



Burbage Band Member Guide

This document is intended to give advice and guidance to assist you with life within Burbage Band Buxton

Band History

The band was established by local quarry owner Robert Broome and fellow industrialists in 1861. It is one of the oldest brass bands in the world, and proudly maintains its original aims and objectives. Formed as a village band, with the patronage of the Church and Duke of Devonshire, to teach music without charge, provide a healthy and constructive pastime, develop community spirit and entertain, the band has taught many hundreds to play.

Today Burbage Band continues to promote and represent Burbage and Buxton both locally and further abroad and has active members from every generation. The band is one of the most successful, busiest and friendliest bands in the area and is renowned for having trained most of its own players as well as many now playing with more famous bands. Lessons, instruments loan and insurance are provided free of charge to anyone with commitment to learn. This provision is popular with all ages, but especially where pupils also use the instrument at school.

With no regular sponsorship or patronage, the band generates much of its income from performances and operates as a registered charity number 701257.

These performances take the band all over the country, and indeed into Europe, with the band having played in Germany, France and Belgium.

If you would like to join Burbage Band as a player or learner, then please get in contact with our musical director Mr Steve Critchlow on 07815 558676.

Learners/Learner Band

Each learner is loaned an instrument free of charge and is taught in small groups by senior members of the band learner sessions on Thursday evenings. Senior band members give their services free of charge and depending on the speed of learning and competence of playing, the learner will eventually move into the learner band.

When learners achieve a certain level they are invited to play together as a band. Juniors meet on Thursday evenings in three different sessions, depending on experience, between 18:00-20:30.

Competent learners will eventually be invited into the main band, and offered a permanent place as vacancies occur. As players progress, training instruments are exchanged for instruments from the main band. Players who have learned elsewhere and want to refresh or improve their skills are always welcome.

Senior Band

The senior band normally has two rehearsal sessions each week that are:

Tuesday	20:00 – 21:30
Friday	20:00 – 21:30

In addition to this new members to the band may be asked to attend further sessions to help them continue to progress/improve their playing ability, which is at 19:00 to 19:45 prior to the Tuesday/Friday rehearsal.

If you are not able to attend any session it is requested that the Musical Director is informed at your earliest convenience.

Extra band rehearsals are occasionally required especially when preparing for contest performances; these will be arranged through the normal communication routes.

Members of the senior band who are aged 18 or over may be requested to have a DBS check carried out to assist with the bands Safeguarding Policy.

Any member who declines to undertake a DBS check may have limitations as to what they are allowed to do imposed on them by the committee, e.g. unable to train learners etc.

Band jobs (Performances/Concerts/Contests)

During the year the band performs numerous times for private audiences and public shows. Details of when these are planned are given in many ways e.g.

A current engagement calendar is available on the band website which can be found at www.burbageband.co.uk Also new band jobs are announced through the band app and by email.

A regular email is sent to all band members advising on imminent job details normally including things like times of departure from Burbage band room, venue, travel arrangements and expected time of arrival back in Burbage.

The Musical Director also communicates information during rehearsal sessions.

If a band member is not able to attend a band job due to previous commitments there is an engagement board in the band room that contains cards for each band job booked. It is requested that the band member places their name on the cards for any jobs that they cannot attend, as soon as known to give an opportunity to arrange cover for their position if necessary.

Travel to Band jobs

For most jobs, the band car share to travel to performance venues. Band members normally meet at a defined time at the band room to allow time to load the band trailer with all instruments/equipment required for the performance. When this is complete, we normally move off in convoy to the venue.

Communication will be made to all members that will give the information as to what transportation is being used for a specific job.

If the job is a significant distance from Burbage the band occasionally hires a coach to travel to the venue. This is normal for the area contest that takes place in March each year and is typically located close to Coventry (Bedworth)

Transporting young people and adults with care and support needs to rehearsals and concerts

Transport to rehearsals and concerts is the responsibility of the parent or carer, unless group transport has been arranged by the band, for example by coach. If a young player, or player with care and support needs requires help with transport, this should be arranged directly between the parent/carer/player and band member offering the lift and not through a third party or the committee. Please be aware that this is a personal arrangement and the band does not hold any responsibility for this arrangement.

