



The Bradwell Bugle



Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band

October 2014

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From the Editor

Hi Everyone!

The evenings are drawing in and the leaves are falling off the trees, must be autumn!

Well done to everyone for making the Music For Heroes Concert a resounding success. This was the only engagements in September and since then the Band has been working hard in preparing for their Autumn Concert in St. James.

Congratulations to Sian and Joshua who recently got married in Ludgershall Church. On behalf of all the members of the Band, we wish them every happiness in their new life together. Luke, Fraser and Joe were part of a small brass ensemble that played music at the reception.

My thanks to Brian and Luke for their contributions this month, as always I will be very happy to receive articles from anyone about anything for inclusion in future issues.

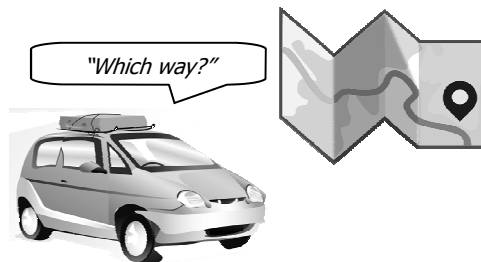
Sarah-Jayne

Treasure Hunt

This year's Band Car Treasure Hunt will take place on Sunday 5th October. Starting at 10.30 am from the school, the route and questions have been devised by last year's winner Jess.

If you would like to take part can you please let Robin know how many will be in your group so that we can order enough caviar (or pizza) and peanut butter sandwiches to cater for everyone.

Hope to see all there for what I know, is the highlight of the social calendar for some!



What's On!

Where you hear the Band this month:

Saturday 11th October
St James Church 7.30pm

A traditional brass band concert with music to suit all tastes and featuring some of the band's talented soloists, there will also be a performance from the Development Band.

Sunday 12th October
St. James Church 4:00pm

The Band has been invited to play at a special church service to mark the signing of a Sharing Agreement. We will be accompanying the hymn singing and expect to play at the conclusion of the service.

Feedback from our appearance at Bancroft Park at the end of August

"Wow! What an evening! Me and my family have just had the most amazing emotional evening in Bancroft. The Bradwell Silver Band were engaged to play for "Lest we forget" evening in Bancroft. 30th Aug 14. The music arrangement was amazing and very emotional. The "Last Post" as the best arrangement I have ever heard, had me and my fiancé in tears. People stood to attention and in the background children were playing and laughing. The whole point of the first and second world wars was to gain freedom for our children and we had that in abundance this evening. Milton Keynes Music Makers, Wolverton Town Band, Bradwell Silver Band and a speech by Rev'd Gill Barrow-Jones made you proud to be in England on such a lovely summer evening. I am speaking as an Irish woman who has lived here since 1975 and am proud to call this my home and well as Ireland. The Fireworks at the end also need a mention. Fantastic, well done from me, Siobhan and my family."

From the Stantonbury Parish Clerk.

"What a fantastic evening we all had on Saturday night over on Bancroft Park, MK Music Makers, Wolverton Town Band, Wolverton Gilbert & Sullivan Society and Bradwell Silver Band entertained us for 3 hours and then a firework finale. Thank you to everyone involved."

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LEST WE FORGET – 1914

*"Brilliant!": "A really great night".
"Will you do this again next year?"*

Just a few of the comments made at the end of our Brass on the Grass event in Bancroft Park on 30 August.

The best estimate was that around 600 people brought their chairs and picnics for an evening of music and song from the First World War era and to watch an impressive display of fireworks at the end. From the Parish Council's perspective, the event was even more successful than we might have expected. Thank you to everyone who turned out on the night.

Of course, events like this don't happen without a lot of hard work by a lot of people. Special thanks must go to Linda Morgan and everyone else at the Roman Park Residents Club. They supplied the Club facilities, electricity for the sound stage, the expertise for the fireworks and a lot of manpower to help with parking and other chores. Thanks also go to CARC for the sound stage and to Bob Adams (who stepped in at the last minute to MC the event), to Jean Yates, Milton Keynes Sea Cadets, Chris Nichols (First Aid tent – thankfully not needed) and, of course, to all of our performers; MK Music Makers, the Wolverton Town Band, the Wolverton Gilbert and Sullivan Society and the Bradwell Silver Band. Finally, a big thank you to Wolverton and Greenleys Town Council and to Bradwell and New Bradwell Parish Councils for their financial and logistic support and to our own Parish staff, who embraced this event with such enthusiasm.

