



The Bradwell Bugle

Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band



December 2015

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From the Editor

Hi Everyone!

So here we are in December and the Band goes into overdrive with a busy programme of Christmas concerts and street carolling. Details on all the engagements follow and don't forget that we would welcome volunteers to help with the collecting.

Please let Robin our secretary know in advance if and when you are available, that way we can make sure we have sufficient collectors for each of these events.

Many congratulations to three of the younger members of the band, Louis for passing his grade 8 examination, Toby for his grade 7 and to Evan for his Grade 4.

My thanks go to Sam and John for their contributions to this month's newsletter.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year!

Sarah-Jayne



Fundraising

As our Treasurer Karen said at the AGM, this is probably a good time of the year to remind you about easyfundraising.org.uk.

If you do any of your shopping on-line you can get the Band donations from the retailers. It costs YOU nothing - just use their search engine when you search the internet or shop online from retailers such as Amazon, Tesco, John Lewis, Argos, B&Q and hundreds of others. Once you are registered, the band gets a small donation every time you buy something! It's easy to set up - go to the website easyfundraising.org.uk and you will be guided through the simple process. This has helped raise over £200 to date towards Band funds.

Go on - DO IT NOW!!!

www.bradwellband.co.uk

AGM

A brief report on proceedings and not the official minutes!

Bradwell Silver Band held its Annual General Meeting on Thursday 19th November. There was a very good attendance boosted by parents and members of the Development Band. The minutes of last year's meeting and balance sheet were distributed before Secretary Robin Allen opened proceedings and invited the Band's President Peter Blake to share his thoughts. Peter said there were many positives to be taken from the past twelve months and congratulated the committee on securing the grants for new uniforms and a trailer. Musical Director Brian Keech was next to speak and he summarised the playing activities over the past twelve months. There was a lot of positive feedback from audiences although we struggled to achieve continuity with the playing line-up. For some jobs we had a third of the membership missing and Brian urged members to speak to the committee if they have any comments on the number of engagements undertaken.

In his report Band Chairman James Lawrie said he felt it had been a good year with lots of changes and looks forward to an exciting 2016 which will include playing at the Ironbridge festival.

Robin Allen reported that the Secretary's job was a difficult one and asked for more feedback and response from the members to make his task a bit easier. Having been forced on the sidelines for 6 weeks following an accident, Robin was impressed with watching the Band at the St. James Concert in October. He reminded us that we need to be performers as well as musicians.

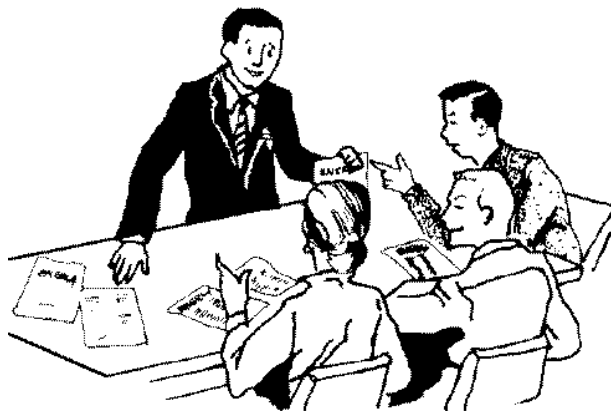
Treasurer Karen Wilson reported on a successful financial year and said we should all be proud of being part of a special organisation. With the reports completed the next item on the Agenda was the election of officers for the coming year. These were as follows.

Committee

Musical Director: Brian Keech
 Chairperson: James Lawrie
 Secretary: Robin Allen
 Treasurer: Karen Wilson
 Librarian: Sam Allen

Committee Members

Steph Chappell
 Maria Belton
 Jemma Day
 Adam Chappell (Dev Band representative)



Non-Committee Positions

Press Officer: Steph Chappell
 Newsletter Editor: Sarah-Jayne Edwards
 Webmaster: Fraser Cousins
 Quartermaster: Jemma Day

We thank these members for agreeing to be on the committee and let's all do our best to support them as the Band moves forward into 2016.

In Any Other Business Sam spoke about the need to have more helpers for the Development Band. With record numbers of learners we could do with some more of the experienced players to help with the teaching.

What's On!...December

Where you can see and hear Bradwell Silver Band this month:

Saturday 5th December

St. James Church Christmas Tree Festival

A variety of local musicians will be playing and singing throughout the day, Bradwell Silver Band will be performing from 2:30 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. Tea and coffee available Entrance £2, Children free
All donations for refreshments will go to the upkeep of the church.

