



The Bradwell Bugle

Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band

October 2015

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From the Editor

Hi Everyone!

Excellent news about the grant from the Big Lottery! Well done to those individuals within the Band who were responsible for making this successful application for funds. Members of the Senior Band have already been measured for their new uniforms and delivery is expected to be by the end of November.

The Band has now completed the last of the outdoor summer engagements for the year and a full report of these activities follows. Congratulations to the winners of the Band's Soloist competition, you can also read about this inside.

I am sure you will all join with me in wishing Robin a speedy recovery from his recent hospitalisation following a fall at his workplace.

As ever, I would welcome contributions for future editions of this newsletter

Sarah-Jayne

Conductor's Notes from Brian Keech

The Senior Band is very pleased to welcome trombone players Evan and Ben as new members after their promotion from the Development Band. Both have worked extremely and made massive progress whilst in the Development Band and deserve their place in Senior Band. They have settled in quickly and made their debuts with the Band at the recent Leighton Buzzard Engagement. Their progress is a testament to the work being carried out by Keith, Luke and all the Dev Band tutors who all deserve our thanks.

The Band has just welcomed Will Dutton as a new member. Will has just returned to the area after studying at University, prior to going to university Will was a member of the Wolverton Band. Will is an excellent addition to our cornet team and has shown his versatility by covering various parts during our August engagements.

The Band would like to say a massive thanks to everyone who has depped for the Band over the summer. Work commitments, holidays and sickness always mean we need some parts covering. Many of our Deps have also helped after receiving very short notice due to changes in our own players' circumstances. Can we also say a special thank you to Dave Wilson for his help, Dave has played at every summer event including those with his own Band, his help is most appreciated especially by our young cornet team who learn so much from sitting alongside him.

The Band is in urgent need of raffle prizes for our St James concert on 10th October. If you have anything you would like to donate please bring along to practice and see Karen Wilson. Dev Band members please see Keith or one of your Tutors.

What's On!...October

Where you can see and hear Bradwell Silver Band this month:

Saturday 10th October *(Indoor Event)*

Autumn Concert in St. James Church New Bradwell which will include a performance from the Development Band. Starts 7:30 p.m. tickets available at the door.

Saturday 24th October *(Indoor Event)*

Concert at Christ The Vine Coffee Hall

This event is being supported by the British Legion. The concert will see the launch of the 2015 poppy appeal as well as commemorations of World War II. The programme of music will reflect both events. If you require tickets please let Brian know by 10th October so that they can be reserved. They can be collected and paid for on the evening."

Engagement Reports - Keith Jones

Monday 31st August

Stony Stratford Town Fayre

The last Bank Holiday Monday of the year saw the Band return to Stony Stratford for the traditional Town Fayre organised by the Lions Club and held on Horsefair Green. Unfortunately it was also a return of the traditional bank holiday weather which saw the rain falling persistently for most of the day. This came after a week of extremely wet weather and obviously had an effect on the number of people coming out to enjoy one of the last outdoor events of the season. I felt particularly sorry for the brave stallholders who had turned up and they looked thoroughly fed up with the weather and the fact there was hardly anyone there to buy what they had on offer.

The Band arrived in plenty of time for the 2:00 p.m. opening and the gazebos were erected to at least shelter the members from the worst of the weather. We now have two large gazebos and joined together these offer protection for the whole Band including the percussion team. The Mayor of Milton Keynes, Councillor Keith Mclean arrived and despite there being no megaphone for him to speak through, he did his duty by declaring the Fayre open and imploring people to support the many good causes who were present today.

This was the cue for the Band under the baton of Musical Director Brian Keech to start their performance and hopefully brighten up the afternoon for those brave enough to have come out. Instead of the two thirty minute sessions that were originally planned, we were asked by the organisers to perform a one hour slot which we were happy to go along with.

We opened with the march "Army of the Nile" followed by "A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square" which featured Tug. This was followed by the medley of hits from the musicals that is "Breezin' Down Broadway" and then the more mellow "Eternal Flame". Like it or loathe it (and I know which camp I am in!) "The Floral Dance" is still a very popular piece with most of the audiences we play to and today was no exception. You could see people bouncing about to the music with a smile on their face as they recognise the traditional tune presented in this upbeat arrangement. Again we slowed the tempo down for "Highland Cathedral".

