



Split Notes

Volume 6

A collection of posts
from the IBEW Blog

2022-2023

<https://ibewbrass.wordpress.com>

Gavin Holman, October 2023

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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.

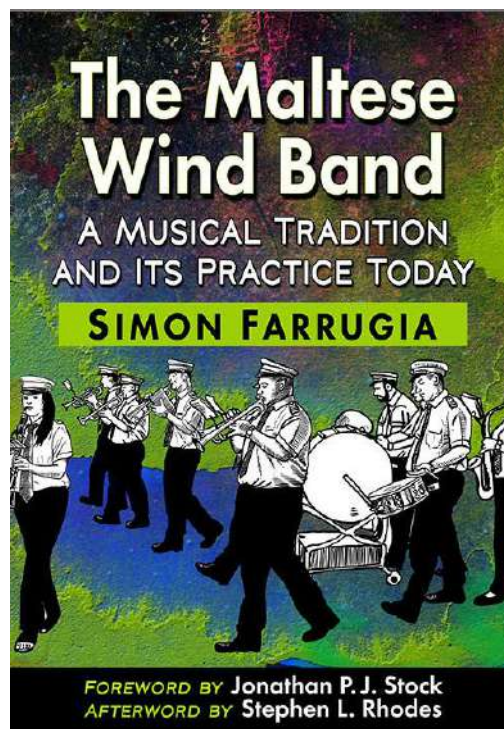
Maltese Wind Bands

October 4, 2022

Another new book on the history of bands, shortly to be published. “The Maltese Wind Band” describes the history and development of bands on the island together with their social and political values, the Maltese march, entertainment, and the recording industry.

This is an in-depth look at the musical life of Malta through the activities of its wind bands. Similar, in many ways, to other Mediterranean band traditions, Maltese bands have nonetheless a unique character, and have hitherto been largely overlooked. This book is a recommended read for anyone interested in the history of bands and their communities.

It is available to pre-order from the publisher:
<https://mcfarlandbooks.com/product/the-maltese-wind-band/>



Independent Cornet Band

October 7, 2022

This is the Independent Cornet Band, c. 1885-1890. Three of the members (Gerth & the Rosenkranzs) lived in Lomira, Wisconsin. It is assumed that the band was located somewhere around there. I have had no joy in identifying/locating the other members, but they are named as below (though the accuracy of the surnames should not be relied on – due to transcription ambiguities or simply alternative spellings).

Around this time there were other nearby bands in Theresa, Iron Ridge, Campbellsport and Horicon (as least). There was also a ladies cornet band in Fond du Lac and one in Waupun (in addition to its male band).



Independent Cornet Band - near Lomira, Wisconsin

The members of the Independent Cornet Band were:

Standing: H. Marquart, W. Ehrhardt, M. Ehrhardt, F. Pampreir, E. Birk, D. Ehrhardt
Seated: ? Berkner, G. Messner, Aug. Marquart, Herman Rosenkranz, Henry Gerth, W. Happi,
Henry Rosenkranz, Aug. Happi, Ed Ehrhardt

Three Edwardian Brass Bands

October 24, 2022

Here are three more bands of the past.

North Middlesex Silver Band – Formed around 1911 at Enfield’s famous Royal Small Arms Factory. The band wore a colourful military-style uniform, and before the Second World War enjoyed success in marching competitions and band contests, including fourth place at the National Championships. It merged with the Enfield Town Silver Prize Band in 1949, retaining the North Middlesex name until 1966, when it reverted to being the Enfield Brass Band, which is still active today.



St John's Church Army Brass Band (Carlton Hill, Brighton) – Also known as St John's Church Mission Band. Active in 1907 to WW1, founded by Captain Storey



Tytherington Brass Band (Glos) – Active in the 1890s to the late 1940s. Conductor J.E. Fidler, cornet E. Martin and euphonium Arthur Lynes in 1913. There was also the Tytherington Juniors' Brass Band – active in 1913, conductor G. Dutfield. Frank Dutfield (his son) was a cornet player in the band



Cooking with Brass

November 17, 2022

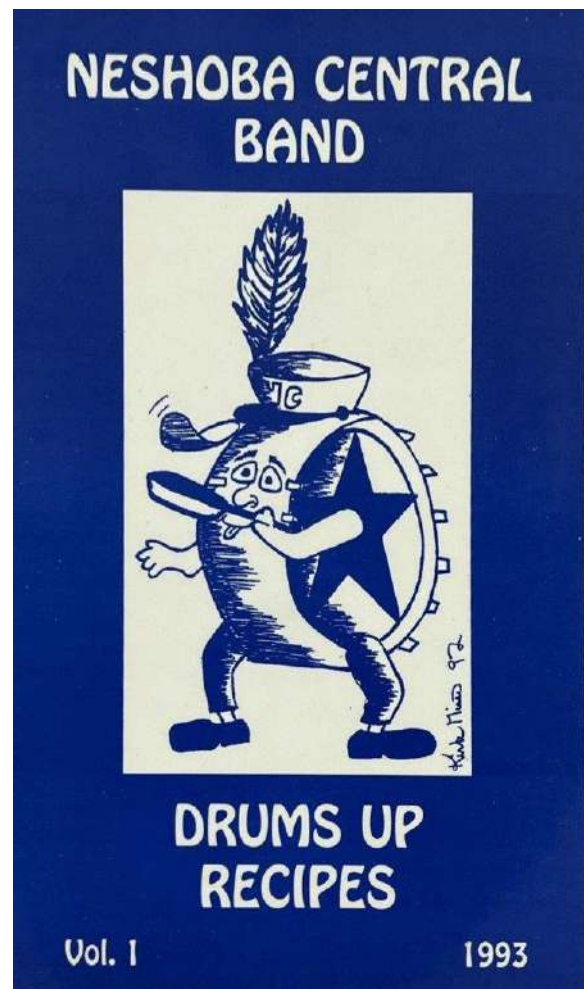
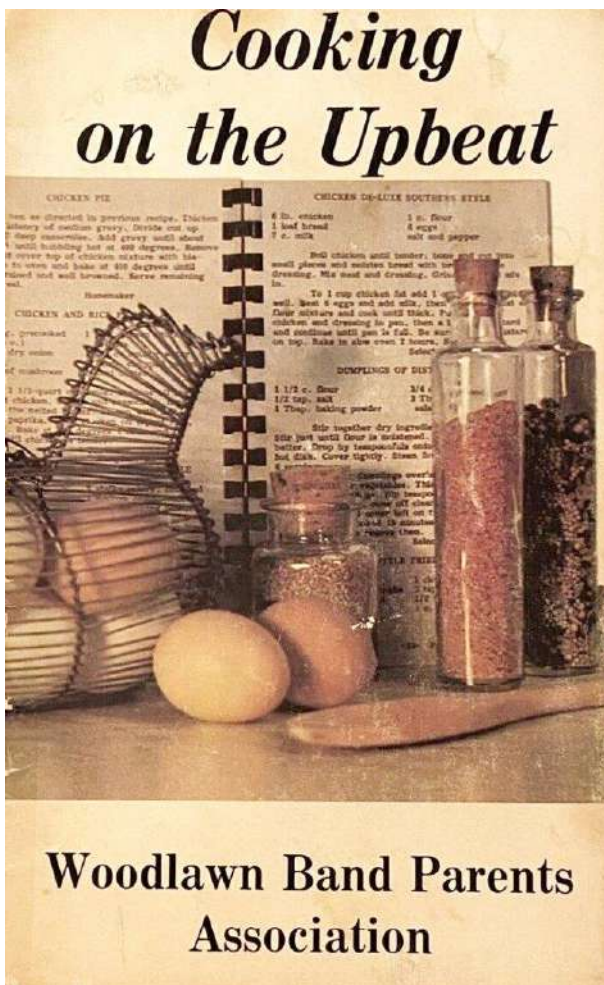
One form of raising funds is to produce a recipe book of favourites from the members and their families of an organisation, and then sell the resulting collection. This has certainly happened here in the UK, but is a much more significant endeavour in the USA. Particularly in the case of bands (and here we're talking mainly about school and college bands) where these books are common.

