



# The Bradwell Bugle



Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band

November 2021

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## From the Editor

Hi Everyone!

Welcome to the November edition of the Band's monthly newsletter. There was just the one engagement for the Band in October and inside this issue you will read a report of the concert given in St. James. This month the Band is preparing to take part in the annual Remembrance Sunday service and parade in New Bradwell but before then will be holding their Annual General Meeting at the New Bradwell School on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November starting at 8:00pm.

We thank the outgoing committee for their efforts during the past difficult twelve months and offer our support to the newly elected committee members.

As always, I would be grateful for any articles and photographs which can be included in future editions and don't forget, you have until 26th November to contribute towards the Christmas issue. (See last months edition for more info!)

Stay safe!

Sarah-Jayne

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.



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.



## Notice Of AGM

Notice is hereby given that the 2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Bradwell Silver Band will be held on Thursday 4th November at 8pm – location: New Bradwell School, Bounty Street, MK13 0BQ. The purpose of the AGM is to present annual reports, audited accounts, record the resignations of the out-going committee and elect officers and members of the 2021/2022 committee. Without a nominated committee the band is unable to function and continue performing engagements for our community and further afield.

All are welcome and encouraged to join us. Nominations are invited for the positions of *(feel free to nominate yourself and if nominating another do remember to ask their permission first to avoid wasting time or causing embarrassment)*:

**Officers:** Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian

**Committee:** General member *(minimum of 4 playing members)*

**Non Committee:** Press Officer Web Master, Bugle Editor, Quartermaster

### DRAFT AGENDA

Welcome and Apologies

*Review/record previous minutes*

*Reports: Musical Director, President, Chair, Treasurer, Secretary*

*Resignation of out-going committee*

*Election of 2021/2022 committee*

*Any other business*

We are always keen to hear the views of the playing members, our supporters and the local community. All feedback is welcomed. We look forward to seeing you.

Bradwell Silver Band Committee

**NOTE:** The meeting will take place immediately after Development Band rehearsal and before a rehearsal of the main band.

*Band Secretary:* Robin Allen, 19 Longfellow Drive, Newport Pagnell, Bucks, MK16 8PQ

*Tel:* 01908 616463 *Email:* secretary@bradwellband.co.uk

[www.bradwellband.co.uk](http://www.bradwellband.co.uk)

## Engagement Reports

Saturday 16th October

Autumn Concert

St James Church, New Bradwell

The Parish Church of St. James has been at the centre of the New Bradwell community since it was completed back in 1860. We are privileged to be able to perform concerts and take part in special services that are held in the Church during the course of the year. We had earlier in the year played here for the Patronal Service and a Wedding but this evening was to be our first concert inside the Church since Christmas 2019.

We were pleased to see that a good sized audience had come along for the evening concert making it the best attended Autumn concert for some years. Musical Director Brian Keech had selected a programme of music that would hopefully entertain them. We opened in traditional fashion with a march, Kenneth Alford's "Army Of The Nile" before introducing David Wilson as our first soloist of the evening with .The Band's principal cornet player played the sentimental ballad "I Hear You Calling Me" with great aplomb, his clear tone and faultless phrasing producing another memorable performance.

As a departure from the traditional concert format, rather than then playing an arrangement of a piece of music drawn from the classical repertoire our next item was "Buddy", the selection of hits from Buddy Holly back in the 1950's. We followed this with "Hallelujah", the song written by Canadian singer Leonard Cohen and then Neil Diamond Classic "America", a song written as a tribute to the people from all over the world who emigrated to the New World to make a better life for themselves and their families.

Our second soloist was Steph Chappell on Tenor Horn with "Over the Rainbow"; the well known song performed by the actress Judy Garland in her starring role as Dorothy in The Wizard Of Oz.

This tune will now be forever linked with the Covid lockdown period when it was performed outside people's homes as a tribute to the NHS heroes. Steph played with confidence and deservedly received the applause from audience and band members. She remained at the front of the Band for a surprise presentation to Luke Wilson and his fiancée Chey.

