

The Bradwell Bugle



Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band

January 2014

From the Editor

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Hi Everyone!

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2014! A very Happy New Year to you all and I hope you all enjoyed a good Christmas.

Well done to all of you for your hard efforts over the busy December period and also a special "Thank You" to the collectors.

I was a little disappointed to have not received any entries for the quiz featured in last month's issue, therefore I won't be including such a thing for the foreseeable future. However as always, any submissions towards the newsletter are always welcome....Band or non-Band related.

Remember that the first practise of the new year is on **Tuesday 7th January**.

Sarah-Jayne

News In Brief

Congratulations to Alice and Steve on the arrival of their daughter Florence Dorothy Anne Osborne, who was born on the 17th December and weighed in at 9lb 9oz.

We are also delighted to have received the following message from Lucy and Marc: *"Our baby girl was born on New Year's Eve weighing 7lb 8oz. She spent her first 24hrs in neonatal but is well and has now joined us for our first cuddles. Lucy is well although tired from a very long and little complicated delivery. "Wishing you all a lovely New Year."*

There are no Band engagements for a few months. When we resume rehearsals please remember to bring in your uniform jackets, straight ties, bow ties, dead bats and washed fleeces and give them to our Quartermaster Steph.

James is looking to sort out the music and would ask you to let him know if any of you still have your summer pads. James will be looking for some volunteers to help sort these out once they are all handed in.

We reported last month on the engagement at the Stantonbury Christmas Fair. We are pleased to hear from the organisers that the event raised £527.00 for Willen Hospice and the Band was once again thanked for providing some lovely Christmas music.

Perry Harris - An Appreciation

It is with great sadness that we report the sudden death of Perry Harris on 6th December. I have known Perry for nearly forty years, having first met him when he was a member of the Newport Pagnell Town Band. A few of the then Bradwell Band members used to attend some of their rehearsals and help out at the few engagements the band still undertook. Unfortunately with too few remaining members to be able to continue, the Newport Pagnell Band was wound up in the 1970s and Perry then became a member of Bradwell Band. Here he took on many roles including taking over the training of the Band's learners. Perry was also responsible for converting the old boiler room in Bounty Street School into a storage area for the Band's instruments, music and other equipment. He spent many hours building shelves and sorting out the library. For the past twelve years Perry had been with the Wolverton Town Band where he was actively involved in all aspects associated with the running of a Band, including the teaching of learners and conducting.

The following tribute appeared on the Wolverton Town Facebook page and website.:

"Perry inspired lots of musicians over the years, was a true friend to so many and had a big impact on those he taught. He was someone for whom the words 'loyal', 'passionate', 'spirited' and 'committed' were part of his soul; qualities he applied as one of a small number of players who kept Wolverton Town Band together in its most difficult days. Both the band, and the wider world of brass banding, has lost a dedicated bandsman and a true gentleman. It's difficult to believe that we were all with Perry at the Wolverton Lantern Festival (where he played his usual vital role setting everything up and then went on to conduct the band) just a few hours before his untimely death. Perry will be sorely missed by everyone who knew him. Our condolences and thoughts go out to his wife, Cherry, and her family."

A Celebration of Perry's life was held in Yardley Hastings on Saturday 22nd December with Brian conducting a band comprising members of both Wolverton Town and Bradwell Silver Band to play some of Perry's favourite hymn tunes.



Photo courtesy of Wolverton Town Band's Facebook page

Engagement Reports - Keith Jones

Monday 2nd December

Bradwell WI Carol Concert

St James Church, New Bradwell

No one seems to remember the exact date, but for something like the past twenty five years Bradwell Silver Band has taken part in the annual Carol Concert organised by the Bradwell WI. Originally held in the old Methodist Chapel with its cosy but limited seating capacity, for the past five years or so this has been held in the more spacious Parish Church. The Church was almost full with WI members and friends from around the Milton Keynes area, including Bradwell, New Manor (Wolverton), Two Mile Ash, Shenleys & Loughton, Great Linford and Castlethorpe.

After a short introduction and welcome, the evening started with the customary singing of the WI anthem "Jerusalem". Under the leadership of Musical Director Brian Keech the programme followed the usual pattern of a carol sung with Band accompaniment followed by a reading by a representative from some of the branches present. These seasonal readings provided a balanced mixture of the humorous, the thought provoking and the religious. The carols played in the first half were Once In Royal David's City, It Came Upon The Midnight Clear, O Little Town of Bethlehem, Away In The Manger, While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night and Hark The Herald Angel Sing.

