

## INTO 2019 - NEWS FROM THE CRICKLADE BAND

Since the band first began in 1887, December has always meant being out and about in Cricklade and all the surrounding villages, doing our festive bit. Among the 18 events the band attended we were invited once again to the prestigious Westonbirt Arboretum's 'Enchanted Christmas' season, playing for about 4500 people during the evening! Our 'Christmas Present' show sold out in advance too!

Continuing an 131-year tradition, we fund the considerable annual costs of our rehearsal and storage facilities from our 'wassailing' efforts. We sincerely thank everyone for their donations for our festive carol-playing: thank you to more than ever people coming to the doorsteps; those singing along and tagging along with us; applauding, even whistling; filming and taking pictures – you're all very welcome!

The **Performance Band** events list for the year has filled up quicker than ever and sees us returning to Bath, Weston-super-Mare and Swindon bandstands and Westonbirt too. A new bandstand to visit this year is Stratford-upon-Avon and we've also been invited back to Lyme Regis. As well as being ambassadors for Cricklade further afield, our participation in many local community events make welcome repeat listings.

**BandAcademy** continues enthusiastically with our student youngsters and not-so-youngsters taking part in several community events of their own and also joining the Performance Band in concerts. If you would like to learn to play an instrument, it's time to sweep away the obstacles and just do it, regardless of age or anything else! Just find out the contact details from Facebook, or call in at the Town Hall on a Thursday and say hello.

As 2019 unfolds, and you're a bit jaded, or you've made a resolution to visit, or revisit, music-making and looking to join a band 'family' that makes its own conventions then have a look at Facebook, get in touch and look forward, not back!

If you'd like to be involved with all that the band does we're specially looking for some new recruits to our **Crew**. They're the valuable people who do all sorts *except* play an instrument. Again, just drop in and have a cuppa and a chat.

Thanks for reading our news, just a couple of diary dates to finish:

**Saturday 16 March – Spring Table-Top Sale**, at the Town Hall, Cricklade, 11am to 1pm. If you're a Table-Top seller, get in quick and call 01793 750516 to book your table, at just £6. Setting-up is from 10am. If you're a Table-Top browser, who knows what you might find? The band itself will have our famous eat-in or takeaway bacon rolls, home-made cake array, tea, coffee, games of chance and a raffle or two. *See you there!*

**Sunday 7 April – 'Spring Forward' Show** – at the Town Hall, Cricklade at 7.30pm. A concert of new season music you'll know and love, with the up-and-coming musicians of BandAcademy doing their bit too. Watch for the posters and Facebook details - tickets are just £6, available from Cricklade's Council Office or McFarlane Sales & Lettings in the High Street.