This should have been followed by a break but Instead of the two thirty minute sessions that were originally planned we were asked by the organisers to perform a one hour continuous slot, which we were happy to go along with. So we continued with "The Great Escape" and then "Open All Hours" which again featured the splendid playing of Tug. "Fascinating Drums" which as you should know by now features our team of percussionist who hit all many of things with sticks and as if that was enough also find the energy to blow whistles as well as honking horns. All very reminiscent of the circus where the clown comes on with his car which starts to fall apart around him accompanied by the appropriate sounds. This was followed by "We're Going To Hang Out The Washing On The Siegfried Line" and our final item was the selection "Keep Smiling Through" which includes the songs "The Army, The Navy and the Air Force", "Yours", "Lili Marlene", "White Cliffs of Dover" and "We'll Meet Again".

Engagement Reports - Keith Jones (Cont'd...)

It had been a very good performance in difficult conditions. The playing throughout was good and we received a number of favourable comments. One overheard comment was "they were much better than I thought that they would be!"

As we packed away the Punch and Judy man did his best to entertain his rather soggy audience.



With a number of players unavailable we were grateful for playing help from Tug and Clive. It was also nice to have Lisa with us. We also thank Lucy's other half Mark for opening up his yard to provide us with some very handy car parking.

The following report is taken from the Lions own Website:

Many thanks to the residents of Horsefair Green for giving up their parking spaces. It is much appreciated. The rain performed better than last year starting as we set up the road signs at 7.00am and lasting until the end of the day. Fortunately there was a gap of an hour in the afternoon for Mr Punch to perform. Many stall holders took an early decision not to come so a special thanks to those who did. We now know that the stall covers are good for making shade but won't keep an all day cloudburst out.

The Mayor of Milton Keynes, Councillor Keith McLean was there to open the Fayre and also to choose the winner of the best stall competition. Our President, Malcolm Pruskin looked after the Mayor and introduced him to stall holders. The best judged stall for the appropriate theme of 'Waterloo' - appropriate for the day was the card making stall belonging to Cartes Blanches. Congratulations to them and their French military uniforms!

Professor John Thursby braved the rain to entertain the children. He worked hard to get smiles from under umbrellas. Bradwell Silver Band did their best to raise spirits with their music.

One stall reported good takings and also recruited 4 new members to their ranks so they had a successful day

Engagement Reports - Keith Jones (Cont'd...)

Saturday 5th September
Cosgrove Park



Our second visit of the year to Cosgrove Park as part of an open weekend which was giving the public the opportunity of exploring the park to see what it has to offer.

The rain that had been falling earlier had thankfully stopped but it was overcast and a bit chilly as we set ourselves up. We were again positioned on an area of grass opposite the Lakeside Bistro and amusement arcade and used both of our gazebos to give us a bit of shelter.

Under the leadership of Musical Director Brian Keech we were to perform two one-hour playing sessions which started at 12:00 noon. We used much of the music that we had performed at Stony Stratford earlier in the week with a number of additional pieces to fill out our longer playing time.

In the first half this included Adam as the soloist with "The Miss Marple Theme", Tug in "Memory" and the horn section featured in "A Whiter Shade of Pale" and "Happy Horns". We also played "In The Mood", "A Bridge Too Far" and "Run Rabbit Run".

We then enjoyed a break with members managing to create some confusion in the restaurant as the staff struggled to serve the sudden arrival of customers. It certainly wasn't fast food! Meanwhile the younger members of the Band amused themselves in their usual style.



Engagement Reports - Keith Jones (Cont'd...)

The clouds had started to lift and with the sun breaking through at last we were able to dispense with fleeces and wear our normal jackets for the second half. Pieces played included "Colonel Bogey", "No Matter What", "When You Say Nothing At All", "In The Quartermaster's Stores", "Those Magnificent Men", "Song of the Seashore" and our final piece was "Mama Mia".

Considering the early start time on a Saturday we did very well to have almost a full Band. We were again indebted to Tug for his playing help and were particularly pleased to welcome Vaughan for his help today on euphonium. As it was his birthday he was treated to an impromptu chorus of "Happy Birthday", a nice touch.

To begin with there did not seem to me too many people stopping to listen to us but as the sun came out we attracted more attention. It had been a long blow but was good practice for the final outdoor engagement of the summer to come next week at Leighton Buzzard.



Sunday 13th August

Leighton Buzzard

Report by Brian Keech

A good sized audience was in attendance at the Parsons Green Bandstand in Leighton Buzzard for the Band's last engagement of the summer season. We had Evan and Ben making their debuts with the Band after joining from the development Band, with Dave and Andy from Olney Brass and Luke and Lisa also helping we numbered 26 for this afternoon concert.