To allow the singers some rest, the Band has a spot in each half to perform some of the items from their Christmas repertoire. Our first half contribution was "All I Want For Christmas Is You" and "I Believe In Father Christmas".

There was an interval during which refreshments were served and this took a bit longer than expected because of the large number of people waiting in line. The second half included the carols The First Nowell, The Holly and the Ivy, Infant Holy, Silent Night and O Come All Ye Faithful. For our featured spot the Band gave a debut public performance of "Fairytale of New York" followed by the ever popular "Schneewalzer" during which the entire audience were swaying from side to side. Both items received enthusiastic applause from the audience.

After words of thanks from the organisers, we finished the evening with Jingle Bells and of course We Wish You A Merry Christmas. We were very grateful for playing help from Duncan Bruce on euphonium and Tug on cornet.

We mentioned the traditional singing of Hubert Parry's patriotic song "Jerusalem" at the beginning of most WI meetings. Some of you may remember the BBC TV series The Village which was shown earlier in the year. The historical drama is set in a Derbyshire village and in the first episode set in 1914 it featured a small brass band playing "Jerusalem" as it headed a parade of young men on their way to enlist into the army. It was very emotional and splendidly performed, however it was historically inaccurate as the music wasn't actually composed until 1916!

Engagement Reports - Keith Jones (Continued)

Thursday 5th December

Concert with Two Mile Ash School

Stantonbury Theatre

One of my favourite concerts during the Christmas season had a different format this year. Under the leadership of Emily Marshall, the choir of over 100 voices made up from all the year groups in the school have been rebranded as "Harmonize". They all wore specially designed shirts with this name prominently displayed. In their programme notes they say they are about three things – singing, performing and developing their skills. As the evening progressed all of these aims were to be perfectly demonstrated.

For this year we had requested that the raised staging not be installed as there is hardly enough room for the Band and associated percussion equipment. Instead we were seated behind the choir at the same level. There was not a spare seat in the theatre as the concert began with the Band under the leadership of Musical Director Brian Keech accompanied the choir in singing "Deck The Halls". For their first solo item Harmonize sang unaccompanied "This Is The Time and Season" which includes the choir divided into two groups. The spotlight was then on the Band for first individual contribution which was Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride", which although not specifically mentioning Christmas is now regarded as a seasonal favourite. When I say spotlights I have to say that in the theatre they were extremely bright and hot, by the time we finished most of us felt like one of those pies that are kept warm on the hot counter! Thankfully the lights were dimmed when we were not playing and concentrated on the choir. Their younger members from years 3 and 4 sang "Mary Had A Baby" and the full choir joined with the Band for the Russian song "Christmas Candle". The Band presented Derek Broadbent's upbeat version of "Ding Dong Christmas" after which the choir sang "Love Shone Down".

Our new arrangement of "Fairytale of New York" was well received before we joined forces with the choir for "All I Want For Christmas Is You". There was an interval before all the performers took to the stage for the second half, starting with "Come and Join The Celebration" followed by John Rutter's lovely carol "Christmas Lullaby".

We then played the classic "I Wish It Could Be Christmas Every Day" after which Years 5 & 6 of Harmonize were featured in "Tell Me A Story" with some delightful recorder accompaniment from one of their members.

The Band continued with "I Believe In Father Christmas" and the choir followed this with "It Feels Like Christmas" which was featured in The Muppet Christmas Carol, an adaptation of Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol which starred Michael Caine starring as Ebenezer Scrooge.

The ever popular "Schneewalzer" had the choir and audience swaying from side to side before the two groups combined for the last three items, "Jingle Bells", "Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer" and after thanks and the wish that the School's association with the Band continues for many years to come we ended with "We Wish You A Merry Christmas". The Band was left to play umpteen verses of "Jingle Bells" as the Choir left the stage. Brian was very pleased with the evening's music making and thanked the playing members for their efforts on the night. He went on to say that Stantonbury Theatre is a tough venue to play in but we coped really well and he always feels that the concert with Two Mile Ash School portrays the Band at its best. For our part it is great to play in front of a capacity audience, many of them hearing the Band play for the first time. Our thanks for playing help go to Tug and Gary.

Engagement Reports - Keith Jones (Continued)

Saturday 7th December

Christmas Tree Festival

St James Church, New Bradwell

A new engagement for this year was to play in the Parish Church as part of their Christmas Tree Festival which was taking place over the weekend. Many local groups including the Band had been invited to dress a Christmas tree which was then displayed around the Church. The festival included two days of live performances of differing musical styles with the Band being the first to appear. The final event of the weekend was to be on the Sunday evening with a concert by the New English Singers directed by Adrian Boynton.

