

Researching the History of Brass Bands

a guide to the resources available



East Chinnock School Brass Band, Somerset

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Introduction

Many brass bands have flourished in Britain and overseas over the last 200 years, but very few have documented records covering their history. For those wishing to delve into the history of brass bands there are various sources available, both primary and secondary. These are also published histories and individual bands' memorabilia and records. In addition to British resources, I also include some relevant details about key resources in the USA and major commonwealth countries where brass bands were/are common. I hope the following details of research facilities prove useful for your investigations.

Books, articles and journals

Much has been written about the brass movement, individual bands, and the history of bands. Printed publications include books, chapters within books, articles in journals and magazines, dedicated periodicals for bands - of which there have been nearly 100 over the years - and scholarly theses. These will be found in various libraries and individuals' collections across the world. Those in libraries can be found via the relevant library catalogues. Some journals have electronic versions online which are available, usually for a fee or subscription, via the publisher or hosting service. Theses and dissertations are available from the British Library, the awarding university's archive (physical and/or online), or one of the commercial hosting services – you may need to have a subscription or academic log-in for some of these.

- **The Brass Band Bibliography** is a comprehensive listing of published material about brass bands and associated subjects. The latest version is available as a pdf document at <https://gavinholman.academia.edu/research>
- **Brass Bands of the British Isles - a historical directory** - this superseded the earlier "*British Brass Bands - a Historical Directory*" (2016). Covers Britain and Ireland, with over 19,600 bands recorded, with some 10,600 additional cross references for alternative or previous names. Available as a pdf document at <https://gavinholman.academia.edu/research>
- **Brass Bands of the World - a historical directory** – a companion volume to *Brass Bands of the British Isles*. This volume covers all other overseas countries which have had brass bands similar to those that flourished in the UK. Over 9,500 bands are recorded here, with some 2,700 additional cross references for alternative or previous names. Available as a pdf document at <https://gavinholman.academia.edu/research>
- **Brass Band World** - current print periodical (dating from 1991) <http://www.brassbandworld.co.uk>
- **British Bandsman** – a periodical (dating from 1887) no longer published, but a major source of material about brass bands over the last 130 years.

- **4 Bars Rest** - current online news about brass bands. Occasionally has historical information and articles about specific bands or aspects of the brass band movement.
<http://www.4barsrest.com>
- **Brass band historians and researchers** – who they are, and their research interests
<http://www.ibew.co.uk/misc44.html>
- **Ethos** – theses and dissertations available from the British Library. Some are free to download, others can be digitised for a fee
<http://ethos.bl.uk>
- **Humanities Commons Core** – open access articles, books, papers and more, relating to humanities subjects, including music and brass bands.
<https://hcommons.org/core/>
- **Dart Europe** – E-theses portal - aiming to improve access to European research theses.
<http://www.dart-europe.eu>
- **Open Access Theses and Dissertations** - indexes records of theses from institutions across the world.
<https://oatd.org>
- **Directory of Open Access Books** - publishers of monographs provide records of their open access publications.
<https://doabooks.org>
- **Academia** – online resource for academics and researchers to provide free access to their publications.
<https://www.academia.edu>
- **Researchgate** - online resource for academics and researchers to provide free access to their publications.
<https://www.researchgate.net>
- **PQDT Open** – open access theses (largely from the USA)
<https://pqdtopen.proquest.com>
- **Core** – access to millions of open access research papers
<https://core.ac.uk>
- **Access to Research** – free, walk-in access to over 15 million academic articles in participating public libraries across the UK.
<http://www.accesstoresearch.org.uk>
- **Bielefeld Academic Search Engine** - indexes freely available publications from global repositories.
<http://www.base-search.net>

- **RILM (Répertoire International de Littérature Musicale)** – documents and disseminates music research worldwide
<http://www.rilm.org>
- **JSTOR** – provides access to more than 10 million academic journal articles, books, and primary sources in 75 disciplines. Free ‘reading’ access is available to many items.
<http://www.jstor.org>
- **Proquest** –access to research content and dissertations
<http://www.proquest.com>
- **Questia** – access to 83,000 academic books and more than 10 million articles
<http://www.questia.com>
- **Taylor and Francis** – access to nearly 4 million articles
<http://www.tandfonline.com>
- **Sage** – a publishing house with many journals, books and archives
<https://uk.sagepub.com>
- **Digital Public Library of America**
<https://dp.la>
- **Google Scholar** – search engine for academic material
<https://scholar.google.com>
- **Microsoft Academic** – search engine for academic material
<http://academic.microsoft.com>
- **Google Books** – often offers quite extensive “previews” of academic books
<http://books.google.com>

