



Welcome to the Diggle Band of Saddleworth!

Diggle Band is a traditional amateur English Pennine Village brass Band consisting of 25 players 2 percussionists and a conductor.

The band regularly performs music from a wide repertoire in concerts both locally and nationally and also takes part in a number of brass band competitions each year.

The history of Diggle Brass Band - 18 YEARS OF DIGGLE BAND

Diggle Bands revival has been remarkable; the original band was disbanded in 1926 which left Diggle with a Band Club and no band. Brian Taylor (soprano cornet player for many years) always dreamed of restarting the band. Conversation at a social event started to make the dream come true. Local people and businesses were approached and the band was restarted. The first few months the rehearsals took place in the garage at the band club with 12 players and the late George Morgan conducting them. Within 2 years the band had grown to 27 players and a newly refurbished band room was made above the club with excellent practising facilities. The band entered their first contest at Holmfirth, they did not win, but undeterred in the year 2000 they entered the 4th section qualifier of the National Championships held in Blackpool, this they won, which meant a invitation to play at the Royal Albert Hall London, under the direction of David Morris they came a creditable 5th, and were promoted to the 3rd section.

After 3 years of consolidation at this grade, in 2003 the band once again qualified for the finals which took place in Dundee, Alan Lawton M.B.E. conducted them for this event and the band became National Champions 2003, once again promotion. 2005 they came 2nd at Blackpool and 4th in the finals, also winning the Tameside contest and 12 Whit Friday contest under the directorship of Norman Law. Promotion once again, now in the 1st section and in 2006 Mr Les M Beevers took the position of musical adviser with David Morris taking some of the concerts. 2009 saw Mr James Shepherd the legendary cornet player appointed the position of musical director, taking them in 2010 to the area contest at

Blackpool were they once again won, making them North West area champions once again. The next two years the band held their own keeping in the first section, performing a lot of well attended concerts, and making two CDs.

Sadly Christmas 2012 brought the retirement of well known musician James Shepherd as conductor, but only to take a seat on the front row playing with his natural talents. Sean Conway took over the baton, taking them to the area contest on March 10th at Blackpool, where they came 3rd, reaffirming the band as a 1st section band.

At the Whit Friday Contests in 2015 the band came in second place having beaten some more well known names The band remain in the Championship Section and have since achieved 3rd position in the Northwest Area (First Section) when playing Brass Triumphant conducted by Sean Conway.

The band is well known for its varied and lively concerts which are performed in many areas, and are always well attended. The Band will be performing here at Woodley Methodist on Friday 23rd June 2017 at 8pm. Tickets are £8.00 each will be available by telephoning 0161 430 8518 and all proceeds will be in aid of Church Funds.