

The Bradwell Bugle

The newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band



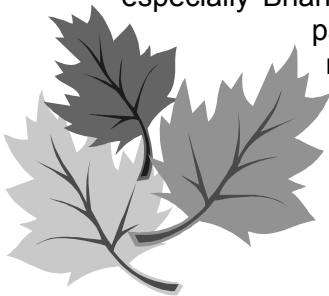
November 2006

From the Editor

Welcome to the November edition of the Bradwell Bugle. This month we have two engagements to report: The concert at St James, New Bradwell and the British Legion poppy appeal launch in thecentre:mk

We also include rather worrying news report, tracked down by our super sleuth, Keith Jones!

As you may be aware, I left the band at the end of August. I now feel that it is appropriate for me to pass on the editorship of the Bugle to someone who is more in touch with the goings on of the Band. The position will be open in the run up to the AGM next Tuesday, along with several others. I have enjoyed editing the Bugle over the last year, and I'm very grateful to the Band, especially Brian Keech, for the opportunities given to me over the past seven years - and you never know, I may return!



Guy Drury
and Alison Drury



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Engagement Report

St James New Bradwell Sat 14th October 2006

Our customary Autumn concert began with "Stage Centre" by Goff Richards, a new item for the Band. This is an ideal opener with lively melodies reminiscent of show tunes and a hint of the circus. Musical Director Chris Johnston then introduced our second item, "The Golden Lady" from the same composer.

Our first soloist of the evening was principal cornet Sue Snoxell with "Softly Awakes My Heart", the classical aria from Saint-Saens 'Samson and Delilah'. This was another excellent performance from Sue with a lovely tone and perfect phrasing.

Another new piece for the Band was "Swing Low, Michael" Arranged by David Beal, this combines two traditional spiritual tunes, "Swing Low Sweet Chariot" and "Michael Row The Boat Ashore". It starts with

the horn section playing an andante "Swing Low" in close harmony and then the Band joining in with a swing style. The flugel has a lively counter melody which is repeated by the euphonium before "Michael Row The Boat" is heard. The two tunes are then heard together in contrapuntal form before a reprise of "Swing Low" brings the piece to a conclusion. Not having had the privilege of playing this with percussion before, the end result was pleasing.

"Your Song" a tenor horn solo from Keith Jones was next and Keith was then joined by the other members of the horn section, Adam, Karen and Luke in the horn feature "The Elvira Madigan Theme". Taken from Mozart's 21st Piano Concerto, the andante second movement became known as the 'Elvira Madigan' because of its prominent part in the Swedish film of the same name released in 1967.

Engagement Reports

The popular tune "Eternal Flame" provided some contrast before the last item of the first half, "Tocatta from Suite Gothique" arranged by Frank Bernaerts. Suite Gothique has long been a favourite in the brass band repertoire and was originally composed by Léon Boëllmann as a showpiece for church organ (Tocatta is Italian for touched and is a piece of classical music for a keyboard instrument emphasizing the dexterity of the performer). The opening of the Tocatta is straight out of a melodramatic silent movie, a creepy bass tune in a minor key punctuated by full staccato chords and rapid elaborate runs in a rhythmically free style. This was well played with the dynamics under control.

There was an interval before the second half opened with the march "The Cossack" followed by "Deep Inside The Sacred Temple". This is one of the most popular operatic duets and comes from Bizet's *The Pearl Fishers*. A fishing village in ancient Ceylon is the setting for a steamy tale of friendship, loyalty and forbidden love. Two fishermen are lured into a deadly love-triangle by the mysterious Leila. Tonight these fisherman were portrayed by Robin and Ron who performed this item as a bass duet. Ron had especially arranged this music and it was an ideal vehicle for the audience to hear the largest instruments in the band which are rarely used for playing the melody. The audience showed their appreciation for this excellent performance.

Another popular tune came next, "A Kind of Magic", leading to Adam Keech's solo "Wiederkehr". Added pressure was on Adam as his music teacher was there to assess his performance as part of his A Level studies, but I am sure he would have been impressed with the accomplished manner in which Adam played.

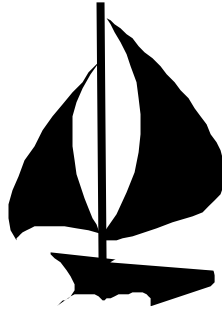


This was followed by "Proud Mary" as performed by Tina Turner and arranged for band by Thijs Oud.