Local archives (county record offices and archives)

These often contain records of brass bands and even photographs. Not many of the collections have online access to their catalogues, though most have searching facilities within the offices themselves. Details of the archives, access arrangements and catalogues, can usually be found via the appropriate local council website, county library or county record office. Further information about available archives can be found at:

- **Access to Archives** (The National Archives)
<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/>
- **National Register of Archives**
<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/nra/>

- **Archon Directory of Record Repositories**
<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archon/>
- **Archives Hub**
<http://archiveshub.ac.uk>
- **Cecilia**
Music collections in archives, libraries and museums in the UK and Ireland.
<http://www.cecilia-uk.org>
- **National Archives (USA)**
<https://www.archives.gov>
- **Digital State Archives**
A guide to the various physical and online archives of U.S. states
<http://www.digitalstatearchives.com>

Museums and libraries

Many of these maintain "local collections" or "local study libraries" of material relating to the town/area. Some of this is searchable via the internet, usually via the county library catalogues but, in most cases, you will have to visit in person for a more detailed search. Academic and research libraries also may have relevant material.

- **Museum Net**
<http://www.museums.co.uk>
- **Museums Galleries Scotland**
<http://www.museumsgalleriesscotland.org.uk>
- **Research Libraries UK - members**
<http://www.rluk.ac.uk/rluk-members/members>
- **Copac National, Academic, and Specialist Library Catalogue**
<http://copac.jisc.ac.uk>
- **The British Library**
<http://www.bl.uk>
- **National Library of Scotland**
<https://www.nls.uk>
- **National Library of Wales**
<http://www.llgc.org.uk>
- **Library of Congress (USA)**
<http://www.loc.gov>

- **Library and Archives Canada**
<https://bac-lac.gc.ca>
- **National Library of Australia**
<https://www.nla.gov.au>
- **National Library of New Zealand**
<https://www.natlib.govt.nz>
- **New York Public Library**
<https://digitalcollections.nypl.org>
- **Google Arts & Culture Database** – offering access to thousands of works of visual art.
<https://artsandculture.google.com>

Newspaper archives

For many brass bands local newspapers are the main source of information, in the absence of any other retained records. Mentions of the band's activities and achievements, some advertisements, obituaries, and more will be held in the newspapers of the past. Most current newspapers have physical archives, but these may not be easily accessible. Some are held on microfilm, quite often in the local library or record archive, others may be maintained by the newspaper itself.

- **UK local newspapers listing**
<http://www.localmediauk.org/A-Z-Newsbrands>
- **British Media Online**
<http://www.wrx.zen.co.uk/britnews.htm>

Digitised newspapers

Increasingly old newspapers are being digitised to preserve their content for the future. All of these electronic versions should support text searching for content and these are available on the internet or within various record archives. Some digitised newspaper services are only available through subscription or some other payment mechanism.

- **British Newspaper Archive (British Library)**
<http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>
- **Welsh Newspapers Online (National Library of Wales)**
<http://newspapers.library.wales>
- **UK Press Online**
<http://www.ukpressonline.co.uk>

- **The Times archive**
<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/archive/>
- **The Scotsman archive**
<http://archive.scotsman.com/>
- **Irish Newspaper Archive**
<http://www.irishnewsarchive.com/>
- **19th Century Business, Labour, Temperance & Trade Periodicals**
<http://www.bl19.co.uk>
- **Papers Past – New Zealand Newspaper Archive**
<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz>
- **Trove – Australian Newspaper Archive**
<https://trove.nla.gov.au>
- **Canadian Community Digital Archives**
<http://www.communitydigitalarchives.com>
- **Chronicling America**
<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>
- **Archive.org Newspapers**
<https://archive.org/details/newspapers>
- **Newspapers.com**
<http://www.newspapers.com/>
- **Newspaper Archive**
<http://www.newspaperarchive.com/>

Recorded sound and video

Vintage recordings of brass bands, concert bands, military bands and all other associated ensembles and soloists, can now be found online in several general sources. Sound archives exist in many universities and museums, which may contain items of interest to the brass band researcher.

