



The Bradwell Bugle



Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band

December 2014

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From the Editor

Hi Everyone!

Are you hanging up a stocking on your wall? We have now entered the Advent season and the Band looks forward to what promises to be another busy time. Details of where the Band can be heard during the month can be found on the Christmas Schedule page. We do need collectors for some of these engagements and Robin would be delighted to hear from you if you can spare a few hours over the coming weeks.

The next issue will be in January with reports on all the engagements.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sarah-Jayne

Christmas Tree Festival

The Christmas Tree Festival is being held in the Parish Church of St. James over the weekend of 6th and 7th December. Local groups and organisations including the Band have been invited to decorate a Christmas Tree and the Church will be open for people to have a good look at these. As part of the musical entertainment on offer, members of the Bradwell Band will be playing a selection of Christmas music between 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. on the Saturday. The festival is open on Saturday from 10:00 to 18:00 and on Sunday from 11:30 to 16:00, refreshments will be available.

Social Event

Members of the Band enjoyed a pre-Christmas night out at Wilton Hall in Bletchley which included food and entertainment. A good time was had by all with lots of dancing and just a few drinks. Thanks go to Sam and Karen for organising this. It is hoped that further events will be organised for next year as it gives members the chance to socialise with each other which is not always possible at concerts or rehearsals.

Join the Bradwell Silver Band for a Concert to get you into the Christmas spirit! The programme includes many of your favourite songs and carols and will feature some of the Band's talented soloists. There will also be a contribution from our Development Group that is guaranteed to get your toes tapping. We hope to see you there!

20th DECEMBER 2014
FROM 7:30pm

BRADWELL
SILVER
BAND *In Concert*

**ST. JAMES CHURCH,
NEW BRADWELL.**

Tickets: £6
Concessions: £5

For details call: 01908 616463
press@bradwellband.co.uk

www.bradwellband.co.uk



AGM

The annual general meeting of the Bradwell Silver Band was held on Thursday 20th November. We heard individual reports from the President, Musical Director, Chairman and Treasurer and all agreed that it had been a good year for the Band with some excellent concert performances. We look forward to continuing this progress next year. The following members have been elected to serve for the coming twelve months.

Committee

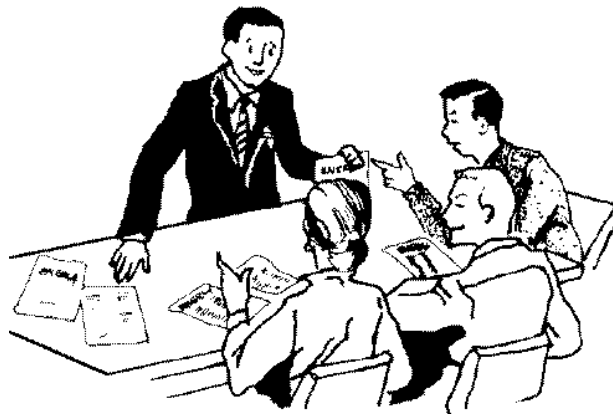
Chairperson: James Lawrie
Secretary: Robin Allen
Treasurer: Karen Wilson
Librarian: Sam Allen

Committee Members

Steph Chappell
Maria Belton
Gemma Day
Jim White
Adam Chappell (Youth representative)

Non-Committee Positions

Musical Director: Brian Keech
Publicity Officer: Steph Chappell
Newsletter Editor: Sarah-Jayne Edwards
Webmaster: Fraser Cousins



