



The Bradwell Bugle



Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band

November 2015

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From the Editor

Hi Everyone!

With the clocks having gone back, the long dark evenings and colder weather only go to remind us that winter is almost on us. The Band has finished its season of concerts but will be kept busy over the coming weeks preparing for Remembrance Sunday and then the Milton Keynes Brass Band contest at the end of the month. Then of course we will be into December and we all know how busy that can be!

The Band will be holding their Annual General Meeting at the School on Thursday 18th November, starting at 7:45 p.m. Our thanks go to the current committee for their efforts over the past twelve months.

Sarah-Jayne

SAVE THE DATE

**BRADWELL SILVER BAND
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
THURSDAY, 19TH NOVEMBER
2015 @ 7.45PM**

Engagement Reports - Keith Jones

Saturday 10th October

St. James Concert

We returned to the Parish Church of St. James, New Bradwell, for our Autumn Concert and there were hardly any empty spaces as the audience settled into their seats. Musical Director Brian Keech had chosen a varied and entertaining programme of music and as the tradition is to open with a march tonight's was "Army of the Nile" by Kenneth. J. Alford, the pen name used by Frederick Joseph Ricketts, (1881-1945). His career was as Bandmaster in the British Army progressing to Director of Music for the Royal Marines. During his long military career, he wrote many marches that remain famous to this day. He is renowned as Britain's "March King" yet unlike John Philip Sousa, who composed at least a hundred and thirty examples, Alford's reputation rests on just eighteen marches, amongst them 'The Thin Red Line' and 'Colonel Bogey'. The "Army of the Nile" was written in 1942 and dedicated to General Wavell for halting the progress of the Germans in Egypt during World War II.

We introduced our first soloist for the evening, which was Adam Chappell with "Carrickfergus", a traditional Irish tune arranged for brass band by Alan Fernie. Adam was the winner in the Band's solo competition held two weeks ago and repeated that form with artistic phrasing and great confidence.

The selection "Breezin' Down Broadway" arranged by Goff Richards was next. This lively up-tempo medley of show tunes includes Another Opening - Another Show, There's No Business Like Show Business, Get Me To the Church on Time, Oklahoma, That's Entertainment and 76 Trombones.

Staying with the musicals we then played "Do-Re-Mi", a song from the 1959 Rodgers and Hammerstein musical The Sound of Music arranged by Frank Bernaerts. Within the story, it is used by Maria to teach the notes of the major musical scale to the Von Trapp children who learn to sing for the first time, even though their father has disallowed frivolity after their mother's death. Each syllable of the musical sol fa system appears in the song's lyrics, sung on the pitch it names.

Our next item also had a film connection as "(Everything I Do) I Do It for You" was on the soundtrack of the 1991 film Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves. Written by Brian Adams, Michael Kamen and Robert John "Mutt" Lange, the song was an enormous success and spent sixteen consecutive weeks at number one on the UK Singles Chart, the longest in British chart history.

Our second soloist was Fraser on euphonium with "Blaydon Races". This is based on a famous Geordie folk song written in the 19th century by Geordie Ridley, in a style deriving from music hall. It is regarded by many as the unofficial anthem of Tyneside and is frequently sung by supporters of Newcastle United Football Club, not that they have much to sing about these days. Fraser gave an impressive interpretation of the music which was enjoyed by audience.

To end the first half we played "Born Free" which was the biography of Elsa the lioness, a book written by Joy Adamson whose husband worked as a game warden in Kenya and who later became one of the founders of the modern wildlife conservation movement. It was turned into a film in 1966 and the theme music was written by John Barry with lyrics by Don Black. Don Black managed British singer Matt Monro at the time, and he and Barry asked him to record the song for the film's soundtrack. Monro's recording became the singer's signature tune for the remainder of his career. There followed an interval during which refreshments were available.

The Development Band under the leadership of Keith Jones then took the stage and presented a set of new music they had been working on since the summer break. It began with "Killaloe", a popular march in the Irish Regiments of the British Army, written in 1887 by a 41-year-old Irish composer named Robert "Ballyhooly Bob" Martin of Ross, for the Strand located Gaiety Theatre musical production "Miss Esmeralda", a burlesque production based on "The Hunchback of Notre Dame".

