



The Bradwell Bugle

Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band



May 2018

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From the Editor

Hi Everyone!

Welcome to the May edition of the Band's Newsletter. The Band has already begun a busy Spring/Summer season with concerts in New Bradwell and Potterspurty on the last two consecutive Saturdays. This coming weekend will see them with outdoors performances, weather permitting, in Northampton and then Bradwell on the Bank Holiday Monday. Reports and details on these engagements follow.

Congratulations to those who received awards at the recent St. James Concert. There's more to being in a band than just the ability to play a brass instrument and it is good to see some of the behind the scenes work being acknowledged.

As always, contributions for future editions will be most welcomed

Sarah-Jayne

Development Group Solo Competition Thursday 17th May 2018

New Bradwell School - Starts at 7:00 p.m.

Following on from the success of previous years we are looking forward to holding our annual Development Group Solo Competition. Playing a solo is an important part of everyone's musical journey, giving the opportunity to improve skills and confidence by allowing the spotlight to be on the individual. All members of the group are being encouraged to play a piece of music of their own choosing, with the performances adjudicated by an independent judge, who will provide written comments on what went well and what could be improved upon.

The soloists will be competing in one of four sections dependent on their ability and playing experiences to date. Whether the soloists are experienced or not it is still vital we provide a supportive audience to make the occasion enjoyable and rewarding for all involved. We do expect that the soloists will have family and friends in the audience encouraging them in what may be their first experience of performing a solo in public. We cannot stress this enough and hope that you agree and show your support for the players of the future. Entry is free and refreshments will be available.

What's On...? May

Where You Can See and Hear the Band in May

Sunday 6th May

Abington Park bandstand Northampton

Bands in the Park organised by the Northampton Borough Council, Come and enjoy music in the beautiful and relaxed surroundings of Abington Park.

The Band will be playing 2:00pm-5:00pm.



Monday 7th May

May Day Bank Holiday Fun Day - New Bradwell Sports Association

Annual Fun Day raising funds for Willen Hospice.

One of the city's most distinctive landmarks will be open to the public again this year on this Bank Holiday Monday. Bradwell Windmill, which featured on the first set of postcards and adverts for life in the new city of Milton Keynes and is also used as the crest for the Bradwell Band and New Bradwell School uniforms will be open from 1.30-4.30pm

The Band will be playing 1:00pm-2:00pm.

Engagement Reports

Sunday 1st April

Wedding Reception

An ensemble comprising Tug, Orla, Sam, Alison, Louis, Steph, Karen, Ben, Jemma, Maria, Lucy, Luke and Robin played at the evening wedding reception of former band member Rachel and her husband Sam on Easter Sunday. The reception and wedding was held at the Abbey Hill Golf club on Two Mile Ash.

Rachel joined the group to play the first two items "Rock Around The Clock" and "Lollipop". We then played an hour set of suitable wedding pieces which included "Everybody Needs Somebody" and "Marry You". Steph was our featured soloist in "From Both Sides Now".

It was lovely to be part of this special day for Rachel and Sam and I know they very much enjoyed our playing. A big thank you to everyone who took part.

Brian

Saturday 21st April

Concert and Awards Evening

St. James Church, New Bradwell

We returned to the Parish Church of New Bradwell for our first public concert of the year. The Church is in the middle of more renovation work which meant we had to be seated in an unfamiliar position. The majority of the Band was sat at floor level with the basses and percussion behind on the altar steps. Under the leadership of Musical Director Brian Keech we opened the programme with the first performance of "Starlight" by Alan Fernie aptly described as a Concert Opener.

The second item saw our first soloist of the evening, principal cornet Tug Wilson, playing the Ray Woodfield arrangement of "Spanish Eyes". This was originally an easy listening instrumental piece called "Moon Over Naples" composed and performed by German bandleader Bert Kaempfert. Lyrics were then added to the tune and it became a vocal solo for many artists, most notably Al Martino. This piece allowed David to demonstrate his high technical abilities coupled with his lovely lyrical playing.