The music played was that which we had performed over the summer season. The only new piece was featuring Fraser in the well-known Euphonium Solo Blaydon Races. Our other featured soloists were Adam (Miss Marple) and Steve and James (Fascinating Drums), all played very well and received warm and prolonged applause after their performances.

The final part of our concert was our commemoration of World War II music and the audience enjoyed singing along to Hang out your washing on the Siegfried line, The Quartermasters stores and Run Rabbit Run. Even though there were a few slips and splits the overall performance was of a good standard and much enjoyed by the audience.

Can we please say a big thank you to everyone who helped this afternoon. It seemed very strange not having Robin with us but massive thanks to Steph for supplying the van and to everyone who helped load and unload in Bradwell and Leighton Buzzard.

This afternoon's concert was the 5th consecutive weekend the Band had performed and is a tribute to the players' commitment that we have been able to play to many people over this period and brought much enjoyment.

Engagement Reports - Keith Jones (Cont'd...)

Sunday 27th September **Senior Band Solo Contest**

This event had been planned for earlier in the year but circumstances conspired to make it necessary to put it back until today. Members arrived early to set up the room ready for the performances. It wasn't easy! Our usual route from the band lock-up through the car park has been blocked most of the summer months and recently we have found a way in through the kitchen. Unusually, today the kitchen door was locked and we had to improvise a way of transferring all the kit needed through a serving hatch! We also had workmen busy up on the roof and I hope they were entertained by what they heard.

Under the baton of Musical Director Brian Keech, the Band opened proceedings with "Highland Cathedral" before the contest started. This year saw the introduction of a new section, "Take The Plunge" which was open to those players who have never performed a solo with the Band before. The soloists choose their own piece of music to play and are accompanied by the full band. Brian explained how important solo playing is in improving an individual's confidence in performance and their own ability. The adjudicator for today was David Rose who is the Head of the Milton Keynes Music Service as well as being the musical director of MK Youth Brass and a playing member of Olney Brass.

A draw to decide the order of playing had been made at the Thursday rehearsal and it meant first up was Steph on Tenor Horn with Leigh Baker's arrangement of the traditional Scottish tune "Afton Water" which was inspired by the poem written by Robert Burns.

Next up was Maria on baritone who performed Denzil Stephen's arrangement of the lovely Welsh song "Myfanwy". Composed by Joseph Parry and first published in 1875 and with lyrics written by Richard Davies the song is still a favourite with Welsh male voice choirs.

Then came the youngest entrant in this group with Sophie on cornet who played Jim Webb's "By The Time I Get To Phoenix" arranged for brass band by Derek Ashmore.

Sophie was followed by Tania also on cornet who had selected "I Don't Know How To Love Him" from the Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical 'Jesus Christ Superstar'.

The final entry in this section was Jess, again on cornet, who had chosen the Michael Jackson hit "Ben" arranged by Dan James

All the soloists played well and gave the adjudicator plenty to think about it as he made his deliberations.

In the senior section we had just four entries but these were of the highest quality from younger members of the Band. Toby on percussion had drawn the number one slot and had selected to play "Fascinating Drums" by Ted Huggens, the pseudonym used by Dutch composer Henk van Lijnschooten.

Toby was followed by Louis on tenor horn who had chosen Gordon Langford's arrangement of "The Lark In The Clear Air", a traditional Irish tune.

Engagement Reports - Keith Jones (Cont'd...)

Adam played the cornet solo "Carrickfergus", an Irish folk song tune arranged by Alan Fernie. This has a beautiful melody and the sentimental words of the song express the singer's wish to return to his country of birth and the loved ones he left behind.

The fourth and final soloist was Luca on Bass Trombone who had gone for "I Wan'na Be Like You" from Walt Disney's Jungle Book, composed by Richard M. and Robert B. Sherman and arranged by Alan Fernie.

Again all the soloists played well and with confidence. There were contrasting styles of music selected and I did not envy the adjudicator having to pick a winner.

With the solos completed the Development Band took their seats to perform a short programme of new music which had been learned since the summer break. They opened with the theme from the 1968 film "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" and followed this with "Mad World" originally recorded by Tears For Fears.

At the Development Band's own solo competition back in May, Brian made an appeal for volunteers to come along and learn to play the basses which are the largest instruments in the band. We were delighted that Clare, who already had a daughter playing the group, offered not only her own services but also that of another daughter, Jennifer. They both picked up a brass instrument for the first time in June and have made tremendous progress in a very short time. Jennifer demonstrated just how quickly she has got to grips with the Eb Bass by playing "Nellie The Elephant" as her debut solo performance. This was a remarkably confident performance from someone so young and who has only just taken up playing. Jennifer stood at the end of her solo to acknowledge the well deserved applause.