Through the generosity of all those who attended, we collected a total of £484.20 for Combat Stress and Help for Heroes. Thank you all.

(With acknowledgments to the Stantonbury Parish News)



Engagement Report - Keith Jones

Saturday 6th September

Music For Heroes Concert

What an evening! After many months in the planning, Bradwell Silver Band presented a concert to commemorate the centenary of the start of the Great War. The proceeds from the evening were going to the Help for Heroes charity whose mission is to deliver an enduring national network of support for our present day wounded servicemen and their families. Held in the familiar surroundings of the Stantonbury Theatre, the back of the stage had been set up with a star cloth which added an extra sparkle to the occasion. The theatre was almost full and we had some distinguished guests in the presence of the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire and his wife and the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of Milton Keynes.

Under the leadership of our Musical Director Brian Keech, we opened the evening with the march "Barnard Castle" written by Goff Richards. Our second item was "American Pie", written by Don McLean and arranged for brass band by Steve Cortland. We followed this with "Diamond", a selection of songs made famous by another American, Neil Diamond. The selection arranged by Andy Norman includes "Beautiful Noise", "Song Sung Blue", "You Don't Bring Me Flowers" and "Sweet Caroline".

We were then delighted to introduce our guest soloist for the evening, Ben Godfrey. Ben lived in Haversham and first started learning to play the cornet with the Bradwell Silver Band at the age of ten. He subsequently played with other local brass bands and music services in the area as well as the National Youth Brass Band. Ben went on to play with Championship Bands GUS and Yorkshire Building Society before joining the Coldstream Guards Band for four years. Ben then went to the Royal Academy of Music in 2002 where he studied trumpet with Paul Archibald and Howard Snell. Since graduating from the Royal Academy of Music in 2004, he has worked as a freelance trumpet player with different orchestras which include the London Symphony Orchestra, the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, BBC Symphony Orchestra and other chamber orchestras. He was also involved with playing on the London shows of Guys and Dolls, the Drowsy Chaperone and Fiddler on the Roof. Ben's playing can be heard on the trumpet theme to the Channel 4 News daily at 7pm. Ben is now a member of the Central Band of The Royal Air Force and their Squadronaires, one of the United Kingdom's finest big bands, with a worldwide reputation for musical excellence.

For his first solo Ben had chosen to play "Napoli" Herman Bellstedt arranged by Geoffrey Brand. Born in Germany, Hermann Bellstedt emigrated to America in 1867, where his family settled in Cincinnati. A prodigy on the cornet, he joined the famous Sousa Band. His variations on "Napoli" feature the popular Neopolitan song 'Finiculi, Finicula' composed by Luigi Denza to celebrate the funicular railway built up the side of Mt. Vesuvius in 1880. The theme and variations were stunningly played by Ben.

By way of a contrast his next solo was the haunting "Mattheson's Air" arranged for brass band by Gilbert Vintner. Johann Mattheson was a German composer who was a close friend of George Frideric Handel. In this piece Ben effortlessly showed great tonal qualities and phrasing. Both items received tremendous applause from the audience. Ben was then joined by our front row cornets in "High On A Hill" arranged by Edrich Siebert. This moving music is based on bugle calls and was originally written by Alan Moorhouse in 1968 for Nigel Hopkins, a gifted 14 year old trumpet player. Nigel was already an international TV star and recording artist at this time, appearing on everything from variety TV shows to appearances with The Count Basie Orchestra and many other illustrious artists. "High on a Hill" became popular with military bands and is still frequently played around the UK and abroad. With Ben still on stage, Julia, Tug, Jess, Gary and Adam stood at the back of the theatre and the effect was of trumpet calls in the distance. This item was also very well received.

Ben left the stage and we continued with our young percussionist Toby being featured on cowbell in "Soul Limbo". Originally released in 1968 by Booker T. & the MGs, the music is perhaps best known in the UK as the theme tune for BBC Television's cricket coverage and later for Test Match Special. As always with this item, Toby was spot on with his beat. He has now also added a little dance to his playing and perhaps most importantly a big smile when performing. The audience loved it!

Engagement Report - Keith Jones

Next up was "Sing ", a song written by British singer-songwriter Gary Barlow and composer Andrew Lloyd Webber to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of the Queen in 2012 and originally performed by a number of artists assembled by Barlow from across The Commonwealth.

