



# The Bradwell Bugle

Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band



October 2021

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## From the Editor

Hi Everyone!

Welcome to the October edition of the Band's monthly newsletter. Although having enjoyed some lovely weather in September (seems it always improves when the schools go back after the summer holidays) the last few days have reminded us that we have now entered into the Autumn season. The Band had just the one engagement in September and you can read a report on this inside this issue. October will see the Band performing their first concert in St. James since Christmas 2019. The Development Group will also be taking part and it promises to be an entertaining evening.

I'm sure we all realise that COVID-19 will unfortunately continue to be a feature of our lives for the foreseeable future and we need to learn to live with it and manage the risk to ourselves and others. For the Band this means that all indoor concerts will be subject to the conditions imposed by the venue where we are performing. We aim to supply in advance as much information as possible regarding these so that the players and our audience are aware of what they can expect. Below you will see the current situation regarding the concert in St. James.

On the evening of the concert raffle tickets will be on sale inside but there will not be any refreshments served during the interval. We are also advised that the heating system inside the Church is currently out of order so for your comfort you should probably wear some warm clothing. Come early if you want a good seat!

As always, I would be very pleased to receive any articles and photographs which can be included in future editions.

Stay safe!

*Sarah-Jayne*

## Forthcoming Engagements

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October - Autumn Concert St. James New Bradwell -19:30pm

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November - Remembrance Day Parade and Church Service - pm

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December - Concert with Newport Pagnell Singers - pm

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Concert St. James New Bradwell - 19:30pm

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Concert Stantonbury Sports & Social Club - pm

## Important Information - St. James Church Concert

The Band is eagerly looking forward to playing their concert in the Parish Church of St. James on October 16th but we are also mindful of their recommendations regarding attendance within their premises. The Church Covid Group recently met and has taken the decision to move slowly and carefully towards full opening whilst taking into account the current infection rates.

This information appears on the Church website:

- ◆ *Entry to the Church is unrestricted but we ask that you keep a reasonable distance from others entering at the same time.*
- ◆ *Face coverings to be worn at all times you are moving about within the building.*
- ◆ *Face coverings can be removed once seated.*
- ◆ *Use the hand sanitizer on entering the church.*
- ◆ *We recommend that you enter your name in the notebook available and/or use the QR code.*
- ◆ *Whilst there are no restrictions on where you can sit, we will try to maintain a safe seating distance between members of the congregation.*
- ◆ *In the event of there being too many persons wanting to attend seating will be on a 'first come first seated' basis but we will attempt to rearrange the seating with lesser (but safe) spacing. Latecomers may be turned away.*
- ◆ *The toilet facilities are available with users being asked to use the wipes provided on all touched surfaces.*
- ◆ *We recommend that large groupings are avoided whilst speaking to others.*

St. James Church, New Bradwell.

# BRADWELL SILVER In BAND Concert



**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October**  
**Concert starts at 7:30pm**

TICKETS ON THE DOOR: £7 FAMILY TICKET: £20\*

\* (2 adults + 2 children or 1 adult + 3 children)

**Supported by our very own, talented Development Band.**

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 www.bradwellband.co.uk



www.bradwellband.co.uk

## Engagement Reports

Saturday 18th September

Concert

St. Peter & St. Paul Church, Cosgrove

Some twenty one months since the Bradwell Silver Band last performed an indoor concert, this evening we made a return visit to the historic Cosgrove Parish Church. The organisers had been very keen to get the band back to their village and we were delighted to be finally able to accept their invitation. With the ongoing Covid concerns the decision was made to restrict the number of tickets available and these sold out well in advance of the concert. Member of the audience were able to enjoy a glass of wine prior to the commencement of the concert and settled into their seats ready to enjoy an evening of musical entertainment.

Having performed here last in 2019, most of us will have been prepared for the requirement to change our normal seating formation to fit in with the constraints of the building. This unusual layout takes some getting used to but the Band soon adapted to the unique acoustics. Musical Director Brian Keech had selected a programme designed to suit most musical tastes and we opened the evening in traditional style with the march "Army Of The Nile". Brian addressed the audience and said how pleased we were to be playing the concert after having endured a frustrating eighteen months not been able to practise together as a group.

