

Castle Howard Reformatory School Brass Band – musical education and social reform for wayward boys

Gavin Holman, 28 March 2021



The Castle Howard Farm School Band, c. 1920

Castle Howard is the ancestral home of the Carlisle branch of the Howard family for over 300 years. A stately home, near Malton, it is a much-visited tourist attraction these days, its ownership having been given over to a family company after it was opened to the public in the 1950's. In the mid-1850's the 7th Earl of Carlisle, George Howard, was instrumental in establishing the Reformatory School on his lands, near the village of Welburn, where many of his estate workers lived.



THE SCHOOL

The Castle Howard Reformatory School was originally proposed in 1855, when two men from Hull, the town's Recorder, Samuel Warren, and a magistrate, Thomas Travis, arranged a meeting in the Town Hall. A committee was formed, with the president being George Howard, the Earl of Carlisle, and the "*Society for the Reformation of Juvenile Offenders for the East and North Ridings of the County of York and the Town and County of Kingston upon Hull*" was formed. Money was raised, and Howard granted the use of some land near to the village of Welburn, adjacent to his family seat at Castle Howard. The School opened on 2nd May 1856, with Ishmael Fish being its first superintendent.

The home housed young boys who had fallen foul of the law or who were in need of special care due to family problems. There were secure detention facilities for serious offenders, whilst others had an opportunity to learn various worthwhile trades.



The boys who were resident at the school were given work on farmland, both that of the Reformatory and local farmers, and were also trained in tailoring, shoemaking and basket making and, in later years, motor mechanics. A band was formed, to instruct some of the boys in music and the discipline of marching and performing together. A gymnasium was well used, with the boys exercising regularly and some of them putting on gymnastic displays at various events. Sports were also undertaken, with football and cricket matches played against local clubs.

After being taken over by the local authorities in 1925, it was renamed Castle Howard Farm School. It was later converted to an Approved School in 1933, when a new Act of Parliament replaced the old Reformatories and Industrial Schools, but the number of boys housed, and the education and training provided, remained much the same.

It became the Castle Howard Regional Community Home in 1974, eventually closing in 1987. The site was redeveloped in 1989 with some of the old Reformatory buildings forming the core of what is now Crambeck Village.



A description of the Reformatory School, from July 1861, mentions the existence of a drum and fife band:

“The building is not a very large one, it is remarkably clean and has a very nice appearance. The left wing consists of a schoolroom on the ground floor, and a bedroom containing fifteen beds, upstairs. The bedsteads are of iron, and are supplied with the necessary summer covering. On the ground floor of the right wing is a washhouse and sculleries, and sick rooms; while upstairs there is sleeping accommodation for thirty-two boys. The Reformatory, at present, contains forty-seven boys, who are divided into five classes. The lads look remarkably happy and contented. When the boy first enters the place, he is sent out to work in the fields, and afterwards he is placed to learn either the tailoring or the shoe-making business, for which competent men are retained to instruct him if he shows a capacity for either of those trades. The ages of the boys are between 11 and 17, and they are in for various periods, namely, 5, 4, 3, while there is one lad who is only in for two years. Their behaviour is described as very good. The following is the system carried out: On Sunday, after breakfast, they have prayers from eight to nine. At half-past nine they go to church; on their return they have dinner, and after this a scripture lesson is read, then recreation, and at five o'clock supper. Then again to church, and on their return, bed. At six o'clock on the week-day mornings the boys rise, and from this time until eight they are in the schoolroom, where they are taught reading, spelling, and dictation, arithmetic, geography, the scriptures, and church catechism. The first two classes are also taught a little English history; from eight to nine they have prayers and breakfast; from nine to twelve they either work in the fields or at their trades; from twelve to one dinner; one to five, work again; five to six drill and play; six to seven, supper and play; seven to half past eight, school again. At half-past eight they have prayers, and then to bed. The following is the diet supplied to them during the week: breakfast, nine ounces of bread and a pint of coffee, with treacle; on Sunday, they have for dinner, half a pound Yorkshire pudding, three ounces of meat, and four and a half ounces of bread; Monday, a pint of soup and nine ounces of bread. When potatoes are plentiful they have them in lieu of bread. Tuesday and Friday, two ounces of bread and three ounces of meat; Wednesday,