For the last item in the first half we got on a virtual tourist bus for a whizz around London. Peter Graham has cleverly arranged a number of songs associated with the capital city titled "A London Celebration". We start off on the banks of the river Thames with a reminder of how busy it used to be with ships hooters and bells, then a few bars of Noel Coward's "London Pride". If you listen carefully you will also hear the chimes of Big Ben. Our first stop is The Tower Of London which is represented by Arthur Sullivan's "Yeomen Of The Guard". We have a look at some London street markets which are acknowledged with "Who Will Buy?" from the film 'Oliver', then on to Buckingham Palace for "The British Grenadier", "Soldier, Soldier Won't You Marry Me?" and "Soldiers of the Queen". A reprise of "London Pride" leads us to one of the quieter areas with "A Nightingale Sang in Berkley Square". We head back to the river for the famous nursery rhyme "London Bridge Is Falling Down", before we visit one of the local hostelries for a good old cockney knees-up. "Maybe It's Because I'm A Londoner" is played in traditional music hall style before an up tempo version leads to an exciting finish. Phew! I don't know about the audience but we certainly needed a drink after that.

The results of the raffle were announced before the start of the second half of our programmes which was dedicated to the centenary of the Great War. We opened with "Pack up Your Troubles", written by Welsh songwriters, George Henry Powell under the pseudonym of "George Asaf", and set to music by his brother Felix Powell. There had been a competition to find a new marching song and these stars of the music hall rescued the song from their rejects pile, re-scored it and entered it. The song won first prize and became very popular, boosting British morale despite the horrors of that war. Some of the audience joined in by singing the well known chorus.

This was followed by "Florrie Forde's Favourites", a selection of songs sung by another popular music hall entertainer at the time the Great War started. The tunes include "Oh! Oh! Antonio!", "Hold Your Hand Out, Naughty Boy", "She's a Lassie from Lancashire", "Till We Meet Again", "Only A Bird in a Gilded Cage" "Has Anybody Here Seen Kelly?", "Down At The Old Bull And Bush", and ends with "Good-Bye-Ee".

Next up was the march "1914" a compilation of the popular songs "Long Way To Tipperary", "Hello Who's Your Lady Friend?" and "Take Me Back to Dear Old Blighty".

Ben Godfrey returned for his second featured solo spot, the first item being "The Nightingale" written by Harold Moss. Harold Moss wrote this solo for his' daughter and wanted to call it "Jenny" but his publishers thought it would conflict with another solo around at that time - Jenny Wren. He completed the solo during the night of his daughter's birth, hence the revised title "The Nightingale". This is an air varie which starts with a simple theme which is then developed with added variations is designed to demonstrate the soloist's virtuosity with displays of double and triple tonguing. Again Ben produced an amazing performance.

This was followed by "Carnival of Venice" which in various arrangements has become another showpiece for soloists. The Carnival of Venice is an annual festival that ends with the Christian celebration of Lent, forty days before Easter on Shrove Tuesday. The festival is famed for its elaborate masks. The main theme for The Carnival of Venice is taken from a folk tune associated with the words "My hat, it has three corners". It is said that the popular novelty song "(How Much Is) That Doggie in the Window?" was based on this tune. The version Ben performed tonight was the one written by Harry James, a musician best known as a trumpeter who led his own big band in the 1930s and 1940s. The theme is heard with several variations before launching into a big band style.

Ben seemingly effortless switch from traditional brass band cornet playing to big band trumpet brought huge appreciation from the audience.

There followed the exhortation from a representative of the armed services with the familiar response at the conclusion of "We will remember them". Ben performed the "Last Post" as a poignant tribute to all those who have lost their lives in service of their country.

Engagement Report - Keith Jones

Ben joined the cornet front row for our final three items which had a Last Night of the Proms theme. This began with "Fantasia on British Sea Songs" Henry Wood arranged Denis Wright. Fantasia on British Sea Songs or Fantasy on British Sea Songs is a piece of classical music arranged by Sir Henry Wood in 1905 to mark the centenary of the Battle of Trafalgar. It is a medley of British sea songs and for many years was seen as an indispensable item at the BBC's Last Night of the Proms concert. It opens with a bugle call followed by "The Anchor's Weighed", "The Saucy Arethusa", "Tom Bowling", "Jack's The Lad (Hornpipe)", "Farewell and Adieu, Ye Spanish Ladies"

"See, the Conquering Hero Comes" and finishes with the rousing "Rule, Britannia!" The audience joined in enthusiastically by singing and the waving of flags

Then came "Jerusalem" with William Blake's poem "And did those feet in ancient time" being set to music by Hubert Parry. This was orchestrated by Edward Elgar in 1922 at the Leeds Festival. Upon hearing the orchestral version for the first time, King George V said that he preferred that "Jerusalem" replace "God Save the King" as the national anthem. The Women's Institute adopted this and it is sung before their meetings.

