**Copthorne Silver Band**

Newsletter No 11

JULY 13th 2021

**A slow return to normal.**

Last Monday the band committee met to discuss how the Band would emerge from the last 18 months of challenges that the pandemic has subjected us to.

Whilst unable to perform, we have made the best we could of rehearsal opportunities, and members have supported the limited chances that have arisen, to maintain the Bands local profile in the community.

Despite the lack of income from performances, thanks to your support, the Band is still financially stable.

Thanks to our dedicated Musical Director, we have a rehearsed repertoire of music that is ready to perform.

Your committee have continued with a positive approach, and done their best to keep in touch with all our members, waiting for the day that we would all be back performing together.

Due to changing circumstances, some members have had to move on, or reduce their commitment, but we can be thankful that we have not lost any members as a direct result of Covid. What we did lose was the ability to recruit.

Fortunately, the Band was in a strong position when the pandemic started in terms of membership, and morale. The 2019 Gang Show at the Hawth, the Songbirds concerts , Carol concerts and the plans we had for a Proms night on Copthorne Village Green all seem so long ago.

Back then, our essential aims were to raise the Bands profile, increase the membership, encourage young members and provide a more entertaining Brass Band programme of popular music. But, due to Covid, surviving has become key over the last 18 months.

Now we must be prepared to dust off these objectives, and again look to the future. Although we now have to start from a lower baseline.

As you will all be aware the Government has announced that from 19th July we move into Step 4. Most of the legislation affecting the Band will be removed. However, the pandemic has not gone away, and we have a responsibility, as a band, to all our members as individuals and , to proceed into this next step with caution. We have both young members who have not yet had full vaccination and others who fall into the vulnerable category .

We have set out below how we intend to take a cautious approach in our return to normality. It is important to your Band committee that all our members feel comfortable and therefore, more than ever, **it is important that you review these proposals and let Sheila know, in confidence, if you have any concerns.**

Firstly, as Chris is isolating and we need to concentrate our attention to the engagement on **Saturday, this Thursday we will continue with all the same precautions we have had in place of late**. Maggie has kindly agreed to conduct again**.**

**FROM THURSDAY 29th JULY we will rehearse under a new risk assessment, and we ask all members to respect the precautions we are taking.**

**Unchanged**

* Do not attend if unwell of if there has been contact with someone with Covid in past 10 days.
* Face masks when not playing. To protect others.
* Sanitizer should be used on entering the hall
* We will maintain register on entry
* All members should maintain min 1m distance.
* Continue to bring own stands, music etc.
* No unnecessary physical contact.
* No Tea break but a comfort break will be offered at about 8.30pm
* We will continue to keep windows open when possible and use the hall ventilation

**Changes**

**Groups of 6** no longer necessary.

**Staggered arrival times** are abandoned but players recommended to social distance on entry and exit. **Arrival after 7.15 for 7.30 start.** **9.30 Finish.**

**The hall toilets** will return to the original separate ladies and gents. So ladies try not to embarrass the gents!

**Seating arrangement.** The chairs spaced at least 1m apart but in an open band formation. 2nd row spaced 2m from the front row and 2m apart. (possible use of screens between rows)

Further screens are available so if any member requests an additional screen it will be provided.

**At engagements.**

**We are in the open air where the risks are greatly reduced but we ask members to observe the following:-**

* Do not attend if unwell of if there has been contact with someone with Covid in past 10 days.
* Face masks when not playing. To protect others.
* Continue to bring own stands music etc.
* No unnecessary physical contact.

**The band layout** will obviously be dictated by the space available to us but we will be pointing out to event organisers that we need more space than usual. We will aim to have chairs spaced at least 1m apart but in an open band formation. 2nd row spaced 2m from the front row and 2m apart. Screens are not practical outside.

**A new risk assessment** is being produced based on these principles and we will review it monthly for as long as is necessary.

**Remember we all want to look after each other, so if at anytime at rehearsal or on an engagement you have concerns please tell Sheila so that we can address the issue**.

**Lets stay safe, enjoy playing, and do our best to entertain.**

**Coming engagements.**

**Sat 24th July**

**1.30 – 3.30 pm**

**Copthorne Carnival**

Copthorne Village Green, off Church Road, RH10 3RD

**Sat 7th August**

**3.30 to 4.30**

 **Cinderwood, Copthorne Road, Copthorne, RH10 3PD,**

Gwyn and Christine invite you and your partners to a Garden Party. We would like the band to play for one hour as guests arrive, and then for you to become their guests for the Bar-B- que and the rest of the afternoon.

Shelter will be provided.

**A standard invite is attached but note the band is to start playing at 3.30pm.**

**Sat 11th September, Summer fayre,**

**12.00 – 3.00pm**

**Crawley Down Village Green**

**Please let the committee know your comments and views**

****Try the link. https://copthornesilverband.co.uk