

Introduce yourself!

Alan Cooper – I play one of those duck quacky things (oboe) at the front of the band.

How long have you been a member?

I joined around 1991, I think. Alan Bell was conductor, and we rehearsed in Bearsden Primary School. I hadn't been playing very long, and I was so nervous at first rehearsal that I put cork grease on the wrong end of my reed (the tip). Not a good start.



Tell us a bit about yourself.

I'm a recovering academic... but getting better, gradually, thank you...

Born in rural Lancashire (Ormskirk) towards the end of WW2. My father was stationed there for training as an RAMC medical orderly, prior to being shipped out east for war duty, intent on enriching the local gene pool.

Grew up in working-class Manchester (think Coronation Street minus the indoor plumbing) so, beneath this gruff north country exterior lies a gruff north country interior.

Travelled the world. Ended up in Glasgow by mistake (almost) in 1976, but stayed 'cos we like it.

Took up the oboe in middle age, with no previous musical training. It was meant to be a less-stressful counterpart to the day job. Little did I know.....

What other instruments do you play?

Cor anglais (really my favourite).

Is there another instrument you would like to play?

My duduki.

What do you enjoy most about DCB?

Challenging music, sympathetically conducted; senseless banter (Sula!).



Favourite concert venue – past, present..... or future?

Kelvingrove... Xmas... of course.

Favourite DCB memory?

European tours, especially Nuremberg & Schladming.

Favourite piece we've played?

Ives: "Country Band March" – from a long time ago – the first piece that got a spontaneous cheer and a laugh from the audience.

Any piece you'd like to play with the band in the future?

Ives: "Country Band March"!

Copland: "Quiet City"

Any (family friendly!) DCB related story you'd like to share?

On our first overseas tour (Gozo, Malta, 2002) the person responsible for tour finances (who shall remain nameless, it wasn't me) forgot to bring the Band chequebook – it had been left in a prominent place in their bedroom back home so as to make sure they packed it. They didn't. Fortunately a few tour members, who had arranged to travel out later, managed to access the offender's home to retrieve and deliver the chequebook a few days later. So a potentially embarrassing international incident if we couldn't pay end-of-tour hotel and other bills was averted, though most of the band were oblivious to this at the time.

**Have you done anything exciting during lockdowns (other than lots of music practice – obviously!!) – learned a new skill or decided to get back into an old hobby for example?**

Made oboe/cor reeds, lots of them - some of them might even work!

Won a "Green Flag Award" for our community garden in Maryhill Park.

Chased up more of my family history, in particular my paternal Y-DNA that shows my descent from a "non-parental event" in pre-Dickensian London.

Looking forward to getting back to rehearsals?

Absolutely – especially in our new home.