



The Bradwell Bugle

Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band



May 2019

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From the Editor

Hi Everyone!

Welcome to the May edition of the Band's monthly newsletter.

The Band and Development Group had a great concert in St. James and congratulations to all of those who received awards. I was able to follow some of the performance and particularly liked "The Greatest Showman" in which the audience could be heard singing along! A full report follows inside this issue.

Thank you to those who entered the Free competition to win an Easter Egg, which was featured in April's issue of the Bugle. The winner selected at random was Liz Keech,

I thank Brian for his article in this month's edition of the newsletter and send out my usual invitation for more contributions for future issues.

Sarah-Jayne

Development Group - Solo Competition Thursday 23rd May

Following their performance as part of the St. James Concert the group are now concentrating on preparations for their annual solo contest. 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. It commences at 7:00pm with free entry and refreshments.

What's On?...May



The Band will be opening the event playing from 1:00pm-2:00pm.

****Please note that the concert scheduled for Yardley Gobion Church on Saturday 18th May has unfortunately been cancelled by the organisers.****

Saturday 11th May - Evening of Comedy and Music

Our good friends at St. James Church are having an evening of Comedy and Music in the style of the Old Music Hall. All are invited to attend and with a modest entrance fee of just £3.00 and refreshments available it should be a great evening's entertainment. You might even see some familiar faces performing during the course of the evening!

Please go along and help support the Church that does so much for the Band. The event starts at 6:30pm.

Engagement Report - Keith Jones

Saturday 27th April

Spring 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. Under the leadership of Musical Director Brian Keech we opened the programme with James Curnow's "Fanfare and Flourishes" which is a spectacular short work that mixes all the pageantry of a military tattoo with the well-known Charpentier 'Te Deum', a tune most people would recognise as the theme tune for the Eurovision Song contest.

Our first soloist for the evening was then introduced with David Wilson playing the Darroll Barry arrangement of "Don't It Make My Brown Eyes Blue" This song was written by Richard Leigh, and was popularised by the American country music singer Crystal Gayle back in 1977. As we have come to expect, Tug's playing was excellent and a great example of lyrical playing.

This was followed by Edward Gregson's "Variations on Laudate Dominum". For a composer brought up in the Salvation Army, Edward Gregson contributed relatively little to their repertoire but this work stands out like a beacon from most of the Salvationist music published in the 1970s. It was commissioned for the 1976 British tour of the London Citadel Band (from Ontario, Canada) whose conductor then was the composer's brother, Bramwell. Edward Gregson found the requirement for Salvationist band music to include a familiar religious tune less than stimulating. However, in Sir Hubert Parry's marvellous hymn tune O Worship The King, Gregson found a melody which, with its simple but strong contour and crisp and clear phrasing, was compatible with his own by now fully-developed musical language. A more exact title for Laudate Dominum might well be 'Variations and Theme' since Parry's noble melody is not heard in its full glory until the end of the work.

After this intense piece of music we next played the reflective Goff Richard's composition "Country Scene". Inspired by the composer's native Cornwall, this original work for brass band hints depicts an idyllic peaceful setting with the sound of a bird singing and the hint of Church bells ringing in the background. The music has a free feel to it by using different time signatures with recitative passages for the solo cornet and euphonium.

We then presented George Allen's classic brass band march "The Wizard". The composer and arranger of music for brass bands was born and resided for most of his life in County Durham and wrote at least 70 marches, as well as some concert pieces and pieces of dance music. He is best known today for his contest marches which are designed to show every section of a brass band at its best and are often featured at the famous Whit-Friday march contests.

Our second soloist was Steph Chappell with the tenor horn solo "Misty". Arranged by Derek Broadbent "Misty" is something of a jazz standard written in 1954 by pianist Erroll Garner. Lyrics were added later by Johnny Burke. It became the signature song of Johnny Mathis and has been recorded many times, including versions by Ella Fitzgerald, Aretha Franklin, Frank Sinatra, and Sarah Vaughan. Steph has become one of the Band's regular soloists and her playing was very good with some excellent phrasing.

Engagement Report - Keith Jones

Staying with popular music of the more recent years, we next played "Yesterday Once More", written by Richard Carpenter and John Bettis and a hit song for the Carpenters in 1973. Dionne Warwick, a close friend of the Carpenters, performed the song live in Las Vegas the night before Karen Carpenter's untimely death in 1983.