Some tables and chairs had been laid out for the refreshments being served and people took advantage of this more informal way to sit and listen to the Band. With Brian conducting, we started at 10:00 a.m. and presented a programme of music lasting around fifty minutes which had mostly been used during our concert with the Two Mile Ash School. Pleasingly for such an early starting time we had almost a full complement of players and the splendid acoustics of the Church helped to produce a fine sound. Our thanks for playing help go to Tug and Clive. Thanks also to Edwina and Sarah-Jayne for dressing the Bradwell Silver Band Christmas Tree which had many admirers.

Sunday 8th December

Plum Park Open Wedding Afternoon

Another new engagement for this year was at an Open Wedding Afternoon organised by the Plum Park Hotel and Wedding Venue which is situated on the A5 a mile or so south of Towcester Racecourse. The purpose of the event was to give those intending to tie the knot the opportunity of viewing the facilities on offer and to meet with suppliers of other services associated with planning a wedding. There were cars on display outside the hotel and inside the marquee there were stands showing wedding dresses, cakes, flowers photographers and even a magician. However the most popular exhibitor with the band members was the Chocolate Fountain and Hog Roast where samples could be tasted.

Bradwell Silver Band had been asked to play Christmas music during the closing stages of the afternoon's event. Even though we were inside a marquee in the middle of December it was nice and warm as we opened our performance with "Ding Ding Christmas". Robin had kindly provided some carol sheets so that the people there could sing along to the carols. We asked if there were any requests and the first of these was In The Bleak Mid-Winter. With the adult members of the audience too shy to ask, we had a group of enthusiastic youngsters who requested Away In A Manger and Silent Night, both of which they sang really well. They also asked for We Wish You A Merry Christmas, Jingle Bells and Deck The Halls which we happily played for them. In between carols we played other items from this year's repertoire Stop The Cavalry, Fairytale of New York, and All I Want For Christmas Is You. We also played from our Carols books A Starry Night, Calypso Carol, and Mary's Boy Child. We ended our performance with I Wish It Could Be Christmas Every Day.

Engagement Reports - Keith Jones (Continued)

We were warmly thanked by the organiser and were invited to partake of the food still on offer. The Band members were thus divided between those who were craving chocolate and others who went for the hog roast. Fortunately for the organisers there was enough to go round!

Not knowing what to expect, this had turned out to be a relaxed and very enjoyable engagement with some fine playing. Our players adapted well to the make-it-up-as-you-go nature of our involvement and showed great levels of attention and flexibility. Grateful thanks for playing help go to Tug who was on his fifth band engagement of a very busy weekend.

As we were packing away one of three lovely old ladies who had sat close to the Band during our playing came up to speak to me. They were locals who had come along just to hear the Band play and said how much they had enjoyed it. They were fascinated with the youngsters in the Band and said how nice it was to see them clearly enjoying their playing. Then a parent of one of the youngster who had earlier made requests thanked us for encouraging them to feel part of the proceedings. The children were thrilled to hear a brass band playing and this had really kicked off the Christmas season for them. Some of the exhibitors also said how much they had enjoyed it and unsolicited comments like these make it feel all the more worthwhile to be able to entertain people in the way that we do.

There are photographs of the event including some of the Band on Plum Park's Facebook page.

Friday 13th December

Conniburrow Carols and Lantern Procession

Bradwell Band had been asked to play at Conniburrow to accompany some community Carol singing. This was organised by Big Local Conniburrow which is a ground breaking Local Trust programme funded by the National Lottery. The aim is to achieve lasting change in 150 small areas across England and Conniburrow is one that has been awarded £1m over the next 10 years to make our area an even better place to live. Big Local Conniburrow is run by local residents who alone can decide how to spend the grant. One of the events organised was this Carol singing to be followed by a procession around the streets with lanterns made by some of the youngsters and refreshments available afterwards.

It was an open air event and some of our members helped the organisers to erect a large gazebo which gave us protection from the rain. The lighting was minimal so each playing member had a torch so they could read the music.

The event started at 6:30pm and for an early event on a week day we did very well to have a total of fifteen members present to accompany. The Carol singing was jointly led by the Reverend Andy Jowitt from St. Lawrence's Church in Old Bradwell and Major Carole Babstock of The Salvation Army. We started off by playing "Joy To The World" and the Carol singing began with "Hark The Herald Angel Sing" and followed this with the most well known carols before ending with "O Come All ye Faithful".

Engagement Reports - Keith Jones (Continued)

We had been playing for around 35 minutes which was probably just about right on a wet night and with a lot of younger members keen to get on with the lantern procession. We played a couple of verses of "Jingle Bells" to send them on their way and packed away before some members partook of the rather nice refreshments on offer. Our thanks go to Tug who yet again was there to help us out.

