



# The Bradwell Bugle



Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band

December 2017

## Inside this issue:

Editors Note	1
AGM	2
What's On!	3
Engagement Report	4-5
Development Band	6
New Year Social	7
All Our Yesterdays	8
Future Engagements	9
Advertisement	10-12

## From the Editor

Hi Everyone!

So here we are in the final month of 2017 and the Band has a busy programme of Christmas concerts and street carolling ahead. Details on all the engagements follow and don't forget that we would welcome volunteers to help with the street 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.

May I wish all of you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

*Sarah-Jayne*



**\*\*\*TIME TO SAVE THE DATE\*\*\***

**BRADWELL SILVER BAND ARE PLANNING  
A NEW YEAR SOCIAL ON  
20<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2018 AT  
MILTON KEYNES VILLAGE HALL  
WITH LIVE MUSIC FROM BRIGHTON RIOT**

**[See Page 7 for more information!](#)**

## AGM



A brief report on proceedings and not the official minutes!

Bradwell Silver Band held its Annual General Meeting on Thursday 16th November. There was a good attendance and the minutes of last year's meeting and balance sheet were distributed before Secretary Robin Allan opened proceedings by inviting the Band's President Peter Blake to share his thoughts.

Peter said it had been a good year with his highlight being the Boobs and Brass Concert and to raise in excess of £4,000.00 was a wonderful effort. Musical Director Brian Keech was next to deliver his report and he summarised the playing activities over the past twelve months starting with last Christmas which went very well. Brian felt that our preparation for the area contest had been better this year and the good result reflected this. We did not have so many engagements and early on there had been some performances which fell below the standard expected of us. There was happily an improvement as the year progressed and Brian's personal highlight was the concert at the home of the Chelsea Pensioners. Brian thanked the committee for their efforts and Sam our librarian in particular for sorting out the music.

In his report Band Chairman James Lawrie said he felt it had been a good year and then it was secretary Robin Allen's turn to speak. Robin said the Band continues to be popular with organisers and we had already have bookings for next year as they are anxious for the Band to be part of their event. Robin thanked his fellow committee members for their work over the past twelve months but said communication with band members had sometimes been difficult. He asked that all members respond to requests and e-Mails in a more timely manner so that appropriate arrangements can be put in place. Robin asked members to convey his thanks to their families for their indulgence and support for the Band's activities for another year.

Treasurer Karen Wilson reported on the financial year and said income had fallen as we only had eight paid engagements in the past twelve months as against 12 in the previous year. We now know the final figure raised from the concert with Boobs and Brass and Karen thanked Helen for her tremendous work in helping organise the event and securing sponsorship.

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, Orla Howell, Adam Chappell

### Non-Committee Positions

Press Officer: Steph Chappell  
Newsletter Editor: Sarah-Jayne Edwards  
Quartermaster: Adam Chappell

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 2018.

## What's On!...December

### Where you can see and hear the Band in December

St James' Church  
New Bradwell  
Christmas tree Festival  
Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> & Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>  
December



Opening on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup>  
at 11.30am  
Closing at 6.00pm

Open on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>  
from Midday  
Café Carols from 4.00pm  
Closing at 6.00pm

A variety of music and refreshments throughout.  
Entrance £2.50 per adult, children free.

**Band Playing Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> 14:00-14:45**

**Angels at the Abbey**



10th December 2017, 11am - 4pm  
Choirs, Bands, Crafts, Christmas Fayre,  
Mulled Wine and Santa's Grotto  
A festive arcade of gifts, refreshments and amusements

Free Entry

Come for the day or pop in for a cheeky mulled wine and mince pie at MKCDC's annual Christmas event.

Listen to the little angels of Milton Keynes' local schools sing Christmas songs and carols \* Be welcomed by the warming sound of the Bradwell Silver Band \* Warm the soul with warm mulled wine \* Visit Santa Claus in his Grotto \* Revel in the bustle of a Christmas market \* Meet with Friends \* Make new friends \* And most importantly "Eat Drink & Be Merry"

The day is free and there is ample parking on the adjoining industrial estate. There is limited parking on the actual Abbey site itself so please keep this for the less-abled.

Milton Keynes City Discovery Centre is a local educational charity that provides talks, workshops and experience days on the historical and geographical past, present and future of Milton Keynes.