- **Youtube** – a major resource for videos and sound recordings. It hosts a large number of brass band recordings, current and vintage, uploaded by bands themselves, individuals and collectors.
<https://www.youtube.com>
- **British Library Sound Archive** – selected historical recordings
<http://sounds.bl.uk>

- **Library of Congress Recorded Sound Collection** – a very large archive of recorded audio material.
<https://www.loc.gov/rr/record/>
- **British Pathé** – archive of newsreel and other films
<http://britishpathe.com>
- **British Film Institute National Archive** – selected historical films
<https://bfi.org.uk/bfi-national-archive/>
- **British Library Sound Archive** – selected historical recordings
<http://sounds.bl.uk>

Local history societies

There are thousands of societies across the UK, (and similar ones in other countries) with a range of publications, local records and information about their specific town, village or area. They are also useful in helping to locate people who may still have memories of past bands and bandsmen. Most bands are associated with a particular location and consisted of musicians from a range of occupations in the place. Often established through public subscription (some bands even had this appellation), or occasionally by the munificence of some local landowner or benefactor, they quickly became a key part of the community and its life, providing music for celebrations, fetes, shows and galas and, of course, funerals. School teachers and vicars were often the initial driving force to establish bands.

- **Local History Online** – societies in the UK
<http://www.local-history.co.uk/Groups/>
- **Local History Online** - Links for further research
<http://www.local-history.co.uk/links/index.html>
- **British Association for Local History**
<http://www.balh.co.uk>
- **Local centres of information**
<http://www.ancestor-search.info/LOC-INDEX.htm>

Industrial societies

Many bands were set up by industrial concerns. Perhaps the most familiar are the colliery bands which flourished at the height of the mining industries. Others that featured significantly, particularly in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, were iron works & foundries, wool and cotton mills, gas works, railway works, and shipyards. Almost all major industries have sponsored bands in some way. The larger industries' organisations may have records of bands.

There were also bands associated with a particular trade (rather than a specific company). Included with these are those belonging to trade unions, together with those established by and from the workers in a trade – e.g. carpenters, bricklayers, seamen etc. These were more common in the two metropolises of London and, particularly, Dublin.

- **Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation**
<http://www.ciswo.org.uk/>
- **Coalmining History Resource Centre** – (archive version only)
<https://web.archive.org/web/20160304121259/http://www.cmhrc.co.uk/site/home/index.html>
- **Durham Mining Museum**
<http://www.dmm.org.uk>

Records of individual companies

Many companies outside the major industries have founded or supported bands over the years. Some famous ones include Fodens Motor Works, Fairey Aviation and Great Universal Stores. The records of current companies or those of the past, may also include details of the bands associated with them. These will probably be fairly scant, perhaps the odd picture and note in an annual report or company newsletter - but some were better represented, so it is worth looking into if a particular band did have a commercial sponsor. Companies which still exist may have historical information on their websites and physical archives within their premises.

- **Grace's Guide to British Industrial History**
<https://www.gracesguide.co.uk>

Trade directories

Bands will often have had entries in local trade directories - e.g. Kelly's - with some details of their contacts and services offered, occasionally you can find bandsmen therein also - usually bandmasters or instrumental tutors, with their location and trade details. Copies of these old directories can be found in most large local reference libraries.

- **Historical Directories** (University of Leicester)
<http://www.historicaldirectories.org>
- **British Online Archives**
<https://microform.digital/boa/>

Religious organisations

Many Christian organisations, including the Salvation Army, saw the benefit of establishing brass bands, partly to assist with spreading their messages, and also to provide a musical focus to workers and parishioners alike. Other than the Salvation Army, perhaps the most evident were those related to Methodist and Wesleyan chapels. Church of England, Catholic, Gospel, Baptist and Church Army bands were also common. Adult Sunday Schools, Bible Classes, the “Pleasant Sunday Afternoon” movement and young men’s organisations (e.g. the Y.M.C.A) also spawned brass bands. Records of such bands can sometimes be found in the parish and ecclesiastical records of the relevant churches.

