



# The Bradwell Bugle



Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band

March 2017

## *Inside this issue:*

Editors Note	1
Area Contest	2-5
MK Young Musician of The Year	6
Development Group/ All Our Yesterdays	7
Bradwell Silver Band - A Christmas Tale	8
Future Engagements/Contacts	9
Player List	10



## From the Editor

Hi Everyone!

Well I'm back after a month's break! (See bottom of page.)

Although there have been no engagements for the Band since Christmas they have been kept busy at rehearsal trying out some new pieces for the repertoire and of course working on the Test Piece for the forthcoming area contest. Details of this follow and of course there will be a full report on the contest in next month's edition.

We know that Bradwell Silver Band will do their best to perform well and we send our best wishes to our local friends at Olney Brass and MK Brass and hope they also give a good account of themselves in their respective sections.

We thank Graham Crisp for his contribution to this month's newsletter and throw out the usual invitation to you all for articles that can be included in future editions.

*Sarah-Jayne*

## Editor Says....

I'd like to introduce you all to my little boy:

### Colbyn Addison Edwards

Colbyn was born on Sunday 22nd January 2017, weighing 7lb 3oz and both myself and the little fella are doing well.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank both members and supporters of the Band for their well wishes and messages of "Congratulations". It meant a lot to myself and my Husband.

Who knows, perhaps in a few years time, his Grandad (Keith) may persuade him to join the Development Band!!!



## Area Contest

### London and Southern Counties Region of the NATIONAL BRASS BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS OF GREAT BRITAIN



Otherwise referred to as the areas, the 2017 contest will be taking place at the Stevenage Arts and Leisure Centre in Lytton Way, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, Postcode SG1 1LZ over the weekend of March 18th and 19th. The details are as follows:

Section	Date	Hall	Number of bands	Adjudicators	Draw Time
Championship	Sunday 19th March	Gordon Craig Theatre	12	David Hirst & Steve Sykes	2:00 pm
1st	Sunday 19th March	Gordon Craig Theatre	17	Roger Webster & Chris Wormald	9:00 am & 11:00 am
2nd	Saturday 18th March	Main Hall	16	Steve Sykes & Roger Webster	1:00 pm
3rd	Saturday 18th March	Main Hall	14	Alan Duguid & David Hirst	9:00 am
4th	Sunday 19th March	Main Hall	18	Alan Duguid & Steve Pritchard-Jones	10:30 am & 12:30 pm

## Area Contest

The entry ticket prices for non-bandsman are as follows.

Adult £12.00

Over 60s £10.00

Under 16s £10.00

Family (\*1) £23.00

Weekend (\*2) £16.00

Exchange (\*3) £2.00

Weekend Exchange (\*4) £8

Notes:

1. *A family ticket admits a single adult and children to any section on one day (either Saturday or Sunday).*
2. *A weekend ticket is valid for entry to all sections on both the Saturday and Sunday*
3. *A bandsman's ticket, which entitles the holder to listen to his own section only may be exchanged for a full entrance ticket for any section on the day*
4. *A bandsman's ticket, which entitles the holder to listen to his own section only may be exchanged for a full entrance ticket for any section over the weekend*

Tickets will be available from the box office prior to the contest and may also be purchased on the day.

Light refreshments are available during the day in the Arts & Leisure Centre, However the management advises that only food purchased on the premises will be allowed to be consumed in the restaurant/Cafeteria area. Stevenage Shopping centre is very close by and has the usual selection of fast food outlets.

### **The Test Piece and Composer**

The music chosen for the Fourth Section this year is Alan Fernie's 'St. Andrew's Variations'. There is no significance in the title, other than the fact it was written by a Scotsman to be played in the St Andrew's Hall, in Norwich. This piece was originally commissioned for the East Anglian Brass Band Festival in 1999 and takes the form of eight variations and a finale, loosely based on the descending third motif heard in the initial theme. It was initially composed for junior band, and expanded and re-scored for full band in 2006.

