

Ainsworth Brass Band

(Information from David Earnshaw and Edward Govier)

The Band Hut - By David Earnshaw.

The Band Hut in later years was located on Bradley Fold Road where the house number 54A has been extended. It was a long wooden building on brick pillars about two feet above the ground. It was great because as kids we could play cricket in the field behind without being seen by the farmer Mr Fred Shepherd who would chase us. The key to our front door number 50A would open the Band Hut door and we would go in and try to play the instruments.

The Band

From "looking back"



Ainsworth Brass Band Picture taken in 1891.

Back Row: Jim T Brooks, Jack Brooks, Arthur Tootill, A Openshaw, Peter Openshaw, Fred Wardle, Wilfred Greenhalgh. Middle Row: Wm Norman Rayson (bandmaster), Ellis Haslam, Jos. Kirkham, Levi Brooks, Wm Albert Greenhalgh, Peter Brooks, Arthur Hampson, James Blackmore. Front Row: James Wm Rayson, Alfred Hardman, Albert Haslam, Fred Greenhalgh, Amos Brooks, Ottowell Partington

Looking back extra



Ainsworth Brass Band

Formed in November 1891 by Wm Norman Rayson. He had started earlier local bands at Brightmet Bleachworks, his place of work, and in the village of Ainsworth but both were short lived. In 1891 he again gathered together some local musicians and Ainsworth Brass Band was formed. In the mid 1890's the band was engaged to play at Bolton ice rink at the bottom of Chorley Old Road. The bandsmen would walk to Bolton and then at the end of the evening walk back at one or two o'clock in the morning, back to Ainsworth village. Often they would pause on their way home through the fields and enjoy an informal concert. Their best soloists would play and sing and the whole band would thoroughly enjoy themselves. On one November 5th the band found a deserted bonfire still burning. They gathered round and played 'Hail smiling Morn', the band serenaded the neighbourhood for a while before marching off to a lively quick march!

They changed their name to Ainsworth Public Subscription Band in 1946 after having been disbanded during the war. In the 1950's the band took sponsorship from a local firm and changed its name to the Irwell Forge Band. They were sponsored by Airtours the travel company in 1986. Following difficult trading conditions the sponsorship deal ended in 1989. Due to its Bury roots, and the fact that Bury Silver Band were not playing at that time, the band was renamed as Bury Brass Band. They played on under that name until 1997 when the band eventually folded due to lack of a fixed affordable rehearsal space and being down to twelve members. Conductors have included C. H. Partington (1933-38), Harry Hodgson (1938-48) and Frank Kay (c. 1950)



THE BAND HUT ON BRADLEY FOLD ROAD WAS
PURCHASED IN 1924.

Ainsworth Band

By Edward Govier

The band's proper title was The Ainsworth Public Subscription Band, with membership of perhaps a dozen village residents, the other members coming from Elton, Bury and outer districts as was, and still is, quite usual in village bands

The photo shows the Ainsworth Band in 1949, taken at St Andrew's School, Radcliffe, prior to the school's annual Sermons Procession, on a very wet day. After the march, there were refreshments in the school hall, followed by a brief concert by the band – usually held outside



Edward Govier is the young lad with Tenor Horn seated behind the drum and other recognised Ainsworth residents are Alfred

Openshaw. Norman Govier, Ernest Tweedy, Bill Morris. George Rollisson, Donald Otter and Maurice Govier.

The band rehearsed in the band hut on Bradley Fold Road.



The conductor in 1950 was Mr Partington of Bolton. Villagers Edward and Norman Govier are seated adjacent to the conductor. Mr Earnest Tweedy of Greenside is pictured left of the two tubas at the rear. Note the not so discrete partition in the corner, which was installed to hide a chemical toilet, following complaints from a nearby house that the bandsmen were urinating behind the Band Hut