Engagement Report - Keith Jones

Sunday 9th November **Remembrance Service** **New Bradwell**

It was a bright sunny afternoon as the people of New Bradwell gathered at the Clock Tower to mark Remembrance Sunday, organised as usual by the District Branch and Women's Section of the Royal British Legion. With a police escort, Bradwell Silver Band played "Pack Up Your Troubles" as they marched from the school to join up with the rest of the parade at Corner Pin. The parade was called to attention and with the Band at the front marched to take up positions around the Clock Tower for a short Act of Remembrance. The parade and honour guards were called to attention for the exhortation "They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old". Tug sounded the Last Post as the standards of the organisations taking part were dipped in salute. This was followed by a period of silence and the sounding of "Reveille". After a reading of the inscription from the Kohima Memorial, the parade was stood at ease and wreathes were laid by representatives of many organisations from around Bradwell including one by our President Peter Blake on behalf of the Band. The Band played "Supreme Sacrifice" as these were being laid. There followed some prayers and the parade came to attention for the National Anthem. The parade reformed and we set off for the Church playing the march "The British Legion". The parade was called to a halt and we took our places inside the Church for the Service of Remembrance and Re-Dedication.

Led by the Vicar the Reverend Paul Smith, the service took the traditional form with the names of the fallen who are commemorated on the War Memorial being read. As always, this is for me the most moving part of the service as it reminds us of how many young men from Bradwell lost their lives in the service of their country,

Tug then sounded the "Last Post" and following another silence "Reveille". The Band accompanied the hymn singing and the first of these was "All People That On Earth Do Dwell". During the singing of this first hymn the standards are carried to the altar.

The Vicar delivered a short sermon and said how some good came out of the evils of the Great War, amongst them stainless steel and zips. There was also a mention of the sea of poppies at the Tower of London. This immensely moving memorial is made up of 888,246 ceramic poppies which filled up the Tower's moat. This represented one poppy for each British fatality in the First World War, a truly staggering and horrific loss of life.

The second hymn was "For The Healing of the Nations" and following the re-dedication the final hymn was "I Cannot Tell" which is sung to the tune of the Londonderry Air. With the standards returned to their bearers we played two verses of The National Anthem. The Band's final piece of music for the afternoon was Edward Elgar's "Nimrod" as the congregation made their way from the Church,

It was good for the Band to once again be part of this very moving tribute and there was great support from the people of New Bradwell who turned out in large numbers at the Clock Tower. The march was one of the biggest I can remember with the members of the British Legion joined by cadets and Brownies.

We had twenty two members for the parade which was a good effort. Eight of those marching are in their teenage years and I believe we can look forward with confidence to the Bradwell Band continuing the tradition of playing a part in Remembrance Sunday for many years to come. We owe a special word of thanks for playing help from Tug, and to Luke Colvin who played the bass drum on the march for the very first time.

New Music

As Christmas approaches, we have been busy rehearsing music suitable for the festive season. Of course people always want to hear the old favourites but there is also room for newer compositions to be included. Our Musical Director Brian Keech has selected some interesting new pieces which have been added to our folders for this year.

The first of these is "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year". The best Christmas songs stand the test of time and some of them get used in television adverts which gives them a new lease of life as they reach a whole new audience. This song was written in 1963 by Edward Pola and George Wyle and was recorded and released that year by Andy Williams for his first Christmas album. It was not released as a single as they had already opted to promote his cover of "White Christmas" as the official promotional single from the album. The song is a celebration and description of activities associated with the Christmas season, focusing primarily on get-togethers between friends and families. Among the activities included in the song is the telling of "scary ghost stories," a Victorian Christmas tradition that survives in the popularity of numerous adaptations of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol". Other activities mention spontaneous visits from friends, spending time with loved ones, sledding for children, kissing under the mistletoe and singing Christmas carols in inclement weather. There was a return to the UK charts for this song in December 2007, thanks to an advertisement for Marks & Spencer. It has been arranged for brass band by Rijks van der Velde and features the horn section.

Another example of television's influence is "Somewhere Only We Know". This was a song performed and composed by English alternative rock band Keane, officially released as their third commercial single, and appearing as the opening track of their debut studio album, *Hopes and Fears* (2004). In 2013, Lily Allen released a cover version of the song and this was selected as the soundtrack to the John Lewis 2013 'The Bear and The Hare' Christmas television campaign. The song reached number one in the UK Singles Chart, becoming her third number-one single. Our arrangement is by Steve Earley and features the flugel horn.