In his announcement, Brian explained that as most people will have been aware, last year after Covid 19 had caused all other plans to be cancelled, Luke had single-handedly continued the Band's tradition of playing Carols in New Bradwell on Christmas morning with Chey stoically keeping him company as he made his way around the streets. The Band's Chairperson Steph presented them with a Dining Out voucher and a personalised card thanking them for their efforts.

The old pop song "Lollipop" was next and again the limited space prevented the Band from showing off their choreographic skills in which the sections of the Band take it in turn to stand and play as the music progresses. Maybe next time!

The last item of the first half was "MacArthur Park" a song written and composed by Jimmy Webb which the actor Richard Harris was the first to record in 1968 but has subsequently been covered by numerous artists. It is famous for its rather strange lyrics which were not readily understood. In an attempt to explain then the composer said he had based the song on his own observations of things he witnessed in the park which is in the neighbourhood of Los Angeles.

He wrote afterwards that "everything in the song was visible. There's nothing in it that's fabricated. The old men playing checkers by the trees, the cake that was left out in the rain, all of the things that are talked about in the song are things I actually saw. And so it's a kind of musical collage of this whole love affair that kind of went down in MacArthur Park".

## Engagement Reports

*MacArthur's Park is melting in the dark  
All the sweet, green icing flowing down  
Someone left the cake out in the rain  
I don't think that I can take it  
'Cause it took so long to bake it  
And I'll never have that recipe again, Oh, no*

They don't write songs like this anymore, thank goodness!

The Band exited the stage for an interval. The Development Group took their place and after a rearrangement of chairs and music stands there were ready for their short entertaining programme. The group has undergone many changes since they last performed in public with no fewer than 18 former members having left the group in the past eighteen months, mostly to concentrate on academic studies and further education. We are however very fortunate to still have a group of around twenty four to carry on the aims of the Development Group in training the future players of the Bradwell Silver Band.

It has become a tradition for the announcing to be done by a younger member of the group and tonight it was the turn of trombone player Elisha. She welcomed the audience to the group's slot by saying that we were aware that our concert clashed with "Strictly Come Dancing" but no doubt those who loved the show will have recorded it to watch later. So hopefully to make up for missing the live broadcast, the opening piece was "Major Dance", composed by David Beal and in the style of a tango.

Most of the musical arrangements played in the Development Group have been written especially for Youth and Junior Bands. The playing standards of the players in these groups will vary but the music ensures that all parts are still interesting to play without making too many demands on individual players. The next piece was a perfect example of this with "Another Day" written by Andy Norman.

The next musical offering was based on a popular American children's tune "The Cat Came Back". The story tells of the desperate efforts of the elderly Mr. Johnson to get rid of a troublesome cat that would not leave his home. He tried all manner of ways to lose him but despite giving him away numerous times, misfortune always came to his temporary new owners and the cat always found his way back.

We were then reminded that we are now in the autumn and of the tradition in Germany to celebrate "Oktoberfest" which is famous for the beer drinking, eating, the chance to wear traditional costumes and most of all to be entertained with the music from an Oompah Band. This year's event in Munich was just one of many traditions that has had to be cancelled because of the ongoing concerns of the Covid virus but tonight the group were to give a taste of the sort of music you would hear if you were able to attend such an event. As Elisha explained, we couldn't supply the audience with the amber liquid but they were more than welcome to join in by swaying side to side in time to the music of "A Touch Of Oompah".

The final piece of music played was "Portsmouth" based on a traditional English sea song which was one of the three tunes English composer Vaughan Williams used in his Sea Songs. Those of a certain age may remember it being used as the theme music for the 1950's Children's Television series "Billy Bunter of Greyfriars School".

The group had performed very well and the audience seemed to appreciate their efforts. We had two youngsters making their debut performance with the group tonight, trombone players Michael and Josh.

The Development Group vacated the stage and after the raffle draw was announced the senior band continued the concert with an original piece for brass band written by Dan Price entitled "Starburst" and dedicated to the Greater Manchester Youth Brass Band who performed the premiere in June 2014. In astronomy a Starburst (or Starburst Cluster) is a term used to describe a region in space which has an abnormally high rate of star formation occurring and the music takes inspiration from the concept of stars being created. This is an exciting concert piece which requires emphasis to be placed on the varied rhythmic elements found in the score.