The final item was "Pomp And Circumstance No. 1" by Edward Elgar. The music to which the words of the refrain "Land of Hope and Glory" are set is the trio theme from Edward Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1. The words were fitted to the melody on the suggestion of King Edward VII who told Elgar he thought the melody would make a great song. When Elgar was requested to write a work for the King's coronation, he worked the suggestion into his Coronation Ode, for which he asked the poet and essayist A. C. Benson to write the now famous words.

Again the audience sang and waved flags to bring a memorable concert to a fitting conclusion. It only remained for the National Anthem to be played and the evening was at an end.

From the many comments we received afterwards it would appear that the audience had thoroughly enjoyed their evening. The playing by the Band was to a high standard throughout the evening and the soloist was absolutely brilliant. The Deputy Mayor & Mayoress together with the deputy Lieutenant and his wife were enthralled with the Band and both agreed that "you'd done Milton Keynes proud". Sponsor Brian Currie was reported as being "over the moon" with the event.

Thanks!

This could go on like one of those interminable award acceptance speeches but we need to say a special thank you to a number of individuals who made sure the evening went so well (apologies in advance if I have missed anyone!). Thanks to secretary Robin for co-ordinating the event from initial conception to successful conclusion. Our Publicity Officer Steph managed to get the concert exceptional press coverage and also appeared on local radio. Her imaginative poster and splendid programme presented the Band in a very professional manner.

Thanks to Sam for organising the ticket sales and James for his work with the raffle tickets. Thanks to Karen for taking on the responsibility as treasurer. Thanks to the rest of the committee for their input. Our thanks for playing help this evening go to Tug and George. We also indebted for the front of house help from Band supporters Ann, Karen, Carol and Peter.

Thanks to Musical Director Brian Keech for his choice of music and acting as compere for the evening whilst still in pain and discomfort following his accident on holiday.

We especially thank Brian Currie and MK Foundation for their sponsorship, Stantonbury Theatre and in particular James the theatre technician and the Air Cadets for their front of house duties. We also thank those who so generously provided some magnificent raffle prizes, Ducati UK Ltd, Aston Martin, Parker Fluidic Solutions, Roy Mason, Mrs Kay Seaman and Peter and Giles Blake and the Chelsea Pensioner who was in the audience and brought a prize along with him.

And finally thanks to Ben for giving us his services. A truly remarkable player who remembers with fondness the Band that helped set him off on his distinguished musical career.

Lots of photographs from the concert have been added on to the Band's Facebook page.

Musical Director's Notes - Brian Keech

I would like to thank everyone involved within the Band organisation for creating a memorable Concert at Stantonbury. I know how hard Peter Blake our President and the Band's committee worked in preparation of the event. Each of them should feel very proud of their efforts. We owe Lucy many thanks for getting us a Loss covered Grant from the Milton Keynes Foundation which meant our planning wasn't restricted by lack of funds.

The Master Class during the afternoon was excellent and therefore thanks to Luke and Fraser who co-ordinated the event.

The Band though require so much praise, so much wonderful playing of some technically demanding pieces especially the solos. The level of performance across the whole concert was extremely high. I have sent our Thanks to Ben who has an amazing talent and to think that he started in our Development Band.

Finally a big thank you to our family and friends who sold Concert & Raffle tickets on our behalf and assisted on the evening either as front of house staff or undertook all the other jobs that needed doing. On the evening the Acting Mayor of Milton Keynes and Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire thanked us for a wonderful concert and both said we were a wonderful example to all other musicians in the Area."