The theme of the music is based on a descending motif which appears in various guises throughout seven variations. It opens with a proud Fanfare, and followed by a gentle Waltz, a sad Elegy, a purposeful March, a passionate Romance, a busy 'Moto Perpetuo', a peaceful Hymn and ends with a rousing Finale. As to be expected with music written for a junior band the music is tuneful and melodic and doesn't present any major technical difficulties. The test will be in the consistency of the playing of all the variations and needs a nice balance of parts and particular attention to the dynamics. The composer noted that he tried to maintain a balance between keeping the music straightforward technically and giving the players something interesting to play.

Alan Fernie was born and brought up in the Scots mining village of Newtongrange. From the age of 13 he learned to play the trombone both at school and with the local brass band, going on to study music in Glasgow and London. After a short period working as an orchestral musician, Alan moved into instrumental education, spending over 20 years teaching brass in schools all over the East of Scotland. It was during this time that he began to conduct and he has since directed bands at all levels, winning many awards. He first wrote for brass whilst still a student, and his music is now played, recorded and published throughout the world.

In 2009, Alan was honoured with the "President's Award" from the Scottish Brass Band Association for services to banding. He is also proud to be associated as composer in residence with the acclaimed charity "Brass for Africa", with whom he spent two months recently teaching in Kampala, Uganda. Living in the Scottish Borders, Alan now works as a freelance musician, finding time to write, teach, conduct, judge, perform and act as compere throughout the UK and beyond.

## Area Contest

### The Adjudicators

#### Steve Pritchard-Jones

Steve is in demand all over the UK and abroad as conductor and adjudicator officiating at national and local brass band competitions and music festivals. He is a composition and music performance examiner for 'A' level and GCSE music examinations, and Arts Award Advisor for Trinity Guildhall, and tutors brass band courses and workshops throughout the UK. Steve was one of the first recruits on the Welsh Regional Council adjudicators training scheme tutored by Brian Buckley and subsequently enrolled on the Salford University/NABBC course successfully graduating in 2006 achieving a Licentiate Diploma in brass band adjudicating.

Steve is a member of the Association of Brass Band Adjudicators, the National Association of Brass Band Conductors and jury member (representing Wales) on the European Brass Band Association official adjudicators list. He started playing a brass instrument at the age of 8, joining his local band Porthywaen Silver. He went on to study music at Liverpool and Trinity College of Music London before embarking on a career in performing arts as conductor, teacher, player, and adjudicator. He has performed with and conducted bands all over the UK including Tredegar, Sovereign Brass, Staffordshire Band, Cwmaman, Fodens, Tongwynlais Band, Besses Wingates, Point of Ayr, Porthywaen, Jaguar Landrover, Jackfield Band, Wellington (Telford) Band, Cheshire Constabulary Band, plus many other lower section bands.

For six years Steve was Musical Director of The Band of West Mercia Police in tandem with his freelance work as a trumpet and cornet player with many brass bands, orchestras and in theatrical productions all over the UK as well as for the BBC and ITV. As a keyboard player Steve works throughout the UK providing music for weddings, civic functions and black tie dinners etc.

For ten years he was Musical Director of North Powys County Youth Brass Band in Mid Wales and also over the border working part time on the brass team for the Shropshire Music Service School of Music. For seventeen years Steve was Head of an Expressive & Performing Arts Faculty at a secondary school in Shrewsbury. In 2012, Steve secured funding from Shrewsbury Council, Shrewsbury Round Table and Freemasons to fund the formation of a new brass band in the town of Shrewsbury. Shrewsbury Brass Band has 38 members and so far raised in the region of £20,000 for local charities. Steve is proud to be its first Musical Director

#### Alan Duquid

Alan is a Scottish conductor and composer based in London. A native of Aberdeen, Alan attended the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama from 2000-2005, studying composition with Dr Gordon McPherson and Rory Boyle and conducting with Alasdair Mitchell. In 2001, Alan won the Scottish heat of the NABBC Conductor Competition, going on to represent Scotland at the NABBC finals in 2003. More recently, Alan reached the quarter final of the 2011 European Conductor Competition in Montreux, representing the UK at this prestigious event.

Alan has worked with a number of bands, both in the UK and overseas including Bon Accord, Aarhus Brass and Tokyo Brass Concord. From 2006-2013 he was the musical director of Regent Brass, presiding over a very successful period which saw the band rise to the Championship Section, being crowned the London & Southern Counties Champions in 2013 and representing the south-east at the National Finals in the Royal Albert Hall.