nine ounces of bread and two ounces of treacle; Thursday, one pound of suet dumpling and potatoes or bread; and on Saturday, nine ounces of bread and two ounces of cheese. Each lad, on rising in the morning, makes his own bed, and turns it down to air, and during the day it is put right by the schoolroom boy. The boys are described as being very healthy and free from all sickness. The ground belonging to the reformatory consists of about 27 acres, and is dug over entirely by hand by the boys. The lads also scour the bedrooms and kitchens in turn. The institution supplies them with two suits of corduroy per year, one for Sunday's and the other for week-days, and the only mark by which the boys can be recognized is the buttons on their clothes, on which are the words "Castle Howard Reformatory." They are also supplied with the necessary shirts and stockings. There have only been three boys run away from the institution since Christmas, all three of whom were brought back within a day or two, and the punishment for this offence is confinement and whipping. There is a drum and fife band, the members of which are taught by Mr. Prest, the bandmaster of the Third York Rifles. On leaving the reformatory at the expiration of their term the boys are placed to any business they wish to learn. If they do not desire to be any trade they are allowed to stay in the institution until they can get a suitable situation."

The boys at the school, who were sent there for a range of offences, many of which we would regard as minor these days. One example, from April 1864 is that of Richard Pulman:

"Stealing beef - Richard Pulman, several times remanded on this charge, was again brought up and committed to prison for 11 days, with hard labour, during which time he would receive 12 strokes, and afterwards to be sent to Castle Howard Reformatory for five years."

Occasionally, however, there were problems, boys absconded only to be caught and returned. One time a boy set fire to some of the School farm's hay ricks. In April 1864 - not related to the arrival of Richard Pulman - there was a serious 'mutiny' at the School:

"An outbreak of a serious nature occurred at the Castle Howard Reformatory, about six o'clock on Sunday evening. Some ill-feeling appears to have been engendered among the inmates against the labour master, who is stated to have whipped some of the lads. It would seem a favourable opportunity had been waited for revenge, and on Sunday, the Superintendent Rev. Ishmael Fish, (who possesses the most complete authority), was absent, and did not return to the school until evening. In the morning the inmates were all marched to Welburn Church as usual, and no signs of disaffection were discovered. At the time stated, however, the officers of the Reformatory were suddenly attacked by a band of from 20 to 30 inmates, who were armed with pokers, tongs, rollers, etc. The doors were broken open. A desperate fight was kept up for some time, and eventually nine of the inmates succeeded in making their escape. More than one half of those concerned in the



Master Scaife - one of the Reformatory boys

riot, however, repented early, and did not leave the place; but a regular hue and cry was raised after those who had absconded, and, as they had all set off in the direction of the Castle Howard Woods, almost all the inhabitants of Welburn village joined in the pursuit. The result was that by eight o'clock six of the runaways were retaken. A messenger was dispatched to Malton for the aid of police, and Superintendent Walmsley, with constables, at once set off to the Reformatory, and on the way met and captured one of the lads. Before midnight all, save a lad named, Heaton, were recaptured, and six of the ringleaders, named Arnold, Hill, Davis, Walker, Pollard, and another, were placed in custody at the Malton Police station. Two others, West and Gillson, were confined in the cells of the Reformatory. The only person seriously injured is the schoolmaster, who was attacked with fire-irons, which, it appears, had been previously made red hot. By seizing them to defend himself he was much burnt about the hands and arms."

The boys, however, were generally well behaved and the education and training they received set them up for adult careers – sometimes in the military as soldiers and/or bandmen, or otherwise as skilled labourers and tradesmen.



View of part of the Reformatory School

THE BAND

Prior to the formation of the Reformatory School Band, there was a brass band in the village of Welburn for a few years. Known as Welburn Brass Band, it was active in 1857 through to 1860. Its conductor was Mr Prest in 1858. The band was strongly linked to the nearby Castle Howard estate, and it was also known as the Earl of Carlisle's Brass Band.

The Reformatory drum and fife band was still in existence in 1887, taking part in the Malton Horse Procession, and being complimented on its excellent playing and general appearance. It is not known when the brass band was established, but it was clearly very effective and well-formed in 1888, and it could well have co-existed with

the drum and fife band for a period. The band boys were "always immaculately dressed in military style uniforms, their instruments polished to perfection".