This was followed by Chitty Chitty Bang Bang which was a 1968 British musical film loosely based on Ian Fleming's novel Chitty-Chitty-Bang-Bang: The Magical Car. The film's script is by Roald Dahl and Ken Hughes and its songs by the Sherman Brothers, the main theme being nominated for an Academy Award.

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

We introduced our soloist for the evening which was Jennifer on Eb Bass with the old children's favourite "Nellie The Elephant". The original version released in October 1956 was recorded by child actress Mandy Miller, arranged by Ron Goodwin and produced by George Martin. Although never a hit single, it was played countless times on BBC national radio in the UK in the 1950s and 1960s.

The chorus of the song as I am sure you will all know goes:

*"Nellie the Elephant packed her trunk
And said goodbye to the circus
Off she went with a trumpety-trump
Trump, trump, trump"*

Jennifer gave a really confident performance and stood to acknowledge the prolonged applause.

We currently have a record number of learner members and with the numbers wanting to play there are very few spare instruments left. We were recently very fortunate to be offered an Eb Bass from a gentleman who after years of playing wanted to donate his instrument to somewhere it would be appreciated. The Band gratefully accepted this offer and we were delighted that the gentleman concerned accepted our invitation to be a guest at tonight's concert. He had been made welcome on arrival and was escorted to his reserved seats by the Band's President. He met with a number of the Band members and was also introduced to Clare who is now playing the instrument in the development group. He expressed his pleasure that his old instrument was already being put to such good use. The Band and audience were invited to show their appreciation to Mr. Peter Edwards for his kind gesture and he received a very warm round of applause.

On with the music and next was "Mad World", a song by the British band Tears for Fears which was their first chart hit, reaching #3 on the UK Singles Chart in November 1982. Two decades later, "Mad World" made a popular resurgence when it was covered in a much slower and sombre minimalist style by Michael Andrews and Gary Jules for the soundtrack to the movie Donnie Darko in 2001. This version reached #1 in the UK in December 2003, and also became an international hit

The last piece by the Development Band was an arrangement of two tunes with a Celtic connection. It starts with the opening of "Highland Cathedral" which leads into "Simple Gifts" which is a Shaker song written and composed in 1848 by Elder Joseph Brackett. It has endured many inaccurate descriptions. Though often classified as an anonymous Shaker hymn or as a work song, it is better classified as a dance song. Many people think that "Simple Gifts" was derived from a traditional Celtic tune but the best-known version is by English songwriter Sydney Carter, who adapted the Shaker tune for his song "Lord of the Dance", first published in 1963. Carter's lyrics were adapted, in ignorance of the actual origins, without authorisation or acknowledgments by Ronan Hardiman for Michael Flatley's dance musical Lord of the Dance, which opened in 1996. The melody is used at various points throughout the show, including the piece titled "Lord of the Dance." Other adaptations of the lyrics by Carter have occurred in the widespread belief that they are traditional, and in the public domain.

It had been an excellent performance and was another demonstration of the progress they are making as a group. Since the last appearance in St. James in April, three of the group, Adam, Evan and Ben have been promoted to the senior band and we are confident that more will follow over the coming months. After the results of the raffle were announced the second half of the senior band's programme began with Ron Goodwin's "Aces High", which was the Luftwaffe march from the 1970 film Battle of Britain.

We don't often feature a duet so tonight we had a treat in store as Karen on flugel horn was joined by her youngest son Louis on tenor horn with "Don't It Make My Brown Eyes Blue". This was a hit for Crystal Gale and has been arranged for brass band by Hugh Nash. Karen and Louis's mellow sounds blended perfectly in an excellent rendition.

The next part of the programme featured a selection of songs from the Second World War. Darrol Barry's selection "Keep Smiling Through", was followed by "A Nightingale Sang In Berkeley Square" arranged by Alan Fernie, "We're Gonna Hang Out The Washing On The Siegfried Line", and "The Quartermaster's Stores".

