



The Bradwell Bugle



Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band

October 2018

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From the Editor

Hi Everyone!

Welcome to the October issue of the Band's newsletter. September saw the Band appear in the finals of the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain for the first time in their long history and they achieved a magnificent 5th place! A full report follows. We also say well done to Milton Keynes Brass who were placed 6th in the Second Section.

Bradwell Band has not had any time to rest as they now face the prospect of performing four concerts over the next seven weeks plus their usual participation with events on Remembrance Day. And after that we will be into the Christmas season!

Sarah-Jayne



'LEST WE FORGET'

A concert commemorating the centenary of the end of WW1

10th November 2018 - from 7:30pm
Stantonbury Theatre, Milton Keynes MK14 6BN.

BRADWELLSILVERBAND *In Concert*

TICKETS £10
Available from the theatre
box office: 01908 324466 or
www.stantonburytheatre.co.uk




ROYAL HOSPITAL
CHELSEA
HOME OF THE CHELSEA PENSIONERS

Helping to raise funds for
Bradwell Silver Band and the
Chelsea Pensioners Scarlet Appeal
www.chelsea-pensioners.co.uk/scarletappeal

What's On...? October



JOIN US FOR 

SILVER, SAUSAGES AND CIDER

WITH THE



NEW BRADWELL SILVER BAND

SATURDAY, 13TH OCTOBER 2018

7.30pm in ST. FIRMIN'S CHURCH



Tickets: £12.50
 Janice Tel: 391350: Joan: 391517:
 Ann: 391294




Saturday October 20th
 from 7:30pm

**BRADWELL
 SILVER
 BAND** *In
 Concert*

St. James Church, New Bradwell.

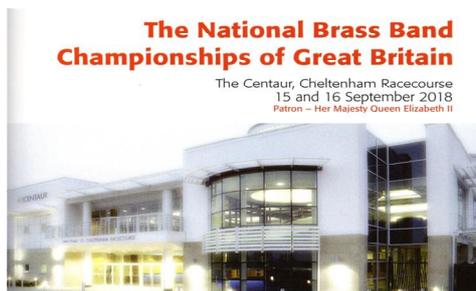
Tel: 01908 616463 press@bradwellband.co.uk
www.bradwellband.co.uk

Tickets £7.00





National Brass Band Championships Of Great Britain



Saturday 15th September 2018 saw the Bradwell Silver Band participating in the final of the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain for the very first time in their 117 years history. In March of this year we were declared to be the 4th Section champions of the London and Southern Counties Region and received an invitation to take part in the finals being held at the Cheltenham Racecourse located at Prestbury Park in Gloucestershire.

After months of rehearsing Darrol Barry's test piece 'Divertimento for Brass' which included no less than four practices in the six preceding days, we met at the school for a 10:00 a.m. for a final run through before clambering aboard the coach that was to take us to Cheltenham. The members looked smart in their specially commissioned blue polo shirts which each member had paid for themselves. As we approached the venue there was an unplanned detour in which we were able to catch a glimpse of a steam locomotive and rake of chocolate and cream coloured Mark 1 coach at the Race Course Station which is on the heritage line run by the Gloucestershire Warwickshire railway. On finally arriving at the venue we managed to get through the security check and dropped off Band President Peter Blake who was representing the Band at the all important draw for the order of play. Peter was a bit apprehensive that he had drawn out number 2 which meant we were to be the second of the seventeen bands who were taking part to decide the National Championships.

With the Second Section contest still in progress there was plenty of time for the band members to stretch their legs and soak in some of the atmosphere. Some of us ran into members of Milton Keynes Brass who had played earlier in the day in the 2nd Section and it was nice to get a chance to chat with them. We also saw Sian who now plays with St. Sebastian's Wokingham who were also in the 2nd section.