The Band in a local Sunday School procession – possibly Malton?

The known bandmasters of the brass band are:

- P.J. Richardson in 1889-1894
- T. Hudale/Huddle in 1899
- G.W. (Paddy) Berfert, formerly of the 10th Royal Hussars, from 1900 to 1905
- W.R. McManus in 1906
- Walter Wyndham Sheppard, around 1914, who had previously had a military career in the 1st Life Guards, musically educated at Kneller Hall, and was bandmaster to the Frontier Force in Nigeria for six years.



Walter Sheppard and his wife, Jane, c. 1894



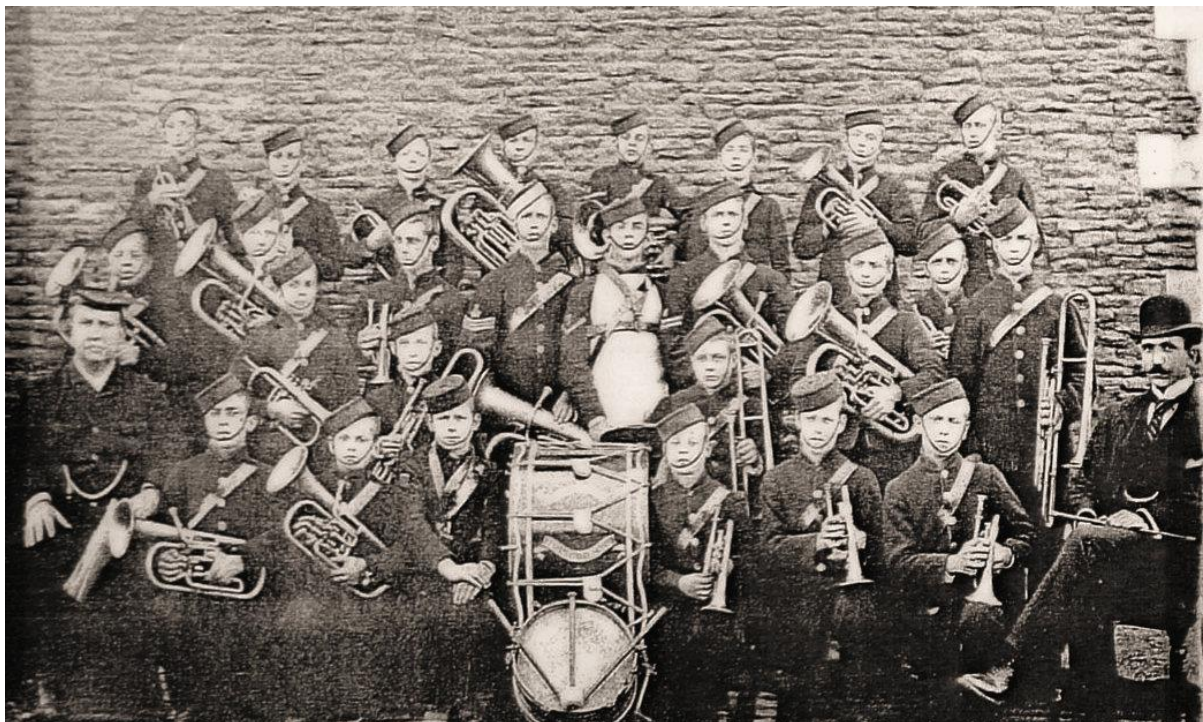
The Band, c. 1915. Bandmaster Walter Sheppard in the bowler hat.

Some of the known performances by the band:

- Sunday 21 October 1888 – the Castle Howard Reformatory Band played a variety of sacred selections at the Welburn annual services, preached by Rev. R.G. Fish and Rev. J. Gabb.
- Saturday 2 August 1890 – the fifth annual Castle Howard regatta and sports were held on the Great Lake at the estate. The Reformatory Band was engaged to play during the afternoon.
- Friday 26 December 1890 – Christmastide at Welburn passed in a quiet manner, the Castle Howard lake, being frozen, became the rendezvous of skating parties, who enjoyed themselves immensely, being able to replenish the “inner man” at a tea and coffee tent supplied by Mr Moses of Ganthorpe. The Reformatory Band, under the direction of Mr P.J. Richardson, played selections of appropriate music through the village, which was much appreciated by the inhabitants.
- Wednesday 21 January 1891 – the Christmas festivities did not finish at Castle Howard until Thursday, having been held over owing to the severe weather. A large Christmas tree, standing fully 20 feet, whose branches were bowed down by the weight of the presents they bore, looked brilliant under the light shed by upwards of five hundred small candles that also studded its spreading boughs. The tree was without doubt a “thing of beauty,” and ought to have been so, as its preparation had occupied several weeks, the work being under the personal superintendence of Lady Carlisle. The candles were lighted in the presence of the older school children, attending the various schools on the estate, to whom the sight afforded great gratification, materially increased when on their departure each lad and lass became the happy possessor of a useful article or amusing toy. Pleasant music was furnished during the evening by the