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

Song sheets had been provided for the audience and they were encouraged to join in with some vocal participation. They really found their voices when the Band themselves started singing "The Quartermaster's Stores".

The percussion feature "Fascinating Drums" gave Toby and James license to make a noise using their vast array of equipment. No two performances of this piece are ever the same. The different sorts of whistles and other effects employed tonight created in my mind images of the Keystones Cops finding themselves inside the circus ring at the same time as the clowns with their exploding car.

The final item of the published programme was "Highland Cathedral". What you may think is one of the traditional Scottish Bagpipe tunes was actually composed by German musicians Ulrich Roever and Michael Korb in 1982 for a Highland games held in Germany. The percussion duo stood at the back of the Church which added an interesting perspective to the music.

We were thanked for the concert by Church Officer Graham Crisp. He went on to say that the first stage of the St James Development Project has been completed which saw the old vestry converted from a single and rather cold room into two toilets and practical storage space. The work in the vestry was only the first part of the St James Development Project. It has been decided that the next stage of work should see improvements made with the electrics, lighting and ramps as it is important to make St James as safe and accessible as possible.

For an encore we gave a debut performance to the latest arrangement by John Lee "The Peanut Bamba" which has a distinctly Latin-American feel. This is an amalgamation of the "Peanut Vendor" and the traditional Mexican tune "La Bamba"

It had been a good concert in front of a near capacity audience. We thank Tug yet again for his valuable assistance and Dan who was drafted in on trombone at very short notice. We thank Steph for the use of the van for moving the equipment and for some excellent pre-concert publicity which included a feature in the Milton Keynes Citizen.

We also offer our thanks to our Chairman Peter who took responsibility for the front of house duties. it was nice to have Robin back with us after his recent misfortune and although not quite ready to play yet, he provided a valuable service selling the raffle tickets.



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

Saturday 24th October

Christ The Vine Church, Coffee Hall

A new venue for the Band tonight saw us travel to Coffee Hall. Apparently all the roads are named after old London coffee houses hence the name Coffee Hall. Part of Woughton Ecumenical Parish, Christ the Vine Community Church is a small friendly church which holds services in the former "Walnut Tree" public house.

The evening was being supported by the British Legion as part of the launch for this year's Poppy Appeal and Musical Director Brian Keech and chosen a suitably themed selection of music using some of the items played at the St. James concert.

Our opener was "Colonel Bogey". At the time it was written service personnel were not encouraged to have professional lives outside the armed forces so British Army bandmaster F. J. Ricketts published "Colonel Bogey" and his other compositions under the pseudonym Kenneth Alford. Supposedly, the tune was inspired by a military man and golfer who whistled a characteristic two-note phrase instead of shouting "Fore!"

The second item was "A Nightingale Sang In Berkeley Square" which is a romantic British popular song written in 1939 with lyrics by Eric Maschwitz and music by Manning Sherwin. It was sung by Forces Sweetheart Vera Lynn who became a symbol of the British spirit during the dark days of the war.

This was followed by the selection "Breezin' Down Broadway" arranged by Goff Richards with its medley of show tunes.

Next up was "In the Mood", a big band-era hit recorded by American bandleader Glenn Miller. It topped the charts in 1940 in the U.S. and one year later was featured in the movie Sun Valley Serenade. In 1942, Miller enlisted in the U.S. Army and was assigned to lead the Army Air Force Band. He boosted the morale of the troops with his many popular arrangements before mysteriously disappearing on a flight from England to Paris in 1944.

Then came the march "633 Squadron" was a 1964 British film, which depicts the exploits of a fictional Second World War British fighter-bomber squadron based on a novel which drew on several real Royal Air Force operations. 633 Squadron was the first aviation film to be shot in colour and Panavision widescreen.

Slowing the tempo down we then presented the Theme from "Foyle's War" a popular television programme set in the Second World War. While war rages across the Channel, police detective Christopher Foyle (Michael Kitchen) reluctantly remains on duty in his quiet English coastal town as he probes war-related cases of murder, espionage, and treason.