There have been a large number of Salvation Army brass bands in the UK over the years, and they have spread across the world. Their history is comprehensively covered by Ronald W. Holz’s book “*Brass Bands of the Salvation Army*”. Salvation Army Banding contains a wealth of information about historical Salvation Army brass bands.

- **Salvation Army Banding**
<http://www.sabanding.com>
- **My Primitive Methodist Ancestors**
<http://www.myprimitivemethodists.org.uk>
- **My Wesleyan Methodist Ancestors**
<http://www.mywesleyanmethodists.org.uk>
- **Methodist Heritage**
<http://www.methodistheritage.org.uk>
- **Wesley Historical Society**
<http://www.wesleyhistoricalsociety.org.uk>
- **Baptist Historical Society**
<https://baptisthistory.org.uk>
- **Church Lads’ Brigades**
<http://www.clcgb.org.uk>
- **Boys’ Brigade**
<https://boys-brigade.org.uk>

The temperance movement

The temperance movement in the 19th century was partly driven by various religious groups (e.g. Methodists) but non-religious/fraternal organisations also arose. Many of these turned to brass bands to help spread their message of teetotalism. Some of the more common ones were the I.O.G.T. (International Order of Good Templars), the Church of England/Ireland Temperance Society, the Rechabites, the Band of Hope, the Blue Ribbon Army, and various “Total Abstinence”, “Teetotal” and “Suppression

of Drunkenness” societies. Most of the bands did not enjoy a long life and few survived WW1. Only three current brass bands retain their original “temperance” name.

- **Alliance House Foundation** – temperance organisation since 1853
<https://www.alliancehousefoundation.org.uk>
- **White Ribbon Association** – women’s temperance
<https://white-ribbon.org.uk/about/history/>

Friendly societies

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.

The volunteer battalions

There were large numbers of rifle and artillery volunteers, reserve and similar brigades active throughout the country in the latter part of the 19th and early 20th centuries. Bands were often created to assist with the parades and in some cases local/village bands were “co-opted” or enrolled for a time to serve with the detachments. These bands ranged from full brass bands to drum and fife, flute, or woodwind bands. In many cases the original unit numbering of volunteer battalions within counties changed, particularly following 1880, when a general consolidation of the volunteer regiments took place. There was no formal government support for the volunteer bands, which had to be funded and supported by the local corps and their officers. Information about these volunteer corps can be found in various books, archives of regimental associations, and local archives.

Political brass bands

Similar to those associated with churches, various political movements saw the benefit of having brass bands to help promote their causes. These were particularly evident in processions and parades and were much more common in Ireland than in Britain. At times there were labour, conservative (e.g. Primrose League), nationalist, loyalist, and liberal brass bands.

People - personal memories

For the more recent bands, where you can identify or find people who were involved with bands in the past, or possibly their families, then you can try to persuade them to relate what they know. They may also have access to other records, e.g. photographs, programmes, newsletters - any such information is valuable and should be recorded

before it is lost. Bands themselves often have their own archives and records, some of which may also contain material about previous bands or other local bands. In addition, some current members will have memories or links with other people with information. Find the bands via their websites in the **IBEW directory**.

<http://www.ibew.co.uk/link01.html>

Facebook (individual bands) – many brass bands have their own Facebook page and/or group where discussions about band matters, players and history take place. There is no directory of such band social media sites, but they are quite easily found using the search function in Facebook or via links on the band's website.

<http://www.facebook.com>

Facebook (brass bands in general) – a number of groups have been established on Facebook for bands and individuals to post and share information. A few major ones are listed below, and others can be found by the search function or by links/references/shares from posts on the site.

- *All about Brass Banding* -
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1572333326352604/>
- *Brass Bands 4U* - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/125428814590/>
- *Brass Bands!!* - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/421636181215179/>
- *Brass Banding for the future* -
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/180010182105124/>

Facebook (history of specific brass bands) – these groups relate to an individual band and offer information to and from past players, family and others interested in the band.