**Group from the Band playing 12:00-12:30 & 13:00-13:30**

**\*\*Please see the "Future Engagements" list on Page 9 and also the "Advertisements" on Pages 10, 11 & 12 for more December engagements and details.\*\***

## Engagement Report

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November Remembrance Parade & Service New Bradwell

It was a cold but dry day as the Band gathered at the school in Bounty Street to get ready for their participation in the annual Remembrance Parade and Service held in New Bradwell and organised by local branch of the British Legion. The Royal British Legion is the national custodian of Remembrance, a role which ensures that those who gave their lives for peace and freedom are remembered. The act of observing a Two Minute Silence began in 1919 following the Armistice at 11.00am on 11 November 1918, at the end of the WWI. In 1921, the year the Legion was formed, 'Armistice Day' was formally adopted as the national day of Remembrance. The Legion was charged in its Royal Charter with organising 'Festivals of Remembrance services' and parades to perpetuate the memory of sacrifices made during Service with our Armed Forces in war and peace. Ever since the Legion has been responsible for organising national, regional and local ceremonies of Remembrance to reflect the nation's concern that the human cost of war should not be forgotten.

We waited to see if we were going to get a police escort but this didn't happen so with President Peter Blake at the head of the Band we set off for the short march to the Clock tower playing the march "Slaiburn". On arrival we found the rest of the parade already assembled. There is usually a gap between the Band's arrival and the parade moving off so this year we filled that by playing some music that is traditionally played at the Cenotaph in Whitehall before the service starts. We played "Isle of Beauty" and "Oft In The Stilly Night" and this helped to set the tone for the service to come. When the parade marshall was happy all was ready he gave the command to march and we led columns into Newport Road and came to a halt by the clock tower.

The short Act of Remembrance service was led by the Vicar of St. James, the Reverend Paul Smith. The parade was brought to attention for the exhortation to be read:-

*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.*

Tug performed the "Last Post" and then after the two minutes silence "Reveille".

The inscription from the Kohima Memorial was then read:-

*When You Go Home,  
Tell Them Of Us And Say,  
For Your Tomorrow,  
We Gave Our Today*

This was followed by the laying of wreathes by representatives of the various groups involved including one by our President on behalf of the Band. During this the Band played "Supreme Sacrifice" a hymn remembering the fallen of the First World War with words from a poem by Sir John Stanhope Arkwright. The opening verse is

*O valiant hearts who to your glory came  
Through dust of conflict and through battle flame;  
Tranquil you lie, your knightly virtue proved,  
Your memory hallowed in the land you loved.*

Following some prayers the parade was brought to attention for two verses of the National Anthem to be played. After a final blessing the parade re-formed for the march to the Parish Church of St. James. We played the march "The British Legion" for this and came to a halt in Church Street.

## Engagement Report

We took our places inside the Church to provide music for the service and to accompany the hymn singing. Sadly our Musical Director Brian Keech was unable to take part today as his leg injury makes it very difficult for him to stand for any length of time. This was the first time in nearly forty years that Brian had not been present at this important event in the Band's calendar. The conducting duties were passed on to Keith who had chosen to play "Solemn Melody" as the congregation gathered. Since 1930 this has been an ever present in the selection of national airs and mourning music performed on Remembrance Sunday at the Cenotaph, Whitehall. It was written by Sir Henry Walford Davies who had served with the Royal Air Force during the First World War and also composed the Royal Air Force March Past.

The congregation were welcomed to the Service by Paul Smith and asked to turn and face the rear of the Church as the names of those who had lost their lives in the service of their country were read out. There are over one hundred names on the memorial, eighty six of whom died in the First World War. It is almost impossible for us to understand what a major impact this would have had in the community, so many young men joined up for patriotic reasons and lost their lives on foreign soil. Many of the names read out are still familiar in the area

After the exhortation Tug was called upon again to perform "Last Post" and then "Reveille". We were to accompany all of the hymns today, the first being "All People That On Earth Do Dwell" during which the standards were carried to the altar.

After a reading from the Gospel the Reverend Nicola Martyn-Beck gave the sermon. The second hymn was "For The Healing Of The Nations" and after prayers were offered the final hymn was "I Cannot Tell" which is sung to the familiar tune of the "Londonderry Air" or as it is most often referred to "Danny Boy".

The standards returned to the back of the Church and there were two verses of National Anthem. After the final; blessing the Band played "Let There Be Peace On Earth" followed by the hymn tune "Peace".

So the Band's involvement in the annual Act of Remembrance was over for another year. This brings the whole community together and there were hundreds of people present at the Clock Tower to be part of this moving event. The parade itself was one of the longest in recent history including a contingent of regular soldiers from the Royal Logistic Corps who had travelled from their base in Oxfordshire to take part.