"Run, Rabbit Run!" was written for Noel Gay's show The Little Dog Laughed, which opened on 11 October 1939, at a time when most of the major London theatres were closed because of the threat of air raids. It became a very popular song especially after Flanagan and Allen changed the lyrics to poke fun at the Germans (e.g. Run Adolf, Run Adolf, Run, Run, Run.....).

Rounding off the first half was "Aces High" written by Ron Goodwin's for the 1969 film Battle of Britain. It was originally called the "Luftwaffe March" and is in the style of a traditional German military march in 6/8 time. The march places heavy emphasis on the oompah sound of tubas and lower-pitched instruments on the first and second beats.

After an interval for refreshments, the second half began with the "British Legion March" written by Thomas Bidgood, a popular composer of military music in the early 20th century.

As a tribute to the local men who fought for their country and sadly never returned we played "I'll Walk with God". This music by Nicholas Brodzsky and lyrics by Paul Francis Webster was published in 1954 and is best known from the movie The Student Prince. The title character, played by Edmund Purdom, but sung by tenor Mario Lanza, performs this song at the coffin of his grandfather, the king of Carlsburg.

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

Next was a march from the movie "The Great Escape", a 1963 American World War II epic film based on an escape by British Commonwealth prisoners of war from a German POW camp during World War II. It starred Steve McQueen and Richard Attenborough.

The selection "Keep Smilin' Through" gave the audience the chance to exercise their vocal chords and they enthusiastically joined in.

Then we had the title march from "A Bridge Too Far". This was a non-fiction book by Cornelius Ryan published in 1974 and tells the story of Operation Market Garden, a failed Allied attempt to break through German lines at Arnhem across the river Rhine in the occupied Netherlands during World War II in September 1944. The title of the book comes from a comment made by British Lt. Gen. Frederick Browning, deputy commander of the First Allied Airborne Army, who told Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery before the operation, "I think we may be going a bridge too far."

The audience sang again to "The Washing On The Siegfried Line" and "In The Quartermaster's Stores" a comical song, often sung by the troops. Individuals would sing about a different item found in the stores and everyone would join in the chorus. Tonight the Band were in fine voice again as they joined in with the singing.

The final item on the programme was "Highland Cathedral" which Brian dedicated to the Gordon Highlanders.

The music was brought to a close with "Abide with Me", a hymn by Scottish Anglican Henry Francis Lyte most often sung to English composer William Henry Monk's tune entitled "Eventide". Lyte wrote the poem in 1847 and set it to music while he lay dying from tuberculosis; he survived only a further three weeks after its completion.

The hymn is a prayer for God to remain present with the speaker throughout life, through trials, and through death. The opening line alludes to Luke 24:29, "Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent". The arrangement the Band uses incorporates the "Last Post". This call was used at the close of a day of battle. It signalled to those who were still out and wounded or separated that the fighting was done, and to follow the sound of the call to find safety and rest. It is used in Remembrance Day ceremonies in Commonwealth nations and during this piece tonight the standards on the British Legion were lowered in tribute. The Reverend Heather Pollard ended the evening with a prayer.

You never quite know what to expect when invited to play at a new venture and tonight turned out to be very enjoyable. There was an excellent and receptive audience and the Band responded with a good performance.

We thank Tug and David Rose from Olney Brass for their invaluable help. It was also good to have Robin back playing tonight after his recent absence.



Brothers In Arms

In the United Kingdom Remembrance Sunday is a day to commemorate the contribution of British and Commonwealth military and civilian servicemen and women in the two World Wars and later conflicts. It is held on the second Sunday in November, the Sunday nearest to 11 November, Armistice Day which marks the anniversary of the end of hostilities in the First World War at 11 a.m. in 1918. Around the country Remembrance Sunday is marked by ceremonies at local war memorials in most cities, towns and villages, attended by civic dignitaries, ex-servicemen and -women many of whom are members of the Royal British Legion and other veterans' organisations. As we approach this year's Remembrance Sunday we particularly remember two of the many young men from the area who lost their lives in conflict.