We met back at the coach at the appointed time to collect our instruments and uniforms. There was quite a long walk from the North Car Park where the coaches had been directed to park to The Centaur complex where the contest was being held. The imposing entrance led us through the Hall of Fame where over sixty years of history is displayed telling the story of the home of jump racing. Its most prestigious meeting is the Cheltenham Festival, held in March, which features famous races including the Cheltenham Gold Cup, Champion Hurdle and Queen Mother Champion Chase. We found the area designated as changing rooms which was a very large carpeted room usually used for hospitality at the horse race meetings. The chairs provided in our allotted holding slot were very comfy and we were able to relax and leisurely change into our uniforms. We were then directed into the room allocated for band warm up which gave us a ten minute opportunity to play through some of the music before being summoned to registration where cards are scrutinised to ensure members are properly registered to play with the Band. Again comfortable seats were provided for our short wait in registration and we were then directed on stage after the Band that had drawn to play first had concluded their performance.

National Brass Band Championships Of Great Britain

We took our time settling down as calmly as our nerves would allow and the adjudicators indicated they were ready for us to start. The test piece is in three movements and we were soon in our stride with the opening 'Festival'. We had been warned that the cavernous expanse of the Centaur auditorium can quickly become a little disorientating but the Band seemed to settle down really well. All too quickly we seemed to be into the second movement "Romance" and then the final one "March". The Band had given a good performance and we all seemed to be reasonably happy as we came off stage where we were whisked off to another room where photographs were to be taken. The first shots were of the whole band carefully posed and then individual pictures were taken.

We returned to the changing room and a quick change back into something a bit more comfortable. We took instruments and uniforms back to the coach for safe keeping and were then free to wander around the venue. As it happens the early draw suited us because it meant we hadn't had the chance of getting bored awaiting our turn to play. Instead we were now very happy to have got the playing out of the way and were able to enjoy the rest of the day which was done in a variety of ways. There were a number of trade stands to look at with instruments, music and accessories on offer. There were also several stands advising on careers for musicians in some of the country's finest military bands. Food and drinks were available at several locations and although on the pricey side we were able to relax and enjoy the company of other members. One of the most popular bars was in the main stand which enjoyed wonderful views of the racecourse and surrounding countryside. The racecourse has a scenic location in a natural amphitheatre just below the escarpment of the Cotswold Hills at Cleeve Hill. Oh yes, and we also had the chance of listening to other bands perform although by now the test piece had lost some of its attraction.

After the final band had played there was quite a long delay as the adjudicators considered their verdicts and of course these then had to be collated to ensure the prizes and awards would be announced correctly. Representatives of each participating band were invited on to the platform and announced in groups of three which was a very nice touch. With Bradwell being the first in the programme by alphabetical order Robin had the honour of being the first one to take his seat! We were then introduced to some of the people responsible for organising the contest and the sponsors. The adjudicators were brought on stage and as is the custom invited to share their thoughts on the day's contest. Their spokesperson was Sarah Groarke-Booth who neatly summarised what they had heard and what they had been looking for. Sarah started her remarks by saying she had enjoyed listening. She went on to explain that a piece of music is titled for a reason and that Divertimento certainly is. The first movement "Festival" had to be dynamically bright and happy, although the meno mosso had to be played in context and not in a morose manner. She went on to say that some bands fell down with their accompaniment in style and balance in the second movement, but one or two did it very well. It needed a little licence. The march remains a march even at different tempos. Bands who gave it energy and phrased it well found the cohesion.

The results were then announced in reverse order for the top six places and to the delight of its members and supporters Bradwell had been placed 5th. Robin was presented with a certificate denoting the achievement. The winners and new National Champions of the 4th Section were Stamford Brass and congratulations to them on what was a very good performance.

