

## Project 2020:

# A Clear Vision for the Future of Chichester City Band



## Introduction

Brass bands are an iconic part of British life: whether playing in a park, on a bandstand, at a church fete, at a service of remembrance or in a concert hall - we have all heard a brass band play. What is not commonly known is that brass bands are struggling. The reasons are many - here are just a few:

1. A busier pace of life, a work culture of long hours, working parents
2. A withdrawal of patronage - compared with early days when mill owners, collieries or factories often supported their own bands
3. A lack of local authority support due to 'austerity measures' (although we are fortunate with the support we get from our City Council)
4. Poor interaction/integration with local music authorities/education services at school level - and an apparent reluctance to allow children to join and play with outside music groups such as ours
5. A refusal on the part of some bands to respond to this new reality

Brass bands can struggle because they are not able (or willing?) to respond to this new reality. The good news, however, is that many bands have seized the initiative and have managed to develop strong membership, fed by thriving 'training' bands. We want to emulate these successful bands.

To get to that point, we have set ourselves a list of objectives that we hope to achieve by the year 2020 - hence the working title '*Project 2020: A Clear Vision for the Future of Chichester City Band*'.

## Project 2020: The Vision

Over the next 5 years we aim to accomplish the following:

1. To secure a **permanent home** for the band where we can not only rehearse but also store musical instruments and our music library
2. To establish a full **training band** for both junior and adult learners
  - We plan to start in February of 2015 and hope to have our first recruits playing in the senior band by 2020 if not before.
3. To **recruit actively** from less advantaged areas from our community, working on the principle that income should not be a barrier to having the chance to play an instrument.
  - The band has a large supply of under used instruments that we can provide to learners.
  - Playing a musical instrument has been shown to help with other aspects of learning, as well as teaching self-discipline and improving self-esteem.
4. To become the **band of choice** to be engaged by all local venues
  - We are blessed in our part of Sussex with many and varied established venues, at some of which the band already plays regularly: Chichester City Centre, Chichester Cathedral, Weald and Downland Museum, Hotham Park. However, there are some notable exceptions at which we don't currently appear but where we would hope to play in the future.
5. To become, once again, a force to be reckoned with on the **contest platform**.

The band is a registered charity and our funding is currently derived mainly from relatively small grants plus income from paid performances and self-organised concerts. In order to be able to achieve these goals, we are seeking to raise our income from the present level of around £14,000 per annum to around £25k per annum.

This is where we need your support!

## **Becoming a Sponsor / Supporter of Chichester City Band**

A number of organisations already support us and we would like to thank them:  
Chichester City Council, John Lewis Partnership, F&G Transport, Sidlesham Garage, Veg Out Organic Box Scheme.

If you would like to join them in helping us achieve our goals, you can help us in a number of ways:

1. Become a sponsor at one of the following levels:

- Bronze Level: £150 per annum
- Silver Level: £225 per annum
- Gold Level: £300 per annum

Any funds you provide will be put towards implementation of our *Project 2020* agenda and we will supply you with a breakdown of how your donations are used.

2. If you do not feel you are able to sponsor us then why not book the band for an event you are organising? Charity concerts, fetes, etc., all benefit from live music. You can help us by using any influence you have with any of the local venues.
3. Support us by attending our concerts or 'play outs' around the area.
4. Contact our Chairman - Howard Smith    01243 649145 or 07894 032896  
Email: tubaarmy@gmail.co.uk

We will send you 4 tickets to our Summer (Festival of Chichester) Concert and 4 tickets to our Christmas Concert. We will also credit your company logo on our website. When we play out, our A-board will display your company as a band sponsor. We will also send a letter of acknowledgement to the Chichester Observer each year. You can also hire the band at a discount fee if you wish to.

Thank you for taking the time to read this - we look forward to hearing from you soon.

**Chichester City Band**

**President, The Right Worshipful Mayor of Chichester**

## About Chichester City Band

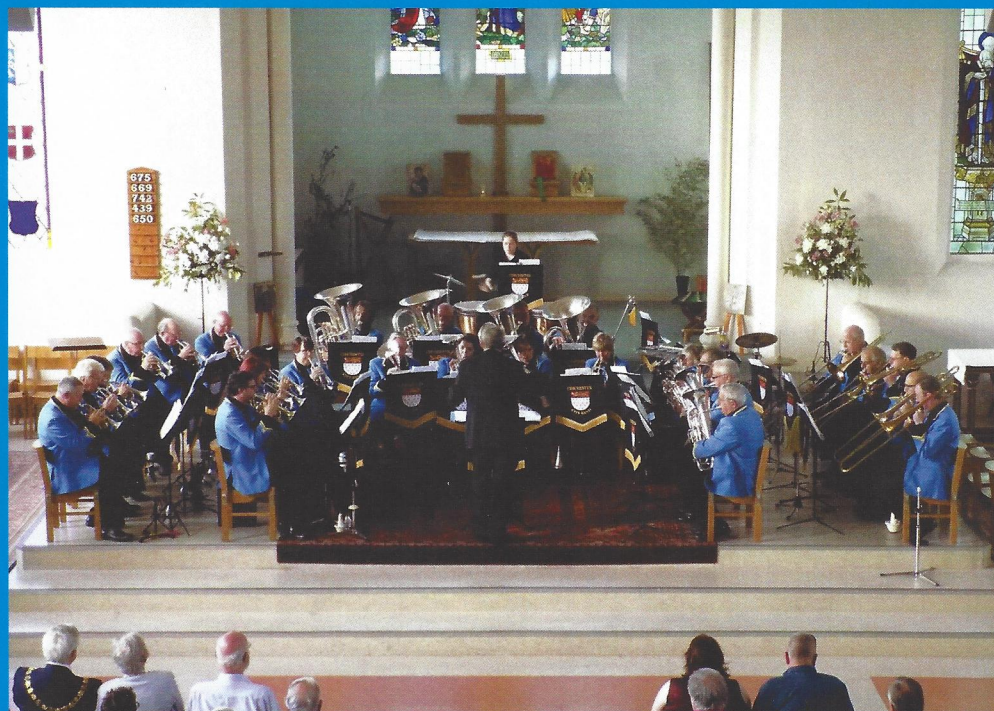
Chichester City Band has been in existence since 1897, when it was formed as part of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.

The band can be seen throughout the year playing in and around the Chichester and Bognor Regis areas. We give regular concerts and play at fetes and functions, as well as performing a busy carolling programme over the Christmas period.

We draw our players from within roughly a 20 mile radius of Chichester, and practice twice weekly (currently at the Aldwick British Legion in Bognor Regis).

The band contests in the National 2nd Section and has qualified on a number of occasions to perform at the National Finals at prestigious venues such as the Wembley Conference Centre, Birmingham Symphony Hall and the Albert Hall.

The band is an indelible part of the local community and is one of only two organisations privileged to wear the Chichester City Crest.



### REHEARSALS

Tuesdays and Thursdays (19.45 - 21.45)

Training band Thursday (18.45 - 19.45)

Aldwick British Legion  
20 Hewarts Lane, Bognor Regis  
PO21 3DS