Among the names on the New Bradwell War Memorial are James (Jim) and John (Jack) William Stallard who were brothers and served in the 2nd Battalion of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. They were the sons of James and Florence Stallard and had been born in the Hockley district of Birmingham, where their father was employed as a railway lamp maker. The Stallard family moved to North Buckinghamshire when their father found employment at the Wolverton Railway Works. They set up home in St Mary Street in Stantonbury (New Bradwell). As well as their two eldest sons, James and Florence had another boy, George (Sidney) and six daughters who were all born in New Bradwell.

At the outbreak of the Great War the brothers sailed with their unit on the S.S. Lake Michigan, landing at Boulogne on 14th August 1914. The two brothers would soon be in action with their battalion, and fought shoulder to shoulder in the trenches. When they first entered the firing line, twenty-five comrades separated them. One by one the twenty-five dropped out, either killed or wounded and the brothers found themselves side by side.

Jim wrote to his parents of their experiences with extracts of their letters appearing in the local newspaper, the Wolverton Express, on 16th October 1914:

Brothers In Arms (Cont'd...)

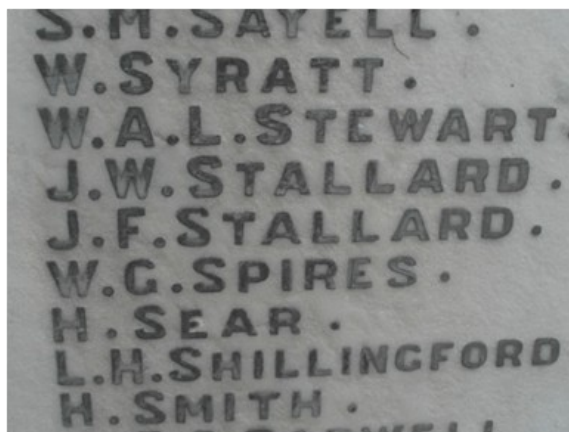
The first letter is dated 24th September

"I beg for the finish of this war, and it is war – hell cannot be worse. It is just like waiting for death, but still, we are lucky enough to escape so far, and can safely say it is a game of luck, and trust luck will be with us to the end. Whoever is spared will have thoughts and "memories" of a war the like of which has never been before in history. One has only to think of the countries involved, the up-to-date guns we all have in action, and the range and power of the weapons in use, and try and form opinions of the result. We are not against a lot of farmers but against a nation of fighting material."

Another letter dated 4th October stated:

"The bodies of Germans are lying in all directions. At first it appears rather a ghastly sight – but one has to get used to more than this – things I am not allowed to speak of. We can hear them (shells) screaming as they come but, worse luck, don't know where they are going to settle (settle, what a word!). It is all bobbing up and down (we hear some of the boys shout "Look out!"). Still, it is surprising how the boys keep up their spirits. It is beautiful to see and hear them; there is plenty of life in them. We are all the same; set faces one minute, joking and laughing the next. Still, it is a good game of luck, nothing else. Jack and I are still side by side. We are both all gay. The winter will be awful, I bet, it is terrible at nights now..."

On 11th November 1914, the Stallard brothers were in the village of Westhoek and their battalion was ordered to make a counterattack against large numbers of German troops that had broken through British lines and threatened to capture Ypres, some two miles behind them. In front of the battalion were gunners of the Royal Field Artillery, who in addition to firing their 18 pounders at the Germans in front of them were also engaging the enemy with their rifles. "A" and "B" Companies were sent to clear Nonne Bosschen, advancing from the north-west to south-east which they did successfully, driving the Germans before them, and killing and capturing a good many. Sadly, both James aged 28 and John 26 were killed during this action. News of their deaths appeared in the Wolverton Express on Christmas Day 1914. The brothers have no known grave and are commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing, Ypres.



Brothers In Arms (Cont'd...)

The youngest brother Sydney was sent to the France/Flanders theatre of war as a Private in the King's Royal Rifle Corps on 19 May 1915. Later in that year he was wounded, suffering deafness and injuries to his back and hips. He was invalided to Lord Derby's Hospital in Warrington and subsequently discharged from the army because of his injuries.