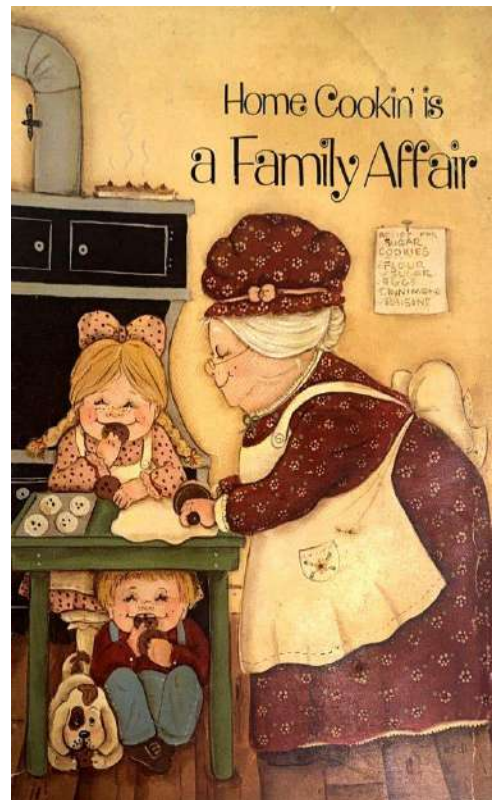
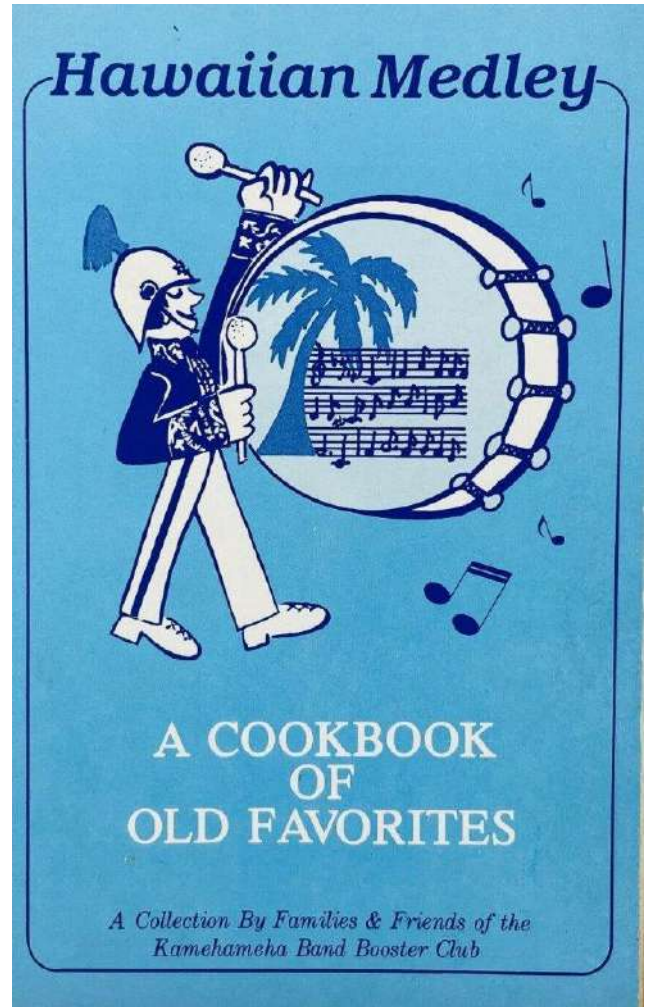
I have come across two such books from non-USA bands –

Cook Book – Mazol Temple Oriental Band, Newfoundland, Canada

Celebrity Cookbook – Marching Koalas, Hunter Region High School Band, New South Wales, Australia, 1991

The following pictures illustrate a few examples of these culinary works, together with a list of over 120 other such books that I have encountered – I am sure there are many, many more to be documented!





- *1st Division Recipes* – Overton Mustang Sweepstakes Band, Overton, TX, USA, 1994
- *A Book of Favorite Recipes* – Shikellamy Band Association, Shikellamy, PA, USA, 1985
- *A Collection of Recipes from the Happy Valley High School Warrior Band* – Elizabethton, TN, USA, 2002
- *A Medley of Recipes* – Book 2, Plymouth-Canton Marching Band Boosters, MI, USA, 1993
- *A Recipe Treat You Just Can't Beat* – Lemon-Monroe Band, Monroe, OH, USA, 1976
- *A Symphony of Chefs* – Vestavia Hills High Rebel Band, Vestavia Hills, AL, USA, 2010
- *A Symphony of Good Tastes* – Camden Rockport High School Band, Rockport, ME, USA, 1995
- *Auburndale Sr. High School Band Cookbook* – Auburndale, WI, USA, 1993
- *Band Geeks in the Kitchen* – Frazee High School Band, Frazee, MN, USA, 2011
- *Band of Knights Cookbook* – North Lincoln High School, Lincolnton, NC, USA, 2013
- *Boulder's High Traditions* – Boulder High School Band Recipe Collection, Boulder, CO, USA, 1978
- *Butter 'n Love Recipes* – Church of Daniel's Band, Beaverton, MI, USA, 1985
- *Cherry Creek Marching Band Cookbook* – Cherry, Creek, CO, USA, 1982
- *Chief's Choice II* – Marching Chiefs [Orange Bowl January 1 1974], University of Wisconsin La Crosse, WI, USA, 1974
- *Clovis High School Band Booster Cookbook* – Clovis, CA, USA, 1991
- *Cook Book* – Hartland Band Mothers, Hartland, WI, USA, 1950
- *Cook Up Something Special* – Raytown South High School Southern Regiment Marching Band, Raytown, MO, USA
- *Cookin' to the Beat, Again!* – Shelby Whippet Band, Shelby, OH, USA, 2010
- *Cookin' to the Tune of Highland Band* – Ewing, MO, USA, 1986
- *Cookin' with the Tiger Band* – Terrell Band Parents, Terrell, TX, USA, 1992
- *Cooking in the Blue Ridge* – Carroll County Cavalier Band, Hillsville, VA, USA
- *Cooking Musicians* – Uniontown Red Raider Band, Uniontown, PA, USA, 1996
- *Cooking Notes* – Jackson Band Boosters, Jackson, CA, USA, 1974
- *Cooking on the Upbeat* – Woodlawn Band Parents Association, Baton Rouge, LA, USA, 1984
- *Cooking to the Music* – Shelbyville Central High School Band, Shelbyville, TN, USA, 1994
- *Cooking with a Beat* – Mercer High School Band, Mercer, PA, USA, c. 1985
- *Cooking with Class* – Webster High School Marching Band, Webster, NY, USA, 1996
- *Cooking with Grantsburg High School Marching Band* – Grantsburg, WI, USA, 1993
- *Cooking with the Band Of Blue* – C.R. Jefferson Band Of Blue, Cedar Rapids, IA, USA, 1992
- *Cooking with the Cary High School Band* – Cary, NC, USA, 1974
- *Cooking with the Colonel* – William Fleming Band, Roanoke, VA, USA, 1989
- *Cooking with the Sparta High School Band* – Sparta, IL, USA, 1985
- *Dawg Food: A Taste of the Pride* – W.C.H.S. Band Boosters, Chatom, AL, USA, 2009
- *Eat to the Beat* – Needham B. Broughton High School Band, Raleigh, NC, USA, 2010
- *Elizabeth Forward Warrior Band Cookbook* – Elizabeth, PA, USA, 1996
- *Encore Cookbook* – Homestead High School Band Parents, Mequon, WI, USA, 2006
- *Favorite Cookie Recipes* – Glencoe Band Boosters Club, Glencoe, MN, USA
- *Favorite Falcon Recipes* – Salisbury Falcon Band Association, Allentown, PA, USA, 1980

- *Favorite Recipes Cookbook* – Deer Valley “Skyhawk” Marching Band, Glendale, AZ, USA, 1993
- *Favorite Recipes dedicated by family & friends* – Mesquite High School Mighty Maroon Band, TX, USA, 2001
- *Favorite Recipes from our Best Cooks* – Charleroi Area Band Boosters, PA, USA, 1987
- *Favorite Recipes from our Best Cooks* – North Garland High School Band Boosters, TX, USA, 1982
- *Favorite Recipes from our Best Cooks* – Women’s Missionary Prayer Band, Catalina Heights Christian Union Church, Tucson, AZ, USA, 1976
- *Favorite Recipes from Tri-County Band Boosters* – Remington, IN, USA, 1991
- *Favorite Recipes Presents Kitchen Auditions, a Cook Book, for Bands and Cheering Squads* – Southwestern Publishing House, Inc., USA, 1976. ISBN: 0871971054
- *Fiesta Bowl Festival Cookbook* – It’s a Matter of Pride, Emporia High School Spartan Marching Band, Emporia, KS, USA, 1983
- *Frazee-Vergas High School Band Cookbook* – Frazee, MN, USA, 2016
- *Gentry Band Booster Cookbook* – Gentry, AR, USA, 1989
- *Green Beret Marching Band Cookbook* – Janesville, WI, USA, 1996
- *Green Run Marching Stallions Cullinary Treasures* – Green Run High School, Virginia Beach, VA, USA, 1990
- *Hawaiian Medley: A Cookbook of Favorite Island Recipes* – Volume VI, Kamehameha Schools Band Booster Club, Hawaii, USA, 2003
- *Hawaiian Medley: A Cookbook of Favorite Island Recipes* – Volume VIII, Kamehameha Schools Band Booster Club, Hawaii, USA, 2007
- *Hawaiian Medley: A Cookbook of Old Favorites* – Volume I, Kamehameha Band Booster Club, Hawaii, USA, 1985
- *Hawaiian Medley: A Cookbook of Old Favorites* – Volume II, Kamehameha Band Booster Club, Hawaii, USA, 1986
- *Hawaiian Medley: A Cookbook of Old Favorites* – Volume III, Kamehameha Band Booster Club, Hawaii, USA, 1988
- *Hawaiian Medley: A Cookbook of Old Favorites* – Volume IV, Kamehameha Band Booster Club, Hawaii, USA, 1991
- *Hawaiian Medley: A Cookbook of Old Favorites* – Volume V, Kamehameha Band Booster Club, Hawaii, USA, 1998
- *Home Cookin’ is a Family Affair* – Tenaha Band, Tenaha, TX, USA, 1991
- *Home Cookin’* – North Rowan Band Association, Spencer, NC, USA, 1993
- *Home Made Kitchen Magic* – A.J. McMullen Band Parents Association, Markleysburg, PA, USA, 1968
- *Hubbard’s Choicest Recipes* – Hubbard Band Mothers, Hubbard, IA, USA, 1950
- *Hungry Like a Wolf* – Lake Hamilton Bands, Percy, AR, USA, 2001
- *Husky Tidbits* – North Marion High School Band Cookbook, Farmington, WV, USA, 1988
- *Kitchen Klassics* – Herman-Norcross Band Boosters, Herman, MN, USA
- *Kitchen Notes* – W.M.H.S. Band, 1995
- *Longview’s Recipe Roundup* – Lobo Band Booster Club, Longview, TX, 1954
- *Marching Cats Recipes* – Littlefield High School Band, Littlefield, TX, USA, 1997
- *Marching Thru’ the Kitchen* – Lakeland Marching Viking Band Boosters, MO, USA
- *Masterpieces from our Kitchen* – Bullard Bands, Bullard, TX, USA, 2003
- *Masterpieces from our Kitchen* – Durham Band Families, Durham, TX, USA, 1974
- *Masterpieces from our Kitchen* – Soddy Daisy High School Band, Soddy-Daisy, TN, USA, 1999

