



The Bradwell Bugle



Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band

October 2017

Inside this issue:

Editors Note	1
What's On!	2
Engagement Report	3-7
All Our Yesterdays	8
Future Engagements	9



From the Editor

Hi Everyone!

Welcome to the October edition of the Band's newsletter. September saw the Band play two memorable concerts, one at the home of the Chelsea Pensioners and the other with the ladies of Boobs and Brass. A report on the first one follows while because it came right at the end of the month the second will be covered in the November edition. Following the cancellation of the North Crawley concert there is now only one engagement this month which will be at St. James on the 21st.

In the last two weeks the band has said au revoir to two of our younger players. Luca has gone to Brunel University and Louis to the University of Leicester. We wish them both success and happiness as they start this new chapter in their lives. Good luck Luca and Louis and thank you - you can always be certain of a warm welcome in the Bradwell Band room.

My thanks go to Maria for her contribution this month and who knows - this may inspire others to write something for inclusion in future issues!

Sarah-Jayne

Development Group

We have been having some lively Thursday evenings with the Development Group since the start of the new school year. We have welcomed eight new members to our learner classes and now have a total membership of 40. There are outstanding enquiries from more would-be players but we have just about reached the limits with the tutors we currently have. The more advanced group has been working on a new programme of music for their appearance at St. James while Sam, Adam Chappell and Steph have been working with the new learners.

We really could do with some extra help from members of the senior band. You won't have to teach if you don't want to but you could still play a very important role just by sitting alongside some of our younger players and helping them read the music. With the recent departure to university of two of the senior band members and the likelihood that we will be losing at least another three next September, it is important that we support and encourage the Development Group who will be the future playing members of the Band. If you can spare that extra hour on a Thursday evening please let Keith or Steph know. Your help would help keep the production line going!

What's On!...October

**BRADWELL
SILVER
BAND** *In
Concert*



**7:30pm SATURDAY
21st OCTOBER 2017**

ST. JAMES CHURCH, NEW BRADWELL.

Tickets: £7

Tel: 01908 616463 press@bradwellband.co.uk

www.bradwellband.co.uk



Engagement Report

Saturday 9th September Royal Hospital Chelsea

This was an engagement that had been eagerly looked forward to since it was first announced and turned into a truly memorable day for the Bradwell Silver Band. A coach had been arranged to take us down to Chelsea and after loading the instruments on board, the band members and guests set off for the bright lights of London. We passed through some heavy rain on the motorway and made good progress until we reached the end of the motorway at Brent Cross. The North Circular Road flyover was closed for repairs and this meant all traffic was funnelled down into a couple of lanes of very slow moving traffic. We went past the Lords Cricket Ground where England were getting close to a victory over the West Indies and then down the Edgware Road to Marble Arch. Some of the younger members were taking particular interest in the shops and cafes which showed what a cosmopolitan capital we have. We carried on down Park Lane to Hyde Park Corner, round the back of Buckingham Palace into Victoria and finally arriving at the Royal Hospital.

We were greeted on arrival and were privileged to have as our tour guide Bill Bullock, a resident Chelsea Pensioner in full traditional scarlet uniform and shako cap. We were asked if there were any former service personnel amongst us and Tug indicated he was. He was asked which regiment he had been in and the guide called him a 'Donkey Walloper', the British Army slang for any member of the Cavalry. We were shown a video which gave us some of the history of the place and then we were escorted around the grounds and some of the buildings.



The hospital has a Latin inscription on the colonnade of the main courtyard that translates in English to "For the succour and relief of veterans broken by Age and War founded by Charles II enlarged by James II and completed by William and Mary in the Year of our Lord 1692"

Engagement Report

We learned how the Hospital was founded by Charles II who was aware of the debt he owed to the army and determined to build an institution similar to the Hotel des Invalides in Paris. The site chosen was in the then countryside of Chelsea. The main building was designed by Sir Christopher Wren with the King laying the foundation stone in 1682. It was completed in 1692 with first 479 veterans being admitted. The building was arranged around three courtyards with the main one, Figure Court, opening to the south. We saw some of the old nine foot square berths used for over 300 years before more recent alterations were made giving the pensioners more spacious accommodation that include en suite facilities and a study area.

We were shown around the Great Hall which was originally the dining room with 16 long tables, one for each Ward. It was then used as a recreation room - including the lying-in-state of the Duke of Wellington - and has now reverted to its original purpose. The walls are covered with fine murals and royal portraits with flags and original colours carried into battle. We then entered the beautiful Chapel which is a fine and rare example of Wren's pure ecclesiastical work. It rises 42 feet high and was completed in 1687. It contains a fine painting of the Resurrection in the half dome of the apse painted by Sebastiano Ricci and his nephew Marco which dates from the end of Queen Anne's reign.



