

The Bradwell Bugle

The newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band



October 2006

From the Editor

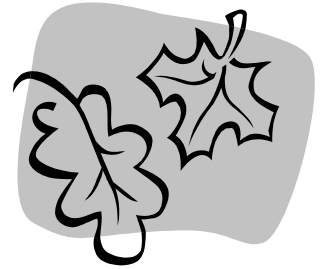
Welcome to the October edition of the Bradwell Bugle. This month we have just the one engagement to report.

This month we have Keith Jones to thank (twice!), not only for his concert report, but also for a very interesting item about a brass band contest in Northampton in 1865! This includes muted reports of a fight at the end - rather neatly put!

As the band starts practising for Christmas yet again, we would like to take this opportunity to remind all members to check the list of the back of this month's bugle for availability.

Welcome to Della Pearson who is joining us on cornet, and welcome back to Sam Allen after the birth of Jessica in July. We say farewell and best wishes to Siân Haseldine as she goes off to University (though we look forward to welcoming her back in the holidays!) and thank you to Karen Wilson who moves from cornet to First Horn.

Guy Drury
and **Alison Drury**



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Engagement Report

St Mary and St Giles Stony Stratford Sat 23rd September 2006

The summer season of outside performances having now drawn to a close, Bradwell Silver Band returned to the Parish Church of Stony Stratford for our first formal indoor concert since May.

Musical Director Chris Johnston was at the helm as we opened the concert with William Rimmer's march "The Cossack", played at a good tempo and helped in no small measure by some fine percussion playing.

Following the opening march, the archetypal brass band concert programme usually goes for a classical overture. This evening was no exception as we gave Dvorak's "New World Symphony" another airing.

The first two items having warmed up the players lips nicely, it was time for our first soloist of the evening, Susan Snoxell on cornet with the classical "Softly Awakes My Heart" by Saint-Saens. This aria is from the opera "Samson and Delilah" which is based on the Biblical story. There was some lovely lyrical playing by Sue, the Church acoustic lending itself perfectly to this slow melody which has some testing moments for the accompaniment. After acknowledging the applause, Sue was joined by Clive Keech and Gary Morris for the cornet feature "Cornet Carillon", a timeless brass band classic from the pen of Ronald Binge, the cornets imitating the pealing of bells.

Nick Dytham was prominent on bass trombone with the opening bars of "Sweet Gingerbread Man", an up-tempo number providing contrast to the previous items. The music comes from the 1970 film "The Magic Garden of Stanley Sweetheart" which starred Don Johnson.

Engagement Reports

The lyrics for the first verse are:

*Feel like I'm made out of gingerbread
Uh huh, uh huh
Crumb pickin' lip lickin' gingerbread
Uh huh, uh huh
Can't think about rainy weather now
I've finally got myself together now
Fresh out of the pan sweet gingerbread man
They don't write them like that anymore!*

A change to the original programme saw our second soloist Sian Haseldine give a superb rendition of the "Rondo from Mozart's 4th Horn Concerto". This was to be Sian's last concert with the Band before setting off to university and there was much deserved applause from the audience and players alike for an outstanding performance. A presentation was made to Sian in appreciation of her services to the Band and she was then joined by the other members of her section, Adam Keech, Keith Jones and Luke Wilson for the horn feature "Hey Jude".

The final item of the first half was "Golden Lady" which rattled along nicely. This was originally written for - and dedicated to - The Cornwall Youth Brass Band to play on their tour of Luxembourg and France in 1990. The piece is named after a statue situated in Luxembourg City overlooking the ravine.

There followed a lengthy interval and the raffle was drawn before the concert continued with "James Bond Collection", a selection of themes from various 007 movies.

As an introduction to the next item, "A Kind Of Magic", Chris asked the audience if they had heard of Roger Taylor. One of them correctly replied that he was a tennis player, however the one Chris had in mind was a member of the group Queen who wrote this 1980's hit song.