- *History of Besses o' th' Barn Band* -
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/6276172996/>
- *Sun Life Stanshawe Band* -
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/59708200728/>
- *Todmorden Old Brass Band* -
<https://www.facebook.com/todmordenoldbrassband/>

Facebook (general history of brass bands) – these groups provide a forum for sharing information about the history of bands worldwide.

- *Historic Australian Brass Bands* -
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1800677110152141/>
- *History of Brass Bands* -
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/145016798904992/>
- *Old Skool Brass Band Photographs* -
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1888823221245703/>
- *Warwickshire - Brass Bands Of The Past* -
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/757702291048736/>

The Mouthpiece – a brass band online discussion forum - for the more recent bands, a query posted here may jog the memories of current or past bandsmen.

<http://www.themouthpiece.com>

Oral histories are increasingly important resources about the lives of our ancestors. Local historians and oral archivists have been recording the memories of people in

their areas and workplaces, building up a rich source of material about the past. Details of brass bands encountered or even played in are included in some of the material. In many cases searching the archives is made easier by subject and topic keywords for the recordings.

- **Oral History Society**
<http://www.ohs.org.uk>
- **List of oral history organisations and sites**
<http://www.ohs.org.uk/advice/weblinks/>
- **British Library Sound Archive** – a source for oral history recordings
<http://sounds.bl.uk>

People – genealogical resources

Records of individual bandmen are very difficult to pin down. It is rare to find records of a band, or photographs, that give details of individuals, and even then all you have is a name. Further research is possible using genealogical tools and archives. Family history research is very much easier today, with many websites offering access to digitised vital records, and a wealth of material available from other genealogical researchers online.

- **Federation of Family History Societies**
<http://www.ffhs.org.uk/>
- **UK & Ireland Genealogy**
<http://www.genuki.org.uk/>
- **Scottish Association of Family History Societies**
<http://www.safhs.org.uk/>
- **Association of Family History Societies of Wales**
<http://www.fhswales.org.uk/>
- **North of Ireland Family History Society**
<http://www.nifhs.org/>
- **Ancestry**
<http://www.ancestry.co.uk>
- **Scotland's People**
<http://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk/>
- **Find My Past**
<http://www.findmypast.co.uk>
- **UK Genealogical Directories and Lists**
<http://www.ukgdl.org.uk/>

Children's homes

During the mid-1800s children's homes and orphanages of many types were established, often by religious, philanthropic or civic organisations. Brass and other bands were often set up to help educate the children (mainly boys it has to be said), to provide another aspect of discipline and also, potentially, to give access to a musical career once they left the school. A useful by product at times were fees collected by performances of the bands, which helped the homes' finances. Other such institutions which had bands included Training Ships, Industrial Homes, Ragged Schools and Reformatory Schools. These catered for "delinquents" as well as orphans.

- **Children's Homes**
<http://www.childrenshomes.org.uk>
- **Former Children's Homes**
<http://www.formerchildrenshomes.org.uk>
- **Industrial and Reformatory Schools**
<http://www.missing-ancestors.com>

Institutional brass bands

From the early 17th century there were provisions made for the poor, sick, destitute, and those, that today we would refer to as physically and mentally handicapped. Through various local and national initiatives and laws the workhouses, poor law unions, asylums and prisons were established to house and, hopefully, reform or rehabilitate their inmates. Bands were sometimes established, for educational, recreational and disciplinary purposes.

- **Workhouses**
<http://www.workhouses.org.uk>
- **Rosbret UK Institutions** (archive version only available)
<http://archive.is/kBuen>

Family bands

These were most common in the USA, and usually consisted of the parents with some or all of their children playing a variety of instruments. In many cases they were semi-professional and travelled the country performing in theatres or at special occasions.

- **Keep it in the Family - the Family Brass Bands that entertained the USA and UK in the late 19th and early 20th centuries**
<https://gavinholman.academia.edu/research>

Professional bands

Brass and mixed instrumentation bands were common in most theatres and places of recreation. Some places had resident bands, others employed various passing or transient “acts” to provide the musical entertainment or accompaniment to their productions. Travelling circuses, menageries and shows also had their resident bands accompanying them. Details of these are sketchy at best, but some information about them can be found in newspaper reviews of their concerts, advertisements, and the entertainment press.