Brian introduced the first of the four soloists who were featured this evening, principal cornet David Wilson playing the classic sentimental solo "I Hear You Calling Me". This popular song was published in London in 1908 by Boosey & Co with lyrics by Harold Lake (a journalist writing as Harold Harford) and the music by Charles Marshall. The song was most memorably performed by the tenor John McCormack. The lyrics tell the sad story of two young people in love who were cruelly separated when the young lady passed away. David gave a memorable performance with his effortless phrasing and rich tone.



## ***Engagement Reports***

This was followed by Gordon Langford's arrangement of "A West Country Fantasy", a selection of songs associated with medley of traditional folk songs associated with the West Country area of Cornwall, Devon and Somerset. As Brian explained to the audience, this piece of music contains the unusual musical direction for the trombone soloist to play the opening section of "There Is A Tavern In The Town" in a drunken fashion.

This evening the responsibility fell to Louis Wilson who played it in great style. Louis has proved to be one of one of the Band's most versatile players. Having previously enjoyed spells in the horn and baritone sections, his willingness to accept the challenge of becoming the Band's solo trombone player is greatly appreciated.

Our next item was "Hallelujah" a song written by Canadian singer Leonard Cohen and originally released in 1984. Following its increased popularity after being featured in the film Shrek (2001), many other arrangements have been performed and the song been used in film and television soundtracks and televised talent contests.

Then we played the Neil Diamond Classic "America". This song was written as a tribute to immigration in America, where people from all over the world were welcome to come and seek opportunity. Diamond grew up in Brooklyn, New York, where many Europeans arrived. His grandparents were immigrants: on his father's side they came from Poland, and on his mother's side from Russia. Neil Diamond wrote this for the 1980 movie The Jazz Singer, where he starred as a young Jewish man who must defy his father to follow his dreams of becoming a singer.

Our next soloist was then introduced, Steph Chappell on Tenor Horn with "Over The Rainbow". This is a well known song composed by Harold Arlen with lyrics by Yip Harburg. It was written for the 1939 film The Wizard of Oz and sung by actress Judy Garland in her starring role as Dorothy. It won the Academy Award for Best Original Song and became Garland's signature song. More recently of course the song was used as a tribute to the NHS workers during the pandemic. Steph played with warmth and confidence and deserved the applause from both audience and the band members.

"Lollipop" is a pop song written by Julius Dixson and Beverly Ross in 1958. It was first recorded by the duo Ronald & Ruby—Ross herself was "Ruby"—and then covered more successfully by The Chordettes. The song is a firm favourite amongst many performing barbershop music.

It was said to have been originated when Julius Dixson was late for a song writing session with Beverly Ross. He explained that his daughter had gotten a lollipop stuck in her hair, and that had caused him to be late. Ross was so inspired by the word "lollipop" that she sat down at the piano and produced a version of the song on the spot! Sadly the limited space prevented the Band from taking it in turns to stand up during the course of the music, perhaps next time!

The first half came to an end with "Bless Em All", Gavin Somerset's arrangement of songs which were popular during the Second World War

After some quick rearranging of chairs to allow easier access refreshments were made available for the Band members and audience to enjoy.

## ***Engagement Reports***

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After some quick rearranging of chairs to allow easier access refreshments were made available for the Band members and audience to enjoy.

The second half opened with the lively “La Bamba” before playing the poignant “Hymn To The Fallen”. Our third soloist for the evening was Ben Mirfin on Bass Trombone with “Friend Like Me”. This is based on the upbeat song from the 1992 Disney film “Aladdin” and was performed by Robin Williams in his role as the Genie. Ben produced another super performance showing great confidence for someone still in full time education.

Our next item was a selection of hits from Buddy Holly whose story is a legend and his music lives on, standing the test of time with hits from the 1950's that cross the generation gap. “Buddy” is an arrangement by Derek Broadbent and after an introduction which has snippets of “Peggy Sue” soon goes up tempo with “Oh Boy”, “Peggy Sue”. “Heartbeat”, “Everyday”, “True Love Ways”, and “Rave On”

Sticking to popular songs of a bygone era, we then played “Ticket To Ride” which was a hit for the Beatles in 1965. This atmospheric arrangement imitates the sound of a steam engine leaving the station complete with guard’s whistle before picking up speed and taking a high tempo journey. It eventually reaches its destination with a mournful toot of the engine’s whistle.