National Brass Band Championships Of Great Britain

Result:

Saturday 15th September

Test Piece: Divertimento for Brass (Darrol Barry)

Adjudicators: Sarah Groarke-Booth, Gary Davies, John Maines

1. Stamford Brass (Julian Bright)
2. Tewit Silver (Martin Hall)
3. Cwmtawe Youth (Wayne Pedrick)
4. Gosport Solent Brass (Colin Garner)
- 5. Bradwell Silver (Brian Keech)**
6. Sale Brass (John Anderson)
7. Lostock Hall Memorial (Joshua Hughes)
8. Gawthorpe Brass '85'(John Edward)
9. Regent Community Brass (Chris Bearman)
10. Pendeen Silver (Leonard Adams)
11. Croft Silver (Ian Needham)
12. Spennymoor Town (Fiona Caswell)
13. Upper Rhondda (Jayne Thomas)
14. City of Birmingham (Ben Hewlett-Davies)
15. Garforth Brass (John Thompson)
16. Great Yarmouth Brass (Colin Sweep)
17. Highland Brass (Mark Bell)



National Brass Band Championships Of Great Britain

There was time for a group photograph to be taken in the auditorium before we made our way back to the coach in the dark.

The driver was not quite ready to leave as he was still on a compulsory break but we eventually set off for home around 10:30 p.m. We arrived back in New Bradwell just after 1:00 a.m. It had been a long day but memorable for all the right reasons and to achieve a 5th place was amazing.

When the regional contests took place earlier in the year a total of 104 bands all over Great Britain took part in the 4th section. To qualify for the finals as Regional Champions was very special and now we have been officially ranked as the 5th best band in Great Britain for our level. Of the twenty seven people on stage twenty of them had originally learned to play with the Band and all but one had played in the winning performance at Stevenage in March. The one change saw Louis Wilson come in to play second baritone replacing Martin Oliver who is now living in Lincolnshire.

Well done to all our players and our Musical Director Brian Keech who has patiently worked long and hard on rehearsing the test piece. For a number of reasons we only managed one full rehearsal and that was in the morning before we got on the coach. An anonymous benefactor had donated the money to pay for the transport costs so the Band were able to book a coach to carry the instruments, players, MD and supporting friends and family to the event in style. We may not know who this charitable donor is but they have our heartfelt thanks as without this support we would have struggled to raise the necessary funds.

Earlier in the week 4bars rest had made their usual predictions. These are really a bit of fun as it would be impossible for anyone to have listened regularly to all the bands entered and have an idea of their relative strengths. Instead, and aptly for the venue, they use a form guide of recent contests and offer their opinions of those likely to be in the frame. They correctly had Stamford down as winners and had Bradwell down for a 6th place so their predictions were not that bad.

Following their National Finals appearance two of our younger members have said adieu to the Band.

Adam Chappell is now studying at the University of Huddersfield and we thank him for interrupting his first week there to travel back to compete with us. We wish him the very best of luck with his studies and we are sure he will find a warm welcome at a brass band in the Huddersfield area. He has already had a number of approaches from bands looking for cornet players and they would be willing to arrange lifts to and from rehearsal. Orla Howell another of our solo cornet players is taking a year off to travel and see the world before settling into University life. We are sure that this goodbye is not final and expect that we will see them both back to play around Christmas.



They started off in the band as nippers on the back row of the cornets and deservedly progressed on to the front row. They will be missed and we thank them both for their contribution to the Band.

National Brass Band Championships Of Great Britain

On the subject of people who were first taught to play by the Band, it was great to see inside the official programme a photograph of Ben Godfrey being used to illustrate a full page advertisement from the Royal Air Force for musicians. It has recently been announced that the famous Royal Air Force Squadronaires will perform at this year's Gala Concert prior to the results being announced at the Championship Final being held at the Royal Albert Hall on the 6th October. Regarded as one of the UK's finest big bands, it is made up of full-time serving musicians in the Central Band of the RAF, with the ensemble set to perform a programme that will feature timeless big band charts such as 'Sing, Sing, Sing' and 'Flying Home'. Familiar faces from the brass band movement will also feature, with lead trumpet Corporal Ben Godfrey and newest member Senior Aircraftman Jack Wilson performing the trumpet duet 'Manhattan'. We are immensely proud that both of these gentlemen began their playing careers with the Bradwell Silver Band.