- **The Stage** (archive available at the British Newspaper Archive)
<https://www.thestage.co.uk>

Ladies’ brass bands

Until recent years these were largely unknown in the British Isles. There was a good tradition of female bands in the USA and also in Germany (often known as Damen Blas-Orkester), and female musicians were not uncommon in the USA town and cornet bands. It was not until the 1960s that women made any significant inroads into the male-dominated brass bands of Britain, and even today there are relatively few female conductors, composers or arrangers for brass bands. The publications of Jill M. Sullivan and Joanna Hersey in particular help to shed light on these female musicians and ensembles.

- **Women brass band composers and arrangers**
<http://www.harrogateband.org/x-wmm.html>
- **Damen und Damen - Ladies’ professional travelling brass ensembles**
<https://gavinholman.academia.edu/research>

Geographical resources

Places, their names and locations are often key to accurate identification of bands, particularly where the information available is ambiguous or lacking in detail. Gazetteers of place names, current and historical maps can all help. This is especially valuable where the place, building, site is no longer there, or has been renamed.

- **Gazetteer of British Place Names**
<https://www.gazetteer.org.uk>
- **Irish Townlands**
<https://www.townlands.ie>
- **Great Britain Street and Road Map search**
<http://www.streetmap.co.uk>

- **Ordnance Survey of Ireland – map viewer**
<http://map.geohive.ie/mapviewer.html>
- **Open Street Map**
<https://www.openstreetmap.org>
- **Old Maps Online**
<http://www.oldmapsonline.org>
- **London Miscellany** - maps, information and details of street name changes
http://www.maps.thehunthouse.com/London_Miscellany.htm
- **A Vision of Britain through time** - maps, statistics & history
<http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/>
- **Google Maps** – a mapping resource that can be very helpful in pinning down the locations of bands and music events – especially where there is ambiguity
<http://www.google.com/maps/>

Current brass bands

For those bands that are still active, the best starting point is the band itself. Remotely, some information can be gleaned from their website, facebook page or similar online presence. Contact with existing band members may provide access to archival material the band holds itself, or pointers to where such information is preserved. Oral histories and memories of current and past band members can also be solicited.

Specific archives of brass band materials

- **The Brass Band Archive**
An archive of more than 10,000 sets of music and scores, recordings, programmes, band journals, memorabilia and more. A resource for the serious researcher and the simply curious. Established in the 1970s by Walter Ainscough, for many years this was located in Wigan. The archive is now under the guardianship of Brass Bands England, and has been relocated to the University of Huddersfield, in their Heritage Quay resource centre.
<http://www.bbe.org.uk/what-we-do/the-brass-bands-archive>
Catalogue: *<https://heritagequay.org/archives/BBA/>*
- **IBEW archive**
The IBEW, which has been providing resources for and about brass bands for 20 years, has a wealth of historical material freely available online. These include the Brass Band Bibliography, directory of current brass bands, directory of historical/extinct bands, band genealogies, 21,200 pictures of vintage brass bands, details and photographs of bandsmen and brass players, details of brass band recordings from cylinders to CDs, histories of specific brass bands (links and archived material), details of brass band historians and researchers, and much more.
<http://www.ibew.co.uk>

