



# The Bradwell Bugle



Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band

June 2018

## Inside this issue:

Editors Note	1
What's On...? June	2
Engagement Reports	3-6
Whit Friday 2018	7
All Our Yesterdays	8
Dates For The Diary	9
Contacts	10

## From the Editor

Hi Everyone!

The Band has had a wonderful start to its summer list of engagements with super performances in glorious sunshine at Northampton and in New Bradwell. We also had the enjoyable Development Group solo competition where the hopefully future players of Bradwell Silver Band took the opportunity to perform a solo of their own choosing. Reports on these all follow. June promises to be a busy month with four more engagements, let's hope the weather stays nice for the outdoor ones!

I thank Brian for his article this month and I send out my usual invitation for contributions for future editions. These will be most welcomed!

*Sarah-Jayne*



## Player News

We have now said farewell to Martin Oliver who has moved to the wilds of deepest Lincolnshire. In his time with us he has made great strides in his playing and proved to be very useful as quartermaster and in helping to update the Band's website. Martin wasted no time in making contact with a new local band and he has already played several engagements with them, looking resplendent in the uniform which comprises a purple waistcoat!

We wish Martin and his wife Helen every happiness in their new home and we look forward to seeing them again sometime in the not too distant future.



## Engagement Reports

### Sunday 6th May Abington Park, Northampton

It is nine years since Bradwell Silver Band last had the opportunity to perform at this venue such is the long waiting list of bands who apply to play. This falls into the category of a traditional Sunday afternoon open-air Band Concert in an ornate bandstand. Organised each year by the Northampton Borough Council, the popular Bands in the Park concerts plus a full calendar of events at Abington Park Museum sees the town come alive. These events attract thousands of people to the park to enjoy the range of family entertainment on offer during the spring and summer months. This year the action had kicked off on Sunday, 1 April and carries on until September 16th with the 2018 schedule due to welcome 27 bands to Abington Park's iconic bandstand. In addition to the Bands in the Park performances, a range of events, workshops and talks take place in the Abington Park Museum, allowing families and visitors to make the most of their day out at the park. Cllr Anna King, Cabinet member for community engagement and safety, said: "Bands in the Park is a really popular programme of live performances, set in the beautiful surroundings of Abington Park. We hope that visitors will enjoy this year's varied programme of performances, along with the many events, activities and workshops that Abington Park Museum hosts, allowing families to enjoy a variety of days out in the park during the spring and summer".

Today was very warm and sunny and being a Bank Holiday weekend there were many hundreds of people out to enjoy what the park has to offer with a large number of regulars sat ready to listen to the band's performance. The organisation by Northampton Borough Council is brilliant, car parking spaces are made available inside the park for the performing musicians and the Park Ranger helps set up chairs for use by the Band and the audience. The playing starts at 2:00p.m. and continues to 5:00 p.m. with two fifteen minute breaks. This is a long time to be playing and tests the stamina of all the players.

Musical Director Brian Keech had selected a programme of music which included items performed at recent concerts as well as more modern popular music that we have in our current music pads. The Band set up in plenty of time and was ready to start on the dot at 2:00 p.m. The concert opened with "Starlight" followed by Tug's cornet solo "Spanish Eyes". Then we played "Guardian Of My Soul" and "Hinky Dinky" before Steph Chappell took centre stage to play the tenor horn solo "From Both Sides Now". We continued with "Cavalcade of Marching Songs", "Light As Air", "America", two movements from the test piece World Tour "Chicago Rag" and "Australian Walkabout" and ended with "Tritsh-Tratsch Polka".

There was time to grab some much needed refreshment before the second part of the concert opened with the "Royal Air Force March Past" followed by Fraser Cousins with the euphonium solo "With His First Breath". Next up was the selection from "The Sound Of Music" before Evan Lovell was our fourth soloist of the afternoon with the trombone solo "The Acrobat". We continued with "Rock Around The Clock", "Mr. Jums", "Ugly Duckling" and closed the session with "Streamline Peaks"

There was another short break before the final session which was mostly made up of lighter popular music starting with "Everybody Needs Somebody" and followed in quick succession with "She's The One", "Y.M.C.A.", "True Love Ways", "Teddy Bears Picnic", "Marry You", "You Make Me Feel So Young" and "Lollipop".