It was good to be involved with something a bit different and we hope that the people of Conniburrow are successful in their efforts to bring about a better sense of community as they plan as a series of events to take place in the New Year.

Saturday 14th December

Christmas Concert

St. James Church, New Bradwell

A large audience were in the Parish Church for our Christmas Concert. The weather was windy but with a milder temperature compared to recent years at this time of year. Under the baton of Musical Director Brian Keech we began with "Sleigh Ride". Karen was then introduced as our first soloist and gave a lovely rendition of "A Winter's Tale". The Band continued with "I Believe In Father Christmas" and "Christmas Lullaby" before the audience was invited to sing some Carols. These were "The Holly and the Ivy", "Silent Night". "O Little Town of Bethlehem" and "Hark The Herald Angel Sing". The Band then continued with "Ding Dong Christmas", "Fairytale of New York" and ended the first half with "Santa Claus-trophobia"

After the interval the Development Band under the direction of Luke Colvin presented two suitably festive items, the first being "March –Christmas Carols". After an opening fanfare we hear a march like arrangement of the familiar carols "Hark The Herald Angel Sing", "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen", "Joy To The World", and back to "Hark The Herald". For their second piece we were treated to "Jingle Bell Boogie" which as the name implies is a jolly up-tempo version of the well known tune. The group played well and stood at the front to take the applause before a surprise visit from Father Christmas who presented them all with a selection box. Helpers from the senior Band also received a present. After the results of the raffle were announced, the Band continued the programme with "I Wish It Could Be Christmas Everyday" and our second soloist of the evening Fraser with the euphonium solo "O Holy Night".

"All I Want For Christmas is You" led to the singing of the carols "The First Nowell", "Away In A Manger" and "While Shepherds Watched". "Schneewalzer" once again had the audience swaying and standing in time to the music before we gave the debut public performance of John's arrangement of "Christmas Is Coming". "Savoy Christmas Medley" brought the programme to an end and after words of thanks from a Church member we played as an encore of "Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer" before ending in traditional fashion with "We Wish You A Merry Christmas". Thanks to Tug, Jack and Gary for their help with playing and to those who provided front of house services. Thanks to Peter who generously donated the raffle prizes and also arranged for the surprise visit of Santa.

Tonight's concert was dedicated to the memory of Perry Harris who sadly passed away the week before.

Engagement Reports - Keith Jones (Continued)

Sunday 22nd December Christmas Concert Stantonbury Social WMC

The last concert of the year was another of Bradwell Silver Band's long standing traditions, playing in what is still referred to by most locals as the Side Club. Extra chairs had to be hastily put out as a capacity audience gathered to enjoy the run up to Christmas.

Under the leadership of Musical Director Brian Keech we performed a programme more or less the same as that performed in St. James but with the addition of "Do They Know It's Christmas?" Karen and Fraser were the featured soloists and they both played very well against the usual background of chatter and kids running around. The Club audience is different from most we encounter during the course of the year but they were really out to enjoy themselves this year and enthusiastically participated in the singing of Carols and the other well known pieces we played. The man who stole the show again this year was Father Christmas with his appearance early in the second half. Ably assisted by Mrs. Christmas, he dug into his sack to distribute sweets to the many children in the audience and happily posed for photographs as parents wanted to record the look of excitement on the little ones faces. Having won over the audience, Father Christmas and his wife then gave an expert demonstration of ballroom dancing as the Band played "All I Want For Christmas Is You".

We ended the evening with "Savoy Christmas Medley", "Rudolph" and of course "We Wish You A Merry Christmas".

The audience seemed to have enjoyed the evening and Brian was pleased with a really good performance from the Band. Our thanks go to Tug, Jack, Gary and George for their help with playing and it was great to have Sue with us once again.

Editor Comments:

In addition to what my Dad has said in his report, I would like to say the following...

After the concert ended at the Side Club, Tug and Jack re-appeared with their post horns and had a fascinating duel, trying to outdo each other with their variations and high notes. For me, growing up I often heard Tug perform on the Post Horn and to now see and hear him play a duet with his son really made my smile! :-)

Excellent job guys!

Engagement Reports - Street Carolling

Tuesday 17th December

Street Carolling - New Bradwell

On a wet but mild night, the Band met at the school for the first of this year's street playing. We began in the High Street and proceeded around School Street, Glyn Street, North Street, Thompson Street, Harwood Street, over the canal to Chipperfield Close and then back to the Newport Road.