---

*I would like to put on record my sincere thanks to the band for leading our Remembrance Day Parade again this year and a very special thanks to David for his time at Bradwell Village and New Bradwell playing the Last Post and Reveille. Every year you support us and it means a great deal to us that you are there. Your band is second to none and I hope you will pass on my thanks and best wishes to all your members.*

*Sincerely*

*Peter Wilkinson  
Branch Secretary  
New Bradwell & District  
Royal British Legion*

## Development Band

The Development Group started Bradwell Silver Band's Christmas playing season by performing at the Craft and Food Fair held at the Stantonbury Leisure Centre. Outside the main entrance visitors were greeted by a fairground organ playing Christmas songs. Inside were some 80 stalls selling crafts and food and to keep the children happy there was a bouncy castle, face painting, model train layouts, craft activities, candy floss, striker game and not forgetting the most important thing of all, Santa's Grotto! Funds raised from these extra activities will be donated to this year's chosen charity, the British Heart Foundation.



*(Photo courtesy of David Allen)*

Even though we had a number of members unavailable for today's performance we still had 28 players. Under the direction of their Musical Director Keith Jones they performed a programme of mostly festive music. They opened with the "March –Christmas Carols" which contains a number of well loved carols. This was followed by "Ting-Aling-A- Jingle", a country and western type of waltz that was a popular song back at the beginning of the 1950s. The 16<sup>th</sup> century carol "Gaudete" provides a real challenge for the group (and the conductor!) as the time signature switches frequently from 4/4 to 5/4 but was very well played. Then came a simple arrangement of "Here Comes Santa Claus" and a traditional version of "We Three Kings".

Next was "Jingle Bell Boogie" which is always popular with the players and audience and this was followed by "Good King Wenceslas". We then used a couple of items from the last concert "La Mourisque" and "Mardi Gras". The penultimate item was "Il est né, le divin Enfant" (English: He is born, the divine Child) which is a traditional French Christmas carol and the finale was "Merry Christmas Calypso. At the end of the performance the group stood to acknowledge the applause from a large number of people who had stayed to listen. It had been a very good effort considering how little time we had to work on the music since the St. James Concert in October. It really helps the group to continue making progress by playing in public and gets them used to playing in differing venues. We thank all the parents for getting the youngsters there and for supporting their playing efforts. We are grateful to Luke Colvin for playing support today and thank Robin who also played and transported all of the equipment needed.

The Development Group now has 43 members, 38 of school age (with the youngest being 6 years old) and 5 adults. These players are the future of Bradwell Silver Band and they are now looking forward to playing in the Christmas Concert in St James where a number of them will be performing in public for the very first time. We have been very pleased to welcome Brin Carstens to our rehearsals. Following our appeal for more helpers Brin, who is one of the Band's Trustees, volunteered his services as a mentor and now sits in with the back row of the cornets assisting some of the newest members. This is greatly appreciated and we would welcome any other experienced players who could spare the extra hour on a Thursday to help those who are just beginning their musical journey. You won't have to teach but by being there you can help the youngsters navigate their way through the music and give them the confidence to play.

We do have outstanding enquiries from potential new members but we feel we cannot accept anymore until we have an increase in the number of helpers. Please speak with Keith, Steph or Sam if you are able to help us out in this very important work. With so many members at the weekly rehearsal things can get a bit hectic at times but seeing these learners eventually progress into the senior band is tremendously satisfying.

## ***New Year Social***

Hi Everyone,

After a busy successful summer and heading into a hectic Christmas season we have decided to organise a Band Social to enable us all to get together and let our hair down in the New Year.

**Milton Keynes Village Hall has been booked for the evening of Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2018** and there will be a live band 'Brighton Riot' (a Northamptonshire 4 piece band playing popular Mod and Rock songs) to provide the entertainment.

Everyone is asked to bring along their own alcoholic drinks (soft drinks will be supplied), along with an item or two of food for a 'Bring and share' buffet (sandwiches, sausage rolls, crisps, dessert etc).

**Cost for the evening will be £5 per person over the age of 16, £10 per family.** It should be noted that all children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult and it is hoped that everyone will bring along their families to say a big thank you to everyone involved in the band both directly and in support.

MK Village Hall has stipulated a limit of 100 so please confirm your attendance by responding to this email with number of people attending as places will be on a 'first come, first served' basis.