After Brian thanked the audience for attending and the Northampton Borough Council for continuing to organise and financially support 'Bands In The Park' and we brought the afternoon to a close by playing the National Anthem.

We had a number of our usual players unavailable today so we were extremely grateful to our guest players. We had Jack and Emily on the front row, Gareth Diggle, Tim Sell, Anne Coombs, Clive Keech, on the back row, Ben Wakely on trombone and stand in percussionists Steve Osborne and Mark Davis. Jemma kindly switched to baritone for the afternoon and we were delighted that Martin Oliver had travelled all the way from his new home in Lincolnshire to be playing with us today. We received some nice comments about our performance and Brian was very pleased with the standard of playing throughout the afternoon.

## Engagement Reports

### Monday 7th May

#### May Day Fun Day, New Bradwell

It was with pleasure that Bradwell Silver Band again accepted the invitation to perform at the annual May Fun Day organised by the New Bradwell Sports Association. Among the other attractions on offer were bouncy castles, children's rides, stalls, a licensed bar and food with proceeds going to Willen Hospice. In the years we have been playing at this event we have endured all sorts of weather conditions and today we had the hottest May Day Bank Holiday Monday on record. We were grateful for the shade provided by the Band's two gazebos as we set up to play outside the pavilion with the historic Windmill as an attractive backdrop just the other side of the trees.

By tradition we open the proceedings for the afternoon and play a one hour programme starting at 1:00 p.m. With Musical Director Brian Keech ready with the baton our performance started with "Starlight" followed by Tug's cornet solo "Spanish Eyes" and then "Carillon". Next up was "Rock Around The Clock" and "Hinky Dinky" before Steph Chappell stood to play the tenor horn solo "From Both Sides Now". The playing continued without a break with "Y.M.C.A", "Light As Air", "America", two movements from the test piece World Tour "Chicago Rag" and "Australian Walkabout" "Tritsh-Tratsch Polka". "Ugly Duckling", "Everybody Needs Somebody" and we closed the session with "Streamline Peaks". It had been a good hour of playing with many people stopping to listen to us on a beautiful sunny afternoon. Both soloists played well and the Band seemed to enjoy playing with a great deal of freedom and sense of fun in keeping with the wonderful weather.

We had all of our usual back row of cornets and percussion team back with us today but we were grateful for playing help from Jack on cornet and Ben on trombone. It was good to see John Lee there today; he had been supporting his son who was running in the Milton Keynes Marathon whose route took it along nearby on the old Newport Pagnell to Wolverton railway line.

Thanks to all those who helped set up and dismantle the gazebos which provided much welcomed cover from the blazing sun. It had been a good week-end for the Band with excellent outdoor performances at Abington Park and in New Bradwell listened to by many hundreds of people who were taking the opportunity of enjoying the fabulous Bank Holiday weather.



## ***Engagement Reports***

### **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May**

#### **Development Group Solo Competition**

This evening was the Development Group Annual Solo Competition. Held at the New Bradwell School in front of a good sized audience of parents relatives and friends, the Bradwell Silver Band Development Group started the evening by playing the march "Juniors On Parade" and followed this with two new pieces which had only been handed out three weeks ago. From Andy Norman's Pieces of Eight we played "A Pirates Life For Me" and "Sailing The High Seas". These pieces gave those playing solos tonight the chance to get their lip in.

In the Development Group we spend most of our rehearsal time playing as a group rather than on individual tuition. Players learn their own parts but also get to understand how that fits in with the rest of the group. However we do appreciate that playing a solo is an important part of musical development and we encourage all of our members to perform one. Sitting or standing at the front of the group playing an unaccompanied solo is a great way to get experience in performing.