As a composer, Alan has written for groups such as the Paragon Ensemble, the Hebrides Ensemble, the Kirkintilloch Band and the all-female trumpet quartet, Bella Tromba. In 2014, Alan was accepted as a member of the Association of Brass Band Adjudicators upon completion of their trainee adjudicator programme.

## Area Contest

### The Entries

<b>Abbey Brass (Abingdon)</b>	<b>R. Tompkins</b>
<b>Bletchington Silver</b>	<b>S. Barwick</b>
<b>Bradwell Silver</b>	<b>B. Keech</b>
<b>City of Norwich</b>	<b>A. Craze</b>
<b>Cottenham</b>	<b>P. Mackley</b>
<b>Crystal Palace</b>	<b>M. Gray</b>
<b>Great Yarmouth Brass</b>	<b>C. Swaep</b>
<b>Hadstock Silver</b>	<b>D. Pannell</b>
<b>Letchworth Garden City</b>	<b>T. Welch</b>
<b>North London Brass</b>	<b>M. Stogden</b>
<b>Pangbourne &amp; District Silver</b>	<b>S. Lewins</b>
<b>Regent Community Brass</b>	<b>C. Bearman</b>
<b>Royston Band</b>	<b>S. Earley</b>
<b>Snowdown Colliery</b>	
<b>Wantage Academy</b>	<b>N. Jones</b>
<b>Watford Band</b>	<b>I. Graves</b>
<b>Witney Town</b>	<b>R. Owens</b>
<b>Woodbridge Excelsior</b>	<b>C. Lewis-Garnham</b>

You would imagine that in choosing this year's test piece for the fourth section the organisers wanted to encourage more bands to enter the contest. In reality there are the same number of entries this year as last, 18 in total. As we have mentioned previously, the London and Southern Counties region covers a huge area so the fact that there are no new bands entered this year is perhaps a bit surprising as the test piece should be well within the capabilities of most bands rated in this section. Contesting is a part of banding that is not everybody's cup of tea but it can help you to improve individually and as a group and also gives you the chance to listen to performances by bands of a similar grading.

Oxfordshire has four representatives, Norfolk, Hertfordshire and Greater London have three each, and the counties of Buckinghamshire, Suffolk, Essex, Berkshire and Kent have just one entry. The band in form is Crystal Palace who won this year's Butlins Contest and along with the City of Norwich Band they will be considered as the favourites for placing. For the rest it is wide open and the adjudicators will have a difficult task in the placing the performances in the precise order of merit that the area contest requires.

Because of the large number of entries in this section, the draw for order of play will again be spilt, with the first half taking place at 10:30 a.m. and the second 12:30 p.m. Bradwell will be in the second half and we expect that this will allow us to have a rehearsal at the school before setting off to Stevenage. We will be going by coach and there will be some spare seats if anyone wants to bring family or friends but you will need to let Robin know beforehand.



## *Milton Keynes Young Musician of The Year*

The seventh Milton Keynes Young Musician of the Year competition took place on 8th February 2017 at the Ousedale Secondary School, Newport Pagnell. Each secondary school in Milton Keynes had identified a candidate. Organised by the Milton Keynes Rotary Club there were to be no vocalists in this year's competition although the audience was entertained with a striking performance by Sarah Ikumu from the Hazeley Academy who was last year's winner.

This year's winner was 13 year old pianist Teo Hughes from Swanbourne House School who gave excellent performances of works by Bach and Stravinsky from memory. The runner up was Ryan Farnes from Ousedale School playing classical guitar who gave very sensitive performances of works by Tarrega and Turina.

Congratulations go to the winners and to the other performers for an excellent evening of music – Thomas Marshall from Denbigh School, Piano – Emily Abbott from Shenley Brook End School, Violin – Louis Wilson from Stantonbury Campus, Horn – Toby Dytrych from Radcliffe School, Orchestral Percussion – Don Chan from Oakgrove School, Classical Guitar – Amelie Trendall from Walton High, Cello, and Adam Chappell Hazeley Academy, Cornet. The judges were James Gower and Paul Harris. Additional musically entertainment was provided by a group of singers from Ousedale School prior to the announcement of the results.