The final item of the first half was two movements from Gustav Holst's First Suite in Eb which was the set test piece in this year's area contest. We played the "Intermezzo" and "March",

After a break for refreshments it was the turn of the Development Group to perform a short programme of music. With a total of 34 players on show and under the leadership of their Musical Director Keith Jones they opened with "Pastime With Good Company". This music was attributed to King Henry VIII and written in the early years of the 16th century while he was still a handsome prince and newly married to Catherine of Aragon and the envy of Europe. The lyrics tell the joys of hunting, dancing and singing, and would have been sung as part of the court entertainment.

Daniel was the compere for this performance and he announced that the next item to be played was a traditional West Indies tune about a sunken boat. It was adapted in 1951 by Lee Hays of the Weavers as "The John B Sails" and revived in 1960 by Lonnie Donegan. The Beach Boys changed the title to "Sloop John B," and came away with a hit.

The next piece was receiving its first performance in public. It has been written especially for the Development Group by Neil Jopson who is a regular attendee at our concerts. The composition was inspired by his granddaughter and tonight we were delighted to be playing "Sofia's March".

The Development Group are taught to play music in many different styles and their next item was one of those pieces that started off life as a classical piece but later enjoyed further success in popular modern music. Muzio Clementi was an Italian-born English composer and in 1797 he wrote his Opus 36 "Sonatina" especially for those learning to play the piano. The British band The Mindbenders added the words "Groovy kind Of Love" to a slowed down tempo version of this tune in 1965 and Phil Collins covered it again in 1988 when it became a number one hit.

For their final piece the group took us off to the U.S.A. for "Mardi Gras". This refers to events of the Carnival celebrations, beginning after the Christian feast of the Epiphany and culminating on the day before Ash Wednesday, known here as Shrove Tuesday. Mardi Gras is French for "Fat Tuesday", reflecting the practice of the last night of eating rich, fatty foods before the ritual fasting throughout the season of Lent.

The piece ends with most of the group standing with instruments raised.

At the end of the performance Brian thanked the representatives from the Wavendon Foundation who were in the audience for their magnificent grant which has enabled the Development Group to purchase four new instruments. Photographs were taken of Clare and Jennifer with the two new Eb Bases, Daniel with the tenor trombone and Jake with the tenor horn. In addition new mutes and mouthpieces have been purchased which will be used to help the group make further progress on their musical journey. There were debut performances this evening for three new adult members Gail, Matthew and Neil and for youngsters Thomas, Erin and Isla.

Engagement Report - Keith Jones

Musical Director Brian Keech then announced the Band's Annual Awards which were presented to the winners by the Band's Chairperson James Lawrie.

The first award was the Allan Frier Trophy which goes to the member of the Development Group who in the previous twelve months has shown the best commitment and dedication in learning to play a brass instrument. This is not just about playing but also attendance and general attitude. This year the joint winners were Ella and Elisha

The Bill Holding Memorial Shield for the Young Player of the Year was awarded to Ben Mirfin. The Norman Keech Trophy, which the Chairman presents to the individual who has given outstanding service during the past year went to our President Peter Blake.

The Keith Clements Shield decided on by the Committee to the individual who they feel has made an important contribution was presented to Ron Chappell who is always at our concerts taking photographs and making videos we are used to publicise the Band.

The Graham Huckle Memorial Shield for the Player of the Year as voted on by the individual members went to Evan Lovell.

After the awards ceremony the senior band resumed the concert with Alan Fernie's "Prismatic Light". Some brass bands prefer to open with a march whilst others might choose a bombastic overture in miniature. Alan Fernie's Prismatic Light is a tour de force in the latter category. Originally written for the Scottish based Loanhead Youth Band's 10th anniversary concert in 2012 the music has similarities to a John Williams Star Wars type film score.

Our third soloist of the concert was our principal euphonium player Fraser Cousins with "Donegal Bay". Written by Paul Lovatt-Cooper this is an original composition in the style of a traditional Irish air. After the introduction the soloist leads the way in a slow reflective melody. The cornets then take over the melody leaving the soloist to play a lyrical obligato before he returns to the main theme for a quiet ending. Fraser's sensitive playing perfectly demonstrated the softer tones of the euphonium to great effect.

The Band's next item was their first performance in public of the selections from "The Greatest Showman" which had been requested by a member of the audience at a concert last year. The Greatest Showman was a 2017 American musical drama film starring Hugh Jackman and featured new songs from Benj Pasek and Justin Paul, the Academy Award-winning team from La La Land and has been arranged for brass band by Paul Murtha,

The film is inspired by the story of P. T. Barnum's creation of the Barnum & Bailey Circus and the lives of its star attractions. Audiences loved this film, and the music was a huge part of its enormous appeal. Our selection included the songs The Greatest Show; Never Enough; A Million Dreams; This Is Me and From Now On.