For our adjudicator this evening we were delighted to have with us Paul Batson. A very experienced musician, trombone player Paul spent three years on the Performers' Course at the Royal Academy of Music in London and then over the next few years earned a living playing. Paul then trained as a teacher and spent 35 years in the classroom specialising in 'A' Level Music, much of that time was at Stantonbury Campus. Now retired he spends some of his time arranging and scoring instrumental music and also manufactures bespoke conductor's batons.

Having introduced the adjudicator it was time for the solos to start. The soloists for this evening had been put into sections appropriate to their current playing experiences rather than age group, The first of these was "New Starter" which is for those who have been with the group less than a year. The draw for the order of play had taken place off stage prior to the evening starting and first up was Elisha on trombone playing "Slinky" followed by Ella on cornet who played "Give Me Joy In My Heart".

The next section was Junior, players who have been with us a bit longer and are still gaining experience of playing.

It started with Pedro on cornet playing "My Bonnie Lies Over The Ocean", followed by Naranco on trombone who played "Up Beat Medley" and Lewis on baritone who played "Ode To Joy". The rest of the section were made up of cornet players and we had Theo with "Blue Danube", Jess with "The Foggy Foggy Dew", Rauf with "Au Clair De La Lune", Paul with "Beautiful Dreamer" and Megan with "Despacito".

Then we had the Intermediate Section for players who are a bit more experienced but not yet members of the senior band. It started with Oscar on cornet who played "James Bond Theme" followed by James on euphonium with "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik". George another euphonium player gave us "We're Off To See The Wizard" and Oliver on cornet played "The Entertainer". Thomas on baritone gave a rendition of "Hall Of The Mountain King" and Daniel on cornet played "Hedwig's Theme". The final player in this section was Karen on tenor horn with "Winter Light".

## Engagement Reports

The final section was Advanced which is for those members of the group who play regularly in the senior band. As we were in the middle of school examinations entries we had just the three entrants. We started with Adam on cornet with "Jigaudon", followed by Peter on tenor horn with "Syncopated Clock" and to finish the solos for this evening we had Ben on bass trombone with "The Great Escape"

Brian Keech Musical Director of the Senior Band then gave a short address thanking all those who had played solos and the members of the senior band who help them at their weekly rehearsals.

The group then signed off by playing "Caribbean Farewell". There was then a break for refreshments to allow the adjudicator to complete his deliberations. It was then time for the awards ceremony and Paul Batson was invited to share his thoughts on what he had heard during the course of the evening. Having started off in brass bands Paul was delighted to see so many youngsters learning to play in the Development Group. He knows how important music is but said it was becoming increasingly difficult for youngsters to get the opportunity of getting involved as the schools cut back on music lessons. Paul then gave his thoughts on the solos he had heard and offered some words of advice to help soloists in their preparations and performance. Paul had made extensive hand written comments on every performance this evening and apologised if some of his hand writing was not legible but he was willing to have people contact him for any clarification.

We then had the presentation. All the entrants in the Junior Group came to the front to receive commemorative medals and then the winner was announced. After a dramatic drum roll and pause it was declared that Pedro had won this section and he excitedly collected his trophy from Paul Batson. All players received a signed Certificate of Participation and their individual adjudicator's comments sheet.

The Intermediate Group were then invited to the front to receive their medals. The winner of this section was Oliver who was also delighted to receive his trophy from the adjudicator.

The Advanced Section stepped forward for their medals and here the winner was Adam.

In the New Starter section, the winner was Elisha. Both entrants in this group had to leave before the results were announced and the trophy and medals will be presented to them at their next Development Group Rehearsal.

The final act of the evening was for a presentation by the Band's President Peter Blake to the adjudicator Paul Batson in recognition of his involvement in this evening's contest. It had been an enjoyable evening with twenty brave soloists all demonstrating their growing confidence in performing. Next up for the Development Band is their annual appearance at the New Bradwell School Carnival in July.



## ***Whit Friday 2018 - Brian Keech***

On Friday 25th May Liz and I travelled to Saddleworth to attend the Whit Friday March contest. We have been to this event many times both as players and listeners. We now prefer to listen and go to a village called Greenfield which is situated on the edge of Saddleworth Moor.