Saturday 12th December

Parish Church Newport Pagnell

Carols and Brass with the Newport Pagnell Singers who are an enthusiastic and friendly choir that enjoy singing a wide range of music. They are a well-established choir and support local charities with regular concerts. See poster for details on tickets.

Saturday 19th December

Christmas Concert in St. James New Bradwell Starts 7:30 p.m.

A concert full of festive music, with the opportunity to sing some of your favourite carols. There will also be a performance from the Development Band.

Sunday 20th December

Stantonbury Social Club, New Bradwell Starts 7:45p.m.

Get in the mood for Christmas with an evening of all the seasonal favourites and a visit from Santa himself!

Tickets are only available through the club. Last year was a sell-out with people being turned away at the door.

In addition to these dates the Band will also be out and about street carolling, see engagement list for more details.



Engagement Reports - Keith Jones

Sunday 8th November Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service New Bradwell

The Bradwell Silver Band was proud to again be part of the annual Remembrance Sunday organised by the local branch of the British Legion. For the time of year it was a mild but quite windy day. The rain that had fallen earlier fortunately went away and the decision was taken to wear uniform jackets for the march down to the Clock Tower, the march used for this was "Washing On The Siegfried Line".

On arrival at the Clock Tower the rest of the parade formed up behind the band and when the word of command was given we marched the short distance into the Newport Road and came to a halt alongside the Clock Tower which is New Bradwell's memorial to the 15 local men who lost their lives in the Second World War. The Clock Tower was completed and dedicated in 1962 after years of fundraising with the original intention to build a memorial hall similar to the one in Old Bradwell. No suitable land was available for its construction and the Clock Tower was built instead with the Council responsible for preparing the adjacent flower beds. Built of bricks, it stands just over 9 metres in height and has the following inscription:

**BRITISH LEGION NEW BRADWELL & DISTRICT BRANCH
IN MEMORIAM
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**

The Reverend Paul Smith led the short service of remembrance during which Tug superbly sounded the Last Post and after a period of silence Reveille.

The Band played Supreme Sacrifice during the laying of the wreathes, one of which was laid on behalf of the Band by our President Peter Blake. After two verses of the National Anthem the parade reformed we set off for St. James Church appropriately playing the "British Legion March".

The Church service began with the Vicar introducing the Reverend Nicola Martyn-Beck as the new Methodist minister of St. James Ecumenical Church New Bradwell, and also the Methodist Churches of Newport Pagnell, Woburn Sands and Hanslope.

After words of welcome the congregation faced the rear of the Church as the names on the War Memorial were read out. Tug was again called upon to sound the Last Post and the Reveille.

The Band accompanied all the hymns today, the first of which was "All People That On Earth Do Dwell" during which the standards are advanced to the Altar.

After the Bible reading, the Vicar gave a sermon which had a particular reference to the devastation caused by the bombing raids on Coventry. He went on to tell how the new cathedral was built alongside the remains of the old one. Benjamin Britten had been commissioned to write music for the consecration of the new Coventry Cathedral and the result was The War Requiem. Britten chose to use the traditional Latin Mass for the Dead interwoven with poems about war by the English poet Wilfred Owen. Owen was killed in action on 4 November 1918 just one week before the Armistice and although virtually unknown at the time of his death, he has subsequently come to be revered as one of the great war poets.

The second hymn was "Now Thank We All Our God" during which a collection was made and presented to the minister. There followed the prayers for peace and for those who suffered as a result of war. The final hymn was "Shine Jesus Shine" during which the standards were returned to the rear of the Church. This was immediately followed by two verses of the National Anthem. After a final blessing the Band played "Nimrod" as the congregation made their way out of the Church.

The Mayor of Milton Keynes, Councillor Keith McClean spoke to our Musical Director Brian Keech and said how good it was to see the Band always willing to support the other local organisations and the community.

Development Band

Saturday 28th November Christmas Food & Craft Fair Stantonbury

Stantonbury Leisure Centre was hosting a Christmas Craft and Food Fair and there were nearly 60 stalls set up in the Sports Hall selling everything from turkeys to teddies. Other attractions included Santa's Grotto, a Merry Go-Round, Face Painting and set up just outside was The English School of Falconry Display Team from The Bird of Prey Centre in Bedfordshire.

The Development Band had been invited to present a programme of music to provide entertainment for the people visiting the fair as well as the stall holders and staff. We were asked to set up in the main reception area and not to put too fine a point on it we were a bit short of space! We are victims of our own success in having record numbers of learners. We did the job two years ago but only had around 16 players, this time we had 25. The percussion equipment needed to be set up before we could arrange the rest of the seating. We were originally given the adjacent office to store empty cases but a different member of the leisure centre staff changed their minds and we had to empty that room and use another some distance away. Finally - and with a good deal of patience - we managed to set ourselves up in an unusual format, making the best use of the space available whilst observing the need to keep the lift doors clear.