To lose a son in the Great War would have been heartbreaking; to lose two and both on the same day must have had a truly devastating effect on their family and friends.

***They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.***



Christmas Is Coming...

Below are five well known Christmas songs, the only trouble is they've been scrambled up. So if you're any good with anagrams, then this is definitely a quiz for you!

- 1. SO ACKNOWLEDGE SIGN**
- 2. WEARY MAN AGAIN**
- 3. LET THINGS IN**
- 4. ANSWER NOT OF MYTHS**
- 5. SCREAM WITH THIS**

Submit your answers to me via Email sj.cc23@gmail.com (or "snail mail" via Keith!) by Sunday 29th November and you could be in with a chance of winning some Christmas goodies, courtesy of myself.

The winner will be selected at random from all correct entries received and announced in the December issue of the Bugle.

Good luck!!!



Future Engagements



	<u>November</u>	
Sunday 8th	Remembrance Parade	TBC
Thursday 19th	AGM	7.45pm
Tuesday 24th	<i>*Practise*</i> Two Mile Ash School	7.30-9pm
Sunday 29th	Milton Keynes Open Contest @ Stantonbury Theatre	TBC
	<u>December</u>	
Thursday 3rd	Two Mile Ash Concert - Stantonbury Theatre	7.30pm
Saturday 5th	Christmas Tree Festival - St James Church	2.30-3.15pm
Sunday 6th	Carolling	TBC
Monday 7th	Bradwell WI Christmas Concert	7.30pm
Friday 11th	Conniburrow Carols (Small Group)	6pm
Saturday 12th	Newport Pagnell Singers	6.30pm
Tuesday 15th	Street Carolling	TBC
Thursday 17th	Street Carolling (Halley's Comet start)	7pm
Saturday 19th	Concert - St James Church	7.30pm
Sunday 20th	Stantonbury Side Club Concert	7.45pm
Tuesday 22nd	Street Carolling (School start)	7pm
Thursday 24th	Street Carolling (School start)	7pm
Friday 25th	Carolling - New Bradwell (Clocktower start)	6am

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.

We need collectors for the dates in red. Please ask family or friends if they are prepared to help but let Robin know in advance or we could end up with too many!

Contacts



<i>Chairperson:</i>	James Lawrie	chairman@bradwellband.co.uk
<i>Secretary:</i>	Robin Allen	secretary@bradwellband.co.uk
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Karen Wilson	treasurer@bradwellband.co.uk
<i>Librarian:</i>	Sam Allen	-
<i>Musical Director:</i>	Brian Keech	md@bradwellband.co.uk
<i>Publicity Officer:</i>	Steph Chappell	press@bradwellband.co.uk
<i>Newsletter Editor:</i>	Sarah-Jayne Edwards	sj.cc23@gmail.com
<i>Webmaster:</i>	Fraser Cousins	fras@sky.com
<i>Website:</i>		www.bradwellband.co.uk



Development Band

After their excellent performance in the St. James concert, the Development Band has been working hard on new music as they look to further expand their repertoire. The next engagement for them is to play at the Christmas Craft and Food Fair being held at the Stantonbury Leisure Centre on Saturday 28th November. The event is open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00p.m and there will be over 60 food and handicraft stalls selling everything from teddy bears to turkeys.

Entry and car parking is free and the Band are due to start playing at 2:00 p.m. for around 45 minutes giving them more valuable experience at performing in public. The programme planned will include Christmas music but also some of the other pieces they have recently been working on.

The final engagement of the year will be in the Band's Christmas Concert being held in St. James on Saturday 19th December. More details on this will be published in next month's newsletter.



Saturday
19th December
from 7:30pm

St. James Church, New Bradwell.

BRADWELL
SILVER *In*
BAND *Concert*

TICKETS: £7.50
CONCESSIONS: £6



LOTTERY FUNDED

Tel: 01908 616463

press@bradwellband.co.uk

www.bradwellband.co.uk