted the Clacton reference). As the Glendale Garden location was the local Salvation Army the band is almost certainly the Leigh-on-Sea Salvation Army Band. I do have an image of this band, from around that period. I assume the trombonist gave up the chance to play with Cairo Red Shield SA Band, which was active during WW2, on its visit to the UK.



Leigh-on-Sea Salvation Army Band [solo trombonist on far right]

Easter, brass, bunnies & chicks

March 30, 2020



Easter cards of the past (before the usual bifold cards in envelopes of today) were usually sent as postcards, with a wide range of pictures representing some aspect of Easter – whether religious or not. As with other topics there were occasional cards which featured brass instruments, usually stylised rather than real depictions of actual instruments, and often in the hands of Easter rabbits or similar anthropomorphic devices. Here, for your Lenten delight are a selection of such cards.

The first two below depict two rabbits, one is a normal printed card, the other has some sort of fabric covering the “fur” of the rabbits on the card.



The next two use the same image but with different messages:



The following two are a mirror image of each other, with messages in German and Dutch