Not surprisingly the first item we played had a bit of a tentative opening as the players got used to the unfamiliar formation but we soon adapted and went on to give a very good performance. We opened with "March: Christmas Carols" and played the carol "Good King Wenceslas". "Surprise Symphony" lived up to its title before we went back up tempo with "Merry Christmas Calypso". We then featured Jennifer on Eb Bass with "Nellie The Elephant" and very well played it was too. Well done Jennifer. We followed this with "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" before another traditional Carol in "Silent Night". "Jingle Bell Boogie" was next up and the audience really enjoyed this. The carol "We Three Kings" was followed by a debut public performance of "Pastime With Good Company". The last carol to be played was "Hark The Herald Angels Sing" and then final piece of the concert was "Happy Christmas Wanderer". The tune is taken from the "Happy Wanderer" but we use words from some well loved carols. To show how this goes those not playing sing the opening verse and we have some lovely and enthusiastic voices amongst our players.

That completed the playing and there was a good team effort displayed in getting the kit packed away and carried back to Robin's car. Despite the difficult position we were asked to perform in, it had been a very worthwhile exercise. We like to give our developing players the opportunity of playing in public as this gives them invaluable experience in performing. This means playing at all manner of venues and in different surroundings. Today's performance was to an ever changing audience as they arrived and were leaving the main hall. We are very fortunate to have an excellent group who all get on and help each other.

Development Band (Cont'd...)

Special thanks to Robin for bringing the percussion kit, music stands and banners. Thank you to Sam who stood in on tenor horn today and to Steph who multi-tasked by playing and being the door minder for the lift users. Thanks also to the parents who made sure the youngsters were there on time and looking very smart.

I had some very nice comments from people who had listened to the band including the leisure centre's own staff. They were especially pleased to see how many youngsters we have in our ranks and how they all seemed to be enjoying their music making.

Well done everyone and we look forward to our next appearance in St. James on the 19th December.



(Photo courtesy of Sarah Gates)



Development Band (Cont'd...)

On the 7th and 8th of November two of our talented Development Band members focused on their other talents as they travelled to the Winter Gardens in Blackpool to compete against dancers from all round the country in the IDTA Nationwide Medallist of the Year. They danced through several rounds against around 80 other couples in the Under 9's Rock n Roll category and made it into the final round! Jess and her partner Sam finished in 5th place and Pedro, alongside his partner Ella, came 2nd. These results mean that both couples currently rank in the top 5 Rock n Roll couples in the country. This is a huge achievement and we are very proud of them!



Jess and Sam with their 5th place trophies.



Pedro and Ella with their 2nd place trophies.

Because of the Senior Band's concert with Two Mile Ash School, there will only be two more rehearsals for the Development Band this year on the 10th and the 17th of December when we will be putting the finishing touches to our performance in St. James's. The first rehearsal in the New Year will be on Thursday 7th January.



A Short History On Christmas Cards

One of the great traditions of Christmas is sending and receiving Christmas cards. This has its origins in the 1840s when Christmas cards as we know them today were first commercially available. The first greeting cards were for New Year established in the 15th century. They were printed from wood-blocks and it was initially a custom between businesses and their customers. By the late 1700s, the public joined in with this practice sending personal greetings to their friends and family.

The first official Christmas card was created in 1843 by Sir Henry Cole, director of London's Victoria and Albert Museum. He started off by writing letters on decorative paper on which he hand wrote greetings and good wishes to his family and acquaintances. As a busy and important man, Cole found this to be to be a time consuming task so he commissioned an artist friend, John Calcott Horsley, to create a card with a simple message that could be duplicated and sent to all of those on his Christmas list. Horsley lithographed and hand-coloured 1,000 copies of this first commercial card. It was a three-panel card – the centre panel showed a family celebrating and the two wing panels depicted people feeding the hungry and clothing the poor. The card bore the simple greeting, "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You," which would become the standard sentiment of the mass-produced Christmas cards. These were sold at one shilling each (5p in today's coinage).



Christmas cards were quite elaborate and though the lithograph printing process helped in producing more cards, the cost confined it to the wealthier families who could afford them. The first Christmas card was not an instant success, even bringing about disapproval from the temperance league who feared the card would encourage drunkenness.

The development and improvement of the postal system inspired by Rowland Hill made sending items by post more affordable and was an important part in the rise of popularity in sending Christmas cards. Early cards were not necessarily religious and had images such as flowers, birds and scenery.