Proud Mary is the name of a riverboat in New Orleans and the words of the chorus are
Big wheel keep on turnin'
Proud Mary keep on burnin'
Rollin', rollin', rollin' on the river

Our final featured player of the evening was Mike Sanders who was making his Bradwell debut as a soloist. Mike, who usually sits on the back row of the cornets, played the haunting tune "Solitaire". Written by Neil Sedaka and arranged for band by Stephen Corbett, The Carpenters had a hit with this song in 1975. Mike overcame his nerves with a good solid performance of which he should be justly proud.

The final two items of the concert were from the popular genre, "Everybody Needs Somebody" followed by "One Moment In Time", both of which have featured in most of our concerts this year.



After words of thanks, the encore - appropriately enough for a concert in the Parish Church - was "How Great Thou Art" one of the two arrangements the Band has of this great Hymn. Tonight we used the Eric Ball version

The evening's events drew to a close with the National Anthem

We were grateful for help from Roy and Paul Lack from Great Horwood Band (baritone and trombone), Paul Fensom (MD of Broseley Brass) and Brian Keech (baritone) who deputised for his wife at the very last minute.

The concert unfortunately was the last one for Lisa Huckle as an active playing member. Lisa has been suffering with her health and has reluctantly decided that she can no longer put in full commitment to the Band's rehearsals and engagements. Lisa has offered to come and help us when required and we look forward to seeing her again in the near future. We thank Lisa for her 15 years with the Bradwell Band as a player, committee member and Chairman.

The audience was not as large as we have become used to, maybe there was not enough publicity surrounding the event.

Our thanks to Norman for running the front of house and raffle, although his invitation for the audience to attend the soloist competition later this month was not appreciated by the Vicar as the starting time coincides with her Church service!

Keith Jones

Engagement Reports

Launch of British Legion Poppy Appeal Central Milton Keynes Saturday 28th October



The British Legion's annual poppy appeal was launched with a parade and short service outside Marks & Spencer. There was a good turn out of Legion members and cadets as well as civic dignitaries. Bradwell Band played a short programme of music as the members of the various organisations arrived. After some initial confusion over the arrangements we were pleased to find that we were provided with chairs and could set up in normal band formation. With a balanced ensemble of fifteen players, Musical Director Chris Johnston had chosen a selection of music suitable for the occasion.

We started with the march "Colonel Bogey" which is a favourite with servicemen mostly because of the disrespectful words that were sung to this tune. It was used with great effect, with a new counter-melody added by Sir Malcolm Arnold, in the classic film "Bridge On The River Kwai".

'Colonel Bogey' is arguably the most famous march ever written. But who was Colonel Bogey? The story goes that this was a nickname by which a certain fiery colonel was known just before the 1914 War when the composer was stationed at Fort George near Inverness in Scotland. One of the composer's recreations was playing golf and it was on the local course that he sometimes encountered the eccentric colonel. One of the latter's peculiarities was that instead of shouting 'Fore' to warn of an impending drive, he preferred to whistle a descending third. This little musical tag stayed and germinated in the mind of the composer and so the opening of a memorable march was born.

That composer was Kenneth Alford who became known as "The British March King" and was considered by many to our equivalent of the USA's John Phillip Sousa. Alford's real name was Fredrick Joseph Ricketts and he joined the Royal Irish Regiment as a musician in 1895 and was commissioned into the Royal Marines as a Director of Music in 1927. He retired in 1944 with the rank of Major. Soldiers then were not supposed to have outside interests, hence the pseudonym. Kenneth was his eldest son's name and Alford was his mother's maiden name.

We followed this with a hymn tune and then another of Alford's marches, "The Great Little Army" which

was written in 1916 to commemorate the British Expedition Force.

Our next item was a forces favourite, "(we're Gonna Hang Out) The Washing on the Siegfried Line". During 'The Phoney War' of the early months of World War II, there appeared a rash of comic, almost infantile songs which poked fun at Hitler and his cohorts in most uncomplimentary ways. They fulfilled a need at a time when many people thought that the hostilities, if not exactly "all over by Christmas" would finish within a few months. The Siegfried Line was a German line of defence and the song optimistically looked forward to British Troops using this a washing line when they overran these positions. Several of the onlookers were heard to sing the words as we played this item.

This was followed by a hymn tune and then Thomas Bidgood's "The British Legion March" as the parade formed up.

A short service of remembrance was held which included the usual exhortations and the sounding of the "Last Post" and "Reveille". The period of silence was particularly well observed bearing in mind this was in a typically busy shopping centre on a Saturday morning. The service concluded with the National Anthem. The organiser thanked all those who attended and there was a round of applause for the Band's participation. We played one more hymn tune before finishing.