THE DAY WE WENT TO THE NATIONAL FINALS - *Members Comments*

We invited everyone who played at Cheltenham to share their own personal impressions of the day's events. We thought that this would be a great way of capturing a historic day in the history of the Band from different viewpoints. Many thanks to those who did take up the invitation and sent us the following thoughts.

From my perspective I thought everything was well organised both beforehand and during the day. I chatted to quite a few people in the holding area and they were friendly, happy to be at the finals and interested to know who we were and where we came from. It was a long day and I'm glad we played early so we could relax the rest of the day but the catering was good and the staff all friendly and very polite. All in all a good day and the result was just the icing on the cake.

Robin

It was great being part of the 9-month journey from regional rehearsals through to the big day with the band sound becoming tighter and better quality. The band camaraderie on Saturday was fantastic - helped somewhat by Luke's fascinating commentary via WhatsApp!

Lucy

I was hoping the Finals would be a very special day for every band member and believe it was. The changing area and warm up room were excellent. I enjoyed talking to Iwan Fox (editor of 4 barsrest) who had a genuine interest in our band. The stewards were very helpful especially putting me in Lifts rather than tackling the many stairs. A special moment was the Compère knowing my name and making sure everything was perfect for the band and not just on stage. The day was topped off by a fantastic performance by the band gaining a well deserved 5th place.

Brian

The whole thing was great experience, and being part of the first time Bradwell Silver Band has ever made to the finals is just amazing.

Ben

National Brass Band Championships Of Great Britain

Spectacular scenery !! Talking to other bands and realising that we all have the same issues with commitment, busy lives and youngsters going off to pastures new. Birmingham were down to 20 players and no percussion but they still turned up and played amazingly well. Only contest I've been to where I honestly felt pleased for all the bands and was 'rooting' for those I had spoken to. Lovely to spend time with members of Bradwell Band. It worked out so well playing off second position, giving everyone a chance to relax, socialise and listen to other bands.

I thought I was just happy to have reached the Finals and didn't mind the result but was thrilled to find we had achieved 5th, so great and a testament to everyone's hard work!

So proud of our youngsters and what a brilliant group of friends they are. They all looked out for each other all day and entertained us all. We have been so lucky to have them come through the band at roughly the same time - definitely 'friends for life!!'

Karen

"Our young people – what a great team they are! Watching them talk, laugh and interact together is a joy. Love their acceptance of each other, their commitment and their dedication to their music. The jokes seem to be good too!"

"The Wilson family gathering for a formal photo together – a great day for them and we are so grateful for all they bring and do".

"Going round talking to members of other bands. Most of them were surprised, but very happy and ready to talk. Learned about how difficult it is for City of Birmingham to keep players when there is so much else going on in Birmingham and students are only there for 3 years etc; about how it took Pendeen 2 hours just to get out of Cornwall; how many bands were staying one or two nights (think how much this must have cost them!) including Spennymoor who were wearing their brand new uniforms; what a big trip it had been for Highland Band from Inverness – both in distance and 'mindset' as they are only 5 years old. They were amazed to hear about our 117 year history yet also our first appearance at the Nationals, like them!"

"Did you see the band with the smart multi coloured tartan collars? I thought they were from Scotland, but no – that was Cornish Hunting Tartan and they were the band from Pendeen!"

"Talked with someone from Stamford Band who told me her son, Simon, had played with us for a short while some time ago."

"The entry onto the stage seem to come so quickly - was this really it? Was it really happening? And then, afterwards, had we really played? Thankfully, Alan in the audience had recorded us and so we could prove that it was all true!"

"Thanks to everyone for all the individual hard work and co-operation that made for a great day. Very special thanks to Brian who kept us all together – it is a real art and skill and we appreciate it all!"

"Young Chloe having a great time on the coach journey; sounded as though she was keeping everyone entertained!"

"Having time after we had performed to sit and chat and eat a meal with fellow band members."

"Being so glad we played second and could then enjoy the rest of the day – thanks Peter for the early draw!"

"Our coach driver really did enjoy the day too and seemed to think we were an OK bunch!"