A Short History On Christmas Cards

In 1875, Louis Prang introduced the commercial Christmas card to the United States. Prang, a German lithographer, had developed a new innovative way of printing that made the process of creating Christmas and other cards much simpler and more affordable. Like our own Christmas cards, Prang's included various images that were simply pretty and tasteful, not truly having much to do with Christmas or even necessarily winter. However, some cards did include holly, snow and some other wintery or Christmas images. His cards became extremely popular in the U.S.; his company printed almost five million cards a year by 1881. Prang's cards were of exceptional quality and used quality materials which meant that the cards were somewhat pricey. As America became infatuated with sending Christmas cards, other companies began to flood the market with cheaper imitations. So much so that by 1890, Prang was driven out of the market completely and his card-manufacturing company closed.

In more recent times of course the sending of actual Christmas cards has declined somewhat because of the widespread use of electronic mail through the Internet. Many people send "E-Greetings" or "E-Cards", sometimes with music and animation, sent via e-mail. However, many people still choose to send real Christmas cards, with close to 2 billion Christmas cards being sent each year in America alone. In the UK, Christmas cards account for almost half of the volume of greeting card sales, with an estimated 670 million sold annually.

Nowadays, cards have all sorts of pictures on them, some religious while others use Father Christmas and of course the inevitable snow scene. Charities often sell their own cards as a way of raising money. These cards can be considerably cheaper than the cost of postage!

Then of course after Christmas you have to think about what you are going to do with them. Some of you may cut out the pictures to be used for gift tags next Christmas but most of them will be thrown away. We are much more aware of recycling these days and in Milton Keynes the pink sacks will be the best option. Alternatively some of the leading retail businesses encourage people to place their unwanted cards in special boxes at their stores. The Woodland Trust will receive a donation based on the amount of cards collected in store for recycling. Every 1,000 cards equates to one new native tree being planted, meaning, if the target of 10 million cards recycled is hit, over 10,000 new trees will be planted throughout the UK. So don't just throw them away!



Christmas Is Coming...

Many thanks to those of you who entered my little Christmas quiz. I hope you found it fun?

The answers to the anagrams are as follows:

1. GOOD KING WENCESLAS
2. AWAY IN A MANGER
3. SILENT NIGHT
4. FROSTY THE SNOWMAN
5. WHITE CHRISTMAS

The randomly selected winner is:

.....*drum roll*.....

Maggie Snape

A very well done to you Maggie! I will be in touch with you shortly to arrange delivery of your Christmas goodies.



Christmas Is Coming...

A Bradwell Tradition

**It's not yet six on Christmas morn
A frosty rime spangling the snoring town
Though here and there wide eyed youngsters
Already awake
Are staring into the dark
Wondering 'is it time yet?'
Beyond their cosy rooms – as every year
Swathed and shadowy figures creep through the streets
They mumble greetings, cough
Breathe through reluctant instruments and gather
Each wondering at this hour why they do this
Assembled at the starting point
The same place every year for a century and more
They await the signal
A clock strikes six - the band strikes up
'Christians Awake Salute The happy Dawn'
And Christian or not, the children's hearts leap
Shrieks go up – 'They're here – It's come again!'
As freezing mist swirls and weary parents groan
Older residents smile and reminisce....
And here and there shadowy faint ghosts
Bradwell's Edwardian bandmen
Nod in approval
To see this - which they started - still alive**

John Lee

Future Engagements



	<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 (Tesco Kingston)	(Group 1) 11am-1pm (Group 2) 2pm-4pm
Monday 7th	Bradwell WI Christmas Concert	7.30pm
Friday 11th	Conniburrow Carols (Small Group)	6pm
Saturday 12th	Newport Pagnell Singers (Sat down ready for rehearsal!)	6.30pm
Tuesday 15th	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
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<i>Quartermaster</i>	Jemma Day	-
<i>Website:</i>		www.bradwellband.co.uk





CAROLS & BRASS

Newport Pagnell Singers

with

Bradwell Silver Band

SATURDAY

12 DECEMBER, 7:30PM

NEWPORT PAGNELL PARISH CHURCH

TICKETS: £10

Available from
Wilson's, Olney

Cambourne Travel, NP

newportpagnellsingers.co.uk



Connells

01908 610805

NP
Singers
Reg Char No:
279702

Charity of the year: Friends of Willen Hospice



Saturday
19th December
from 7:30pm

St. James Church, New Bradwell.

BRADWELL
SILVER *In*
BAND *Concert*

TICKETS: £7.50
CONCESSIONS: £6



LOTTERY FUNDED

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