Engagement Report - Keith Jones

Our final featured soloist for the evening was Evan with the trombone solo "Love Is All Around". This song was recorded by English rock band the Troggs and unusually at the time featured a string quartet and a 'tick tock' sound on percussion. The song has been covered by numerous artists most notably Wet Wet Wet which featured in the 1994 film Four Weddings and a Funeral. Evan gave a fine performance and showed how much he has progressed since being appointed as the Band's solo trombone.

Following Evan's solo, he was joined by Jemma and Ben, his colleagues in the trombone section for the feature "I Will Follow Him". Arranged by Goff Richards this popular song was first recorded in 1961 by Franck Pourcel, as an instrumental titled "Chariot" and achieved its widest success when was recorded by American singer Little Peggy March with English lyrics in 1963. More recently the song is featured at the end of the 1992 film Sister Act, where it was performed by the nuns' chorus for the Pope with Whoopi Goldberg's character as the lead singer.

Keeping the music lively the final piece of the published programme was "La Bamba". Arranged by Frank Bernaerts this is a Mexican folk song, originally from the state of Veracruz, best known from a 1958 adaptation by Ritchie Valens, a top 40 hit in the U.S. charts and one of early rock and roll's best-known songs."La Bamba" has been covered by numerous artists, most notably by Los Lobos, whose version was the title track of the 1987 film La Bamba and reached No. 1 in the U.S. and UK singles charts in the same year.

On behalf of St. James the Reverend Nicola Martin-Beck offered words of thanks and said how nice it was to have the Church brought so full of life for the concert.

By way of an encore the Band played "One Voice" a song written by Barry Manilow and originally released in 1979. The song was featured in a lengthy segment in an episode of the British comedy show Only Fools and Horses where the show's central character Del Boy starts singing the song outside a block of flats late at night after he's been drinking, starting a riot.

It had been a good evening of music making and we are grateful to our team of helpers on the door and selling raffle tickets. We also thank St. James for hosting the concert and supplying refreshments in the interval.

We were indebted to Jemma who deputised on trombone at short notice despite having already spent several hours in rehearsal with Milton Keynes Brass who were playing at the Buxton contest on the following day.

Marathon Running - Brian Keech

It is great to hear Adam Chappell is running the Bilbao Marathon later this year and raising funds for a wonderful charity. It made me think though back to my Marathon running days. I realise it is difficult to imagine that someone with 2 injured legs and a big belly was a keen sportsman in my youth. I represented the Radcliffe School at Football, Cricket, Rugby, Badminton and X Country, and in fact Sport was more important than music to me whilst at school.

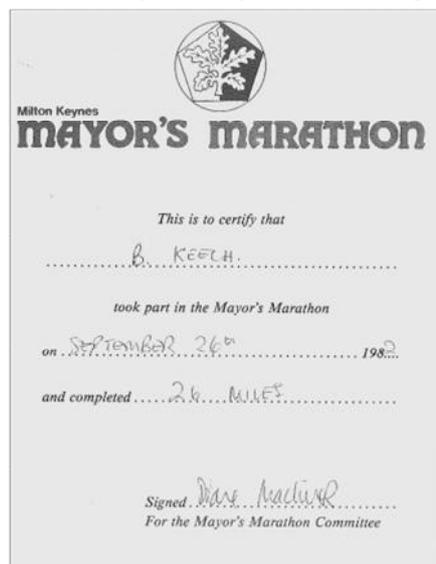
When I started in the Railway works in 1980 the first idea of marathon running was suggested by a group of lads I worked with. In those days the Milton Keynes Marathon was in its infancy but as a group we decided to enter. Specialised running kit or nutrition was not thought about in those days and I only bought a running Vest to wear over a T-Shirt and ate Spaghetti Alphabet for breakfast on the morning of the marathon as anything different. My normal day to day trainers certainly took a pounding.

Even though I was fairly fit from playing football etc. I realised a strict training plan was needed to achieve the Marathon distance of 26 miles 385 yards. I was living at home (Haversham) at the time and set myself 3 courses which I would run, one every day after work and before Band. Course 1 was the shortest from Haversham to the River Ouse bridge then pick up the river side walk around to the Iron Trunk at Old Wolverton, up onto the Canal path to the Galleon pub and then down the Old Wolverton Road turning left at the bottom back to Haversham. Course 2 was longer, running from Haversham down into Haversham Village and on to Little Linford taking a right down Little Linford Lane to arrive in Newport Pagnell at the Red House Pub, then right turn past the Black Horse through New Bradwell and right at the Drill Hall back to Haversham. Course 3 was the longest and also involved running from Haversham to Little Linford but this time straight on and down to Gayhurst, left through Gayhurst and then left again to Tathall End and up past Hanslope Park before picking up the Road back to Haversham.