Adam Keech on flugel horn was the final soloist of the evening playing "Weiderkher" by J. Hartman. Described as a Grand Fantasia, this follows the classic air varied style by starting with a simple theme and then introducing ever more elaborate variations. Normally performed as a cornet or euphonium solo, Adam - who recently celebrated his 18th birthday - showed great technique and his performance drew prolonged applause. As an encore, Adam was able to demonstrate a contrasting style of playing with the slow melody "Share My Yoke".



"Everybody Needs Somebody", the theme music from the Blues Brothers movie was sufficiently lively for the audience to join in with the clapping.

Our euphonium section of Fraser Cousins and Luke Colvin featured in the duet "Softly As I Leave You". Coming, as it did, towards the end of a long programme, they showed good style and stamina in a piece that allows them to express themselves.

Irving Berlin's "Let's Face The Music and Dance" is always a popular item with audiences and this was followed by our finale, "One Moment In Time".

We concluded the evening's performance with the National Anthem

We were thanked by one of the Church members for bringing them another evening of great entertainment and they are looking forward to our return in December for the Christmas Concert.

This was a good performance which after a somewhat apprehensive start got better as we went along, although understandably lips were tired towards the end.

To cover the unavailability of some of our members, we were extremely grateful for help from guest players; Dave Johnston from Broseley on front row cornet, Della from Broseley Development Band on back row cornet, George Bruce from Stantonbury covered the baritone part, Vince (a man of many bands!) on trombone, Alan Bruce from Stantonbury and Jane Scott from Broseley on Bass and Tina on percussion.

Keith Jones

Brass Band Contest at Northampton

From Keith Jones:

I am indebted to Brian Keech for passing on to me a copy of a report that appeared in the Northampton Mercury on the 1st June 1865

On Wednesday last, a "Monstre Brass Band Contest" took place in a field opposite the Green Man Inn near the town. Several marquees were erected on the outskirts of the field as the "reserved seats" and the greensward served as a cushion for the "non-reserved". In the centre of the field there was a large platform, on which the bands, each in turn, performed; it was badly constructed and ill-served its purpose. The prizes to be competed for were First Prize £10; 2nd £5; 3rd £3; 4th £2; and new cornets to the two best leaders.

For some time past considerable jealousy and ill feeling have existed among the men of the 4th and 5th Northamptonshire Volunteers as to the merits of their respective bands; the contest was therefore

of quadrilles as one piece to be performed.

One o'clock was the hour fixed for the commencement, and about this time the competing bands marched to the scene of operations. There, however, everything was discord. Mr. Smith (Thrapston band) objected to the 5th Northamptonshire (and the objection was shared in by others), on the ground that several of them were professional players. The objection was argued with more heat than logic, the audiences taking part in the discussions. The director hesitated to decide the point; doubts began to be expressed as to whether there would be a contest. And affairs assumed an aspect anything but pleasant; at length the word went forth that the 5th were disqualified; high words were spoken, angry looks exchanged, but nothing more serious resulted. A long discussion followed as to the pitch of the leading instruments, which was decided by the judges – Mr. Henry Nicholson of Leicester, and Mr. J.H. Smith, Leicestershire Volunteer Rifle Corps.



Raunds Temperance Band in the 1870s, one of the bands named in the report: they are still very much in existence!

anxiously awaited as the day of settling. Nor was the excitement confined to the Volunteers; the townspeople were divided, each corps having its supporters, and many bets were made upon the matter. The likelihood of a stranger carrying off the prize seems never to have entered the minds of the disputants, and great must be their chagrin to find that their petty jealousies have lost to the town the honour of wearing the laurels, £10 in hard cash and a new cornet. The "Contest" was originated and carried out by a working man who composed a set

Lots having been drawn as to the order of playing, "Rule Britannia" was played by the united bands, but in a manner which conferred little credit upon the performers. The programme was then gone through as follows:-

No: 1. Thrapston Nene Side Foundry Band.
Conductor M.H. Smith; with Messrs. Jeaves, H. Porter, Loveday, H. Smith, Stanion' Hind, D. Smith, J. Smith, Dyson, E. Smith, G. Smith, Manning, W. Porter.
"The Prize Waltzes" The

excellent manner in which they were performed soothed a great deal of the irritation felt at the knocking out of the 5th, and better feelings pervaded the assembly – truly "Music hath charms to soothe the savage breast".