Reformatory Brass Band, and nothing was left undone that could add to the enjoyment of the juveniles.

- Tuesday 7 June 1892 - the whole of the children in the parish of Sand Hutton were invited to spend the afternoon and evening at Claxton Hall. The children assembled in the lane leading to the hall about three o'clock, when a surprise awaited them in the shape of the Castle Howard Reformatory band, which promptly headed the procession and struck up into a lively march composed of a choice selection of English, Scotch, and Irish airs, admirably arranged. On arriving at the hall, the children proceeded to a field adjoining the hall, where various amusements had, with great forethought, been provided. The Reformatory Band in their new uniforms, gave an extra charm to the almost tropical scene, and great praise is due to them for the very efficient manner in which they enlivened the proceedings.
- Saturday 6 August 1892 – the Castle Howard Horticultural and Livestock Show was held in the Park, and the Reformatory Band was engaged to play lively selections throughout the day.
- Saturday 13 August 1892 - the annual Castle Howard regatta and sports were held. At the conclusion of the aquatic sports, and adjournment was made to the cricket ground, where the foot races and other sports were held. The Reformatory Band played lively tunes throughout the day.
- Monday 22 May 1893 – the Malton Whitsuntide Horse Procession paraded around the town, within which there were five bands of music – the Malton, Sherburn and Thornton Brass Bands, the Blue Hungarian Band, and the Castle Howard Reformatory Band.



The Band, c. 1915

- Friday 9 June 1893 - A boy named Samuel Jackson Pounder, aged 14 years, a native of Hull, and an inmate of the Reformatory School, met his death under very distressing circumstances. He was one of a squad engaged to remove a large quantity of soil within the pleasure grounds at Castle Howard, where

extensive alterations are taking place. The boys, in charge of Mr H. Bond, labour-master, repaired during dinner hour to the New River, a small expanse of water situated just outside the pleasure grounds under the shadow of the Mausoleum. Here they commenced bathing. The boys, seven in number, had not been long in the water when Pounder was seen to throw up his arms and cry for "help." Two of his comrades at once went to his assistance, but after struggling in the water for some time they were unable to rescue him. During the inquest, on the following day, the Coroner remarked that the Reformatory had, he understood, been quite free from calamities for a number of years, and the verdict was given that the boy was accidentally drowned while bathing, and that no blame was attached to anyone. The remains of the deceased were interred at Welburn, in the presence of a large concourse of people. The coffin, which was literally covered with flowers - tributes from his comrades - was conveyed to the grave by members of the Castle Howard Reformatory Brass Band (dressed in their uniform), of which the deceased was a member.

- Saturday 29 July 1893 – the band provided music for the Castle Howard regatta and sports.
- Saturday 5 August 1893 – the band played various selections through the afternoon of the Castle Howard Horticultural Show – an exhibition of plants, fruit, poultry, cattle, etc.
- Thursday 5 April 1894 – a “Character” football match was played on the Welburn cricket ground between the “Ally Slopers” and the “Daisy Bells”, raising funds for the Malton Nursing Association. The Reformatory Band was present, by permission, and their playing enhanced the proceedings, which took £6 at the gates.