## Engagement Reports

After this high octane piece it was time to introduce the next soloist with principal euphonium Fraser Cousins playing the much more sedate "The Way We Were". Fraser played with his customary style and confidence. Staying with yet more music associated with the U.S., the next piece was "American Pie" as performed by Don Maclean. Then it was then time for our final (and youngest) soloist with Ben Mirfin on Bass Trombone with "Friend Like Me". Ben has become an accomplished performer showing great maturity stage presence and rightly received prolonged applause for his playing tonight.

The penultimate item in the programme was "Prelude on Lavenham". Music forms an integral part of Salvation Army worship and evangelism. Bands and songster brigades (choirs) are an important part of church life and public events with the brass band probably being the most recognised feature of Salvation Army music. Their composers have contributed a great amount of music that is regularly performed by brass bands all around the world. Several years ago Geoffrey Nobes, a former Bandmaster of the Portsmouth Citadel Band, composed "Lavenham" as a tune to words penned by hymn writer Nick Fawcett Mayhew. He dedicated this musical arrangement to the memory of a friend who had served as bandmaster at the Lavenham Corps in Suffolk. This is a reflective piece of music which is free flowing and played in a cantabile style.

The last item was "Bless Em All" the selection of songs popular during the Second World War and arranged by Gavin Somerset. The Band stood to acknowledge the applause and then there were words of thanks for the concert from the Vicar of St. James, the Reverend Paul Smith. Paul said how he had enjoyed the programme and different styles of music. He was also pleased to announce that the Church have entered into an agreement with contractors to repair the heating system and all being well it would be a much warmer place when we return for our Christmas Concert in December!

The Band played "Sweet Caroline" as an encore.

It had been a decent concert in a rather cold venue. All the soloists played with distinction with some nice accompaniment from the Band and it had been a happy return to familiar surroundings after a prolonged absence in difficult times.

We were very pleased to have three guest players with Sue and Jemma from Milton Keynes Brass and Julie's daughter Clare who played with Nailsworth Silver in Gloucestershire when they became the new 4<sup>th</sup> Section National Champions at the finals held in Cheltenham in September. We are extremely grateful to all three ladies for deputising for our own members who were unavailable on the night. We also thank Toby for returning from university in Birmingham to play percussion.

We would like to thank our front of house team of Chey, Peter, Anne and Sarah. Also we thank Ron Chappell for taking photographs and videos.

There are some videos of the performance that can be viewed on the Band's Facebook page



## Poppy Appeal 2021



This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Royal British Legion- the following has been taken from their website.



The Royal British Legion's Annual Poppy Appeal was launched on the 28<sup>th</sup> October and every poppy makes a difference to the lives of our Armed Forces community. Remembrance has been part of the fabric of our shared history, and today it continues to unite people across all backgrounds and generations. 100 years on, your support is as vital as ever as the impact of Covid-19 continues to leave some people we support in urgent need of our help. Every person, every donation and every poppy counts. Our amazing team of collectors have been at the heart of the Poppy Appeal for 100 years and, as Covid-19 restrictions ease, they are back in local communities across the United Kingdom to raise vital funds for the Armed Forces community.

We will be offering several ways to donate, including: Cash, Contactless terminal, QR code

Alternatively, you can find out more below about the various ways to support this year's Poppy Appeal – by donating online, via text or through our other fundraising activities.

This year 40,000 volunteers across the country will be collecting donations for the Poppy Appeal. You can get your poppy whilst shopping in-store or online at Sainsbury's, who have been supporting the Poppy Appeal for over 25 years, or shop their range of poppy merchandise, also available in selected stores and online.

Many of the UK's other major supermarkets will also be helping us by distributing poppies in stores, including Tesco, Morrison's, ASDA and Lidl. Morrison's customers can donate at the till as well as online. Lloyds Bank and Santander customers can also support the Poppy Appeal by visiting their local branch to make a donation.

There are also a number of other ways you can get involved in this year's Poppy Appeal. From taking on a 5k Poppy Run or fundraising through our 11/11 Challenge, to distributing Poppies in the Post or buying poppy merchandise from our Poppy Shop, there really is something for everyone.