Our next offering was another new piece for the Band, Darren Shaw's reflective piece "Guardian Of My Soul". Darren is a minister in the Salvation Army and in this arrangement he has used one of his own original worship songs "I Worship You" and skilfully blended it in with the well known hymn tune Aurelia – "O Jesus I have promised". Both songs contain the words "Guardian Of My Soul" within their lyrics.

We then played a selection of songs about the military with the title "Cavalcade Of Martial Songs". Arranged by Horatio Nicholls (real name Lawrence Wright) and published in 1934, several versions have been recorded over the years, including a vocal version with lyrics added by Noel Gay. The martial songs in this medley include The King's Horses, When The Guards Are On Parade, There's Something About A Soldier, When The Band Goes Marching By, When A Soldier's On Parade, The Toy Drum Major and The Toy-Town Artillery.

Engagement Reports

This was followed by a much quieter style of music with "Light As Air". The opening is taken from Bach's Air On A G String and is characterised by the bass line moving downwards step by step in a repeated pattern. Then using the same bass line the tune changes to "Whiter Shade of Pale" which was a hit in May 1967 for the English rock band Procol Harum. Karen Wilson was the featured soloist in this piece and played it with great style.

Our second stand-up soloist of the evening was Evan with the classic trombone solo "The Acrobat". It was written by John A. Greenwood who was a protégé of William Rimmer, one of brass bands most prolific composers. To a degree their careers followed similar patterns, playing in a local band, becoming principal cornet with some famous bands before turning their attention to conducting and tutoring. Greenwood's compositions and arrangements were fewer than Rimmer's but his memory is kept green by this ever popular trombone solo whose second quick section makes use of the device of pushing out the slide of the instrument to its fullest extent. Evan was recently appointed the Band's principal trombone and he showed why as he produced a stunning performance which rightly received prolonged applause from the audience and Band members.

We brought the first half of the concert to an end with a run through of the area test piece "World Tour".

As refreshments were being taken, the Development Group prepared for their involvement in this evening's concert. We had to quickly find additional chairs and music stands to accommodate all of the 34 players that were playing. Led by their Musical Director Keith Jones, their short programme began with "Juniors On Parade" a lively 6/8 march written by Colin Moore. This had started with a four bar drum roll introduction and no conductor which demonstrated how well the group play together and listen to each other. George - the Group's Euphonium player - acted as announcer for the evening and introduced the next item which was from the classical repertoire with a version of Pachelbel's "Canon", the cornet solo being very well played by Oliver who has only recently joined the group. The programme selected for the evening was intended to show the group playing contrasting styles of music and next up was "Caribbean Pirates". Andy Norman is a prolific writer and arranger of music especially for training bands and this piece is in a typical swashbuckling style.

For the next item we returned to the classics with Mozart's "March of the Priests" from the Magic Flute. The finale of the brief but highly entertaining programme was Alan Pring's "Jamaica Farewell" which features the well known song sung by Harry Belafonte. The words of the chorus are

*"Sad to say I'm on my way
Won't be back for many a day
My heart is down, my head is turning around
I had to leave a little girl in Kingston town"*

At the end of this piece all the players stood and faced the audience as they played the final few notes. The Development Group stood to acknowledge the well deserved applause before leaving the stage. It had been another encouraging performance from the players who represent the future of the Bradwell Silver Band.

Engagement Reports

Musical Director Brian Keech announced the results of the raffle and then the awards which were presented to the winners by the Band's Chairperson James Lawrie.

Two years ago a new trophy was presented to the Band to be awarded to the member of the Development Group who in the previous twelve months has shown the best commitment and dedication to learning to play a brass instrument. This is not just about playing but also attendance and general attitude. This year's winner is someone who not only has made good progress with their playing but also attends regularly, always arrives early and helps set up the chairs and music stands ready for the rehearsal. This year the **Allan Frier Trophy** was awarded to Rauf Allen.