Band members should be made aware of best practice when providing lifts to young people and in some cases, those with care and support needs. This should include, but is not limited to: – Where possible, avoid travelling with the young person alone; – Agreeing pick up and drop off arrangements with parents; – Asking the young person to sit in the rear of the car- Not travelling alone; – Having a contact number for the parent; – Driving within the law. • Despite the band not holding responsibility for the arrangement of lifts, there is still a duty of care if there are any concerns raised regarding transporting young people or those with care and support needs to the band. Any issues raised will be dealt with in line with the band's safeguarding and whistle blowing policy and, if necessary, appropriate referrals made to statutory authorities.

Band Dress Code for Band jobs

The band provides each band member with a fleece, jacket and tie to be used during band jobs. The jacket is not normally worn whilst travelling to and from the venue or when setting up the stage. Most band members obtain a suit carrier to protect the jacket and tie whilst travelling (e.g. these can be obtained from Marks & Spencer or Ikea).

To get to and from band jobs it is recommended that band members wear the band fleeces that they are issued with. This gives a professional impression to our clients rather than a disorganised array of clothing. If you haven't got a fleece please discuss with the Musical Director.

Each band member should provide their own white shirt that is suitable for use with the tie at neck level and their own smart black trousers and socks and a pair of black shoes that are comfortable for both performances when they are seated or when the band is asked to play whilst marching e.g. Buxton Carnival. Please refrain from the wearing of black leggings or multi-coloured socks as these stand out whilst the band are performing and portray a poor image of the band.

Band members are reminded that they are representing the band not just whilst they are performing but also during set-up and disassembly of the performance stage so they should act with courtesy to other band members and members of the audience/public at all times.

Some band jobs do not require jacket and tie to be worn. Band members are advised which jobs these are via the usual communication routes.

IT (Social Media)

The band has various IT accounts that are used to assist the band in communicating information to both band members and members of the public. Use of band social media should be done in a manner that does not upset/distress other people.

Band fund raising

Throughout the year the band carries out various optional fundraising events that help to keep the band in existence. These can include activities like:

- Bag packing events
- Easy Fundraising website (This is a website that gives the band money whenever supporters shop online at various sellers e.g. Ebay / Tesco etc. **Please ask a committee member how to set up this if you shop online**)
- Sponsored jog (Normally around Pavilion Gardens)
- Playing carols around Burbage the week before Xmas with helpers collecting money from houses nearby

Another fund-raising initiative that the band has is its 100 club. In this club members pay an annual fee. Approximately 50% of the money received goes towards a prize fund each month for 4 lucky members where cash prizes are given out. The rest of the money collected is used on the provision of instruments that the band committee consider worthwhile to support the training band.

If you or any members of your family and friends wish to join this club please contact the 100-club secretary and they will arrange for the simple application form to be passed onto you.

Burbage Band does not collect 'subs' (fees) from band members to be part of the band.

Key Contacts

Lesley Musgrove – Band Chair – 07773 026416

Steve Critchlow – Musical Director – 07981 5558676

Laura Critchlow – Welfare Officer – 07792 232576

Charlotte Musgrove – Deputy Welfare Officer – 07763 119769

Key Policies

Please make yourself aware of the following key policies – Health and Safety, Code of Conduct and the Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy. These can be found on the band's website, or can be provided to you upon request.

Complaints Procedure

Burbage Band takes complaints very seriously. We will ensure complaints are investigated fully and dealt with in a timely manner and wherever possible resolved to the satisfaction of all those involved.

Complaints can be made to the chair of the band at the following email address – burbageband_chairman@outlook.com

We aim to respond to the complaint within 20 working days of receipt. If the response is complicated and take longer than 20 working days we will keep you informed of the progress and likely timescale.