The Chapel was consecrated in August 1691, and services were formerly held twice daily. Nowadays services are confined to Sunday mornings and special military occasions. The present day congregation consists mainly of local residents and the Chapel Choir is one of the finest professional church choirs in the UK.

After the tour was completed we thanked our guide and were invited into the club for tea and coffee. We then set up for our concert which was taking place in the resident's club room complete with a bar serving an interesting selection of beverages. The original planned time of the concert had been put back thirty minutes to allow more of the pensioners to finish their evening meal and the club was almost full ready for our performance.

Because of the space limitations we were restricted to the number of players and had nineteen 19 brass players plus two percussionists. Musical Director Brian Keech had chosen to play an entertaining selection of music which opened with "Pop Looks Bach" and this was followed by "Everybody Needs Somebody". Brian then introduced the first of the four soloists featured this evening, Tug with "Post Horn Galop". This always goes down well and was particularly warmly received as Tug gave his customary great performance walking around to different parts of the room whilst playing. Not bad for a donkey walloper!

Engagement Report

Keeping the first half light in style we continued with the selection “Miller Magic”, and “You Make Me Feel So Young”. We then featured Luke Colvin with the Eb Bass solo “The Bare Necessities”. Like Tug, Luke likes to wander around when his part has a few bars rest and he took the opportunity to go the bar for a pint which he started to drink. He ended his performance standing on a chair, well done Luke for a well played and entertaining solo.

Next up was “Teddy Bears Picnic” which the audience joined in by singing although I am not sure that the words they sung were the original lyrics. “Crazy Little Thing Called Love” followed and then another soloist, Louis with the Tenor Horn solo “He Ain’t Heavy He’s My Brother”. This was again extremely well played and was particular poignant as this was to be Louis’s last concert with the Band before going off to university. The Band played “Happy Birthday” to in-Pensioner Cas Butler who was then invited him to join the Band on triangle for the last piece of the first half “Rock Around The Clock”.

There was a break for refreshments and a change of playing personnel for the second half which opened with John Morris, one of the Pensioners, being invited to conduct the classic military march “Army Of The Nile”. John was a military musician in his service days and still plays euphonium in the Royal Hospital Band, He set a nice steady tempo with his conducting. Toby was our final soloist of the evening and gave an impressive performance on xylophone of “The Two Imps”. We followed this with “Young Amadeus” and then into the finale. This evening was the Last Night of the Proms at the nearby Royal Albert Hall so it was apt that we played some of the music associated with this. We played “Fantasia on British Sea Songs” and during the repeat of “Jack The Lad” Maria and her cousin performed their energetic version of the sailors’ hornpipe. The piece ends with “Rule Britannia” with the waving of Union Jacks all around the club. Next up was “Jerusalem” and for the final item of the programme “Pomp and Circumstance No: 1”. After a brief encore of “Land of Hope and Glory” we brought the concert to a close with the National Anthem.

Equipment was packed away on the coach and we were encouraged to have one more drink before we left for home. The traffic was still very heavy around Knightsbridge as the crowds were leaving the Albert Hall and Hyde Park after the Last Night of the Proms. The driver eventually found an alternative route along the Cromwell Road and up to the A40 at Shepherds Bush and on to the North Circular Road. Unfortunately we encountered more tailbacks at Staples Corner caused by the closure of the flyover but once on the motorway it was a steady drive home. The coach stopped as closed to the school as the parked vehicles in Bounty Street would allow and we quickly unloaded.

Many thanks go to Robin for his organisational skills and to Maria for securing the engagement for the Band. We received many kind comments after the concert especially about our choice of music and were very favourably compared with some of the professional military bands that have performed here. It was great for us to play in front of such an enthusiastic audience. All of our members and guests were delighted with how the day had gone and especially enjoyed the experience of having our own guided tour. I am sure we will all have our own individual memories from this visit and for me it was something really special. I was born in Chelsea and spent the first twenty six years of my life there before relocating to Milton Keynes. I had often been in the grounds of the Royal Hospital and even played football there but I had never had the opportunity to have a look inside the buildings, so for me the day was extra special.

Engagement Report

How The Band was invited to play at the Royal Hospital Chelsea

We thank Maria for supplying the following information on the trip to Chelsea and two of the characters we met.