We at Bradwell Silver Band are immensely proud that three of our members, Toby, Adam and Louis had each been chosen to represent their individual schools. Louis on tenor horn played 'Ballad' and 'Iona', Toby on orchestral percussion 'Strive To Be Happy' and 'Line 'em Up', and Adam on cornet played the waltz song from Romeo and Juliet and 'Machusla'. Each gave a performance for which they can be extremely proud.

## ***Development Group***

The Development Group of the Bradwell Silver Band has welcomed four new members this year. Rauf and Michael on cornet, Amelia on flugel horn and Emily on trumpet. These means we now have over 30 members in this group and there have been excellent attendances for our Thursday evening rehearsals. Adam and Sam have been taking the beginners class whilst Steph, Fraser and Martin help out with the main group. The emphasis is on ensemble playing which involves all of the players playing music with parts especially written or adapted to suit their current level of performance.

The next engagement for the Development Group will be at the Spring Concert in St. James Church on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April and we have been working on a completely new programme of music for this. After that we will be concentrating on the Solo Competition which will be taking place towards the end of May on a date yet to be confirmed.

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## ***All Our Yesterdays***

The latest in the series of interesting articles about the Band's history as recorded in the archives of the Northampton Mercury. The following is a report on an event 80 years ago in May 1937.

### ***Northampton Mercury 14<sup>th</sup> May 1937***

#### ***UNION JACK AND FLAGSTAFF PRESENTED AT NEW BRADWELL***

*A large Union Jack and flagstaff were presented to the parish of New Bradwell by the local members of the British Legion, and hoisted above St. James's Parish Church on the north side on Sunday. The gift was made to mark the Coronation of the King and Queen, and the dedication took place during a service in the church, conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. A. Newman Guest). Prior to this, there was parade of members of New Bradwell branch of the British Legion, who were joined by several members from the Wolverton branch. Mr. Gardner was the standard bearer for Bradwell. Miss Moore had charge of the Girl Guides, and the procession was headed by the New Bradwell Band, who also played during the service.*

## ***Bradwell Silver Band - A Christmas Tale***

***Warning...this tale contains puns - By Graham Crisp***

On the northern edge of Milton Keynes lies the small railway town of New Bradwell, home to Bradwell Silver band. The Band has for many years been trumpeted as a cymbal of Christmas for the people of New Bradwell. Its residents are justifiably proud of their Band and its traditions, the Band are instrumental in playing a major part in people's lives. That magical moment on Christmas morning when the Band is heard by those children with sharp hearing being the key moment for them to open their presents. However, not all its residents are in accord with this tradition.

However, on a Christmas morning, several years ago, some crotchety people, who were obviously out to orchestrate treble pitched eggs at the band and created a bit of a ding dong. But in note time at all, the Band staved them off, composed themselves and made a concerted effort to pluckily play on with the minimum of fuss.

Some months later, on a windy March evening, three of our Band member's organ ised a trip to the up tempo eight bells pub at Bletchley, the town having been home to the famous wartime cipher school. At the pub, our members enjoyed a rest in the basement bar of the pub, having forte the busy Milton Keynes traffic to travel there in a clapped out old Allegro, registration number 7NPP. Our members chatted about the events at Christmas and decided that on the scale of things these people were in the minority, there was no need to drum on about it and it was to be hoped that there would be no repercussions. They vowed to stand firm and uniform with their opinions that the conduct of these people was most oboenoxious. The band would baton regardless and would flatly refuse to let them beat them and leave a slur against them. They hoped that these people would refrain from repeating their actions next Christmas, that harmony will prevail and that their Christmas collections will, as usual, bring in loads of Lute.

Whilst at the pub, they enjoyed several packets of Quavers and some cheese Puffs, all washed down with some Harp Largo and Lilt, excellent value at under a Tenor. But sadly, there was no ice cream on the menu as the pub had run out of Cornets.

The pubs landlords were Carol and Tony Hall (Tone to his friends). Tones grandparents, the feisty Bert and Val Hall had links to royalty, his grandfather was known as Royal Albert Hall and his grandmother was known as Royal Feisty Val Hall. Val was a very hard working wife and mother, never having time to get into a rutter, she used to do the family washing in their laundry room they called the Purcell room. With her grocery Listz, which often included Vivaldi potatoes and Shubert dabs for the kids, Val would catch Debussy to do her Chopin at Harrods. A very busy lady indeed but not once did Val fly of the Handel and get Strussed about things although her pet dog did and would Offenbach at passers-by but thankfully its Bach was worse than its bite and rarely did anyone ever get Brttten.