After glorious week weather wise we had been monitoring the forecast for the Friday which showed light showers stopping at 3pm. After leaving MK mid morning in the rain we travelled north, passing through Holmfirth (last of the summer wine country) travelling over Saddleworth Moor to arrive in Greenfield. Saddleworth Moor is very picturesque but with mist and rain not much was visual.

We arrived in Greenfield at 1.30 pm to find we couldn't park where we normally do and the chip shop was shut, not a good start. We made our way to the field where the contest takes place at 3pm; Liz loaded up with chairs and bags allowing me to concentrate on walking! Even though the first band wasn't to play until 4pm some hardy souls had already taking their places. We sat next to a couple from Cornwall who together with their dog were having a 3 day visit to Saddleworth. They played with St Pinnock band in Cornwall. There was also a film crew from Sky Arts on the field making a film about the day, they asked if we could be interviewed and have some filming taken, especially Liz knitting. Something to look out for, though my interview wasn't, brilliant.

At 4 o'clock the first band arrived and then a continuous flow from then on from the top bands like Faireys, Brighouse & Rastrick, Hepworth, too many youth bands as well. We particularly liked the performance from a band from Norway and we also heard two Swiss bands. There were also many composite bands and some in fancy dress. I had the chance to speak with Ben Godfrey who was playing Top Cornet with Bad Ass Brass and also enjoyed a performance from an all male band where the top cornet was dressed as a bride and the other players as grooms. Though we didn't hear them play it was good to catch up with players from Towcester Studio Band.

The overriding thing though was the bad weather. We had continuous rain all evening which was very heavy at times. The couple next to us joined their dog inside a shelter to keep dry, as the rain came the temperature dropped so many people wore bobble hats and gloves. At 8.30 p.m. we were too wet and cold and decided to head for home, we had though heard 44 bands in this time. Walking back to the car we bumped into people I knew as well as some from Boobs and Brass who spoke very highly of our concert. We did get our fish and chips which were awful and then had a difficult trip back over Saddleworth Moor, with the rain making visibility very poor and extremely difficult driving conditions.

We arrived home after midnight both tired and cold but glad we had once again visited such a fantastic event.



## *All Our Yesterdays*



*This picture takes us back 70 years!*

*Bradwell Silver Band were playing at the St. Peters Football Club Fete, held at the New Bradwell Recreation Ground on Whit Monday 1948.*

*It is interesting to note that the conductor is holding a cornet. It was quite a common practice for the conductor to lead the band and play at the same time.*



## Dates For The Diary

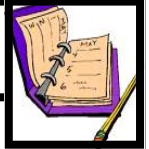
*A provisional list of Band engagements for the coming twelve months.  
Other dates are likely to be added to this list.*

Sunday 3rd June	Big Lunch Stony Stratford
Saturday 15th June	Whittlebury Church
Saturday 23rd June	Milton Keynes Museum Victorian Week-end
Saturday 30th June	Milton Court Care Home, Kents Hill - 2:30pm-3:30pm
Saturday 14th July	New Bradwell School Fete
Sunday 29th July	Patronal Service St James Church New Bradwell

**\*\*Band break 30th July to 12th August. First rehearsal in August will be on Tuesday 14th.\*\***

Saturday 15th September	National Finals Cheltenham
Saturday 6th October	St James Autumn Concert,
Saturday 13th October	North Crawley Church (Evening Concert)
Saturday 10th November	Stantonbury Theatre (Evening concert)
Sunday 11th November	Remembrance Day
Saturday 17th November	Christ the Vine Coffee Hall ? (Evening Concert)
Saturday 8th December	Newport Pagnell Singers Christmas Concert
Saturday 15th December	St. James Christmas Concert
Sunday 16th December	Stantonbury Sports & Social Club Christmas Concert

## Contacts



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If you're on Facebook, then visit and "Like" the Band's page: <https://www.facebook.com/BradwellBand>

Here you will read the latest news on the Band and also there are many photos and videos to peruse as well.