This was a very tidy performance with some crisp playing and good attention to dynamics. Some very nice compliments were paid to the Band afterwards with principal cornet Susan Snoxell's excellent rendition of the "Last Post" receiving some deserved special praise.

It was good for the Bradwell Silver Band to be involved in this high profile event.

Keith Jones

Christmas Humbug

Thanks to Keith Jones for this!

A quite amazing story of local bureaucracy gone mad has been reported in the Daily Mail newspaper in the last few days, and if repeated around the country this Christmas could well have a profound effect on bands ability to help raise funds for themselves and other good causes. This is the article.

Council enforce fee for band playing 'non-religious' Jingle Bells

Members of a historic town band are furious after being told they couldn't play Jingle Bells in their Christmas shows unless they paid for a licence - because the song has no religious content. Callington Town Band in Cornwall, a registered charity, is having to fork out £21 each for seven temporary licences to cover their Christmas programme - because the local licensing authority says so.

Caradon District Council's licensing department told the band it would fall foul of the Licensing Act 2003, which came in to force this April, if it played anything other than religion based carols during its seven Christmas concerts. The council said a temporary entertainment notice was needed every time entertainment was provided in venues without public licences.

That means festive favourites like Jingle Bells, White Christmas and Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer need a licence whereas Christmas carols which are considered religious music do not.

Now the MP for the area is set to raise the issue with the Government to try and get a dispensation for the band to play such popular Christmas classics as Jingle Bells. We were aghast when we received the letter telling us that we had to have a license unless we played on private property," said band Chairman, Cliff McKane. "It was amazing."

Callington Town Band, which was reformed 10 years ago after first being formed in 1853, is a registered charity relying on donations. The band a raises hundreds of pounds for charity each year - this year they are fundraising for the Cornwall Blind Association.



"This will cost the town a small fortune," Mr McKane said. "Money that we have to spend on these licenses just takes away what we have to give to charity. "It really is quite stupid," said the band's secretary Dee Blake. "We are really upset about this.

"People love to hear carols when we play in places like supermarkets, but we can't really perform an entire set of all-carols in a place like that. "When we performed the songs last year we would see lots of people humming and singing as they went by us. "The kids love Jingle Bells - they know it from an early age."

Callington Town Band are protesting against the new law and said that the people of Callington were unhappy about the situation and had signed a petition which they have handed over to local MP Colin Breed. MP for South East Cornwall, Liberal Democrat, Colin Breed said that the ruling was an unintentional consequence of the licensing operations: "It's just total nonsense," he said.

"We have to get to the question of whether the band are to play Jingle Bells," he said.

"Hopefully common sense will prevail. "I'm trying to get a more localised version of the law hopefully we will resolve it before anyone plays Jingle Bells." Mr McKane said that the band is having to rethink whether they can afford to play their usual seven public Christmas dates on the town's streets as he said that the fees plus administration costs could top £150.

"I don't think that we could consider only doing religious carols - there is not enough music available and it wouldn't last long enough." Mr McKane said that he was confused with the new licensing laws which he says have meant the band need a license if they perform in a church yard, but not a few yards away inside the church building.

"Fines can be as much as £6,000 I've been told," he said. "A lot of district councils are turning a blind eye." Caradon District Council's licensing officer Michelle Brooking said that the ruling applied throughout the country: "The ruling was brought in by the Licensing Act in 2003.

Daily Mail, 27th October 2006



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.

- 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

Advertisement

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Less than 1 year old, hardly used
IMMACULATE CONDITION
Complete with case and music books,
valve oil and cloth
£150

Tel. No. 01908 611729



Contact Details

- Chairman:** Norman Keech 222298
- Secretary:** Robin Allen 616463
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- Musical Director:** Chris Johnston
rapid-radio@fsmail.net
- Supporters Club:** Norman Keech 222298
- Newsletter/ Press Officer:**
- 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:	Position Vacant*
2nd Trombone:	Position Vacant*
Bass Trombone:	Nick Dytham
E♭ Bass:	Robin Allen Dave Sanderson
B♭♭ Bass:	Ron Snape
Percussion:	Position Vacant*

Non Committee Positions

President:	John White
Musical Director:	Chris Johnston
Publicity Officer:	
Magazine Editor:	
Fundraising:	Norman Keech
Quartermaster:	Luke Colvin

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 these positions, 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.