- **Brass Band Results** – a comprehensive database of contest results, with details of music performed and conductors/adjudicators
<http://www.brassbandresults.co.uk>
- **Brass Band Research Papers** – an archive of material produced by Gavin Holman, ranging from historical directories of brass bands to investigations into many aspects of the brass band movement, music and brass performers. All documents available in PDF format from the Academia archive. Additional material available on the IBEW Blog.
 - *<https://gavinholman.academia.edu/research>*
 - *<https://ibewbrass.wordpress.com>*
- **Band Blasts from the Past** – a blog maintained by Jeremy de Korte relating to the history of brass bands in Australia, and especially those of the state of Victoria.
<https://bandblastsfromthepast.blog>
- **Slaithwaite Brass Band Collection**
University of Huddersfield Archives Service, Central Services Building, Queensgate Campus, Huddersfield, HD1 3DH. The archives are open Mondays and Tuesdays, 9.30am - 4.30pm. The collection contains some 70 manuscript and printed brass band scores and parts, dating from 1906 to 1931, from Slaithwaite Brass Band, some items of which had been donated by St Hilda's Colliery Band.
<http://www.hud.ac.uk/archives/>
- **John Brush Brass Band Archive**
Cornish Records Office (no. AD2461). Collected by John Brush. 41 folders of research notes, news cuttings, programmes and posters, arranged by individual brass band, c.1850-2015; records of band contests, 1863-1997; band photographs, 1854-2015; youth band photographs and people, 1890-2015; five archive pensticks.
<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/community-and-living/records-archives-and-cornish-studies/cornwall-record-office/>
- **Cornish National Music Archive**
A collection of material on all aspects of Cornish music, including details of the county's brass bands.
<https://cornishnationalmusicarchive.co.uk>
- **Crawshay Brass Band Collection**
Cyfarthfa Castle Museum, Brecon Road, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 8RE. Cyfarthfa Brass Band - a private works brass band founded by the ironmaster Robert Thompson Crawshay. Contains approximately 20 brass band instruments, printed material, plus associated information.
- **Music, Media and Performance Collection**
Salford University, Peru Street, Salford, M3 6EQ. Significant holdings of popular, jazz and brass band materials in all formats. The University Music Research

Centre also houses the **Brass Band Research Archive**, library of the National Youth Brass band of Great Britain and more
<http://www.salford.ac.uk>

- **National Fairground and Circus Archive**
Holding 150,000 photographic images, 4,000 books and journals and over 20,000 items of ephemera including posters, handbills and programmes. Based at the University of Sheffield, it includes material relating to the bands that were associated with these entertainment businesses.
<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/nfca/collections>
- **Roy Newsome Brass Band Archive**
Salford University, Peru Street, Salford, M3 6EQ. A large collection of papers, programmes, magazines, scores and recordings, including a unique collection of Brass Band News from 1882 onwards.
http://www.salford.ac.uk/__data/assets/xml_file/0004/530869/RoyNewsome.xml
- **Brass Band News Archive**
An (almost) completed collection of issues of Wright & Round's Brass Band News from 1881 to 1956 has been digitised and is freely available online
<http://usir.salford.ac.uk/journal/BBN/>
- **Arthur Stirling Collection**
Includes the only known extant runs of early (pre-1925) Australian band journals - c/o Dr John Whiteoak, Monash University, Victoria, Australia
<http://monash.edu>
- **Frank Wright Archive**
University of Ballarat Historical Collection, Victoria, Australia.
<http://www.ballarat.edu.au>
Catalogued via <http://www.victoriancollections.net.au>. Just over half of the collection has been catalogued. You can search the whole site for 'Frank Wright' or choose 'University of Ballarat' from the 'Organisation' link and search their collection only.
- **Papers of Jack Greaves, 1857-2008**
National Library of Australia. Comprises research files on individual Australian and English brass bands, military and services bands, individual bandmen, composers, and drum majors; Australian compositions; subject files on aspects of band life; correspondence; photographs; band ledgers and registers; and, scrapbooks. Jack Greaves was a band historian, having been involved with the band movement since 1936 when he joined the Young Australia League Band. From 1987 he was the historical research officer for the Band Association of New South Wales. Greaves published a number of books including Legends in brass: Australian brass band achievers of the 20th century (with Chris Earl, 2001), and A musical mission of Empire: the story of the Australian Newcastle Steelworks Band (2005), and compiled a recording of historical brass band performances titled The great bands of Australia (1996).
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/work/37932330>