- *Masterpieces from our Kitchen* – Winston Churchill Charger Band, San Antonio, TX, USA, 2005
- *MH Band Booster Cookbook* – Mountain Home, AR, USA, 2009
- *Music for the Mouth Cookbook* – Green County Band, KY, USA, 1995
- *Music for your Mouth* – Heritage High School Band Cookbook, Conyers, GA, USA, 1999
- *Musicali Chef* – Arlington Heights High School Band, Fort Worth, TX, USA, 2008
- *Neshoba Central Band: Drums Up Recipes* – Volume 1, Neshoba, MS, USA, 1993
- *Notable Recipes* – Brookwood Bronco Marching Band, Snellville, GA, USA, 1995
- *Note Worthy Recipes* – Waverly-Shell Rock High School Band, Waverly, IA, USA, 2008
- *Notes from our Kitchen Cookbook* – Walton Band & Orchetra Parents, Marietta, GA, USA, 1996
- *Notes from Our Kitchen* – Moeller Crusader Band Boosters, Cincinnati, OH, USA
- *Notes to Cook by* – North Rowan Band Association, Spencer, NC, USA, 1984
- *Noteworthy Cooking* – Pelham High School Band, Pelham, AL, USA, 1994
- *Noteworthy Recipes* – Alton Band & Orchestra Builders, Alton, IL, USA, 1992
- *O'Fallon Band Booster Secret Recipes* – O'Fallon, IL, USA
- *Our Favorite Recipes* – Sheffield High Band Boosters, Sheffield, AL, USA
- *Panther's Delight* – Mountain Grove Band Aides, MO, USA, 1977
- *Patron's Pantry Cook Book* – Patriot Marching Band, Appleton High School East, Appleton, WI, USA, 1976
- *Paving the Road to Carnegie Hall: Big Spring High School Cookbook* – Big Spring, TX, USA, 2005
- *Polka Menu Recipes Old and New* – Good Times Band Club, Manchester, CT, USA, 1987
- *Pope Band Cookbook* – Alan C. Pope High School Band, Marietta, GA, USA, 2003
- *Pride of Pittsburg Pirate Band Cookbook* – Pittsburg, TX, USA, 1996
- *Prize Recipes of Harrisburg* – Central Dauphin Band Boosters, Harrisburg, PA, USA, 1982
- *Prospect Band Boosters Cookbook* – Prospect, IL, USA, 1981
- *Recipe Roundup* – Sioux Falls Roosevelt Rough Rider Band, Sioux Falls, SD, USA, 1995
- *Recipes on Parade* – Plainfield Band Boosters, Plainfield, IL, USA, 1988
- *Recipes to Remember* – Marching Band of Oakland Community High School, Oakland, CA, USA
- *Recipes to Remember* – Sequim High School Band Boosters, Sequim, WA, USA, 2002
- *Recipes with Rhythm* – New Athens Junior & Senior Band, New Athens, IL, USA, 2005
- *Ridgeroad Junior High Band Cookbook* – Charlotte, NC, USA, 1983
- *Rosy Recipes* – Minot State College Beaver Marching Band, Minot, ND, USA, 1968
- *Sharing Our Best* – Raton Band Boosters, Raton, NM, USA, 1992
- *Sharing Recipes* – Central High School Golden Lion Marching Band, Carrollton, GA, USA, 1987
- *Sharing Recipes* – Hughes Spring Mustang Band Boosters, Hughes Spring, TX, USA, 1988
- *Sharing Recipes* – Tecumseh High School Band Boosters, Tecumseh, MI, USA, 1986
- *Silver Spirit Specialities* – Dutch Fork High School Silver Spirit Marching Band, Irmo, SC, USA, 2002
- *Simley Band... We're Cookin'!* – Inner Grove Heights, MN, USA, 1984
- *Snack-Time Symphony* – Morning Sun Band Mothers, Morning Sun, IA, USA, 1956

- *Sounds Delicious* – Texas A&M Aggie Band, TX, USA, 1994
- *The Field Royal Guardsmen Cook Book* – Brimfield, OH, USA, 1984
- *The GRC Band Company Front Cookbook* – [George Rogers Clark], Winchester, KY, USA, 1978
- *The Melody of Food* – McEachern High School Marching Band, Powder Springs, GA, USA, 2000
- *The Pride of Parkway West Marching Band Cookboo* – Saint Louis, MO, USA, 1992
- *The Ram Cooks* – Elsik Ram Band Boosters, Houston, TX, USA, 1981
- *Treasured Recipes from the Ft. McCoy Band Boosters* – Fort McCoy, FL, USA, 1994
- *Treasured Recipes from the Marching Pirates* – Brunswick High School Band, Brunswick, GA, USA
- *Treasured Recipes* – Central Davidson Band Boosters, Lexington, NC, USA, 1987
- *Trouble Free Treble Chef* – Grainger County Band Boosters, Rutledge, TN, USA, 2013
- *We're Really Cookin'!* – Senatobia Warrior Band, Senatobia, MS, USA, 1978
- *West Geuaga Band Aides Cookbook* – Chesterland, OH, USA, 1979
- *West Iredell Band of Warriors Favorite Recipes* – Statesville, NC, USA, 1984
- *What's Cookin'? In Bulldog Territory* – Zephyrhills Band Boosters, FL, USA, 1977
- *What's Cookin'?* – Farwell Band Boosters, Farwell, TX, USA, 1977
- *Wildcat Band Cookbook* – Scottsboro, AL, USA
- *Wildcat Bites* – Great Bridge Band Parent Association, Chesapeake, VA, USA, 2012
- *Wolverine Cuisine: Mighty Wolverine Sound* – [Wolverine Band Booster Association, Wellington, FL] – Morris Press Cookbooks, USA, 2009

Mirror, Mirror – two faces of the Norwich Co-op Band

November 27, 2022

On Saturday 27th September 1913, the National Brass Band Championship Contests were held at the Crystal Palace. These consisted of six brass band sections, a military band section, a reed band section, and a boys' band section. The Norwich Co-operative Prize Band, entered the Reed Band contest – although it could also have competed in the Military Band section. They managed to obtain 4th place against their opponents.

As was, as still is, common, a photograph of the band was taken at the contest to record the event. Such pictures were often turned into postcards for promotional material for the bands in the early 20th century. What is more unusual in this case is the fact that two sets of postcards were produced, one being a mirror image of the other.



The original 'correct' photograph



The mirror version

There are various examples of 'altered' band photographs from this period, with players added or removed, but this is the first known one where a published mirror image has been produced.

The results of the two 'non-brass' contests at the Crystal Palace in 1913 were:

Military Band Section: 1. 5th Battalion The Buffs; 2. Hanney's Military; 3. Reading Temperance; 4. 6th Battalion Welsh Regiment

Reed Band Section: 1. Birmingham Friends' Institute; 2. Kidderminster Military ;3. 5th Essex; 4. Norwich Co-operative Society Prize Band

A Polka-Dot Ladies' Band

January 30, 2023

This photograph dates from around 1910, and was taken by the photographer Chris Wilson, the Marina Studio, Lowestoft.



The ladies have a variety of instruments, some are clearly kazoo/zobo-like and others (such as the tenor horn, bassoon and trombone) are more 'standard' instruments. There is no established or visiting band to Lowestoft or its area that fits these fine ladies during this time.

It is most likely that this was a group that was formed for a particular occasion, a fete or carnival, rather than a touring ensemble. However their outfits clearly match each other quite closely, at least on the surface – looking closely you can see some variation in footwear and the dresses under the outer smocks.

It would be wonderful to be able to identify this group and the occasion they performed at.

Harold Price - Royal Engineers Band Sergeant

February 4, 2023

Harold Price was born on 19th May 1879, in Tunbridge Wells, Kent, to Eli Price, a tailor, and Frances (née Roberts). His sister, Eveline, was a music teacher in 1891, and may have taught him to play the cornet. He joined the army in the Royal Engineers, playing cornet in the Band of the Royal Engineers.