Ann was the only collector so thanks to Karen and Jonathan for volunteering to knock on doors rather than play. Refreshments were served by a large group of families and friends who stood in the rain to listen to us and then supplied us with hot chocolate and mince pies, all gratefully received.

Thursday 19th December

Street Carolling - Bradville

Fortunately for us, the torrential rain that had been falling cleared up in time for our second bout of street carolling, this time around the streets of Bradville. Meeting outside Halley's Comet as tradition dictates, we walked down to the bottom of Bradwell Road by the junction with Ashwood and proceeded back up Bradwell Road, Althorpe Crescent, Edwards Croft, Stanton Avenue, Abbey Way, and finishing up in Bradvue Crescent. We had been a bit late in starting so we were unable to go any further as the 9:00 p.m. deadline for playing arrived. We had a good sized band out and the playing was of a good standard throughout. We thank Alison, Carol and Peter for collecting and we did well to cover as far as we did. We were pleased to have Sue out with us this evening who had not really played since the area contest back in March. We were also grateful for playing help from Tug, Jack and Emily.

Tuesday 24th December

Street Carolling - New Bradwell

On a mild but windy night, we met at the School for the last time this year; we had a band of 19 players and four collectors to tour the streets. Starting in Bounty Street, we weaved in and out of Queen Anne Street, King Edward Street, St. James Street, St. Mary Street, Newport Road, Wood Street, Caledonian Road and Wallace Street. We made good progress and were finished just before 9:00 p.m. It was great to see so many of the locals out to listen to us and exchange season's greetings. We were very pleased to have Adam with us home from Kuwait for Christmas, also Sian and Dan. We also had Jack and Luke with us and it is always nice to have former members with us at this special time of year.

Christmas Day

Street Carolling - New Bradwell/Bradville

It was a cold and frosty morning as we met at the Clock Tower for this most enduring of Bradwell Band's traditions. We started off with 17 players in Caledonian Road and in and out of the streets before ending up in Bradvue Crescent. We were pleased to see Tony Hart who was a member back in the 1970s and had made the early morning journey from London to be with us. Thanks to Tug, Jack, Luke and George for helping us to keep the tradition going.

There were some nice comments on Facebook from locals who appreciate the Band going round on Christmas morning. And so Bradwell Silver Band's engagements for 2013 have come to an end.



Bradwell Silver Band Membership List

Committee

Chairperson:	Gary Morris	Trustees:	Brin Carstens / Graham Crisp	
Secretary:	Robin Allen	Members:	Sam Allen	Steph Chappell
Treasurer:	Dave Sanderson		Alison Drury	John Lee
Librarian:	James Lawrie		Karen Wilson	Louis Wilson

Playing Positions

Principal Cornet:	<i>Vacant</i>
Solo Cornets:	Jess Gunn
	Julia Hollis
	Lisa Huckle
	Andy Chase
Soprano Cornet:	Adam Chappell
Repiano Cornet:	Sam Allen
2nd Cornet:	Orla Howell
	Alison Drury
3rd Cornet:	Rachel Griffith
	Tania Dytrych
	Daniel Gaylor
Flugel Horn:	Karen Wilson
Solo Horn:	Keith Jones
	Louis Wilson
1st Horn:	Liz Keech
2nd Horn:	Steph Chappell
1st Baritone:	Lucy Bedford
2nd Baritone:	Maria Belton
Euphonium:	Fraser Cousins
	Luke Colvin
1st Trombone:	John Lee
2nd Trombone:	Jemma Cain
Bass Trombone:	Luca Ianotta
E♭ Basses:	Dave Sanderson
	Jonathan Evans
B♭ Bass:	Robin Allen
Percussion	Steve Osborne
	Toby Dytrych
	James Lawrie

Non Committee Positions

President:	Peter J Blake
Musical Director:	Brian Keech
Publicity Officer:	Steph Chappell
Quartermaster:	Steph Chappell
Magazine Editor:	Sarah-Jayne Edwards

Honorary Members

Chris Coull	Brian Keech
Malcolm Hills	David Wilson
Jim Whyte	

Development Group

Adam Chappell	Orla Howell
Oscar Beevor	Ben Mirfin
Steph Chappell	Ella Duncan
Daniel Gaylor	Adam Hird
Daisy Roberts	Tania Dytrych
Toby Dytrych	Sean Trayner
Evan Lovell	Leanne Reed

The Development Group is open to everyone, irrespective of age. So if you know anyone who's been thinking of taking up a brass instrument, get them to come along. Experience not necessary.



*If you are interested in these positions, or would just like to come along for an evening, feel free to contact the Band's secretary, Robin Allen