

## **Brigstowe Village Band Information for New Members (Aug 2025)**

We are modelled on the village bands of Thomas Hardy's day when musicians from the village played for local gatherings and celebrations in church and pub. In our 21<sup>st</sup> century village band, we play mainly traditional English folk tunes which would have been familiar to the people in Hardy's time. When we play a gig, depending on requirements, we may add words, songs and dances. Our hobby horse, Briggy, and his minder also sometimes appear with us.

The band was started in 2014 by Liz Newman and Pat Gilbert. It now has around 40 members playing a wide variety of acoustic instruments including fiddles, double bass, boxes, woodwind, brass and drums. We also have a singing group (currently 5 members), and an ad hoc group of dancers who rehearse for specific occasions.

We employ a professional folk musician as our musical leader - Alison Rowley who arranges most of our music and leads monthly rehearsals.

Our rehearsals are usually held on the third Sunday of the month from 2pm to 4.30pm in the Jubilee Pavilion of the Long Ashton Community Centre, BS41 9DP, with occasional extra practices before gigs. At the monthly rehearsals band members (working in pairs) enjoy an occasional commitment to make and serve tea. Cakes are particularly welcome. Gill Kendall co-ordinates this... and she will find you!

We perform at charity and community events throughout the year, often celebrating the season. In the 11 years since we were formed, we have played to audiences as varied as Bristol and Priddy Folk Festivals, the National Trust at Newark Park, lunchtime concerts at St Stephens Bristol, plus numerous parties, open gardens, apple days, harvest celebrations, wassails, a hand fasting, and history society evenings. New members decide themselves when they are ready to play with BVB in public.

The website [www.brigstovewillageband.co.uk](http://www.brigstovewillageband.co.uk) keeps you up to date with rehearsals and gigs. As with so many organisations, the BVB website is our communication mouthpiece – essential to check it out.

The sub is £120 (£60 for those in full time education) for a 'band year' 1<sup>st</sup> September – 31<sup>st</sup> August and is payable 1<sup>st</sup> September (or in instalments to suit your circumstances) by standing order.

Account name: Brigstowe Village Band

Account number: 56216928

Sort code: 23-05-80

It is really important you use a payment reference which we can readily identify, such as your initials and surname, so we can relate each payment to a specific member.

The band is run as cooperatively as possible, led by a steering group consisting of Chair Liz Newman, Treasurer Chris Mapp, Membership Secretary Fritjof Koerber, Gig Organiser Lyn Jones, Heather Jenne (secretary to steerers), Heather Minnion and Pauline Mapp. Other non-committee members contribute to the smooth running of rehearsals and gigs. Please look for opportunities to volunteer and become part of this.

We expect members to prepare for rehearsals and gigs and we like members to be as involved as possible in the practical aspects of organising gigs including suggesting places to play. Comments and suggestions from band members are always very welcome. Please talk to any member of the steering group or email [BVB.committee@gmail.com](mailto:BVB.committee@gmail.com).

**Welcome! We hope you have a great time being part of the Brigstowe Village Band.**