Photo, right, Harold Price in 1897, aged 18

The 1901 census lists him visiting the Miller family at 44 Paget Street, New Brompton – he was noted as an “Army musician, R.E.”

He married Adelaide Florence Danton Weymouth (1887-1966) in July 1904, with whom he had eight children. In 1911, still listed as an Army Musician, the family lived at 209 Gillingham Road, Gillingham. They were still living there in 1939, by which time Harold had retired as Band Sergeant from the R.E. He died in Chatham in 1969.



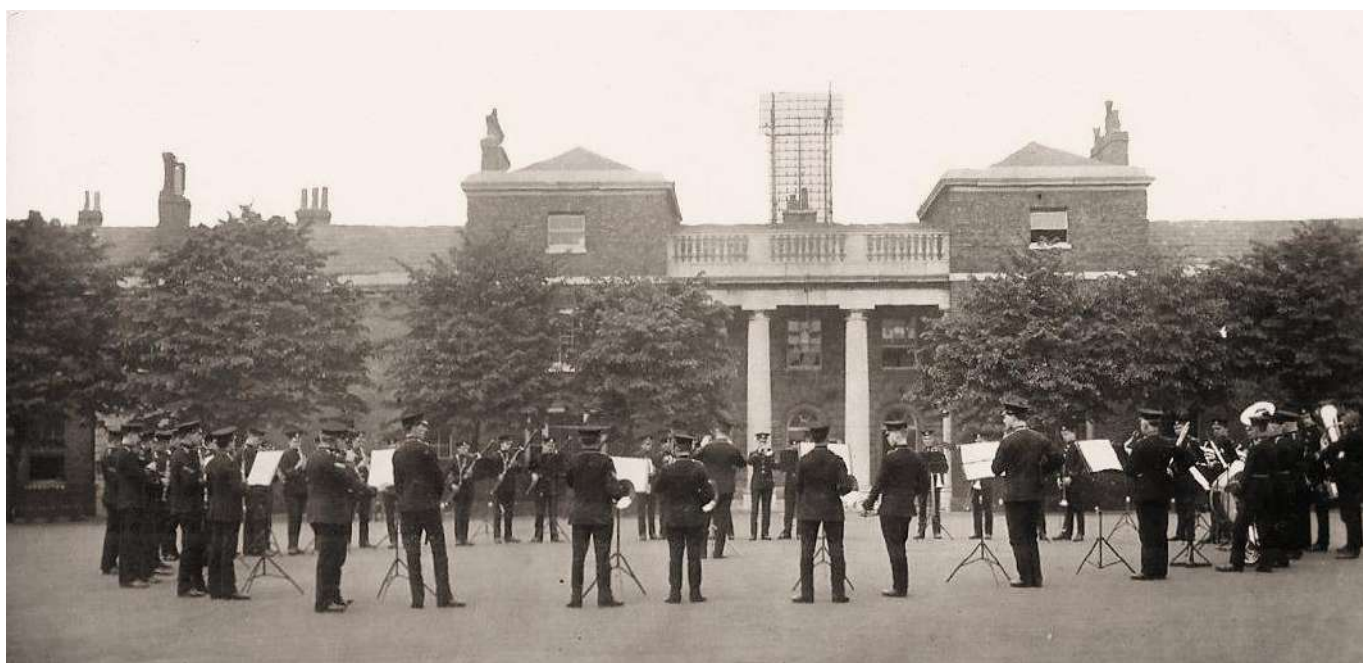
Harold Price in 1939

The following are photographs of the Royal Engineers Band from the time when Harold Price was serving with them.



R.E. Band, Gillingham

Royal Engineers' Band at Gillingham, Kent



Royal Engineers' Band at Chatham, 1905



Royal Engineers' Band at Woolwich, 1916



Royal Engineers' Band at Margate Jetty, 1906

Lowestoft Jubilee Sports Contest 1887

March 23, 2023

Lowestoft, together with most communities in the country, celebrated the golden jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1887. This photograph shows the Orange Battalion Brass Band of the town, conductor G. Dike, displaying a board announcing their first place in the band contest associated with the town's Jubilee Sports.



Three other bands competed in the contest – the Lowestoft Blue Ribbon Army Brass Band, the Artillery Band (1st Suffolk Artillery Volunteers), and the Rifle Volunteers Band (H & I Companies, 2nd Norfolk Rifle Volunteers – late 17th Suffolk, before 1880).

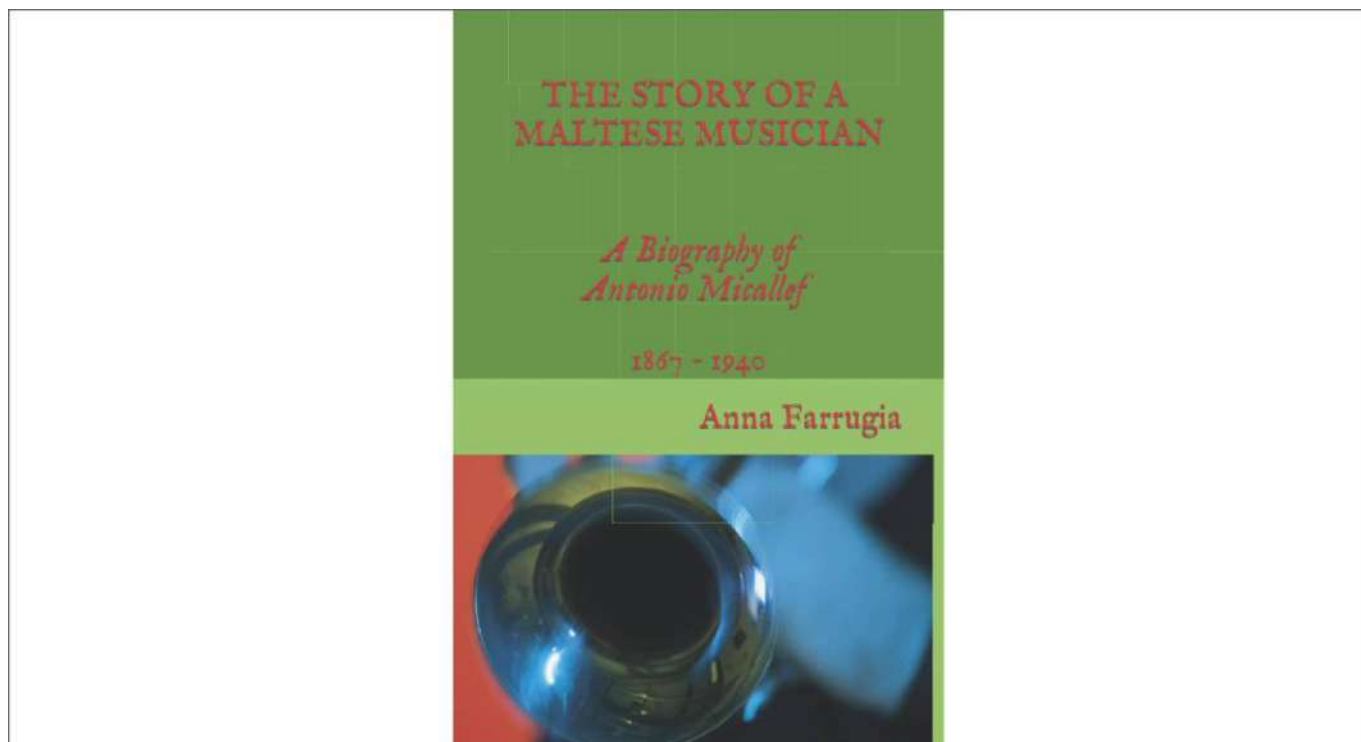
Sadly, nothing more is known about the contest itself, but it was clearly a successful part of the town's events for the Jubilee. This started in the early morning, when people began to traverse the streets. At seven, many congregated on the Battery-green, where the Artillery Volunteers fired a feu de joie. This was followed by the Artillery band parading the High Street with the Corps, in full uniform. The Rifle Volunteers gave a similar salute on the Esplanade, at ten. A procession, which included Friendly Societies, Fire Engine Brigades, the Pakefield lifeboat, together with the four bands providing the music, as they marched to the gala grounds.

At the fete, in addition to the sports and band contest, some 10,000 people were entertained by a country fair, shooting matches, archery, and other games, gymnastic exercises and tugs of war.

Book: Another Maltese connection

October 17, 2023

Simon Farrugia's book "The Maltese Wind Band", which I noted here a year ago, has been slow to reach publication, but it is due soon. In the meantime, I was contacted by Anna Farrugia (a colleague, no relation to Simon) who has written a book about her great-grandfather, a leading bandmaster on the island of Malta in the early part of the 20th century. Anna's book "The Story of a Maltese Musician: Antonio Micallef 1867-1940" is available through Amazon.