No: 2 4th Northamptonshire Rifle Band. Conductor and leader Mr, G, Ashton; with Messrs Norton, Barnaby, Roddis, Claridge, Faulkner, Adams, Sanders, Freeman, Pack, Barfield, F. Smith, Mead, J. Smith, Tomes. 1st piece, "The Prize Waltzes", S. Tilley. On ascending the platform, the "Fourth" were saluted with groans and hisses, which caused the few first bars to be executed in a somewhat

Brass Band Contest at Northampton (contd.)

tremulous manner; the time, too, was indifferent; still it was evident that the parts were well apportioned, and the executants well versed therein.

No: 3 Raunds Temperance Band. Conductor Mr. W. Nobles and Messrs, O. Smith, W. Clark, J. Clark, Skinner, Pulpher, Adams, R. Smith, Beeby, J. Smith, Wingell, Nunley, Pettifer, Knight, Tinding. 1st piece "The Prize Waltzes". The leader of the band failed to put in an appearance; nothing daunted, the brave few stepped upon the platform, and excepting a slight want of confidence, went nobly through the task.

No: 4 Raunds Town Band. Conductor and leader, Mr. W. Colson, and Messrs. Warner, Hazeldine, Richardson, Clifford, Sykes, G. Warner, Pendred, J. Warner, Rooksby, Skinner, Witney, Robinson, W. Rooksby. 1st piece "The Prize Waltzes". Very good; capital bass; time very good.

No: 5 Towcester Rifle Band. Conductor, Mr. Simmonds and Messrs. Webb, Sharp, Roberts, Harris, J. Webb, J. Eales, J. May, T. May, Edwards, Cavebrook. 1st piece "The Prize Waltzes". This band broke down and had to retire.

No: 6 Kettering Temperance Band. Conductor, Mr. C. Patrick, and Messrs. Smith, Hammond, J. Newman, W. Newman, Percival, Robertson, Northem, Farrey. 1st piece "The Prize Waltzes". Very good.

No: 7 Wellingborough Town Band, Conductor and leader, Mr. G. Jones, and Messrs. Durden, York, Barron, Ward, Body, Cobson, Wood. 1st piece "The Prize Waltzes". Numbers considered, this band is very powerful: still we would advise them to avoid "Contests" till they can muster at least a dozen, as it is impossible for the parts to be sustained. The leader has a habit of bursting out too forte; otherwise all was well, the bass in particular. (Considerable applause followed the conclusion of this piece).

The whole of the bands having played the "Prize Waltzes", there was a short interval, at the end of which the Thrapston gave a Selection from Martha most beautifully, for which great applause was awarded. The leading cornet was admirably played; bass good; time very correct.

The 4th Northampton then played "The Rifleman Quadrilles" but not to our satisfaction. "The Hallelujah Chorus" followed, by the Raunds Temperance Band; which was succeeded by the

Raunds Town Band. The Towcester then redeemed themselves a little, but it was evident they were far behind the other bands.

The Kettering second piece was "Shining Goblets (Callcott), and was most excellently rendered. The Wellingborough played for their second piece a "Chorus" from Webb's Mass in G, and in a manner which reflects the highest upon them. Some parts were given most majestically; the time was accurately marked; the bass rich and full; indeed this was set down by the public as certain to obtain a prize, and great applause greeted the conclusion. The judges' decision was now eagerly sought, but not yet; the Raunds Temperance and the Wellingborough had tied, and were to play again. The same pieces were again given, after which "The Queen" was played by the united bands. The director then announced the award of the prizes: - The Thrapston 1st, and cornet; 4th Northampton 2nd, and cornet: Wellingborough, 3rd; Raunds Temperance 4th.