- **Allan Littlemore Collection of Fodens Motor Works Band recordings**
This is held by the British Library, 96 Euston Road, London, NW1 2DB.
<http://www.bl.uk>
- **Fodens Band - Heritage Website**
The digitisation of the bands historical artefacts, original 78's recordings as well as original manuscripts.
<http://www.fodensbandheritage.co.uk>
- **Black Dyke Band Heritage Project**
Rare artefacts and memorabilia, music, trophies and personal accounts have now been curated and displayed at Black Dyke's famous bandroom in the village of Queensbury in West Yorkshire in a dedicated *Heritage Centre* - one that occupies a space that has been used by the band almost from its formation
<http://www.blackdykebandheritage.co.uk>
- **The Jerome Gatehouse Collection**
A military band archive – an extensive collection which had been built up over 27 years by its owner. After his death the collection was maintained by his widow, but in recent years its status and location is unknown.
<http://www.jeromegatehousecollection.org.uk>
- **Boosey and Hawkes Instrument Collection**
Horniman Museum, 100 London Road, Forest Hill, London, SE23 3PQ. 340 brass and woodwind instruments, England and the Continent, 1700 to date.
<http://www.horniman.ac.uk>
- **Charles Moore Collection of Instruments**
University of Leicester, Department of Music, University Road, Leicester, LE1 7RH. Collection of some 70 instruments. Charles Moore founded the Wigston Temperance Band in 1902.
<http://www.le.ac.uk/music/>
- **Edinburgh University Collection of Historic Musical Instruments**
Edinburgh University, Reid Concert Hall, Bristo Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9AG. Collection of some 1000 instruments.
<http://www.music.ed.ac.uk/euchmi/>
- **Archives Hub**
Featuring archive collections of brass bands
<http://archiveshub.ac.uk/features/jano8.shtml>
- **Beamish Museum**
In the "Pit Village" can be found the Hetton Silver Band Hall with various items of memorabilia. This was saved from demolition and transported, brick by brick, from Hetton-le-Hole to Beamish. It opened to the public in May 2013.
<http://www.beamish.org.uk>

- **Sousa Archives and Center for American Music**
 Acquires and preserves significant archival records and historical artifacts in multiple media formats that document America's local and national music history and its diverse cultures. Housed at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
<https://archives.library.illinois.edu/sousa/>
- **American Bandmasters Association Research Center**
 This includes the ABA Archives (including the Sousa/Ostwald Award), personal papers of ABA members, ABA score collections, ABA recording collections, the Midwest Clinic Archives, and College Band Directors National Association Archives.
http://lib.guides.umd.edu/scpa_band
- **Stanley Peter Newcomb papers**
 A collection of material relating to the history of brass bands, particularly in New Zealand, from 1840 to 2005. Held at the Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand.
<https://tiaki.natlib.govt.nz/#details=ecatalogue.513843>
- **James Dewar Hunter papers**
 James Hunter was Secretary of the South Island Brass Bands Association and a member of the New Zealand Brass Bands Association. This extensive collection of material, at the Otago Settlers Museum, Dunedin, is devoted to brass bands in New Zealand, Australia and the UK. There is some material on the history of brass bands before 1900. The bulk of the collection relates to brass band competitions in New Zealand.
<http://thecommunityarchive.org.nz>
- **Hazen Collection of Band Photographs and Ephemera**
 A large collection of photographs, picture postcards, printed ephemera, and music related to the brass band movement in the United States, formed by Dr. and Mrs. Robert M. Hazen. Now resident in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.
<https://sova.si.edu/record/NMAH.AC.0253>
- **Helen May Butler Collection**
 Material covering the career of this woman bandmaster, with an all-women's traveling military band from 1898-1913. Bands included Helen May Butler's Ladies Military Band, Talma Ladies Orchestra, and the U.S. Talma Ladies Military Band. Collection held at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.
<https://sova.si.edu/record/NMAH.AC.0261>
- **Archive for Women and Music**
 This houses around 26,000 media units (gray literature, historical posters, literature, dissertations / theses, original manuscripts, first prints etc.) by over 1,900 female composers from the 9th to the 21st centuries, and 52 nations. These include more than 3,500 recordings, videos and DVDs, around 20 bequests and

bequests from composers and conductors, and the world's most comprehensive collection of postcards from female brass bands from around 1900.
<http://www.archiv-frau-musik.de>

- **The Internet Archive** – an archive of billions of webpages – very useful in finding information about/from websites that are no longer online – particularly those of brass bands. It also provides access to books, movies & music.
<https://archive.org>
- **The UK Web Archive** – a selected archive of 19,000 UK websites.
<https://www.bl.uk/collection-guides/uk-web-archive/>