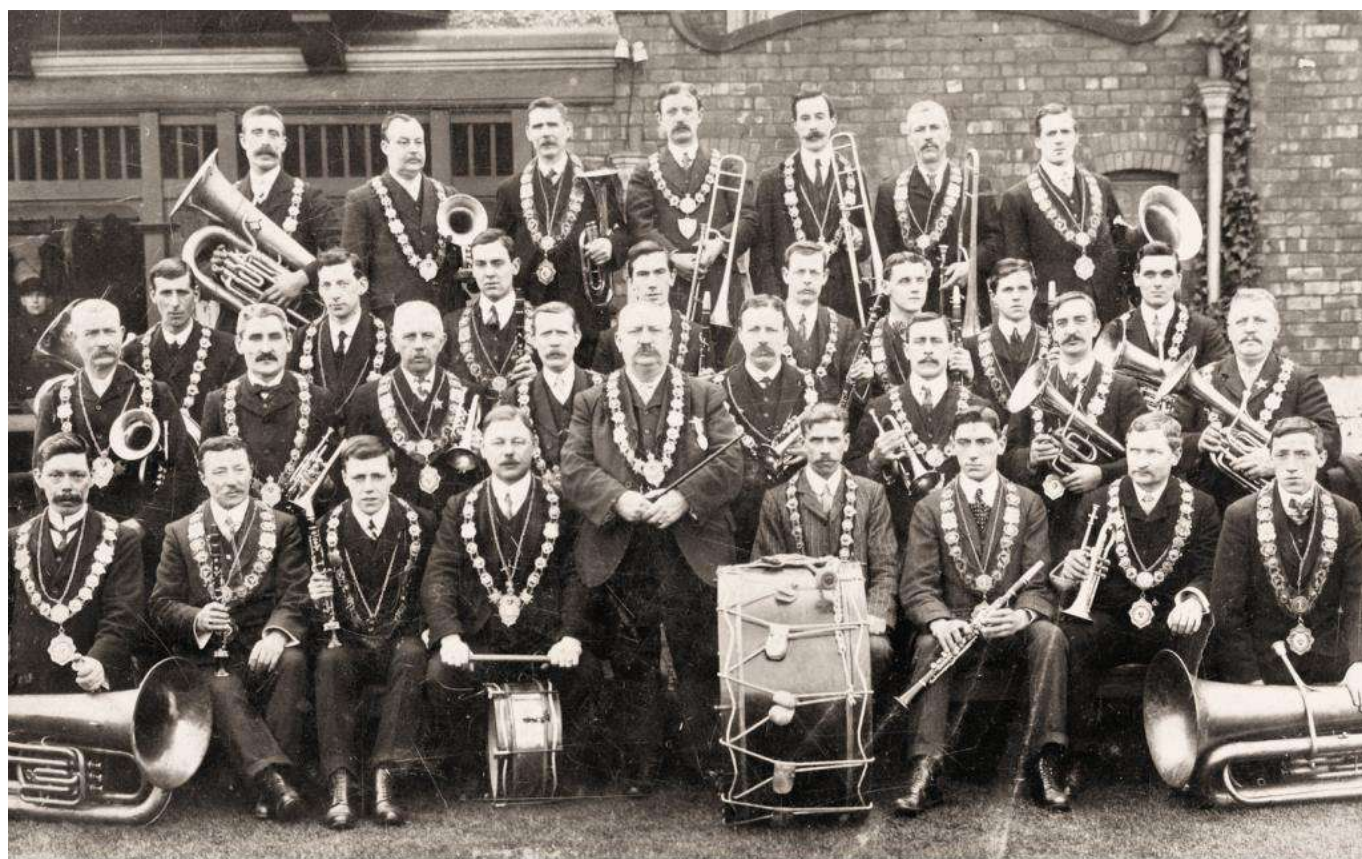


Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes Bands

8 June 2022

Here is a photo of a unknown brass band.

During the 19th century various friendly and fraternal organisations arose, often as savings and mutual benefit societies, but also to foster links with both workers and professional men. The most famous of these is the Freemasons, but there were very few brass bands associated with masonic lodges. More numerous were the Oddfellows, Ancient Shepherds, Free Gardeners, R.A.O.B. (Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes), and Foresters brass bands. Similar fraternal organisations, with their lodges and, occasionally, brass bands, arose in the U.S.A.



Unknown R.A.O.B. Brass Band

This particular band is that of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes – but which lodge or location is unknown.

There are a few known such bands:

Barry Dock R.A.O.B. Brass Band – Founded in 1892. Still active in 1899. Conductors C. Hopgood in 1893, J. Mostyn in 1894, and J. Bryan in 1898.

Hull R.A.O.B. Brass Band – Active in 1904, conductor E.G. Hurd – first appearance under their “new title” was on Sunday 14th August 1904 – it is not known what their previous name was.



Manchester R.A.O.B. Brass Band

Manchester R.A.O.B. Brass Band – Active around 1905

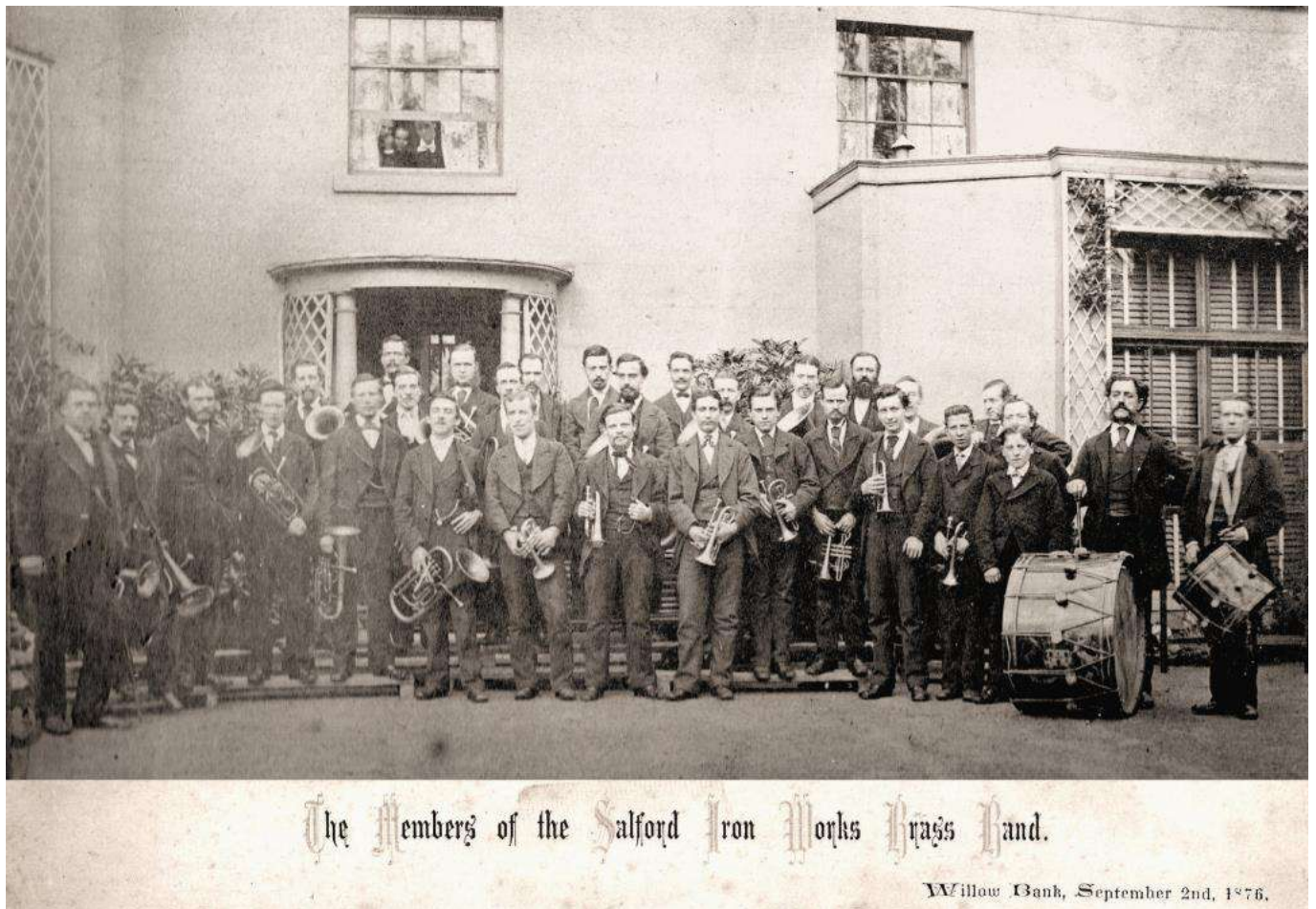
Newcastle R.A.O.B. Brass Band – Active in 1878. Associated with the Shakespeare lodge of the Royal and Ancient Order of Buffaloes at Newcastle upon Tyne

Swindon R.A.O.B. Brass Band – Active in the 1920s and 1930s

Salford Ironworks Band

April 24, 2022

The Salford Iron Works Brass Band in 1876. This was active from 1873 through to the late 1900s, and was supported by Messrs. Mather and Platt's Ironworks in Salford. The conductor, standing behind the bass drum, is probably John Lord, best known for leading the Bacup Old Band to many contest successes in the 1860's and early 1870's.



The Bolton United Band

April 26, 2022

There are so many anonymous photographs of brass bands, most without any features to help identification. Here is one such British band – but there is a clue on the drum. It states “United Brass Band”, and above that is a very indistinct word. I have blown it up as much as possible, and open it up to your suggestions! A quick look in my database did not give any obvious contenders.