A view of the Reformatory Chapel

- Wednesday 27 June 1894 – a jumble sale, in aid of the church restoration fund, was held at the village school-room at Crambe, with the Reformatory Band present and discoursing lively airs at intervals. The Misses E. and L. Fish, of the Castle Howard Reformatory, were two of the stallholders.
- Saturday 21 July 1894 – the band provided music for the Castle Howard regatta and sports, one of which was the tug-of-war Married v. Single. The married men proved too much for the representatives of single blessedness, who were twice defeated, the winners being presented with a pound of tobacco.
- Saturday 4 August 1894 – the Castle Howard Horticultural and Cattle Show was held, with admission to the show including permission to inspect the gardens and grounds. The Reformatory Band discoursed a programmed of music during the day.
- Monday 3 June 1895 – the Malton Whitsuntide Horse Procession paraded around the town, again with five bands of music – this time Malton Brass Band, Malton Volunteer Band, Thornton Dale Band, Pickering Band and the Castle Howard Reformatory Band.



The Band, c. 1925

- Monday 25 May 1896 – the Malton Whit Monday Horse Procession included Malton Brass Band, Malton Volunteer Band, Thornton Dale Band, Billington Brass Band and the Castle Howard Reformatory Band.
- Wednesday 29 June 1898 – the Flaxton Club Day, arranged by the Independent Order of Foresters, whose members marched in procession, at 11.30 a.m. headed by the Reformatory Band, to the church.
- Monday 5 June 1899 – the Reformatory Band enlivened the proceedings at the Welburn Club Feast when, towards evening, the band arrived and paraded around the village.

- Wednesday 28 June 1899 – the band led the Flaxton Foresters in their Club Day parade.
- Thursday 19 October 1899 - the Castle Howard Reformatory harvest festival was celebrated with the "last load" of corn was brought home in triumphant procession from one of the fields on the home farm about half a mile distant. The cart was drawn by a number of boys, the remainder of the inmates of the school, numbering about 100, preceded by the School Band followed by the clergy robed, marching in procession to the strains of the well-known hymn "Onward Christian Soldiers." Arriving at the stockyard, hymn 384, "To Thee O Lord Our Hearts We Raise," was sung while the load was being teemed. Afterwards the procession was continued to the chapel, where service was held. The visitors made an inspection of the institution, and they were highly pleased. While they were being hospitably entertained by the Governor and his wife, the boys were not forgotten, a splendid harvest dinner, consisting of roast beef and plum pudding, being provided for them, also a substantial tea. Sports were indulged in.
- Thursday 5 July 1900 - About 1,000 children representing the seventeen Bands of Hope in the Malton District Union attended a gala at Malton. There was a procession in which three bands of music, seventeen gaily decorated waggons, and cyclists in costume took part. The programme included a band contest between the engaged bands, singing contest, wild-flower show, old English sports, and a public tea. Mr. Walker, of Batley, was the judge in the band contest, and Skaifes Band, from Pickering [conductor Squire Firth], won first prize for both the selection and the quickstep, while the Castle Howard Reformatory Band and the Pickering Town Band shared the second prizes. This was the Reformatory Band's first known foray into band contesting.

“The lads from the Reformatory played very creditably indeed, but they lack the power and experience of Skaife's old band, who well earned first money.”



Another view of the Reformatory

- Saturday 5 July 1902 – the band visited the market town of Beverley, for the first time, and played selections in the principal thoroughfares of the town.
- Friday 1 August 1902 - The band, led by Trumpet-Major G.H. Berfert played selections of airs during the afternoon of the school's prize day, at which the Marquis of Zetland, Lord Wenlock, the Archbishop of York, the Bishop of Beverley, and Colonel Legard.
- Wednesday 6 August 1902 – the Castle Howard Reformatory Band entered an “own choice test piece” contest held at Malton, judged by Joseph Owen Shepherd. They were drawn number two to play, but did not feature in the prizes. The other bands were: 1st place Wyke (conductor Edwin Swift, piece: “*Bayreuth*”), 2nd Batley (Alexander Owen, “*Die Walküre*”), 3rd Black Dyke (John Gladney, “*Faust*”), 4th York City (T. Foster, “*Gems of Victorian Melody*”) and, also unplaced, Malton White Star Band.
- Tuesday 12 August 1902 – the band performed at the garden party held by Mrs Dawnay, near Malton.

“... one of the boys, named Jackson, picked up a gold watch on the lawn. He handed it over to the governor, who was present, when it transpired that it was the property of Lady Worsley, of Hovingham Hall. Sir William Worsley complimented the boy on his honesty, and handsomely rewarded him. The boy, Jackson, was the one who recently won the Marquis of Zetland's prize of a silver watch and chain for the best conduct in the school during the past 12 months.”



