**Whittonstall Community Band**

**Information for New Members 2022**

Welcome! We thought it might be useful to tell you a few things about the band.

We were formed in February 2014. Some of the running costs of the band have been provided by the RWE Windfarm Community Fund, like our band master fees. Other funders - the Boundary Lane Wind Farm fund and the Coop Community Fund have given us money to pay for our music, some stands band jackets, a PA system and a pot of money for buying some instruments.

The Community Fund gave us money because we said we wanted

* to have at least a group of 15 people enjoying playing together
* to form a band committee
* enough players to make the band financially viable for the future without external income
* people who used to play an instrument to start up again
* to hold at least one concert per year in our Parish

We meet every Thursday from 6.30 – 8.30pm during school term time at Whittonstall Church. You can park on the road in the village. There is no running water at the church, so if you get caught short you can use the toilet in the pub next door. Occasionally we meet for a drink in a local pub or a committee member’s house to discuss how things are going and what we want to do in the future. Everyone is welcome.

The practice session whizzes past so if you can be on time that would be great. We appreciate people can’t always make it every week but if you can try to come regularly it really helps us get to know each other and learn new pieces of music more quickly.

We expect to break for a quick drink and biscuit at about 7.20pm. If some children are unable to stay until 8.30pm, it is fine for them to leave at break time. (This has been reviewed – see Covid risk assessment.)

A voluntary donation of £1 per person per session is suggested. This will pay for refreshments and put a little in our slush fund for future expenditure. You can also pay by bank transfer or direct debit if you wish.

I know it can be a chore but you will need to fill out a membership form so that we can keep a record of important details, this is especially useful when we are applying for grant funding.

We are a band of all ages so as a result you will also need to read and agree to abide by our Safeguarding Policy.

This is a volunteer led group, so if you want to help out with anything or join the committee, please come and talk to Andy or Claire Spencer or Jo Holmes. We appreciate it if everyone mucks in and helps set up and clear away at practice sessions.

We have a simple band uniform of a polo shirt which includes our logo. If you would like one, these can be purchased from Jo Holmes. Band jackets can be provided but these remain the property of the band.

We have a website at <http://whittonstallcommunityband.weebly.com> and Facebook page.

Current trustees:

Andy Spencer Chair Jo Holmes Vice Chair

Catherine Theobald Treasurer Claire Spencer Secretary and Child Welfare Coordinator

Steve Pardue Trustee