Carol once lived in a semi-detached house in the town of Spital on Merseyside but she only stayed in the Semi-briefly before moving on to Bletchley.

Back at the pub, as Carol closed the bar at the end of the evening our members were the only customers left so she called the "three for time gentlemen please" and so our members waltzed off home. However, that was only after repairing their car's sticking horn and valves, adjusting the timing belt, bending down solo to tape up the blowing exhaust and using a tuba glue to stick it. At one point, they feared they might need a tug to get it started but hey presto, after a quick tune up the engine burst into life.

And so back in New Bradwell, as our Band's musical director returns from his latest Pi an O Mediterranean cruise and as he Marshalls the Band ready for another event, the message from all is loud and clear and needs no further amplification. People like this must be band from behaving like this at Christmas in New Bradwell ever again.

And they all lived happily ever after.



## Future Engagements



Robin is working hard at confirming the engagements for the next six months. There are some exciting new opportunities to look forward to plus other traditional events and a full list will appear when these have been made known. In the meantime we would ask that you note the following dates in your diary for the next couple of months.

On Tuesday 14th March we will be holding an Open Rehearsal for the Bands Patrons. This will be a normal practice but we would ask that you all aim to arrive for 7.45 p.m. on this evening with the practice finishing at 9.30pm.

<u>MARCH</u>		
Sunday 19th March	Area Contest - Stevenage	ALL DAY!
<u>APRIL</u>		
Sunday 22nd April	Spring Concert & Awards Evening - St James Church, New Bradwell	7.30pm
Sunday 29th April	Concert - Yardley Gobion	TBC pm
<u>MAY</u>		
Monday 1st May	May Day At The Mill - New Bradwell	TBC 1.00pm

Playing members are asked to arrive at least 30 minutes before the start time shown for the performance.

If you are not going to be available for any of these engagements it is essential that you let Robin or Sam know as soon as possible and also advise your section leader. We will arrange for deputy players so you must leave your music folder or make arrangements for it to be collected from you.

## Contacts



<i>Chairperson:</i>	James Lawrie	chairman@bradwellband.co.uk
<i>Secretary:</i>	Robin Allen	secretary@bradwellband.co.uk
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Karen Wilson	treasurer@bradwellband.co.uk
<i>Librarian:</i>	Sam Lawrie	-
<i>Musical Director:</i>	Brian Keech	md@bradwellband.co.uk
<i>Publicity Officer:</i>	Steph Chappell	press@bradwellband.co.uk
<i>Newsletter Editor:</i>	Sarah-Jayne Edwards	sj.cc23@gmail.com
<i>Webmaster:</i>	Fraser Cousins	fras@sky.com
<i>Quartermaster</i>	Martin Oliver	-
<i>Website:</i>	www.bradwellband.co.uk	

## Player List

### Playing Positions

Principal Cornet:	David Wilson
Solo Cornets:	Adam Chappell
	Jess Gunn
	Orla Howell
	Tim Sell
Soprano Cornet:	Julia Hollis
Repiano Cornet:	Sam Lawrie
2nd Cornet:	Tania Dytrych
	Daniel Gaylor
3rd Cornet:	Alison Drury
	Adam Hird
Flugel Horn:	Karen Wilson
Solo Horn:	Keith Jones
1st Horn:	Louis Wilson
2nd Horn:	Steph Chappell
1st Baritone:	Maria Belton
2nd Baritone:	Martin Oliver
Solo Euphonium:	Fraser Cousins
Euphonium	Lucy Bedford
1st Trombone:	John Lee
2nd Trombone:	Evan Lovell
Bass Trombone:	Luca Ianotta
	Ben Mirfin
E <sub>b</sub> Basses:	Luke Colvin
	Luke Wilson
	Jennifer Avery
BB <sub>b</sub> Bass:	Robin Allen
	David Sanderson
Percussion	Toby Dytrych
	James Lawrie
	Stephen Osborne