The Band, playing in some gardens – c. 1920

- Wednesday 20 August 1902 – the band's performance - at the York City Police Swimming Club and Humane Society's swimming sports, in the River Ouse, near the New Blue Bridge, York – “materially added to the enjoyment of the spectators, by their admirable playing.”
- Wednesday 5 August 1903 – the Castle Howard Reformatory Band entered an “own choice test piece” contest held at Malton, judged by Joseph Owen Shepherd. They were drawn number one to play, but were not placed. They

played "*Le Domino Noir*" and were conducted by G.W. Berfert. The other bands were: 1st place, Scarborough Rifles (conductor J. Wall, piece "*Rossini*"), 2nd Scarborough Borough (A. Blackburn, "*Meyerbeer*"), 3rd York City (F.W. Stockdale, "*Mercadente*"), unplaced, Malton White Star Band, and Cleveland Steel Works Band withdrew.

- Wednesday 12 August 1903 – the band entered another contest, this time at Pickering, with many of the same bands, and playing much the same music! This time, playing number 3, with their piece "*Le Domino Noir*", they achieved 3rd prize. The other bands were: 1st place, Scarborough Rifles (conductor J. Wall, piece "*Rossini*"), 2nd York City (F.W. Stockdale, "*Mercadente*"), unplaced, Malton White Star Band (William Watson). Scarborough Borough Band withdrew from the contest.



Princess Mary listens to boys' band - see: 22 September 1926

- Wednesday 23 September 1903 – the band performed "enlivening strains" through the afternoon at a garden fete at Goldsborough Hall, near Knaresborough, conducted by Bandmaster G. Berfert.
- Friday 29 July 1904 – a band contest at Malton attracted three bands, the Castle Howard Reformatory Band, Malton White Star Band, and Pickering Town Band. The judge, Mr B.D. Jackson, awarded first prize to the lads of Castle Howard, second to Pickering, and third to Malton White Star. Castle Howard also took home the prize for the best march.
- Wednesday 3 August 1904 – the band's next attempt at a contest took place in Pickering, where a band contest was held in connection with the Pickering Gala and Dog Show. Seven bands competed and were judged by Mr J. Walker of Otley. In the selection contest Armley & Wortley Band took first prize; second and third prizes were divided between Rothwell Temperance and Scarborough Borough Bands, with the Castle Howard Reformatory Band taking fourth place.

- Saturday 22 July 1905 – the band entered the contest held in conjunction with the York Horticultural Show promoted by the employees at Messrs. Rowntrees Cocoa Works, York, with £52 offered in prize money. The eight entrants were Armley & Wortley Prize Band (conductor, H. Mallinson), Barton Cycle Works Band (W. Holdsworth), Castle Howard Reformatory School Band (G.W. Berfert), Castleford Subscription Prize Band (J.W. Stamp), Cockerton Prize Silver Band (W. Watson), Goole South Street Prize Band (G. Perrett), York City Prize Band (F.W. Stockdale), and Wyke Brass (late Temperance) Band (W. Rimmer). The adjudicator was Mr J.O. Shepherd (Liverpool), and the test pieces were “*Gems of Mendelssohn*”, “*La Cenerentola*”, “*Mikado*”, and “*Gems of Irish Melody*”. The prizes went to: 1st, Wyke Brass Band; 2nd, Castleford; 3rd, Goole; 4th, Barton; 5th shared, Armley & Wortley and Cockerton. The schoolboys were not placed.



Henry Staves and his plaque presented by Princess Mary - see: 22 September 1926

- Monday 7 August 1905 - hundreds of persons assembled in the Orchard Field, Malton, in the afternoon to enjoy the gala promoted by the White Star Band. The first feature was a walking contest - the route being through the town, round by Swinton Grange, and back to the gala field. The band contest attracted five entries, and four bands turned up. the absentee being the Scarborough Rifle Band, which had an engagement elsewhere. The others were the Castle Howard Reformatory Band, Scarborough Borough Band, Armley & Wortley Band, and York Silver Subscription Band. Armley & Wortley won the quickstep contest. £20 in prizes was on offer for the main selection competition, being

won by Armley & Wortley, playing “*Rossini’s Works*”; the Castle Howard Reformatory Band took second prize, “*Gems of Mendelssohn*”; Scarborough Borough, third; and York Silver, fourth. The judge was J. Brier. After the contest the boys from Castle Howard Reformatory went through an interesting performance of physical drill and gymnastic feats, and the gala closed with a ball in the large marquee, with the Castle Howard Reformatory Band officiating.

