

Band Hall Rescue Fund

Verwood Concert Brass

Registered Charity No: 1144224

“Verwood Concert Brass needs to raise £250,000 to rescue its band hall.”

What has happened to the band hall?

Subsidence

One end of the band hall has suffered from subsidence causing significant damage with large cracks to external and internal walls. Without fixing the subsidence and repairing the walls there is a real danger that the band hall will become unsafe to use and Verwood Concert Brass will become homeless.



How can the hall be fixed?

8 meter piling under the walls

All sorts of options have been considered from knocking the whole hall down and starting again to abandoning the hall and looking for a new home for the band. The viable option chosen is to fix the subsidence issue by having eight-meter long piles inserted to support the affected walls. Then have the cracked walls repaired or rebuilt as required.



How much will it cost?

£250,000

The overall cost is estimated to be £250,000. Although the band hall was insured, the insurer has declined to pay out the claim due to deficient foundations when the hall was built. This may sound like a lot of money, and it is, but other options were even more expensive



Why is the band hall important to Verwood Concert Brass?

It's our home

The land on which the hall is located was originally owned by Sydney Palmer, a member of the band in the early 1900's, and also a supporter of TOC H, a Christian based group. In 1939 he allowed a wooden building, that became known as the TOC H Hut, to be put up on the land but on condition that it could also be used by the band for rehearsals. After its use by the TOC H group ended, the land was generously given over to the band and it paved the way for replacing the hut with a brand new purpose built band hall. After a massive fund raising campaign by band members and supporters, the band's new home was opened on 14th January 1995. The land and the band hall are now held under trust by Verwood Concert Brass. So it's more than just a building; it's part of our heritage.

Who uses the band hall?

Approx. 100 musicians

Verwood Concert Brass is not a brass band but a brass band organisation and a registered charity whose aims can be summarised as:

- to facilitate the musical education and advancement of its members;
- to provide musical entertainment for others;
- to participate in and promote musical activities including concerts and contests;
- to perform other tasks to promote and further the interests of the Band;
- to further such charitable purposes as the Committee think fit e.g. fund raising for other charities.

Our motto is
'Making Music
Together
Since 1864'.



Verwood Community Band with
The Acorns new starter group
standing at the back.
Photo taken pre-Covid

To this end the Verwood Concert Brass organisation uses the band hall to support these aims via running at least four distinct bands but with lots of interaction between them:

- ◆ **The Acorns new starter group** – for absolute beginners of any age.
- ◆ **Verwood Community Band** – for those that wish to play fun music together without the rigours of competing at contests.
- ◆ **Verwood Town Band** – for experienced musicians. The band is a contesting band and is currently graded as a 3rd section band but with aspirations of promotion to the 2nd section.
- ◆ **Verwood Concert Brass Band** – for expert musicians. The band is a contesting band in the top flight Championship section and competes nationally. It is Dorset's No1 brass band, 5th in the West of England region, 21st in England and 33rd in the WORLD! (Brassstats.com @ 1-3-2022).



Verwood Concert Brass Band
in full on performance mode.

Across these bands there are approximately 100 members with the band hall being used for at least five rehearsal sessions per week and even more in the run up to contests and concerts.

What is the band hall used for?

Rehearsals . . . but so much more

Its main function is of course to provide a place for tuition and rehearsals for all the banding groups in the organisation. With that comes all the paraphernalia required like the obvious, such as chairs and music stands. But it is also home for a lot of percussion instruments like four large timpani drums, a drum kit, glockenspiel, tubular bells and so on. There is a whole room used as a library for the hundreds of sets of music that have accumulated over the years plus space is made for storage of spare instruments and uniforms. This is why having a dedicated band hall is critical for an organisation the size of Verwood Concert Brass and use of a shared facility such as a village or church hall is not viable.

Why is rescuing the band hall important for the community?

We are part of the community

We have been part of the community since 1864. Without the band hall the survival of Verwood Concert Brass, as we know it, is in jeopardy. And without Verwood Concert Brass the community would not have all that it gets from the organisation:

- ◆ **Total inclusion** – providing somewhere to enjoy making music together and a continuous learning experience regardless of age, ability, disability, gender, colour or religion.
- ◆ **Family friendly activity** – there are few other activities that can be embraced and shared between 8 year old children through to 80 year old grandparents. There are many family connected members across the bands.
- ◆ **Learning a lifetime skill** – playing a musical instrument has many associated benefits and due to the prevalence of brass bands throughout the UK, even those who move away or go off to university are likely to be welcomed into a band near where they are. Some of our players have also gone on to become professional musicians.
- ◆ **Community events** – we proudly support local community events such as the Verwood Camival parade, which we have led since it started in 1929; the Rotary Club Rustic Fayre; Remembrance Day service and parade (including playing the Last Post) and the Christmas Extravaganza. This year we are delighted to be part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in Verwood.



Verwood Concert Brass leading the Remembrance Sunday parade.

- ◆ **Entertainment** – we hold four very well attended formal concerts at Verwood Hub Theatre during the year. In the summer months we hold free open air 'Brass on the Grass' concerts. The Community Band host a number of Coffee Morning Concerts. During the lead up to Christmas groups of players are out playing carols to bring some festive cheer. It's not Christmas until you hear a brass band playing carols (allegedly).



An ever popular "Brass on the Grass" concert.

- ◆ **Support for events** – we support other events such as garden and school fetes, opening ceremonies and weddings, to name but a few.
- ◆ **Bringing kudos to Verwood** – through the success of our Championship band in national competitions it is something the community can be proud of – we are Verwood's brass band – more and more people throughout the UK are hearing the Verwood name.

THE IMPORTANT BIT

How can you help?

Donations please

£250,000 is a lot of money to raise and therefore any money that you can donate will be very gratefully received.



We have set up a JustGiving account to make it really easy to donate and if you are eligible to apply Gift Aid it will boost your donation to us by 25%. Here's a quick link to our campaign page: [justgiving.com/campaign/VCB-Band-Hall-Rescue](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/VCB-Band-Hall-Rescue)

If you wanted to raise funds for us by putting on your own fund raising event, for example doing a sponsored walk, you could create your own JustGiving event page that is linked to our fund raising campaign. This will make it really easy for your supporters to donate (with Gift Aid if applicable) to your event and for whatever you raise to be paid through to us.

We will also be providing details of other fund raising initiatives and how our campaign is progressing on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/VerwoodConcertBrass> and website <http://verwoodconcertbrass.co.uk/> so please do follow us on Facebook to keep up with our latest news and events.

However there are other existing ways you can support us, for example:

- ◆ Attend our concerts.
- ◆ Hire a band for an event.
- ◆ Sponsor a player – just £25 for a year.
- ◆ Use "Smile.Amazon.co.uk" instead of just "Amazon.co.uk" for your online shopping and select "Verwood Prize Band (Verwood Concert Brass)" as your chosen charity. Amazon will then donate a small percentage of each purchase you make to us.

If you have any other ways in which you would like to support us then please contact Helen Dunnings at Chairmanvcb@gmail.com