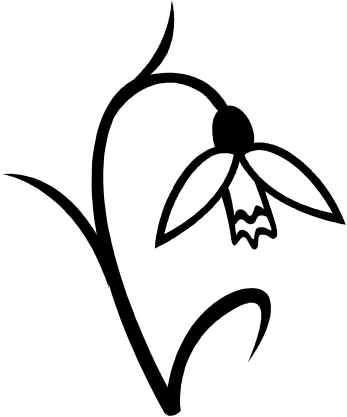


The Bradwell Bugle

The newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band



January 2006



From the Editor

Welcome to the January edition of the Bradwell Bugle. The Band would like to take this opportunity to wish all our readers a happy and healthy new year.

December has been a challenging time for the band with the higher-than-normal number of Christmas engagements. Consequently, we have a large number of engagement reports this month and are very grateful to Keith Jones for reporting these for us.

Inside this issue:

<i>Christmas Engagement Reports</i>	2
<i>Why do the WI sing Jerusalem?</i>	8
<i>Christmas Collections</i>	9
<i>Contact Details</i>	9

The Band wishes to thank all those who have helped through the Christmas period: Keith Jones and Clive Keech for 'taking charge' during carolling, our veritable army of collectors who braved some very cold weather conditions, all our visiting players (from around the region!) and especially Brian Keech who stepped in to conduct the band at all of its Christmas concerts this year. We are very grateful to them all.

We now look forward towards 2006 as we prepare for the Area Contest in March. Final details have yet to be confirmed for this contest, but it is expected to be held in the Stevenage Arts and Leisure Centre as in previous years. The test piece is 'Entertainments' by Gilbert Vinter.

Thank you all those who receive the Bugle by post for your responses to our survey last month. We had a good response and are grateful for the kind financial donations sent by various readers.

Some player news now, and I'm sure that we'd all like to congratulate 10-year-old Jack Wilson on achieving a Grade 2 with Distinction on cornet recently. Congratulations Jack!!

The band would like to welcome Ralph and Joshua Tatum, father and son who play Soprano Cornet and Trombone respectively. They travel some distance to be with us and are both very welcome in Bradwell Silver Band.

Guy Drury

**A HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

to all the Bugle's readers

Christmas Engagement Reports

At this time of year the jobs come thick and fast. These reports were written as soon after the performance as possible to convey my impression on how the event went. The views expressed are my own personal ones and are not necessarily those of the Band or its committee!

Monday 5th December

Women's Institute Carol Concert, New Bradwell

Bradwell Silver Band was again pleased to accept the invitation to be part of this well established evening of seasonal readings and carol singing held in the Methodist Church. An almost capacity audience heartily joined in with all the singing and listened attentively to the readings, some of which were humorous while others were more serious in keeping with the forthcoming Christmas season.

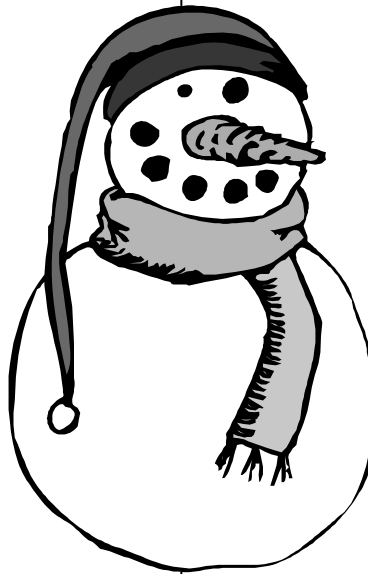
The evening began with the singing of the WI anthem "Jerusalem". From thereon carols and readings alternated with two short spots in each half featuring the Band.

The carols sung were "O Come All Ye Faithful", "Good King Wencelas", "Away In A Manger", "The First Nowell", "Hark the Herald Angels Sing", "While Shepherds Watched", "Once In Royal David's City", "Little Jesus Sweetly Sleep", "O Little Town of Bethlehem", "Silent Night", "Good Christian Men Rejoice" and finally "Jingle Bells". During the interval refreshments and mince pies were served to all those present.

Our four featured items were "Ding Dong Christmas" (an up tempo arrangement of "Ding Dong Merrily On High") "A Winter's Tale" (flugel soloist Adam Keech) in the first half and in the second half "Schneewalzer" and "The Snowman". Many of the audience had been to these evenings before and needed no encouragement to join in with the swaying and standing up which has become so much a part of "Schneewalzer".

After words of thanks to all concerned with the evening's events we concluded proceedings by playing "We Wish You A Merry Christmas". As always, this was a very pleasant evening and everybody seemed to enjoy themselves.