However it does look like “Bolton”, but I think this is not Bolton Lancashire, but probably the Wath and Bolton United Band, from Wath-on-Dearne, active in 1891 through into the early 1900’s. This would probably fit with the fact that some other wording (perhaps “Wath and”) would have been above the crest or insignia on the centre of the drum.

There is no reference to a “Bolton United Band” from Lancashire that I am aware of.





Penallta Colliery Prize Band

May 4, 2022

Penallta Colliery Prize Band. This was active in the 1920's and early 1930's. The band, or a successor, was also active in 1991 when the Pennallta mine closed.



In the 60s and 70s Graddfa Secondary school band was formed and were very successful under the leadership of Mr Ieuan Morgan. Performing at The Nationals.

In the 80s and 90s some of the Graddfa players (and others) formed a senior band called Ystrad Mynach and District Brass Band under the leadership of Mr Alan Rowe. They also went on to perform at The Nationals.

Disney delights

May 24, 2022

I suspect most of us here have played many Disney tunes or selections of melodies from the films over the years. Here is perhaps the earliest introduction to bands of the musical delights of the Disney brand. From the Musical Progress and Mail of February 1936.

DISNEY REVEALS ALL

By "AYMAR"



We offer no apology for introducing within these pages a subject, which at first sight must seem curiously out of place in the *Musical Progress and Mail*, yet strange as it may seem, Mickey Mouse has carved a way into the band world as surely as any real person could hope to do. He has done it—or rather it would be more correct to say that Walt Disney has done it—with "Mickey's Band Concert," which shows in full colour yet a further episode in the highly varied career of the extremely versatile "Mouse."

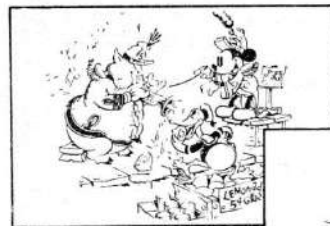
familiar with the ever-popular music from band repertoires? Upon such simple, understandable facts as these Walt Disney produced "Mickey's Band Concert." Not content with the presentation of a film cartoon pure and simple, the creator of Mickey Mouse has infused into this particular film such a wealth of studied detail that it would not be difficult to believe that Disney had been associated with bands all his life. Actually this is not so, for Disney's life, varied as it has been, has not, as far as we know, included playing in a band. Yet, with the true touch of genius, he has extracted the very marrow of his subject and given us the real thing.

Disney has indeed got to the very root of the characters he has drawn.

A supreme bit of fooling is brought in by that most obnoxious character, Donald Duck, who, as a peanut vendor, succeeds in disorganising the playing of the whole band. He insists on giving "Turkey in the Hay" on a tin whistle while the rest of the band are bravely getting through the famous "William Tell" Galop. If you ever feel you would like a variation on "William Tell," try doing the same thing, although the remarkable blending of the two themes is not recommended for public performance.

It is up to every bandsman to see this film, assuming, of course that he has not already done so. Into the shapes of an odd collection of farmyard animals, Dis-

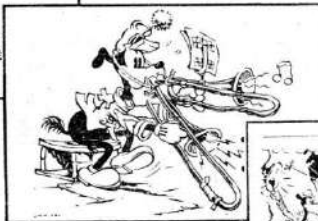
The whole film takes about eight minutes to show, but to describe it in detail would take ten times as long to read. Even the illustrations here, which we have been fortunate enough to secure, hardly do justice to the film itself; so if you think we have been over-lavish in our enthusiasm, go and see it as soon as you can, and then you will understand why.



In passing, it is interesting to note here that Toscanini, world-famous conductor of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, was so amused by the antics of the characters in this film, that he is reputed to have insisted upon its being shown to him all over again. This was at a private showing, naturally, but even greater testimony to the cleverness of this film is proved by the enormous popularity it has achieved amongst every section of the film-going public.



ney has put some very human characters, although on occasions, the band reaches to heights of discipline that would gratify the heart of the most exacting conductor, even of the great Toscanini himself. In fact, in exploiting this faithful following of the conductor's baton right through to its logical conclusion, Disney has achieved some very amusing effects.



After all, who of the public has not listened to, and thoroughly enjoyed, a concert of band music? And who is not

Appropriately enough, the band begins with "William Tell" Overture, which, if not quite the same arrangement as we know it, does at least give each player a chance to shine as it goes on. Watch Bandmaster Mickey positively dragging the soulful opening bars out of a large brass bass; see him follow up with a shattering blast, extracted with an equal display of "feeling" from an obedient trumpet-playing pig; watch, if you can, the facial expression of all three, and you will agree with me in saying that Walt



Illustrations by permission of United Artists Ltd.

A winning quartet

June 8, 2022

Another photo showing a piece of lost history. There was a time when solo, duet, quartet and slow-melody competitions were common, particularly in the winter months, and occasionally attached to full band contests. Over the years these have dwindled and there are very few to be found today.

This is an unknown quartet, with their conductor and prize cup – probably from the 1930's (later than my previous post of a similar group in March 2021). Does anyone recognise any of these fine men?



Westwood Colliery Band

July 26, 2022

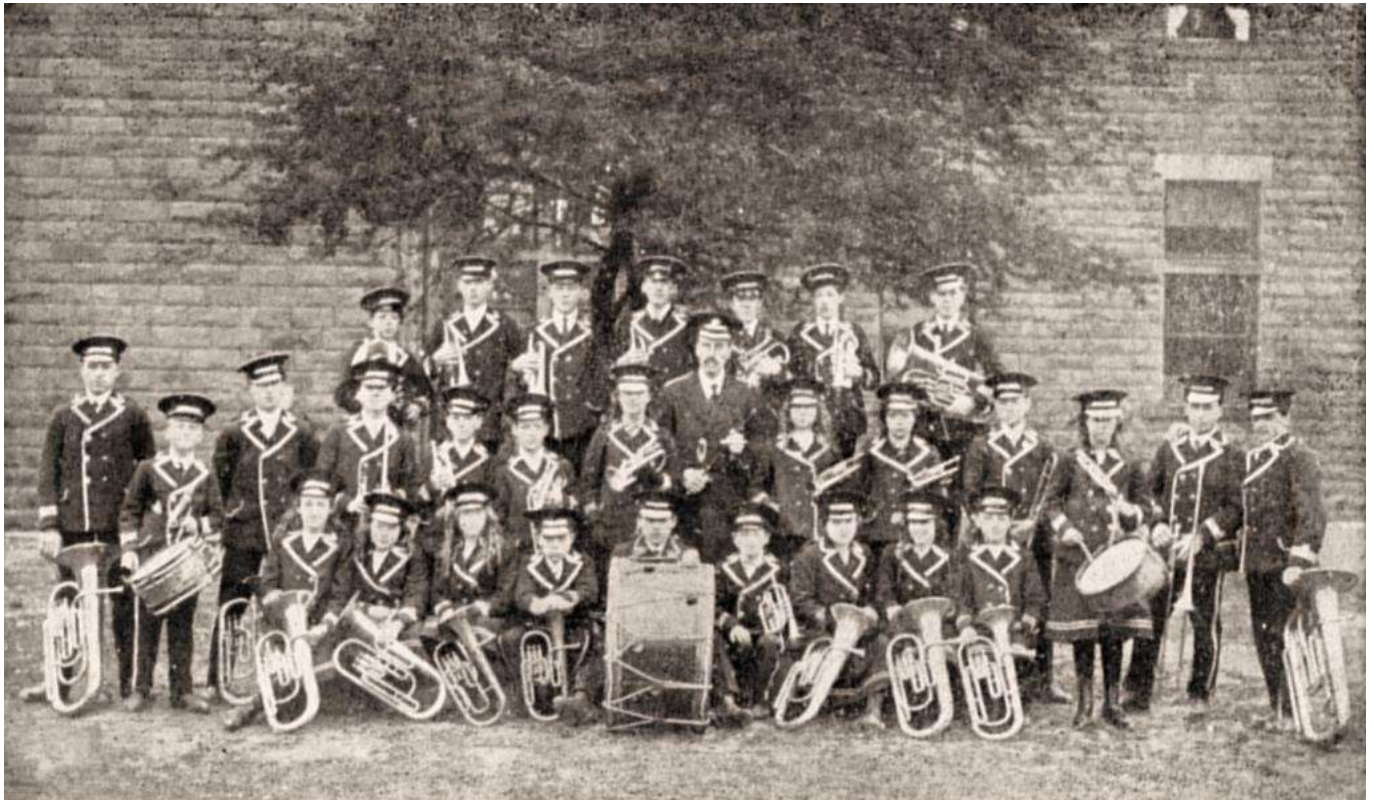
Westwood Colliery Band (County Durham), 1934. The band was active from the 1910's to the 1930's. It submitted plans for a new band room at High Westwood in 1932.



Morley Juvenile Excelsior Band

September 3, 2022

Morley Juvenile Excelsior Brass Band was formed by Jim Isaacs in 1910. G.E. Baines was the patron of this group of youngsters. They performed many times in Dartmouth Park and gave concerts in many other towns in the West Riding. The band also included girl players. The band disbanded in 1914 after the start of WW1. (Another report gives the band forming in 1913 and still active in 1918).