Our final soloist for the evening was Fraser Cousins with the euphonium solo “The Way We Were”. Originally arranged as a flugel solo this works extremely well on the larger instrument and Fraser showed his usual style and also stamina as this was coming to the end of concert in which Fraser had a lot of playing to do.

The last item listed in the programme was “An American Trilogy”, a medley of songs popularised by Elvis Presley who included it as a showstopper in his concert routines.

After standing to acknowledge the applause one of the Church members stood thank the organising committee for making the concert happen and for providing the refreshments. He then thanked the Band for their performance and said how well we had played considering the lack of concerts in recent times. We were presented with a large box of chocolate biscuits with the instruction to enjoy eating them at our next rehearsal,

The Band played “Sweet Caroline” as an encore and then packed away as quickly as they could as Church members were waiting keenly to put the Church back to its normal setting in readiness for the Sunday service.

It had been an enjoyable good concert with some fine playing and was so nice to get back to performing indoors after such a long time.

## Development Group

Weekly rehearsals resumed after the summer holidays on September 9<sup>th</sup> and we were very pleased to welcome a new intake of people who had expressed an interest in learning to play a brass instrument. In a hectic start to the new term we have had ten absolute beginners (five adult and five children) being taught the basics of playing a brass instrument by members of the senior Band.

Meanwhile in the main Development Group we have welcomed two new youngsters and an adult who had already been learning to play and have quickly become part of the weekly ensemble rehearsals where we have also been fortunate to have help on hand from members of the senior band. The group now numbers 20 plus members and has been working hard on a short programme of music to be performed as part of the concert in St. James later this month.

In order to maximise our resources in teaching the learners we have decided not accept any more beginners for this term and if we receive any further enquiries they will be placed on to a waiting list. However we will be able to offer places in the main group to players who have already reached the required basic standard of performance.

We are grateful to all the members of the Senior Band who have been helping out and trust that they will enjoy being part of the Bradwell Silver Band's continuing effort in finding the band members of the future.

We have recently said farewell to two of our group members, the Reverend Neil Popham and his son Thomas. Neil has been the interim Vicar at St. Lawrence in Bradwell and is moving to a new post in Slough. Neil is taking with him some fond memories of being part our musical group, especially being able to join us in playing around the streets on Christmas Morning 2019. We send our very best wishes to Neil and his family as they move away to start the latest chapter in their lives.

### Want to learn a brass instrument and join Bradwell Silver Development Band?

Bradwell Development Band is open to beginner and learner brass players of all ages.

We provide instruments and tuition for free.\*

Tutor groups and development band rehearsals are held on Thursdays between 7 and 7.45pm at New Bradwell School, Bounty Street, New Bradwell

For further information contact  
Musical Director Keith Jones  
[press@bradwellband.co.uk](mailto:press@bradwellband.co.uk)

\*Instruments and tuition is free. At times instrument and tutor availability may be limited and there may be a short wait list. Tutors are DBS checked.



## ***In Other Band News...***

### **Lower Section National Finals**

After a year's absence, the Finals of the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain returned on the week of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> September, diminished in competitive numbers but hopefully not in stature. For the bands seeking to claim one of the four section titles on offer, the last few weeks of preparation would have been a mixture of upbeat enthusiasm and hard work tempered by a large dose of pessimistic realism. The ongoing concerns over Covid-19 to the banding movement were brought into the spotlight less than 24 hours before the start when it was confirmed that Steve Sykes would be unable to adjudicate the Section 1 contest on Saturday afternoon due to registering a positive test for Covid-19. With the event organisers insisting on all event crew, adjudicators, external contractors and band performers taking a lateral flow test within 48 hours of attending the event this has meant that the section would be adjudicated by the two remaining members of the original team.

In a press release from Kapitol Promotions they stated: "We are of course incredibly disappointed that Steve Sykes cannot now adjudicate at this weekend's Section 1 Final. However, the safety of all attending the Sections 1-4 Finals is at the forefront of everything we do this weekend, hence why we've stipulated that negative results from lateral flow tests are required by all personnel working or performing at our event.

