

The Bandstand

Come along. Gather round.



Bandstands have always pulled people towards them

A bandstand is visible; outdoors and safe; and inclusive by definition. You don't need to go to a pub/club/indoor centre (which can sometimes feel a bit daunting) to experience a performance.

It doesn't need a captive audience. People can stay for as long or as little as they want. It's open to all, accessible by bike, by foot, wheelchair, pram, and mobility scooter.

**Photos by Paul Spencer
of Hall Royd Band and
Bingley Camera Club,
Sun 28 July 2024**





Photo: Bingley Historical Society

Our bandstand, in Myrtle Park, was opened in 1913 and has been a meeting place, a hangout spot, a playground, and a place to play and perform music for the last 111 years.

It can offer an unexpected surprise when you're doing your weekly shop, and raise the spirits when you hear it long before you see it. It's a great place for a picnic, or to simply sit down and relax. It's where you bump into people you've not seen for ages, and the friends you saw yesterday. It can make you get up and dance, reminisce about the old days. It can let you bask in the sunshine or be the reason you're carrying that umbrella today.

Why isn't there more music in the Bandstand?

The first thing to say is that there already is quite a lot of music in the Bandstand. The Parks Department and Bingley Town Council work together to put on a program of music each summer. This year there were eight Sunday afternoon performances from the Two Rivers Band, Bradford Concert Band, Hall Royd Band, NoteAbility Concert Band, Guiseley Brass, and Guiseley Jazz.

The reason there isn't more is because, until now, there wasn't anyone else to organise, fundraise, risk assess, or help to make that happen. So Bingley Music Town has joined forces with a growing community of people who are making things happen locally. Along with Friends of Myrtle Park, the Town Council and others, were working towards making better use of the bandstand in the coming years.





Electrified for Twenty Five

Recently, an electrical connection has been restored to the bandstand. Funding from the Town Council, and the hard work of town councillor John Goode, meant that the Bandstand was hooked up to the grid in May this year.

Bingley Music Town bought the special equipment needed to connect to the electricity supply, and together we've done the work to make sure that everyone is safe, protected and insured before an amplified note can be played.





**So, we're ready for 2025,
and we've already got
some bands booked.
Keep an eye out locally
for more details as we
get them**



See you at the bandstand



All photos by Paul Spencer, Bingley Camera Club
except page 3 photo c/o Bingley Historical Society
Written by Bingley Music Town/Friends of Myrtle