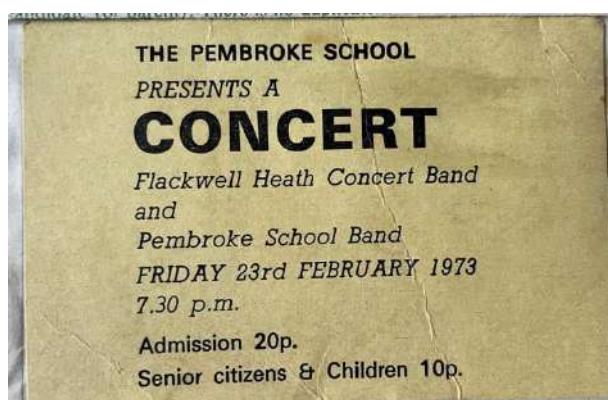


THE MORLEY (JUVENILE) EXCELSIOR BRASS BAND. ESTABLISHED OCT. 1913, MORLEY.

Flackwell Heath Silver Band

September 3, 2022

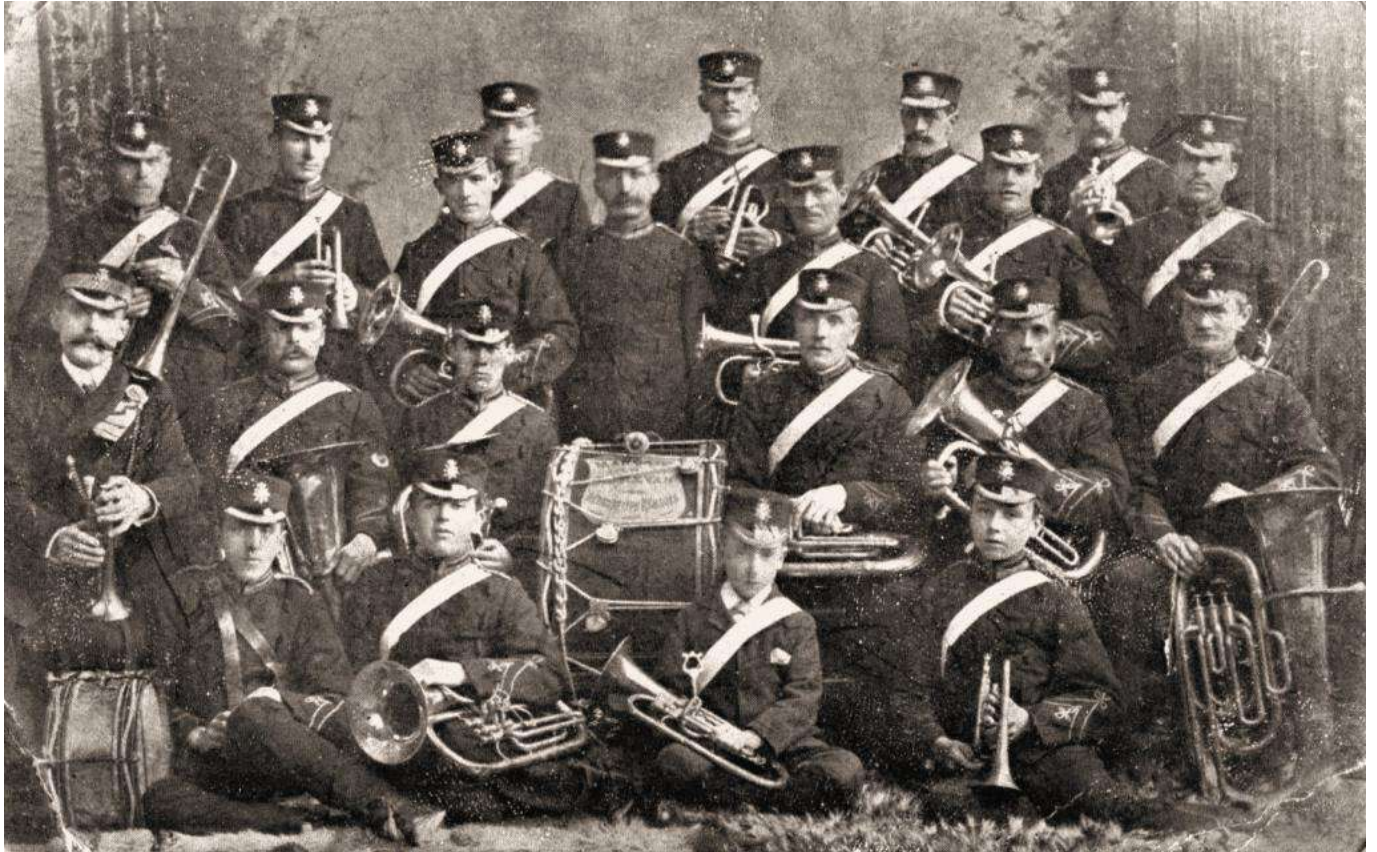
Flackwell Heath Silver Band was founded in 1906, with bandmaster Mr Gomm. Their conductor was W.J. Burnham through the 1920's and William Henry Stanley in the early 1930's. It disbanded some time before WW2. Two other bands graced the village with their music – an earlier Flackwell Heath Gospel Mission Brass Band had existed in 1890, and the Flackwell Heath Concert and Youth Band was active in the 1970's.



Margate Wesleyan Mission Band

September 26, 2022

This is Margate Wesleyan Mission Brass Band, which was active in the late 1890's and early 1900's. An example of the many Methodist bands that have existed – Wesleyan (274), Primitive (135) and United (5). [*Figures from my article on temperance brass bands*]



Travelling by charabanc

February 7, 2023

How many of us will soon be setting off to our area contests, travelling in the air-conditioned comfort of a 52-seater executive coach?

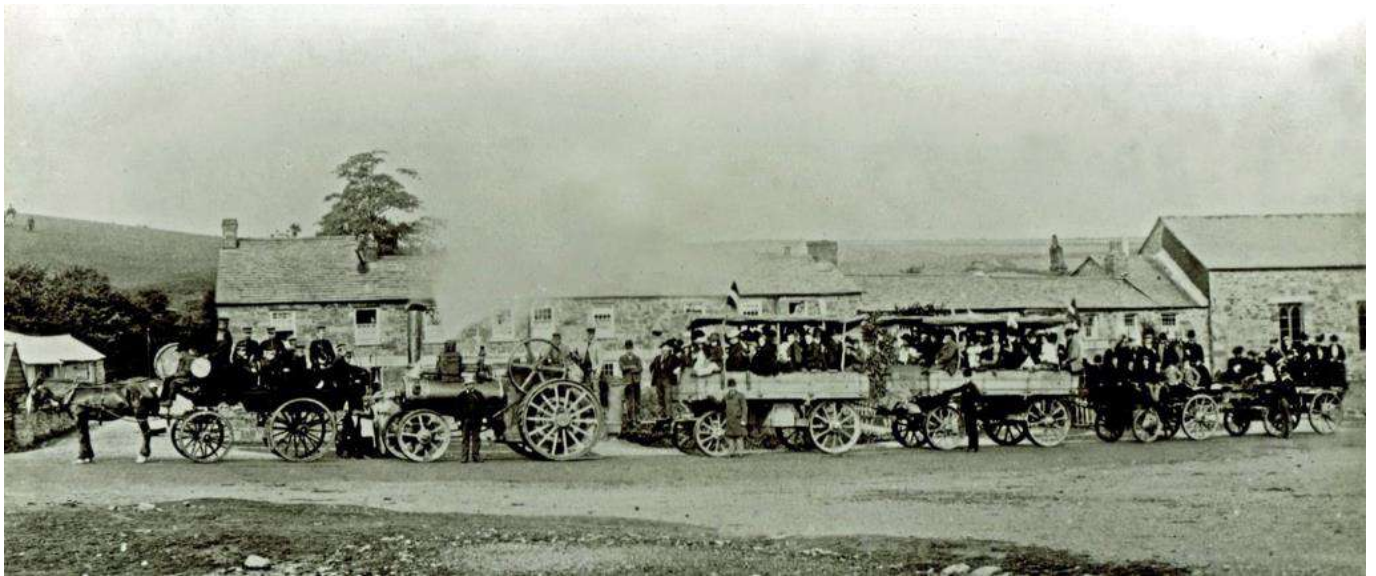
It wasn't so different a hundred or so years ago, except the transport was a little more crowded!

This is an unknown English Salvation Army band in an unknown location, but any suggestions are welcome. Some thought it might be Southsea Band.



There was a story about Alexander Owen standing in a charabanc all the way to a contest because he refused to sit on a very wet seat and risking soaked trousers when later conducting the band.

Below is Bugle Silver Band in a wonderful steam-driven set of carriages.



Not every band coach trip reaches its destination safely. There have, no doubt, been many occasions that breakdowns have marred such excursions, but hopefully not too many such as the Bristol Military Band, from Connecticut, whose bus ran off the road into a river.



April Fools

April 1, 2023

There are any number of theories why the French refer to April Fools as “Poisson d’Avril”, but none involve brass instruments or bands. So this solitary postcard is the nearest I could find to mark this foolish day.