Alison

National Brass Band Championships Of Great Britain

I would like to say what an amazing day I had at the National Finals & I think I went through every emotion in the dictionary! I just feel so privileged & lucky to have played.

Maria

A Selection of Other Comments we have received

Congratulations to Brian and the Band for a fantastic result at the National Finals

Ben & Gordon Godfrey

Well done. Good result.

Margaret Betts Boobs & Brass

So pleased for the band. Congratulations to one and all

Ewan Robson - Conductor Boobs & Brass

Well done to Bradwell Silver Band from everyone at Woburn Sands band. A fantastic result!

Well done to you all. You deserve to be very proud of yourselves.

Cathy Vickers

Fantastic result. Well done all.

Lyn Stoneman - Towcester Studio Band

Fabulous! Well done.... great result!

Sarah Potts - Milton Keynes Brass

Well done everyone great result

Keith Underwood - Olney Brass



Regional Test Pieces For 2019

As is customary, the Test Pieces for next year's round of Regional Championships were announced on the weekend of the Finals with scores and music available for purchase. From January 2019 Bradwell Silver Band will be competing in the 3rd Section. The contest will be held at Stevenage on the week-end of 16th and 17th March.

Championship Section: Seascapes (Ray Steadman-Allen)

Seascapes was commissioned for the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain in 1988. Seascapes takes its inspiration from the poem 'Cargos' by John Masefield. In the first movement, a gentle lyric theme, set against a pulsating background is contrasted with a dance. The dance reaches its climax and the music concludes with a quiet theme. The second movement has something of the nature of a sarabande, with a central section, which is a little lighter but retains a Spanish flavour. The composer adds a whimsical thought of his own that there may also have been a party of monks aboard. A variety of ingredients blend in the third movement: the coaster engines, the sea, some jovial shanty-music and the storm element through which the coaster steadily chugs.

Section 1: Symphony of Marches (Gilbert Vinter)

One of the major works of Gilbert Vinter. Set out in three movements 1. Maestoso, 2. Grave and the finale, movement 3, Briosso. The work is given with duration of 11:45.

Section 2: Rise of the Phoenix (Darrol Barry)

As the title suggests, the phoenix was a fabulous mythical bird, who every morning at dawn, sang a song so enchanting that even the sun God, Apollo, would stop and listen. The bird would live for a hundred years, and at the end of its life, would build a pyre, set it on fire and be consumed by the flames. After three days, the phoenix would be reborn from the ashes, to sing once more. This work was commissioned by Clifton and Lightcliffe Band and reflects the difficulties and rebirth of the band to make music once more.

Section 3: First Suite In Eb (Gustav Holst)

Whilst the manuscript for this work was completed by Holst in 1909, it wasn't officially premiered until 1920 at the Royal Military School of Music. Considered to be one of the cornerstone masterworks in the concert band repertoire, the work is made up of three movements; 1. Chaconne, 2. Intermezzo, 3 March.

Section 4: Stantonbury Festival (Ray Steadman-Allen)

The second of two selected works this year from the pen of Ray Steadman-Allen. A three-movement suite in the composer's approachable style. Though not difficult to play the whole band is fully employed throughout making both rehearsal and performance enjoyable. This work was especially commissioned for the Milton Keynes Brass Band Contest which for many years was held at Stantonbury.

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.*

Saturday 13th October North Crawley Church (Evening Concert)

*Saturday 20th October St James Autumn Concert,

***PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DATE FOR THIS ENGAGEMENT HAS CHANGED FROM THAT PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED**

Saturday 10th November Stantonbury Theatre (Evening concert)

Sunday 11th November Remembrance Day

Saturday 17th November Christ the Vine Coffee Hall (Evening Concert)

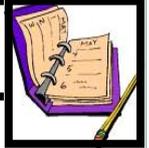
Saturday 8th December Newport Pagnell Singers Christmas Concert

Saturday 15th December St. James Christmas Concert

Sunday 16th December Stantonbury Sports & Social Club Christmas Concert



Contacts



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