In total 61 Band competed in the four sections, when we were in the finals in 2019 there had been 70 Bands.

It would be premature to claim that the Cheltenham event marked a return to pre-Covid-19 contesting 'normality' but it was the first small step on what is likely to be a hazardous path towards future long-term sustainability.

The Championship Section Final is being held at the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

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### **Test Pieces Selected for 2022 Area Contests**

In the hopeful expectation that bands will be able to return to contesting next year, the Test Pieces selected for next year's area contests have been announced.

Five demanding works will test the qualification credentials of the competing bands at the 2022 Regional Championships. The choices from the Kapitol Promotions Ltd Music Panel of Robert Childs, Sandy Smith, Richard Evans, John Maines, Brian Buckley and Samantha Harrison bridge a time span of over half a century but also encompass works from some of the most accomplished writers for the medium.

#### **Championship Section:**

Championship Section bands will have to get to grips with Wilfred Heaton's immense 'Contest Music' — famously rejected for the 1973 Nationals but later first heard at the 1978 European Championships and later the 1982 Nationals Championships themselves.

It has since become an iconic test of contesting credentials — used at the British Open, Masters and the Area Championships themselves back in 1985.

## *In Other Band News...*

### First Section:

First Section bands are faced with another iconic work — this time from the pen of Gilbert Vinter and 'Spectrum'.

Written for the British Open in 1969 it caused a huge fuss then, although it has since become regarded as a classic — played all over the world — and at the Areas in 1976 and again in 1996.

### Second Section:

Second Section bands will also get a work from another hugely respected composer — Goff Richards, and his breezy composition 'The Aeronauts' — originally written for the famous West of England Bandsman's Festival in Bugle in 1978 and inspired by his father's love of aviation.

It's been used many times since — including being the Second Section National Finals piece in 1996.

### Third Section:

Another wonderful composer, Gordon Langford, provides the Third Section test piece with 'Facets of Glass' — written in 1984 and inspired by the glass making traditions of the Pilkington Glass Company who commissioned it.

### Fourth Section:

Finally the Fourth Section has the most contemporary work — 'Argos' by Stephan Hodel — written not in homage to the ubiquitous UK retail store, but commissioned by the Luzerner Kantonal-Blasmusikverbandes LKBV.

Argos is one of the oldest cities in Greece, and was a powerful rival of Sparta, Athens, and Corinth. The word Argos can also be translated as 'bright' or 'shining', which is the meaning that Stephan Hodel has adopted for his bright, festive suite.

The regional committees are working hard on making the arrangements for next year's contest. In an attempt to attract as many entries as possible some of the options being considered are changes to the existing registration requirements. Time will tell how many bands will have managed to recover and be in a position to contest after the Covid pandemic brought normal playing to such an abrupt end.

The London and Southern Counties Region of the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain is due to take place in Stevenage over the weekend of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022.



## *All Our Yesterdays*

For this month's glimpse back at the past we have gone back 45 years to 1976. The photograph was taken inside the Stantonbury Working Mens Club, a place many that many of the old members knew very well! This is inside the concert room where we play our Christmas Concert. Locally this was referred to as the Side Club as there was another one in Newport Road called the Progressive which is now the home of the Dance School. The Band used to rehearse upstairs in the side club in the room and performed at least three times in the club every year including the always popular Christmas Concert.

The conductor seated in the middle of the front row is David Webb and on the far right of the front row is our current principal cornet David 'Tug' Wilson. There is one other current member to be seen in the photo in the days when he used to have hair. No prizes, but see if you can pick him out. Interesting to note that this was an all male band, the first female member to play in public with the band joined in the late 1970s.



Also under the heading of "All Our Yesterdays" the Band's Secretary Robin Allan submitted the following article dating back just three years to our participation in the National Finals. As Robin says with the National Finals having just been held after a gap of two years the following report will be a happy reminder of our recent past.