When we put on the Help The Heroes concert at Stantonbury Theatre in September 2014, Cas Butler, who is my Mum's partner, wanted to come along and give his support. Cas was in the Welsh Guards for many years and is now an In-Pensioner at the Royal Hospital in Chelsea so the Help The Heroes charity means an awful lot to him. On the night of the concert he travelled up from Chelsea in his Scarlets - the traditional red dress uniform - and brought with him a Chelsea Bear which he donated as a raffle prize. What he wasn't expecting (and I think it quite shocked him) was how much he enjoyed the concert. When we were having a drink after the concert he said he thought the Band should go to the Royal Hospital and give a concert for the In-Pensioners.

I really did not think too much more about it until on one of my visits to Mum's last year she told me that Cas had asked the Adjutant Major Philip Shannon what he thought. Major Phil Shannon is one of the Captains of Invalids who looks after the welfare of the Chelsea Pensioners. Having been a former Director of Music for the Welsh and Irish Guards, he now assists with the running of the Royal Hospital Band and also arranges and composes music in his spare time. Philip told Cas that he thought it was a very good idea and that the Band should get in touch with him. So I put it to the committee and asked if we would be interested (silly question!). I then wrote to Major Philip and told him about our Band and the Help For Heroes concert and how it would be an honour for the Band to play at the Royal Hospital. He replied saying we were more than welcome and also thanked me and the Band for thinking of the In-Pensioners. I passed the contact details over to Robin and the rest is now history!



Cas Butler

At the age of 14 Cas went to work down in the coal mines, this is where you were expected to work in the village where he lived. He hated it and his height didn't help, He lived with his grandmother and she said the only other thing he could do was to join the Army when he reached the age of 15. He actually managed to join the Welsh Guards as a boy soldier when he was just 14 ½. Seeing how tall he was they said they would accept him early. He was in the Welsh Guards for 18 years and served all over the world. He became a Chelsea Pensioner in 2004 a couple of years after his wife had passed away. Cas met my Mother later that year at a British Legion Dinner and Dance that was held in Chelsea and they have been very happy together ever since the day they met.

Engagement Report

Bill Bullock

As we now know from personal experience, Bill is one of the official guides for the Chelsea Hospital. He also happens to be one of Cas's best friends at the hospital where they were on the same long ward. He conducted the Band's tour as a favour to Cas and gave up a paid job to do it. He told Cas he really enjoyed it and wasn't expecting such a large drink at the end of it! Bill was in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, serving all over the world but was based in Germany for a long time maintaining and fixing helicopters.



Bill was happy to pose for this picture with Luke

Robin received the following e-Mail:

Thank you so much for all you do for our In-Pensioners. We have quite a few that simply love music and also the odd member who was involved with military music during their service. They all rave about it – usually after the event and from what we see as staff members, it has such a positive effect on their general wellbeing.

Please give my best wishes to all the band members.

All the best

Phil
Major P D Shannon MBE
Captain of Invalids, No 2 Company
Royal Hospital Chelsea

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 79 years ago.

Northampton Mercury 11th November 1938

TORCHLIGHT PROCESSIONS FOR HOSPITAL AT STONY STRATFORD AND NEW BRADWELL

Torchlight processions were held at Stony Stratford and New Bradwell on Saturday in aid of hospital funds. The more elaborate procession at Stony Stratford was witnessed by large crowds along the Watling Street and the Wolverton road, and was headed by Stony Stratford Fire Brigade and the Boy Scouts' Bugle Band. About a dozen tableaux and torch-bearers made up one of the best processions seen in the town for many years. The tableaux were judged by the Rev. and Mrs. L. W. S. Curwood, Mrs. Edith Hall, Mr. and Mrs. T... Holloway (Wolverton), and the awards were: 1 The Costers (Stony Stratford Women's Conservative Association), 2 Vigil (Stony Stratford Toc H. 3 Optimists (Stony Stratford Tennis Club) 4 Japanese Garden (Stony Stratford Baptists). Prizes were also awarded for other competitors in fancy dress. A large bonfire in the Recreation Ground and a good display of fireworks were the concluding item.

At New Bradwell, the torch-bearers were headed by New Bradwell Band, and the huge bonfire in the Newport Road recreation Ground, together with a display of fireworks, attracted a large crowd.



Future Engagements



<u>OCTOBER</u>		
Saturday 21st October	Autumn Concert, St James Church	19:30
<u>NOVEMBER</u>		
Sunday 12th November	Remembrance Day Parade & Service New Bradwell	14:00
Saturday 25th November	Development Band will be playing at the Stantonbury Christmas Fair	14:00

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.