Training was lonely and boring, but I realised needed to be done, it was also not without Incident as I was bit on the bum by a dog along the canal at Old Wolverton and regularly chased by some Jack Russell dogs in Haversham Village.

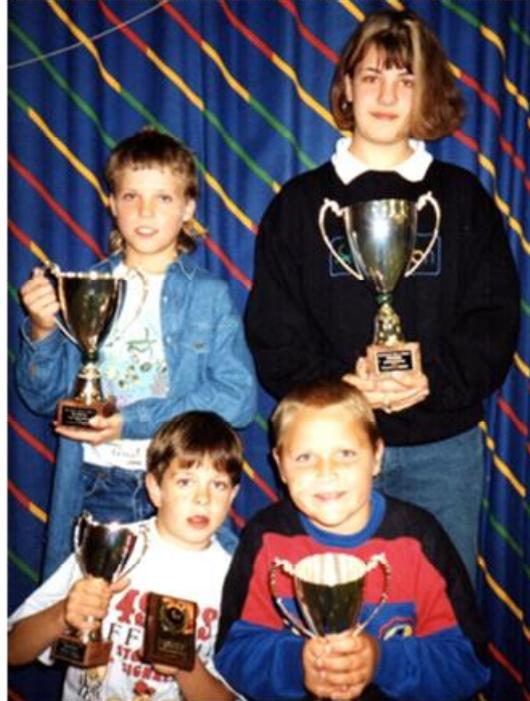
The Milton Keynes Marathon in those days featured a very small amount of runners and didn't have the help and support or crowds that you now get today. It started and finished at Woughton Campus and mostly involved running on the redways of Milton Keynes. I do remember that we went around Willen Lake twice once at 7 miles and the second at 14 miles. We also passed Stantonbury at about 21 miles running down the side of the Marlborough Street before turning up past the Campus. There were very few helpers and I believe we only had Water stations every 5 miles.

Though a group from the Works had entered we did run individually but I was grateful to Tim Wright who ran with me and made the race easier than it was. I was also very grateful to Liz and my Mum and Dad who were out on the course supporting me. I can't remember how long it took but was well over 4 hours. I also ran the Milton Keynes Marathon the following year but "Hit the Wall" or my legs stopped working at 21 miles and dropped out. The following year I had Glandular fever which really affected my Sporting ability and although I played Football for many more years I no longer did any long-distance running.



All Our Yesterdays

With the Development Group's solo contest coming up this month, our photograph from the past shows the winners of the completion in 1996.



The trophy winners were: Chris Davy and Lucy Bower (*standing*) and in front: Ben Enser and Ian Keech.

Also taking part were :



Tim Cooper, Matthew Davy, (*Lucy Bower*) and Melanie Cousins
www.bradwellband.co.uk

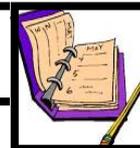
Dates For The Diary

Monday 6 th May -	New Bradwell Sports Association Fun Day 1:00pm
Saturday 18th May -	Yardley Gobion Church Concert 7:30pm **CANCELLED*
Sunday 2 nd June -	Big Lunch Stony Stratford T.B.C.
Saturday 8 th June -	Newport Pagnell Vintage Day 12:00pm
Saturday 29 th June -	Whittlebury Church Concert 7:30pm
Saturday 13 th July -	New Bradwell School Fete 12:30pm
Sunday 14 th July -	Ironbridge Brass Festival ALL DAY
Sunday 28 th July -	Patronal Service am
Saturday 3 rd August -	Blakesley show
Sunday 25 th August -	Abington Park 2:00pm-5:00pm
Sunday 1 st September -	Leighton Buzzard Bandstand 3:00pm-5:00pm
Saturday 12 th October -	Cosgrove Church Concert 7:30pm
Saturday 19 th October -	St. James Church Autumn Concert 7:30pm
Saturday 7 th December -	St. James Church Christmas Tree Festival T.B.C
Saturday 7 th December -	Concert with Newport Pagnell Singers T.B.C
Saturday 14 th December -	St. James Church Christmas Concert 7:30pm
Sunday 22 nd December -	Stantonbury Sports & Social Club Christmas Concert T.B.C

Please note that the August event at the Blakesley Show is a **HUGE** event and the one at Abington Park will involve 3 playing sessions. We need to put on a good performance with a full band for both of these events. It would be greatly appreciated if you could arrange your summer holiday plans accordingly and keep these dates free in your diary.



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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.