Next in our new pieces is "Lonely This Christmas" arranged as a euphonium solo by Darrol Barry. Many (including myself!) wrongly associate this song with Elvis Presley but it was actually recorded by the glam rock band Mud. They were influenced by 1950s rock and roll, and are best remembered for their hit single "Tiger Feet", which was the UK's best-selling single of 1974. "Lonely This Christmas" reached Christmas number 1 in December 1974 and was written in the style of a slow ballad similar to that performed by Elvis in the latter stages of his career. "Lonely This Christmas" gets plenty of seasonal airplay on radio and television, along with Slade's "Merry Xmas Everybody" and Wizzard's "I Wish It Could Be Christmas Everyday".

With all the arrangements of popular songs it is also nice to play original music written specifically for the brass band. One of these is "Christmas Scene" written by Gavin Somerset. This is a festive number that sees an original theme interspersed with many festive favourites appearing in an unfamiliar manner. This would make for a good "Spot the carol" quiz. There is a feel of the Christmas spirit to be found in this work and it gives the percussion section plenty to do.

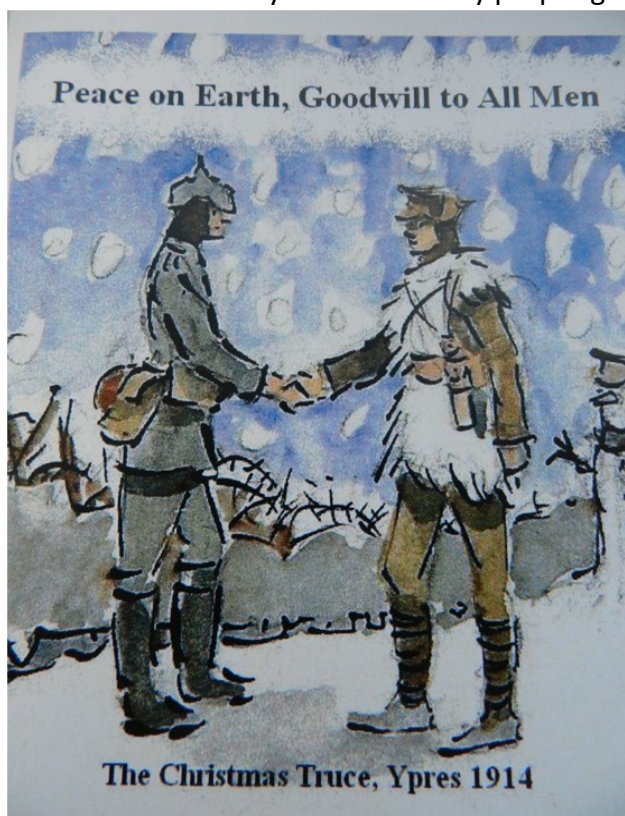
John Lee has been kept busy over the past couple of years arranging entertaining new items for the Band to perform and for this Christmas has produced "On Christmas Night". Based on the Sussex Carol (On Christmas Night All Christians Sing to hear the news the Angels bring), John has produced another gem with the tune being heard in a variety of styles and time signatures. With clock chimes at the beginning and a bit of "Auld Lang Syne" at the end this is a welcome addition to our repertoire.



Christmas 1914

Over the past months we have been commemorating the 100th anniversary of the start of the Great War. It was at Christmas in the first year of that terrible war that something remarkable occurred. As families all over Europe were gathering together to celebrate the festive period, many of their men were in a foreign country far away from their loved ones. The early mobile months of the war had turned into a stalemate with the opposing sides now dug into trenches along the Western Front within sight and hearing of each other. No doubt all thoughts were of home as they faced a dangerous and uncertain future without any of the peace or goodwill that you would normally encounter at this time of the year.