The **Bill Holding Memorial Shield for the Young Player of the Year** was awarded to Evan Lovell.

The **Norman Keech Trophy**, which the Chairman presents to the individual who has given outstanding service during the past year went to Sam Lawrie.

The **Keith Clements Shield** decided on by the Committee to the individual who they feel has made an important contribution was presented jointly to Martin and Helen Oliver.

The **Graham Huckle Memorial Shield for the Player of the Year** as voted on by the members went to Martin Oliver.

With the presentations out of the way the senior band continued the musical programme with "Royal Air Force March Past", the official march of the Royal Air Force which this year celebrates its centenary. The original score was completed by Walford Davies in 1918 for the newly formed RAF and combined the rhythm of the bugle call of the Royal Flying Corps with that of the Royal Naval Air Service. The call appears in both the introduction and the coda. It was originally known as the Adastral I (in reference to the RAF's motto). The second part of the march past, the trio, was composed by Sir George Dyson. The march can be played both as a slow march and a quick march, and has been used as both when the Queen's Colour Squadron and RAF Central Band perform public duties such as mounting the guard at Buckingham Palace.

This was followed by "Carillon" a tune originally made famous by Sky who were an English/Australian instrumental rock group that specialised in combining a variety of musical styles, most prominently rock, classical and jazz. The group's original and best-known line-up featured classical guitarist John Williams and bass player Herbie Flowers. The tenor horn solo this evening was very capably played by Louis who has been enjoying time at home from University.

It is customary to include a selection from the world of stage and screen musicals and this evening's choice was The Sound of Music. This was a 1965 drama film starring Julie Andrews and Christopher Plummer and adapted from 1959 stage musical of the same name. Composed by Richard Rodgers and with lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II, it is based on the memoir The Story of the Trapp Family Singers by Maria von Trapp. The film is about a young Austrian woman studying to become a nun in Salzburg in 1938 who is sent to the villa of a retired naval officer and widower to be governess to his seven children.

Engagement Reports

After bringing and teaching love and music into the lives of the family through kindness and patience, she marries the officer and together with the children they find a way to survive the loss of their homeland through courage and faith. Our selection opens with the main theme and is followed by the familiar Do-Re-Mi, My Favourite Things, Climb Every Mountain, I am Sixteen Going On Seventeen, How Do You Solve A Problem Like Maria before a reprise of the main theme brings the piece to a conclusion.

Over the past few years John Lee has written and arranged a number of new pieces for the Band and tonight we were giving the premiere performance of "Hinky Dinky". 'Mademoiselle from Armentières' was a song that was particularly popular during World War I. It is also known by its mock French line, Hinky Dinky Parlez-vous. The tune was believed to be popular in the French army in the 1830s, and the original words told of the encounter of inn-keeper's daughter Mademoiselle de Bar le Duc with two German officers. During the Franco-Prussian war of 1870, the tune was resurrected, and again in 1914 when the British and Allied soldiers got to know of it. As with many songs of the time the soldiers soon made up their own words which were often of an adult content! The family friendly version is:

*"Three German officers crossed the Rhine, Parlez-veus,
They kissed the women and drank the wine,
Inky, dinky, parlez-veus"*

At various stages during this item, sections of the band and soloists get the chance to stand up and make their contributions to a jolly piece of music with sees all of the band standing at the end.

Our next item was the Alan Fernie arrangement of the song "The Ugly Duckling" composed by Frank Loesser and sung by Danny Kaye in the 1952 musical film Hans Christian Andersen who wrote this and many other fairy tales. Some of tonight's audience would have remembered the song which was frequently played on the radio show Children's Favourites, "The Ugly Duckling" tells the story of a little bird born in a barnyard who suffers scorn from his neighbours until, much to his delight (and to the surprise of others) he matures into a graceful swan, the most beautiful bird of all. The story is beloved around the world as a tale about personal transformation for the better. Tonight's performance featured the world renowned bird impressionist Toby on duck call.