- Thursday 7 September 1905 – the Reformatory Band played at the reception at Westgarth, Malton, following the wedding of Charles Charnock Smith and Hermione Pearson.
- Monday 2 October 1905 – G.W. Berfert resigned as conductor of the Castle Howard Reformatory Band, to take up a position in Malton.
- Thursday 5 July 1906 – the Hovingham branch of the Oddfellows held their annual club feast in the village, and engaged the Castle Howard Reformatory Band to lead them in procession around the village.
- Friday 3 August 1906 – the band, under their conductor W.R. McManus, played a suitable programme to accompany the Eskdaleside Conservative and Unionist Association’s demonstration at Woodlands Hall.
- Friday 25 September 1908 – the Conservatives of the Buckrose Division held a demonstration at Eddlethorpe Grange, Malton. The Reformatory Brass Band rendered selections of music throughout the afternoon.



Boys with their awards for industry, presented by Princess Mary

- Wednesday 13 July 1910 = the Cleveland Branch of the Women’s Union of the Church of England Temperance Society held a grand fete at Mulgrave Castle. The Castle Howard Farm School Band, conducted by Mr R. McManus, entertained the visitors to the fete, which included excursionists from Middlesbrough and different parts of Cleveland, as well as Temperance workers

from Whitby and the neighbourhood, and others who sought pleasure in the occasion.

- Wednesday 20 September 1911 – the tenantry of Hovingham Hall were treated to entertainments, including performances by the Reformatory Band, on the occasion of the coming of age of William Henry Arthington Worsley, son and heir of Sir W.H.A. and Lady Worsley.
- Thursday 22 May 1913 – the band provided musical selections throughout the afternoon of the inter-school sports at Malton, between Malton Grammar School, Lady Lumley's Grammar School (Pickering), and Whitby County Secondary School.



Princess Mary inspecting the Reformatory gardens

- Friday 18 July 1913 – the band was engaged to perform at the Driffeld Agricultural Show.
- Tuesday 27 January 1914 – a concert was held at the Theatre Royal, Malton, in aid of the Malton and District Cottage Hospital, consisting of Scottish items in honour of the Burns anniversary. In addition to the many vocal and instrumental offerings, the Castle Howard Reformatory Band Band played various selections throughout the evening.
- Saturday 18 June 1921 – the band performed at the Brompton-by-Sawdon Sports Day.
- Saturday 29 July 1922 – the band played selections during the afternoon at the great Liberal Demonstration, held at Castle Howard.
- Thursday 19 August 1926 – a mammoth garden fete was held at Castle Howard, to raise funds for a hall for the Welburn Women's Institute. Some three to four thousand people attended, and the Castle Howard Reformatory Band played throughout the afternoon.
- Wednesday 22 September 1926 – a significant day for the Band and the Reformatory, on the occasion of the visit of Princess Mary. She toured the premises and the gardens, and presented various prizes and awards for industry

and achievements to the boys at the School, including Henry Staves, a member of the band, who was presented with the shield for “best boy of the school”.

- Thursday 18 August 1927 – the Band took part in the festivities during a garden party at Huttons Ambo Hall, which included the Westow Players and Mr Basil Brown’s concert party.
- During this latter period of the band’s existence the bandmaster was J.W. Hackney, of Malton. He remained in post until the Castle Howard Farm School Brass Band was disbanded by order of the Home Office, some time between 1927 and the school’s redesignation in 1933. There had been a report of the band being disbanded in 1920, but it had either been reformed, or was still active, as it clearly remained, as a musical force in the School and the local area, well into the late 1920’s at least.



Walter Sheppard, 2nd from right, front row, in the Life Guards Band, c. 1895

Further reading and resources:

- *Former Children's Homes* website is the first dedicated encyclopaedia of life in former children's homes and orphanages.
<http://www.formerchildrenshomes.org.uk>
- *The Children's Homes* website details the many and varied institutions that became home for thousands of children and young people in Britain.
<http://www.childrenshomes.org.uk/>

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