The group's final item was an arrangement of two of the tunes which are personal favourites with two of the members. It starts with "Highland Cathedral" and turns into "Simple Gifts" which is probably best known for being used in "Lord Of The Dance." From a slow beginning a drum break picks up the tempo and at the end the cornets and horns stand and finish facing the audience, well that's the theory anyway!

It had been a good performance and after the Development Band packed their instruments away it was time for the results of the solo competition to be announced. David Rose was very complimentary of all the soloists and offered good advice regarding choices of music and the style of performance. David said he had had a difficult task choosing a winner in each of the two sections and that it was a very close call. In the "Take The Plunge" section the winner was Jess and in the open section it was Adam, each being presented with a trophy.

Brian thanked David for being our adjudicator for the day who responded by saying how much he enjoyed his visits to the Band this year.

Congratulations to the winners and to all the other participants. They all received a written adjudicator's remarks and I am sure there was much encouragement to be found in these.

With music stands, percussion and chairs cleared away it was time for the shared picnic. Our thanks go to Steph for her organisational skills today and to the other ladies of the committee who helped with the catering.

Photos of the event courtesy of Ron Chappell can be seen on the Band's Facebook page

www.bradwellband.co.uk

Engagement Reports - Keith Jones (Cont'd...)

The following report appeared in the latest edition of the Stantonbury Parish News:

STANTONBURY PARISH NEWS

SEPT/OCT 2015 03

VJ DAY CELEBRATIONS

BRASS

on the Grass

Following on from the success of our May event we were thrilled that our VJ Day August event happened without a hitch and that the weather was good to us once again.

First of all I would like to thank the public for attending and supporting all our events.

This is now our second year and our third event, we have seen it grow from 300-400 people to around 800 this time.

We were so pleased to see you up and dancing and have some wonderful photos of people joining in the celebrations.

Bradwell Silver Band was excellent once again, starting it off and then bringing the event to a close with a last night of the proms finale.

Junction 14 (Milton Keynes Ladies' Barbershop Chorus) sung twice for us and their tones were a delight to listen to.

For a fun element we were entertained by Daz n Chave (Chas n Dave tribute band) they had the crowd dancing and most people knew the songs and sang along. The fireworks finished off an evening of music.

Ward Councillor Alex Walker and many of our own Parish Councillors enjoyed the evening listening to the music and generally soaking up the atmosphere, two of them could even be spotted dancing the night away with other brave residents.

A special thank you to Roman Park Residents Club and all the volunteers behind the scenes who without you these events would not be possible. We have teams of people who work tirelessly all year and then work for 12 hours or more on the day.

At each event the Lions Club collect money for various charities including Willen Hospice. In May I am delighted to announce they raised £341.22 and in August a staggering £461.50 was collected, so thank you all for digging deep and contributing.



With so many residents thanking us, each asking the same thing... When will next years be?

We hope that this will become an annual event, so please keep reading the Parish News for dates of upcoming events.



Future Engagements



	<u>October</u>	
Saturday 10th	Concert - St James, New Bradwell	PM
Saturday 24th	Concert - Christ The Vine, Coffee Hall	PM
	<u>November</u>	
Sunday 8th	Remembrance Parade	TBC
Sunday 29th	Milton Keynes Open Contest @ Stantonbury Theatre	TBC
	<u>December</u>	
Thursday 3rd	Two Mile Ash Concert - Stantonbury Theatre	PM
Saturday 5th	Christmas Tree Festival - St James Church	2.30-3.15pm
Saturday 12th	Newport Pagnell Singers	TBC
Saturday 19th	Concert - St James Church	PM

If are not going to be available for any of these engagements please 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. Playing members are asked to arrive at least 30 minutes before the start time shown for the performance.



School News

New Bradwell School is now back in full swing after the summer holidays. The school site was open throughout the whole of the summer break with builders edging towards completing the new buildings. The whole school has moved to different classrooms and the children are very excited about their new areas. September has seen the laying of the new sports hall floor and this is now back in use. Work on extending the hall and dining room is well under way and it is hoped that all the work will be completed by Christmas.

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No, there's nothing wrong with your eyes! I stumbled upon this rather unusual image of the Bradwell Silver Band in the style of van Gogh as it appears on the Stantonbury at 40 Facebook page. Based on a photograph taken at the "Help For Heroes" concert held in September 2014.