The last item on the programme was "Streamline Peaks" a work commissioned and composed to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Glassworks Brass Band St-Prex. The Glassworks Band are based in Switzerland and the composer used two iconic Swiss elements for his inspiration, the beautiful Swiss landscape and the famous Rail system. Starting with a lower brass fanfare, the piece starts its journey and soon builds a head of steam led by the percussion as the piece begins its fast paced journey around the mountains. There are opportunities for soloists and solo groups to stand during the performance. With these featured soloists and ensemble sections, the music paints a descriptive picture of the Swiss landscapes. The middle movement allows for a moment of reflection led by the solo cornets before taking us back to our original tempo. This final section, led by the drum kit and developing the material from earlier sections builds to a big finale, concluding our musical train journey.

Engagement Reports

There were words of thanks for the Band's performance from the Reverend Paul Smith, Vicar of St. James. He told us how the Church were currently upgrading their lighting system to improve the facilities for all of the activities that take place in the Church and that it should be completed by the time we perform our next concert there in October,

As an encore we played "Tritsh-Trach Polka". It had been a good evening of music making although the unusual seating arrangements meant it was a few pieces into the concert before the band finally settled into the different acoustic. Well done to all the award winners this evening. Thanks go all those who provided the front of house services and the Church for providing refreshments.

Saturday 28th April

Concert at Potterspurty

This evening the Band performed a concert in the Parish Church of St. Nicholas. The engagement came about as a consequence of an enjoyable concert last year in the neighbouring parish of Yardley Gobion which is part of the same South Cleley Benefice. The church is Grade 1 listed and has been beautifully reordered. Most windows are stained glass including two modern pieces which were installed for the Millennium and there is an upstairs meeting room for 30, a kitchen and two toilets, an area for the choir to robe and a separate vestry. The tower has 6 bells that are used mostly by visiting ringers these days. All the seats in the church can be packed away to provide a large open space. They have held 1940's dances, jumble sales, Shakespeare plays, quizzes, flower and music festivals. The church has an active Social Committee fundraising with monthly coffee mornings, one-off musical events and festivals.

The entry money included wine and a buffet. Some of the audience managed a glass of wine before the start of the concert and there was already a great atmosphere as the Band took their places. Musical Director Brian Keech had selected a programme that included some items used last week plus a few additions.

The programme opened with "Starlight" followed by Tug's solo "Spanish Eyes" and then "Guardian Of My Soul". Next up was "Hinky Dinky" before Steph Chappell took centre stage to play the tenor horn solo "From Both Sides Now". The first half continued with "Cavalcade of Marching Songs", "Light As Air" and ended with "America". Also known as "Coming to America" this is a patriotic song written and originally recorded by Neil Diamond and is a positive interpretation of the history of immigration to the United States, both during the early 1900s and today.

During the Interval refreshments were served and what a spread of food there was! There was also time to look at some items displayed by a member of the old Potterspurty Band who was present at the performance. This included a lovely old trombone, a wooden collection box as well as a photograph and an informative handwritten article on the exhibits.

Engagement Reports

The Band returned for the second half of the concert and the results of the raffle were announced before we continued with the "Royal Air Force March Past". Principal euphonium Fraser Cousins played the solo "With His First Breath" and this was followed by the selection from "The Sound Of Music" and our final soloist of the evening, Evan Lovell with the trombone solo "The Acrobat".

We rolled back the years with a rendition of "Rock Around The Clock" followed by "Mr. Jums", which is taken from a suite called "3 Brass Cats" by Chris Hazell. The other cats were Black Sam and Borage and a 4th cat "Kraken" was added later. Brass Cats has no relation other than being feline to Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats by T. S. Eliot which was the basis for the Lloyd Webber musical "Cats".