So before you've all spent up for Christmas and you want to book your place, make sure that **payment is made in an envelope with the band/dev band members name, number of people attending, and handed to either myself Karen Wilson or Steph Chappell by 31 Dec 2017.**

To recap:-

Date Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2018  
**Milton Keynes and Broughton Village Hall**  
Willen Road,  
Milton Keynes Village,  
MK10 9A

Looking forward to seeing you all there  
Karen x

## All Our Yesterdays

*The Wolverton Express - 5th May 1961*



### TWO DEDICATION SERVICES AT CASTLETHORPE

#### New memorial seat and women's standard

Probably the largest parade of ex-Service organisations to assemble in **Castlethorpe** marked two services of dedication in the village last Sunday afternoon. The Chaplain-in-Chief of the Royal Air Force, the **Ven, F. W. Cocks**, dedicated a new seat near to the war memorial in memory of the late **Wing-Cmdr. J. R. St. John**, and later dedicated the standard of the women's section of Castlethorpe British Legion.

The parade of 180 ex-Service men and members of the Women's Section of the British Legion marched through the village, headed by the Bradwell Silver Band, to the war memorial and garden of remembrance. 1`q

The seat bears the inscription: "To the memory of my husband, **Wing-Cmdr. J. R. (Bob) St. John D.S.O., D.F.C. and Bar, RAF.**, and to the everlasting memory of all the fallen. 'They served mankind. Themselves they scorned to save.'"

## Future Engagements



### DECEMBER

Friday 1st December	Stoke Goldington Hall ( <i>Small Group</i> )	21:00-21:30
Saturday 2nd December	Xmas Tree Festival @ St James Church, New Bradwell ( <i>Small Group</i> )	14:00-14:45
Thursday 7th December	Two Mile Ash Concert @ Stantonbury Theatre	19:30
Friday 8th December	Conniburrow ( <i>Small Group</i> )	19:00-20:00
Saturday 9th December	Newport Singers ( <i>Rehearsal at 18:00</i> )	<b>TBC PM</b>
Sunday 10th December	Discovery Centre ( <i>Small Group</i> )	12:00-12:30 13:00-13:30
“	Holy Cross, Two Mile Ash ( <i>Small Group</i> )	16:00
Saturday 16th December	Concert @ St James Church, New Bradwell	19:30
Sunday 17th December	Side Club, New Bradwell	19:45
Tuesday 19th December	Street Carolling, Bradville	19:00 (Stanton Crescent)
Thursday 21st December	Street Carolling, New Bradwell	19:00 (School)
Saturday 23rd December	Stony Stratford High Street	10:00-15:00
Sunday 24th December	Street Carolling, New Bradwell	19:00 (School)
Monday 25th December	Street Carolling New Bradwell	06:00 (Clock Tower)

Collectors needed for all Street Carolling jobs and Sat 23rd December.

Robin - 01908 616463 - 07818 436617 - rallen2@tiscali.co.uk

# CHRISTMAS CONCERT

*A traditional concert with items for choir & band and for audience participation*

## NEWPORT PAGNELL SINGERS

Musical Director  
Roger Windmill

## BRADWELL SILVER BAND

Musical Director  
Brian Keech

SATURDAY

9 DECEMBER

7.30PM

PARISH CHURCH  
NEWPORT PAGNELL



**N&P**  
Singers

All tickets £10  
Available from  
Cambourne Travel, NP  
Wilson's, Olney  
Pat Kearsley 07904 299484  
[newportpagnellsingers.co.uk](http://newportpagnellsingers.co.uk)



St. James Church, New Bradwell.

# BRADWELL SILVER BAND *In Concert* BAND

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>

December

from 7:30pm

**TICKETS £7**

(PURCHASED ON THE DOOR)



Tel: 01908 616463

[press@bradwellband.co.uk](mailto:press@bradwellband.co.uk)

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



**STANTONBURY**  
**SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB**  
THE HEART♥OF THE NEW BRADWELL♥COMMUNITY

PRESENTS FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT

**BRADWELL SILVER**

**BAND**

**CHRISTMAS CAROL**

**CONCERT**

**ON**

**SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2017**

**7.45PM START**

**ENTRY BY TICKET AT £2.50 FOR 16'S AND OVER.**

**AVAILABLE FROM BEHIND THE BAR FROM MONDAY 20TH NOVEMBER OR  
PAY AT THE DOOR ON THE NIGHT AT YOUR OWN RISK!!!!**

**UNDER 15'S FREE**

**ALL FAMILIES AND NON-MEMBER GUESTS WELCOME**