We are committed to reducing the amount of single use plastic associated with our Poppy Appeal products. We have already implemented changes that will remove over 8 million items of single use plastic from our 2021 products and will continue to look at ways to further reduce the environmental impact of our Poppy Appeal products.

You could also wear an enamel poppy pin instead of a paper poppy, and there are a range of alternatives available from our Poppy Shop. You can then choose to make a donation to the Poppy Appeal every year.

The most effective way to recycle our poppy is to return it to your local Sainsbury's store after Armistice Day. Alternatively, the paper and plastic components that make up our poppy can be pulled apart and recycled through some local authority household recycling methods.

## *All Our Yesterdays*



For this month's glimpse back into the Band's history we go back 45 years to 1976. The occasion is the annual Remembrance Sunday Parade held in New Bradwell in which you can see the Band leading the parade of British Legion and other local organisation towards the Clock Tower for the wreath laying. The parade then marched to the Methodist Chapel in Thompson Street for the service. At that time the Vicar of St. James would not allow the service to be held in his Church because he believed war was a bad thing and there was no such thing as a Christian soldier.

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### Message Posted on New Bradwell British Legion Facebook Page

We need your support!

We need 16 adult volunteers to help man the road closures in New Bradwell for Remembrance Sunday afternoon 1.45-3.15pm.

High vis clothing and full instruction given.

We cannot go ahead without you!

Bradwell Band, the Mayor of MK, Cadets, Scouts and Brownies are ready to parade to remember the fallen. We cannot do this safely without the road closures.

Please share with those who may be able to volunteer their time.

Many thanks!

[www.bradwellband.co.uk](http://www.bradwellband.co.uk)

## Dates For The Diary



- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November - Band AGM 8pm (After Dev Band practice)
- Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November - Remembrance Sunday Parade and Church Service, New Bradwell  
2:00pm (at the School)
- Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November - Practice at Two Mile Ash School 7:30pm - 9pm
- Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Concert with Newport Singers in St Peter and St Pauls Newport Pagnell 7:30pm  
*Tickets available through their Website or: Cambourne Travel, NP. Wilsons, Olney Pat Kearsley, 07904 299484*
- Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Concert with Two Mile Ash School Choir  
Denbigh School, Shenley Church End  
*Tickets ONLY available from the school*
- Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Concert in St James Church, New Bradwell.  
Start 7:30pm. Doors open at 7pm  
*Tickets available on the door*
- Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December - New Bradwell (*east end*) Carolling 7pm -9pm
- Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December - Stony Stratford High Street Carolling 9:30am – 12:30pm
- Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December - Stantonbury W.M.C (side Club) Christmas Concert 7:45pm  
*Ticketed entry - tickets available ONLY from the club.*
- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December - Bradville Carolling 7:00pm - 9:00pm
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December - New Bradwell (*little Streets*) Carolling 7:00pm - 9:00pm
- Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> December - Carols for Christmas 6am (from The Corner Pin, New Bradwell)



## Contacts



|   |                     |   |
|---|---------------------|---|
| <i>Chairperson &amp; Publicity Officer:</i> | Steph Chappell      | chairman@bradwellband.co.uk<br>press@bradwellband.co.uk |
| <i>Secretary &amp; Quartermaster:</i>       | Robin Allen         | secretary@bradwellband.co.uk                            |
| <i>Treasurer:</i>                           | Karen Wilson        | treasurer@bradwellband.co.uk                            |
| <i>Librarian:</i>                           | Sam Lawrie          | cornetgirl87@gmail.com                                  |
| <i>Musical Director:</i>                    | Brian Keech         | md@bradwellband.co.uk                                   |
| <i>Newsletter Editor &amp; Webmaster:</i>   | Sarah-Jayne Edwards | sj.bsb.bugle@gmail.com                                  |

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

**NP Singers**

**Carols & Brass**

Newport Pagnell Singers  
Bradwell Silver Band

**Saturday 4 December**  
**7:30PM**  
**Parish Church**  
**Newport Pagnell**

*Tickets available from*  
*Cambourne Travel, NP*  
*Wilson's, Olney*  
*Pat Kearsley 07904 299484*  
*newportpagnellsingers.co.uk*

*Adult: £12*  
*Concession: £10*  
*Child (U16): £5*