The final item on the programme was "Streamline Peaks". We were thanked for our performance by the organiser who also thanked the people who had helped her prepare the Church and the splendid buffet.

As an encore we played "Tritsh-Trach Polka". It had been another good evening of music making with some fine playing and excellent performances from all of our soloists. We were again sat in something of an unusual formation because of the space available to us, but unlike last week this did not seem to cause any problems as the Band was on great form from the very start. We were grateful for playing help this evening from Jack and Emily.

From The Church Facebook Page: *"Thank you Bradwell Silver Band for a wonderful concert last night. If you missed it you really did miss out! Hopefully we can welcome you back again sometime soon."*



Player News

Peter Roder, our young second horn player, attended the British Juggling Convention at Easter held in Canterbury. Peter entered the British Young Juggler of the Year competition which is open to circus skills and acts for competitors up to the age of 21. His act was on walking globes which he skipped on, juggled on, jumped from one to the other and stood with one foot on each. He performed this to the Mission impossible theme tune wearing black clothes and shades..

Peter was placed first as voted by the audience and also got a judges award for professional performance. Well done Peter!



Adam Hird has passed his grade 5 cornet exam with distinction. He'll be taking grade 5 theory in June and is now all set for grade 6 next year.

Here's a picture of a delighted Maria receiving her prize from the Easter competition.



Misc.

2018 National Finals set works announced

The test-pieces to be played at Cheltenham have been announced.

Fourth Section:

Divertimento for Brass (Darrol Barry)
Published by Studio Music

Saturday 15th September

Published for the National Championships of Great Britain in 1989, Darrol Barry's work is cast in three movements: 'Festival', 'Romance' and 'March'. A popular and engaging work at this level, it is no stranger to the contest platform, having been used as the Third Section Regional test-piece in 1990, and at the third tier of the Dutch and Australian Championships in 1995 and 1996 respectively.

This is music we already have in our library and we have previously used it as an own choice test piece at the 2015 Milton Keynes contest.

Milton Keynes Youth Brass

On Sunday 22nd April Milton Keynes Youth Brass travelled to the Warwick Arts Centre to compete in the National Youth Brass Championships. We are proud that our young players Adam Chappell, Toby Dytrych, Adam Hird, Jennifer Avery and Evan Lovall are also members of MK Youth Brass. They competed in the Intermediate section and their 20 minute programme included the test piece "West Country Fantasy" and Adam Chappell playing Gordon Langford's arrangement of the cornet solo "My Love is Like a Red, Red Rose." Adam's performance drew praise from the adjudicator and a mention in the 4Bars Rest report. The band received a Silver Award for their efforts so well done to them and their Musical Director Phil Devine.

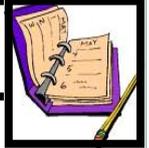


Dates For The Diary

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

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|-------------------------|--|
| Sunday 6th May | Abington Park, Northampton Afternoon Bandstand Concert - 2:00pm-5:00pm |
| Monday 7th May | May Day Fun Day New Bradwell - 1:00pm-2:00pm |
| Sunday 3rd June | Big Lunch Stony Stratford |
| Saturday 15th June | Whittlebury Church |
| Saturday 23rd June | Milton Keynes Museum Victorian Week-end |
| Saturday 14th July | New Bradwell School Fete |
| Sunday 29th July | Patronal Service St James Church New Bradwell |
| Saturday 15th September | National Finals Cheltenham |
| Saturday 6th October | St James Autumn Concert, |
| Saturday 10th November | Stantonbury Theatre (Evening concert) |
| Sunday 11th November | Remembrance Day |
| Saturday 17th November | Christ the Vine Coffee Hall ? (Evening Concert) |
| Saturday 15th December | St. James Christmas Concert |
| Sunday 16th December | Stantonbury Sports & Social Club Christmas Concert |

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