On Christmas Eve, British soldiers could hear music floating across no-man's land. The German soldiers were singing Christmas Carols. Although the words would have been alien to the average soldier, the tunes being sung were very familiar, 'Silent Night' and 'O Come All Ye Faithful' amongst them. The British troops applauded the Germans and then sang one of their own carols. The Germans showed their appreciation and cautiously an unofficial truce pushed thoughts of war aside. Leaving their weapons behind, soldiers from both sides climbed out of the trenches to meet their enemies. In the real spirit of Christmas they greeted each other and exchanged gifts of cigarettes, food and drink. They wore each other's caps and helmets and swapped uniform buttons as a souvenir of this strange encounter. Of course there would have been language problems, but they managed to communicate and showed each other photographs of their families and loved ones who they were all so far away from. This was not an isolated incident; similar ones were being reported up and down the front line. There were even reports of football matches being played although this could only have been a kick about with any object that may have been available, for instance a sandbag or ball improvised out of clothing. The churned up ground of no-man's land would have made it very difficult for any proper game to have been possible.



Christmas 1914 (Cont'd...)

Eventually the soldiers reluctantly returned to their trenches and were left to reflect on the strangest Christmas any of them were likely to experience. The truce held for a couple of days and in some places for two weeks.

The soldiers sent letters home to their families, even a few pictures, describing this extraordinary thing they had done. The families forwarded the letters to the newspapers. But the newspapers would not print them. It was wartime and soldiers were not supposed to be peaceful so the higher authorities tried to pretend it had all been made up by traitors. Not until a soldier's letter was sent overseas and printed by The New York Times did the barricade break, and papers in both England and Germany began to print the soldiers' stories. Even with letters and pictures, the Christmas truce has been questioned from the start as something that could not possibly have happened, at least, not the way the soldiers said it did. But the soldiers were the ones who were there and witnessed the events. The Christmas Truce was a celebration of the human spirit and showed up the absurdities of war. Frederick Niven a Scottish poet of the Great War summed it up neatly in his "A Carol from Flanders", the closing lines of which were

*O ye who read this truthful rime
from Flanders, kneel and say:
God speed the time when every day
shall be as Christmas Day.*

Postscript

I didn't know when I wrote the preceding article that Sainsburys had chosen this story as the theme for their Christmas television advertising campaign. This is easily the best Christmas advert of the year as it really connects with the British public and has a central message about sharing too. The timing of its release in November was perfect too. The music used is "Leaning On The Everlasting Arms" a hymn I knew well and often sung in my early days. It was published in America 1887 with music by the Anthony J. Showalter and lyrics by Showalter and Elisha Hoffman. Showalter wrote the lyrics to the refrain and asked Hoffman to write the remaining lyrics.

*What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.*

Refrain:

*Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.*

Meanwhile the Tesco Christmas advert for 2014 features a festive light show created by the team responsible for the London 2012 opening ceremony. The 60-second ad is set to a brass band cover of Irene Cara's "What A Feeling" and shows families decorating their homes ahead of a light show finale filmed at Tesco's Wigan store. I wonder if we will be playing an arrangement of this next year!

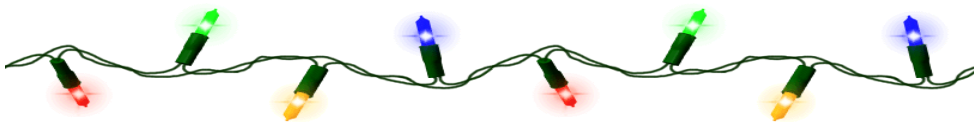
Festive Fun!

Christmas Song Quiz



Can you work out the titles of the following songs and carols?

