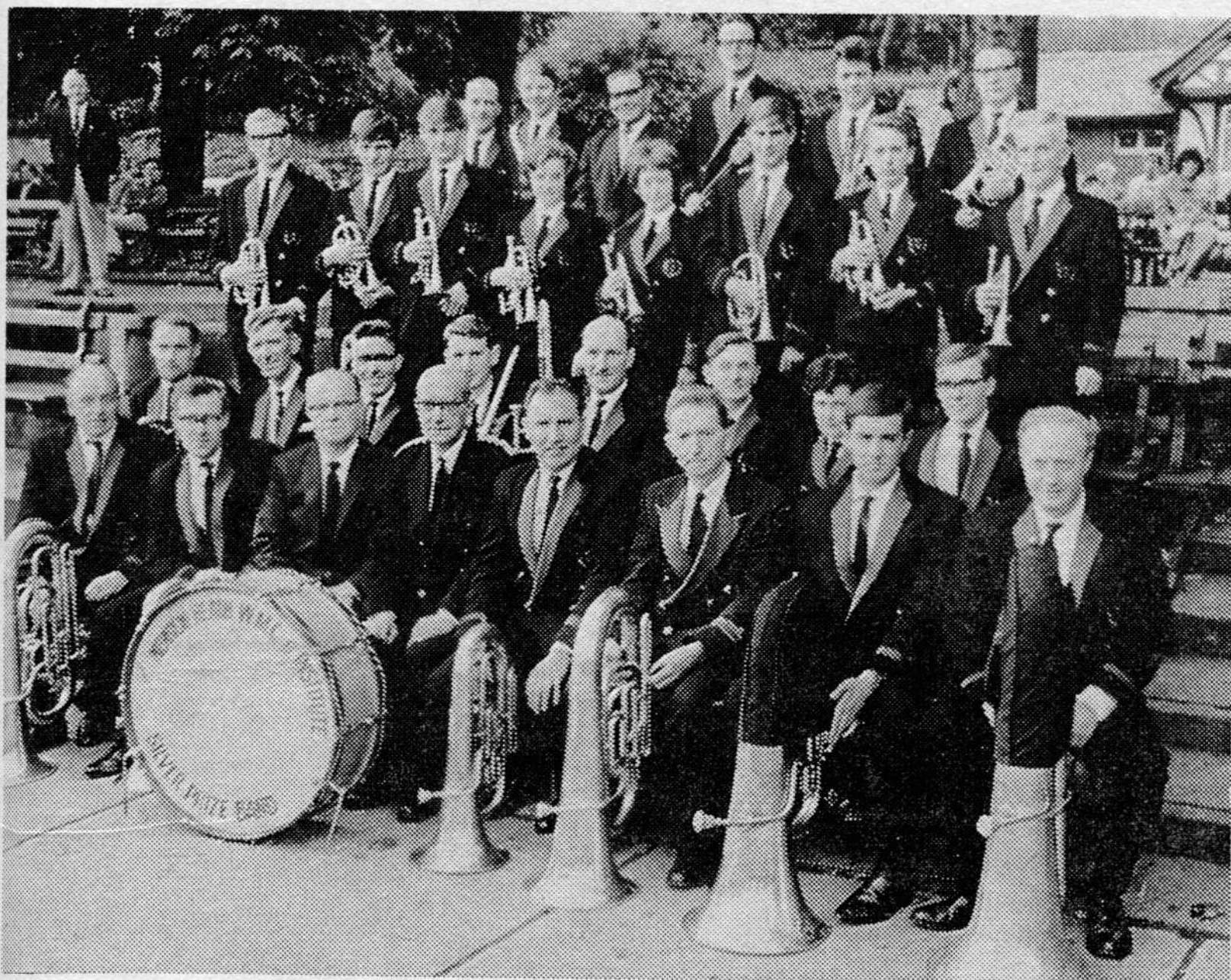


Newton Heath W.M.C. and Institute Prize Band



Personnel: Musical Director, A. Risby, Esq.; Chairman, D. Gill; Secretary, L. Hinchley; Treasurer, R. Cooke; Bandmaster, J. Cartwright. K. Allen, Anne Dorman, D. Moorfield, B. Jenkins, G. Moorfield, P. Bougen, K. Holton, Barbara Makenzie, Olive Jenkins, E. Melling, G. Dorman, J. Lloyd, P. Thickbroom, N. Holton, R. Cooke (jun.), J. Stewart, L. Brown, D. Hartley, C. Lloyd, S. McDermott, T. Jenkins, A. Williams.

Formed in May 1941 by Mr. Les Harper as the "Manchester Civil Defence Band," and rehearsed under very difficult conditions in any Air Raid Shelter available, the band were soon busy with all types of military and civil parades in the Lancashire area. Concerts were given at all types of establishments, band members became accustomed to travelling in Rescue Buses without seats or windows and arriving home in the early morning to go straight on duty as Voluntary Civil Defence members or to their usual employment.

In 1945 when the service was disbanded the band led the parades in Manchester and were then told "They were no longer in being as a band." Some members left to rejoin their own bands but a small nucleus of players decided to reform as The North Manchester Silver Band under the baton of Mr. J. Butler. Many battles were fought to retain the instruments which were registered as "War Charities." Eventually due

to the hard work of Mr. L. Harper the instruments became the property of the band. After a few years of continual struggle to find a bandroom the Newton Heath Working Men's Club came to our aid and the band re-formed under the present title. Although self supporting, new uniforms were ordered and many young players were introduced. Amongst these was Anne Hinchley then 10 years old and a pupil of Mr. Les Harper. Within 2 years she was appointed principal cornet and has held that position ever since. The band became very much a family band. The Cooks — Dormans — Hartleys — Lloyds — Hinchleys. Fathers and Sons — Daughters — Brothers and Sisters soon made the band into a friendly, sociable crowd, playing together for pleasure; charitable work is very evident in the band's engagement list. Mr. Butler left to rejoin the Salvation Army and Mr. George Marsden of Oldham took the helm. Contests were attended and prizes began to appear in the bandroom.

continued