### *Report & Result: 2018 National Championships of Great Britain: Fourth Section*

Even the most informed punter on their annual visit to enjoy the great national hunt title races at Cheltenham is well aware that there is no such thing as a sure-fire winner. The form book over the fences can be a notorious guide to backing even an odds-on favourite. Not so with Stamford Brass. The reigning Butlins and Midlands Area champion made it a 'Triple Crown' of 2018 titles with the type of performance that the great Arkle would have been proud of. Julian Bright's runner came to Cheltenham as the band to beat — and left with their reputation further enhanced. They will be a force to be reckoned with in any Third Section stakes in 2019.

If there were any bookies who had foolishly accepted a monkey on the nose before the action started then they would have taken a hammering by the time Stamford romped home a few hours later at the Centaur auditorium.

## *All Our Yesterdays*

The technical hurdles faced in Darrol Barry's 'Divertimento for Brass' were overcome with a level of musical aplomb to lift the National Trophy with something to spare.

The opening 'Festival' was played with bristling energy and rhythmic precision, whilst the central 'Romance' had an expressive tenderness led by the cornet and further enhanced by 'Best Instrumentalist' award winner, Stuart Kirk on euphonium. The 'March' finale was played with brio and brilliance of spirit — a herald to potential victory that made a hugely impressive mark in the hall, and crucially, in the box with the judges, Sarah Groarke-Booth, Gary Davies and John Maines.

Their immediate impressions gave a resounding endorsement: "A very good show indeed", wrote John; "A very well controlled performance. It has rhythm, dynamics and style", Gary said. Sarah summed up her remarks by simply saying; "I totally enjoyed listening".

A little later Sarah also gave a detailed précis of what the trio were listening out for. "Generally a piece of music is titled for a reason — and this one certainly is" she said. "Every performance had its merits: The first movement had to be dynamically bright and happy, although the meno mosso had to be played in context — not morose."

She added: "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.

There was a clear winner and some very good performances — but all the bands did well."

In that overall context Stamford's was therefore a memorable victory: As Sarah implied, it wasn't as if they had beaten a weak field of rivals. The performances from the top-six in particular were excellent: Tewit Silver, Cwmtawe Youth, Gosport Solent Brass, Bradwell Silver and Sale Brass producing performances rich in quality and style. Behind them came a host of well led bands that would have walked off stage pretty pleased with their efforts in any company let alone a National Final.

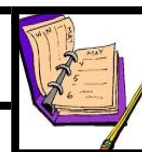
The impressive standard was set for the judges by the first two contenders: Gosport Solent Brass and Bradwell Silver giving detailed, confident renditions under Colin Garner and Brian Keech enhanced by solid solo lines and ensemble work.

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 Swaep)
17. Highland Brass (Mark Bell)

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If you're on Facebook, then visit and "Like" the Band's page: <https://www.facebook.com/BradwellBand>



**We have vacancies:**  
**Percussion**  
**Cornet, position negotiable**

Bradwell Silver Band is a friendly 3rd section band based in Milton Keynes. We rehearse on Tuesday's and Thursday's between 8 and 9.45pm.\*

We enjoy performing in a wide variety of public and private engagements as well as contesting.

To apply in confidence and for further information, please contact Brian Keech, Musical Director via [press@bradwellband.co.uk](mailto:press@bradwellband.co.uk)

\* Usual circumstances, Covid safety regulations may alter rehearsal times. Instruments may be available if required. Visiting players always welcome.



## Don't Mention The "C" Word!

(And I don't mean "Covid"!)

# IT'S CHRISTMAS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

*(Well, in about 12 weeks time!)*



My aim is to do a "Christmas Fun" section in December's issue of the newsletter, including the usual puzzles, jokes and annual competition.

But I need your help!

Do you have any family traditions? Do you love wearing silly festive jumpers/hats? What do you look forward to the most? Do you just have to have that specific food/drink product? What does Christmas mean to you?

I'd love for you to send me even just a small paragraph telling me about your Christmas. Photographs would be even better though!

With all the doom and gloom of the past year and a bit, I thought it would be fun to give ourselves something to look forward to.

Please send any contributions by Friday 26th November to the following Email address:

[sj.bsb.bugle@gmail.com](mailto:sj.bsb.bugle@gmail.com)

Thank you and I can't wait to hear from you! 😊