



Burbage Training 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/Training Band

Each learner is loaned an instrument free of charge and is taught in small groups by senior members of the band, learner sessions are on Thursday evenings. The first session 6pm – 6.40pm is for new starters. Session two 6.40pm – 7.15pm is for those progressing up from basic starter. Then the final session is the training band 7.15pm – 8.20pm. Senior band members give their services free of charge and depending on the speed of learning and competence of playing, there is an expectation that the learner will move into the training band and then eventually the senior band. (The senior band rehearse every Tuesday and Friday 8 – 9.30pm).

Competent learners will eventually be invited into the senior band and offered a permanent place as vacancies occur. Offer of a place in the senior band is fully at the discretion of the musical director and in accordance with the needs of the band. This includes but is not limited to - vacancies in the senior band, excellent attendance, excellent progression, clear demonstration of willingness to excel, the ability to work as part of a team.

As players progress, training instruments are exchanged for instruments from the senior band.

Players who have learned elsewhere and want to refresh or improve their skills are always welcome.

In addition to this, members of the training band are offered to attend further sessions to help them continue to progress/improve their playing ability, which is at 7pm – 7.45pm on a Tuesday/Friday (prior to main band rehearsal).

Attendance

Attendance at rehearsal and band jobs is imperative. If you are not able to attend any session it is requested that the musical director is informed as soon as possible. Poor attendance, without explanation or discussion with the musical director, could result in dismissal.

Band jobs (Performances/Concerts)

During the year the training band performs around six times. Details of when these are planned are given via email, communication app and detailed at rehearsal.

A regular email is sent to all training band members advising on imminent job details including things like times, venue, and expected uniform.

If a training band member is not able to attend a band job it is important that they inform the musical director as soon as possible.

Young Players

Any training band member under the age of 17 need to be accompanied by an adult during performances. This also includes them being transported to and from performances and rehearsals. There are members of the senior band who are responsible for safeguarding and will always be in attendance at rehearsals and performances, however it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to ensure there is an adult in charge of them throughout the performance and transportation.

Band Dress Code for Band jobs

Training band members will be provided with a band polo shirt and/or fleece to wear at band jobs. Members are asked to also wear black/dark trousers, black dark socks and shoes. Information about the expected uniform for each individual band job will be given prior to the event via email, communication app and at rehearsals.

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.

Training band members/parents are communicated with via email and WhatsApp.

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:

- 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 a written copy can be provided to you upon request.

Leaving the Band/Dismissal.

It is our aim to retain players for as long as possible, however we are aware that due to personal circumstances members may wish to resign from the band. This should be done with at least one month's notice given to the musical director where possible.

The musical director and committee shall have the power to terminate a band players membership in any of the following events:

If such a member is guilty of any grave misconduct which, in the opinion of the committee, is detrimental to band wheresoever it occurs.

If, in the opinion of the Musical Director, the musical standard or conduct of the individual is not maintained to an adequate level. This also includes inadequate attendance.

If such a member is considered to be in breach of the code of conduct and, following appropriate warnings, has not improved their conduct.

A member whose membership is terminated under the above, or a member who voluntarily resigns, shall return all band property, including any items of band uniform, held at the termination of their membership.

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.