- 1 I merely desire a pair of incisors
- 2 Yonder in the haystack
- 3 Assemble, everyone who believes
- 4 Decorate the passage with branches of evergreen sprigs.
- 5 Ancient benevolent despot
- 6 Listen, aerial spirits harmonizing
- 7 I spied my maternal parent osculating a fat man in red
- 8 Fantasies of a colourless December 25th
- 9 It's starting to appear extremely similar to December 25th.
- 10 Exuberance directed to this planet
- 11 Hallowed post meridian
- 12 Miniscule hamlet in the far east
- 13 Bopping while circling the Tannenbaum...
- 14 Quadruped with crimson proboscis
- 15 5 p.m. to 6 a.m. without noise
- 16 Percussion instruments jingle, are you harking...
- 17 A dozen 24-hour Yule periods
- 18 Once upon a misty night prior to Christ's birthday.
- 19 Monarchial trio
- 20 Ourselves bid yourselves a joyous Noel and a cheerful neoteric 365 days...



Festive Fun!

Wordsearch

A	T	N	A	S	Z	D	F	M	R	E	T	N	I	W
N	M	I	S	T	L	E	T	O	E	S	U	L	V	R
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ANGEL

FESTIVE

MISTLETOE

SLEIGH

BELLS

GIFT

NUTCRACKER

TINSEL

CAROLS

HOLLY

POINSETTIA

TURKEY

CHRISTMAS

IVY

RUDOLPH

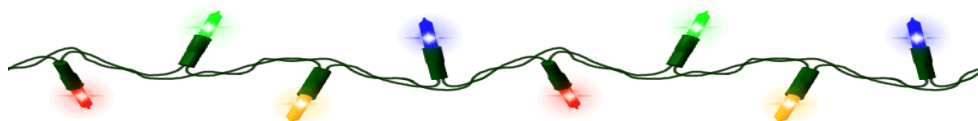
WINTER

ELVES

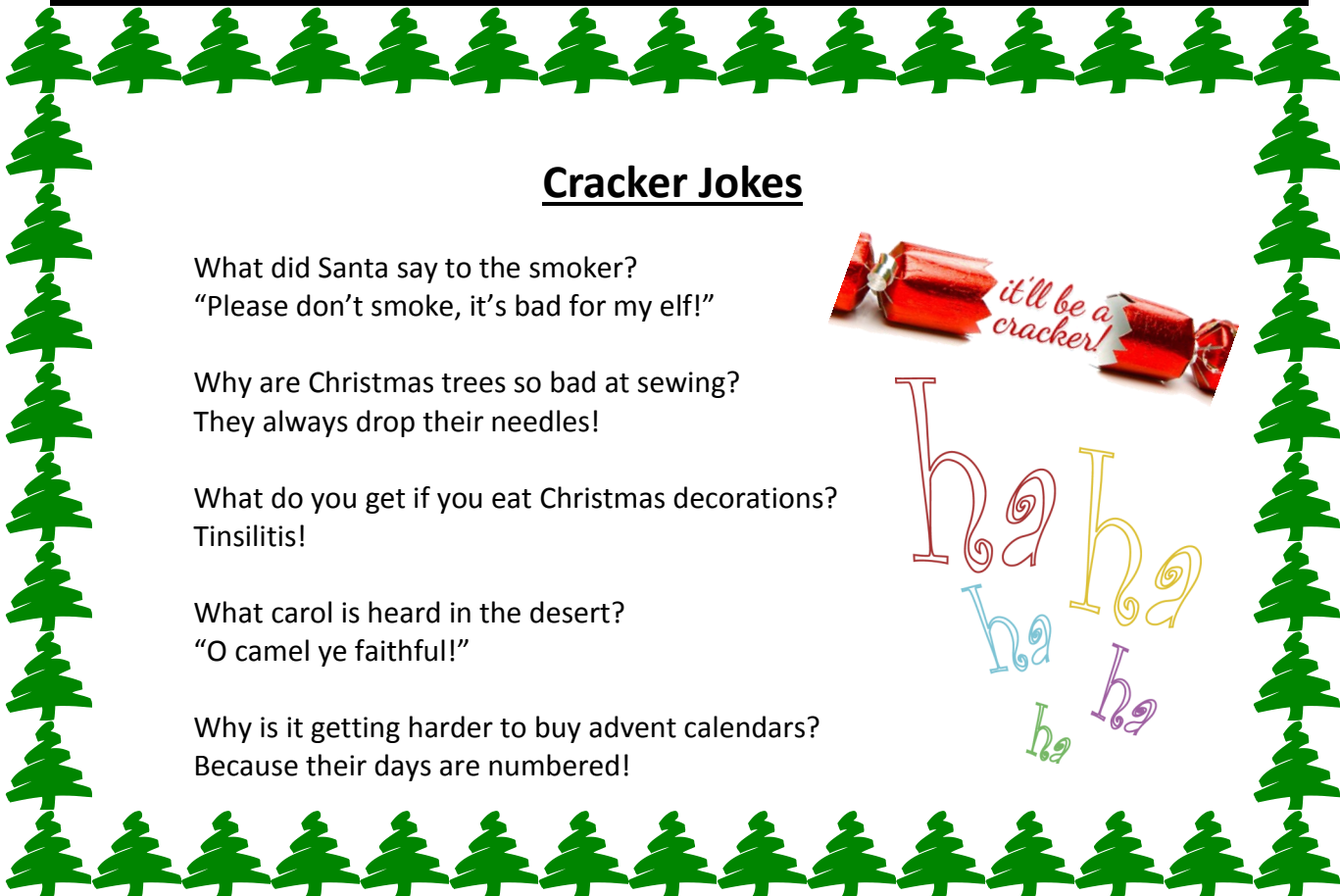
JINGLE BELLS

SANTA

WREATH



Festive Fun!



Cracker Jokes

What did Santa say to the smoker?
 "Please don't smoke, it's bad for my elf!"



Why are Christmas trees so bad at sewing?
 They always drop their needles!



What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?
 Tinsilitis!