Shortly after the decision was announced disqualifying the 5th, a large bill was placarded round the enclosure in which the 5th challenged to play the 4th for any sum between £10 and £30, and at the close of the proceedings Mr. Bailey publicly renewed the challenge. We shall not stop to inquire into the validity of the objection; certain it is however, that it has been town-talk for the last two or three week, and it was obviously, the duty of the director to settle the matter before last Wednesday and not cause a body of men to lose their time on so fruitless an errand. Mr. Smith honestly stated his opinion that the 5th was the best band, and that it was useless playing against it; the 4th by objecting, admit their inferiority. Still if men in the 5th are to be prohibited from playing at "Contests", so also must the 4th be, as there are men in it who have been "professional" many years. We give no opinion ourselves, but the general belief is that the 5th is decidedly the best band.

Should there ever be another "Contest" at Northampton, we would advise the promoters to ensure that the rules are less equivocal, and to take care that the bills specify most distinctly who will be entitled to compete. We regret to state that the men of the 4th and 5th came into collision after the contest, when some of the instruments were damaged.

Northampton Mercury, 1st June 1865

Fortcoming Events and Engagements



Events appear on this page once they have been confirmed. Further details of times, venues and prices can be obtained from Robin.

- Sat 14th October
St James New Bradwell
7:30pm
- Sun 29th October
Soloist Competition
AM
- Mon 4th December
Bradwell WI Concert
New Bradwell Methodist Church
PM
- Thurs 7th December
TMA School Concert
Stantonbury Theatre
7:30pm
- Sat 9th December
St James New Bradwell
PM
- Sat 16th December
St Mary & St Giles Stony Stratford
PM
- Sun 17th December
Side Club
New Bradwell
PM
- Fri 22nd December
Potterspury Church
PM



Contact Details

Chairman:	Norman Keech	222298
Secretary:	Robin Allen	616463 rallen2@tiscali.co.uk
Musical Director:		Chris Johnston rapid-radio@fsmail.net
Supporters Club:	Norman Keech	222298
Newsletter/ Press Officer:	Guy Drury	260546 guydrury@googlemail.com
Webmaster:	Fraser Cousins	225772 frasercousins@btinternet.com
Website:	www.bradwellband.co.uk	



Bradwell Silver Band Membership List

Committee

Chairman:	Norman Keech	Playing Members:	David Harris
Secretary:	Robin Allen		David Huckle
Treasurer:	Ron Snape	Junior Rep:	Sam Allen
Bandmaster:	Luke Colvin	Non Playing:	Mavis Harris
Librarian:	Dave Sanderson		Paul Harris

Playing Positions

Principal Cornet:	Sue Snoxell
Solo Cornets:	Clive Keech Gary Morris
Soprano Cornet:	Ralph Tatum
Repiano Cornet:	Graham Huckle
2nd Cornets:	Mike Sanders Jack Wilson Della Pearson
3rd Cornets:	Sam Allen Alison Drury
Flugel Horn:	Adam Keech
Solo Horn:	Keith Jones
1st Horn:	Karen Wilson
2nd Horn:	Luke Wilson
1st Baritone:	Liz Keech
2nd Baritone:	Position Vacant*
Euphoniums:	David Harris Fraser Cousins Luke Colvin
1st Trombone:	Lisa Huckle
2nd Trombone:	Position Vacant*
Bass Trombone:	Nick Dytham
E♭ Bass:	Robin Allen Dave Sanderson
BB♭ Bass:	Ron Snape
Percussion:	Position Vacant*

Non Committee Positions

President:	John White
Musical Director:	Chris Johnston
Publicity Officer:	Guy Drury
Magazine Editor:	Guy Drury/Alison Drury
Fundraising:	Norman Keech
Quartermaster:	Dave Huckle

Honorary Members

Chris Coull	Brian Keech
Malcolm Hills	David Wilson
Jim Whyte	

Learners Group

Jack Wilson	Jez Billingham
Emily Tilley	Luke Wilson

*If you are interested in this position, or would just like to come along for an evening, feel free to contact the Band's secretary, Robin Allen - see page five for details.