Many Thanks

Brian



The winning raffle tickets from the concert are listed below:

- *1st Prize: Superbikes - ticket 1901 - won and collected by someone in the theatre.*
- *2nd Prize: Royal Albert Hall - ticket 376 - S. McWilliams.*
- *3rd Prize: £100 Red Letter Day Voucher - ticket 208 - Steve Dring (collected).*
- *4th Prize: Aston Martin tour - ticket 416 - Susie Boyle.*
- *5th Prize: Aston Martin ride - ticket 23 - Alan Mills (collected).*
- *6th Prize: Case of wine - ticket 517 - S. Blake (collected).*
- *7th Prize: Hero Bear - ticket 1949 - won and collected by someone in the theatre.*
- *8th Prize: Chelsea Pensioner Bear - ticket 289 - collected on the night.*

Master Class! - Luke Colvin

On the Saturday afternoon prior to our 'Music for Heroes' concert our guest soloist for the evening (Ben Godfrey) had kindly agreed to run a master class for the younger brass players of Milton Keynes. Whilst registering players that had arrived for the session, we were overwhelmed with the number of players that kept arriving, allowing us to have an ensemble of 22 players sat on the stage!

The session began with a quick tune-up and then it was straight into playing as an ensemble. The pieces chosen were taken from a set entitled 'Fair Play'. Ben began by explaining the navigation of each piece and in turn playing through each piece, whilst taking the time to explain how parts could be improved and offering plentiful amounts of advice with regard to playing technique. An interesting point made by Ben was that when slowing the tempo of a piece when trying to learn the notes or rhythm, it should still be played in the same style as the original tempo dictates. Once each piece had been thoroughly dissected and pieced back together, each piece was played and a well-earned break was declared.



Following the break, Ben listened to several people play their own pieces of music and offered advice as to how these could be improved, whilst studying and proposing methods to improve playing technique. Special mention should go to our very own Adam Chappell and Adam Hird for standing at the front of the theatre and performing with what appeared to be very few nerves!

To round of a successful afternoon, Ben kindly agreed to host a question and answer session. Questions were being thrown at Ben from all areas of the theatre, some of which included 'how fast can you triple tongue?' and 'where has been your favourite place to perform?' Following this, our deepest thanks were passed on to Ben for a fantastic afternoon.

For me, it was a pleasure to see 22 junior brass players, from across Milton Keynes and varying bands, sat on the same stage, at the same time and for the same purpose – to play and enjoy their music making! It was clear that everyone (including parents that had stayed to watch) enjoyed their afternoon and found it in some form to be beneficial. It was clear that brass playing is extremely popular amongst the younger people of Milton Keynes, however it turned out that there was only a small proportion of these younger brass players in attendance. Here's hoping that if an event like this is held in the future, we can attract many more players to join together in making music!

Future Engagements



If are not going to be available for any of these engagements please let Robin or Sam know 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.

Playing members are asked to arrive at least 30 minutes before the start time shown for the performance.

	<u>October</u>	
Saturday 11th	Concert @ St James Chuch, New Bradwell	7.30pm
Sunday 12th	Church Service @ St James Chuch, New Bradwell	4.00pm



Contacts



Chairperson:	Gary Morris	chairman@bradwellband.co.uk
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Misc...

Fundraising

With you know what now just twelve weeks away, this is probably a good time of year to start reminding you about easyfundraising.org.uk. If you do any of your shopping on-line you can get the Band donations from the retailers.

It costs YOU nothing - just use their search engine when you search the internet or shop online from retailers such as Amazon, Tesco, John Lewis, Argos, B&Q and hundreds of others. Once you are registered, the band gets a small donation every time you buy something! It's easy to set up - go to the website easyfundraising.org.uk and you will be guided through the simple process. We set up an account for the band early in the year and so far just 13 people have registered as users - but even with just those few users we've raised over £115 to date!

We've bought a couple of cornets for development band this summer which this fund covers - effectively they've been free! Go on - do it now!

If you need more info get in touch with John Lee.

School News

The builders have been working really hard over the summer and have now installed new electrics, fire alarms and heating systems throughout the school. They are expected to be on site until the 10th October with the remainder of the work being carried out in the roof space. Each classroom has had a new interactive whiteboard and a new computer system has been installed across the school. The outside area has developed with the group of chickens expanding and planting areas being developed.

The local authority organised two drop-in sessions to share the proposals for the expansion of New Bradwell School. The sessions were attended by representatives of the design team, including specialist Highways consultants, officers from Milton Keynes Council and representatives from the school. Plans were on display and there was an opportunity for attendees to ask questions and discuss the details of the scheme.

7:30pm SATURDAY
11th OCTOBER 2014

BRADWELL
SILVER
BAND *In Concert*

**ST. JAMES CHURCH,
NEW BRADWELL.**

Tickets: £6
Concessions: £5

For details call: 01908 616463
press@bradwellband.co.uk

www.bradwellband.co.uk