What carol is heard in the desert?
 "O camel ye faithful!"

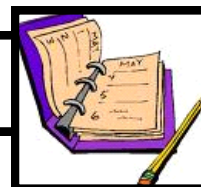
Why is it getting harder to buy advent calendars?
 Because their days are numbered!

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
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<i>Website:</i>		www.bradwellband.co.uk

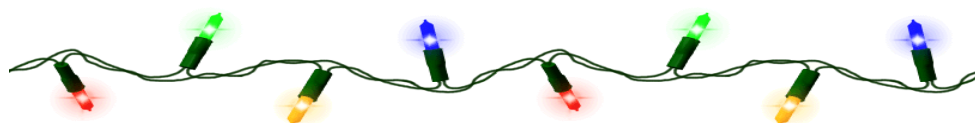
Christmas Schedule 2014



The dates in red will need collectors. We can put a full band out for these jobs but if we don't have collectors to take the money all that effort is wasted!

* *TBC*

	<u>December</u>	
Monday 1st	Bradwell W.I. Carols & Readings	7.30pm
Thursday 4th	Two Mile Ash School Concert, Stantonbury Theatre	7.30pm
Friday 5th	Bucks W.I Carols & Readings, Aylesbury	7.30pm
Saturday 6th	St James Christmas Tree Festival <i>(small group)</i>	2-3pm
Tuesday 9th	New Bradwell Street Carols <i>(meet at school)</i>	*7-9pm
Wednesday 10th	Carols, Chadwick Drive <i>(small group)</i>	7.30pm
Friday 12th	Big Local Carol Singing & Lantern Parade, Conniburrow	6.30pm
Tuesday 16th	Bradville Street Carols <i>(meet at Halley's Comet)</i>	7-9pm
Saturday 20th	St James Church Christmas Concert <i>(Please note that this is a revised date from that previously advertised.)</i>	7.30pm
Sunday 21st	Side Club Christmas Concert, New Bradwell	7.45pm
Wednesday 24th	New Bradwell Street Carols <i>(meet at school)</i>	7-9pm
Thursday 25th	Christmas Day Carolling, Clocktower—New Bradwell	6-9am





Bradwell Silver Band

2015

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