To continue the theme, if this band of clowns turned up today, instead of the expected famous prize-winning brass band, then the audience might be in for a shock. However, despite their 'home made' zobo-like instruments, ad hoc bands such as these were much loved in carnivals and fetes – whether using instruments like these or merely being in fancy dress with standard brass horns.



Battersea Tent Mission Band

April 9, 2023

Battersea Tent Mission Band – this was founded in summer 1908 at the Tent Mission Hall, Queen’s Road, Battersea, with conductor E. Hawke. In addition to their evangelistic work, the band also entered various contests. Here they are pictured in 1909 with their trophy for winning first place in the London and Southern Counties contest at the Crystal Palace (Mission Section) on 20 November 1909 – the test piece was “In Realm of Bliss” by Edward Newton.



Band from South Wales?

May 9, 2023

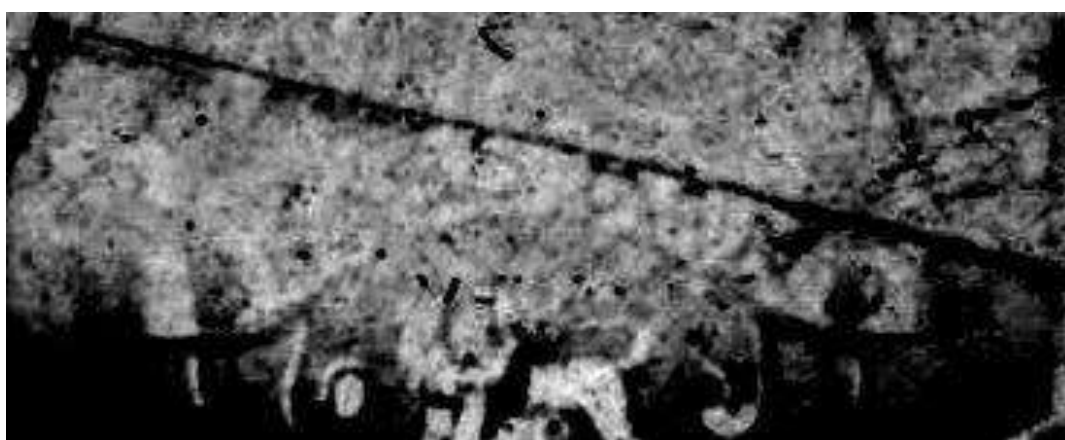
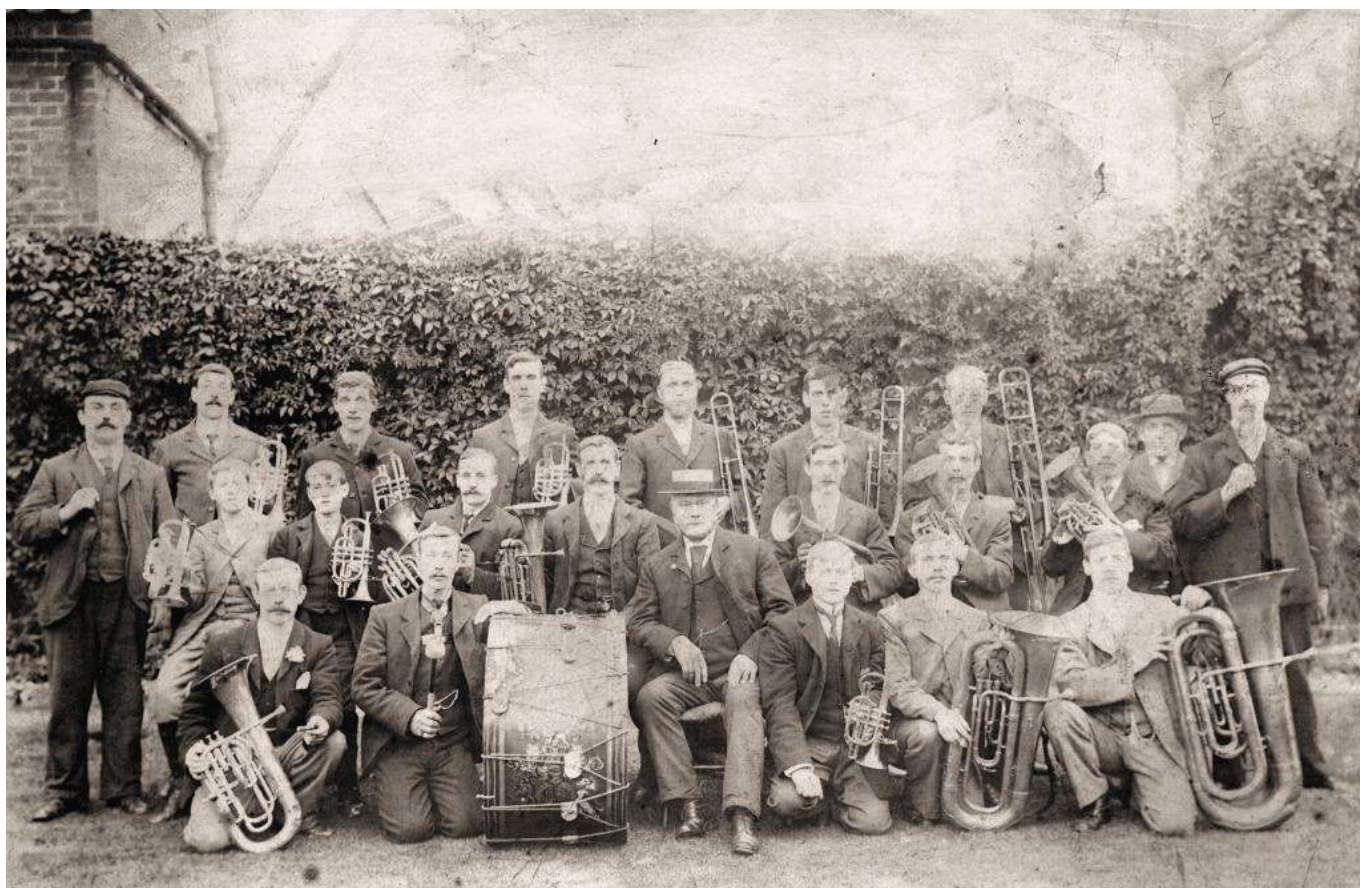
Just one of the thousands of pictures of unknown bands. This one is probably from South Wales, in the area around Ammanford to Ystalyfera. An enlargement of the arms on the drum is included in the hope that someone might recognise it!



Redhill Band - perhaps

June 9, 2023

Here is another splendid photograph of a band. This one is probably from Surrey, as it was with others from around Redhill. The uniform does not match that of any of the Redhill or Reigate photos I have. There is some lettering on the drum, and I have enlarged/contrasted it. Is it possibly "Leatherhead"? Anyone got any better ideas?



Cheshire County Youth Brass Band (50+ years)

September 1, 2023

The Cheshire County Youth Brass Band (1970-2012) celebrated its belated 50th anniversary with a reunion concert on 2nd September 2023, at the Grange Theatre, Hartford, Northwich. Over 50 ex-members together with the founding musical director, Peter Room, and other conductors from the band's past joined in this musical celebration. Attached is a photo of the band from 1972. Although not a founding member, but only by a couple of rehearsals, I proudly took my bass across the Pennines to join them.



An article about the band's history, written by Peter Room in 1988, can be found here:

www.ibew.org.uk/DVo4898-CCYBB.pdf

Square formation

September 8, 2023

Two photographs of an unknown band performing in the old 'square' formation. The first is taken from an upstairs window which is visible in the second. Location unknown, possibly somewhere in the north-west / Lancashire.



Scanned programmes and documents

September 26, 2023

Seeing recent postings of contest programmes, on the Facebook History of Brass Bands Group, reminded me of the selection of similar items I have scanned and/or made available in the IBEW as PDF downloads. Feel free to browse – I'd be happy to upload any similar items anyone wishes to contribute!

See: <http://www.ibew.org.uk/misc104.html>

I have copies of the Crystal Palace contest programmes from 1922 to 1936, but they are awaiting a scanning weekend...



The basses of Coalburn Silver Band

September 28, 2023

The four bass players of Coalburn Silver Band, probably some time in the 1930s, photographed at Stevenston, Ayrshire. From left: James Nimmo, Archie Smith, William Bryson, James Bonny.



Glasgow Royal Blind Asylum Band

October 3, 2023

A slightly unusual postcard of the Glasgow Royal Blind Asylum Band, conductor R. McDonald, c. 1900. This has been hand-tinted and coloured and, presumably, shows a more accurate reflection of the band's uniform colours than modern colourising software.



The Band was active in 1854, based at 100 Castle Street, Glasgow. Its conductor was Robert Scott in 1863. It was still active in 1928-1934, conducted by Thomas Scott. Took first prize in a contest at the City Hall in February 1856, beating Glasgow Thistle Instrumental Band into second place.

In the 1850s the band consisted of 14 players from the male adult workers at the asylum. According to a report in a Washington (USA) newspaper of 1929 the band was recently re-organised and “the members memorised every piece, having first being learned from Braille characters. Bandmaster Scott leads his musicians by pulling strings attached to each player’s leg.

For more information about this and other bands for blind musicians, see my article here:
<http://www.ibew.org.uk/GHO60-blindbrass.pdf>