We had 14 players present which should have given us a nice balance. However the unusual seating arrangements we had to adopt because of the lack of available space seem to cause some problems. It also didn't help that music was missing from some of the folders. We are fortunate that the audience were determined to enjoy themselves so these lapses were not too noticeable.



Wednesday 7th December

Concert with Two Mile Ash School at Stantonbury Theatre.

Another recent Christmas tradition has been this annual concert with the choir from Two Mile Ash School. This year's choir was the youngest yet due to the changes in local schools which mean children move on to the next stage of their education a year earlier. As a result this year included children from Year 4 onwards but the choir sounded as good as in previous years. The children were well rehearsed, immaculately attired and their general deportment was a real credit to their teachers and parents.

After brief introductions, the evening began with "Joy To The World", the Band playing a verse on its own before being joined by the choir for two more verses.

The programme continued with items by the choir accompanied on the keyboard and some with the Band. Our own items in the first half included "The Snowman", "A Winters Tale" (a well presented solo featuring Adam Keech on flugel), "Stop The Cavalry" and two joint items with the choir, "Christmas Swingalong" (a medley of Christmas songs including "Winter Wonderland", "All I Want For Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth", "Have yourself A Merry Little Christmas") and "Come And Join The Celebration".

There was an interlude before the second half began with the Band playing "Sleigh Ride". We then accompanied the choir in "A Starry Night" before featuring our second soloist of the evening with Fraser

Cousins the euphonium soloist in "

O Holy Night". Another well played and confident solo item but slightly marred by some untidy accompaniment.

The ever popular "Schneewalzer" had the audience and choir swaying in unison before the last item on the programme "Jingle Bells".

There were words of thanks and appreciation from the Head Teacher for all concerned and generous and warm applause for the Choir and the Band. Presentations were made to the Band and its Musical Director which were greatly appreciated.

The concert was concluded with "We Wish You A Merry Christmas" and the Band played "Jingle Bells" as the choir filed away from the stage.

The school were very pleased with the evening's events and they can be proud of all the children who sang in the choir.

At the start of the concert the Band seemed unusually timid and hesitant, maybe because of the raised platform we

Christmas Engagement Reports

were perched upon or the distance between ourselves and the audience. As a consequence the usual full sound was not there and there were a few more wrong notes and missed entries than we normally expect. We were short of numbers in the baritone/euphonium/trombone sections and without percussion the music wasn't coming to life as it should. This improved in the second half after a pep talk from Brian during the interval.

One word of advice: when sitting on a raised stage such as the one we found ourselves on tonight, please refrain from tapping your feet whilst playing. It can be annoying to others and causes the music stands to sway on the unsteady surface.

Saturday 10th December

Olney Town Centre

A new venue for Bradwell Silver Band arising out of David Huckle's employment in Olney. A crisp but bright December morning saw 13 players assemble around the Christmas Tree to play a selection of carols. With Clive giving us the beat and carols being chosen by anyone who wanted to chip in, we put in a good two hours playing.

A nice balance was maintained and we performed many carols from the book that are often overlooked. This included "O Christmas Tree" which also happens to be the tune used by the Labour party for their "Red Flag" Anthem. The fact that the Conservative Party bedecked in their blue rosettes were actively campaigning around the square at the time was purely coincidental!

We managed to keep the music alive and most of those present seemed to enjoy the informal atmosphere and camaraderie. Many people stopped to listen to the Band and some nice comments were received. It was good to see Andrea, one of our former members who had made a special journey to come and hear us play.

The money collected exceeded expectations and we should certainly add this to the list of venues again for next year, but perhaps not on the same day as an evening concert!

Saturday 10th December

St. James Church New Bradwell

This year's Church concert was again well attended and with Brian Keech conducting we launched into the evening's programme with "Merry Christmas Everybody". Originally a hit recording for the group "Slade" in 1973, this has become a Christmas standard ever since and the band arrangement is a good concert opener.

Changing styles, our second item was "The Snowman (Walking In The Air)". You are all familiar with the story of the little boy James who wakes up to find that everything outside has turned snow-white. Overjoyed, James rushes

downstairs and into the garden, where he begins to build a snowman. James sleeps fitfully, and at midnight he wakes up and decides to check on his snowman. He opens the back door... he can't believe his eyes... The snowman has come to life! James finds himself face to face with a smiling snowman, who with a polite doff of his hat introduces himself and marks the beginning of magical friendship and marvellous adventure. There was some nice playing in this item.

Another Christmas classic was out next offering "Stop The Cavalry" which was a hit in 1980. It is more of an anti-war song than a Christmas item but is still very popular.

Fraser Cousins was our first soloist of the evening with "O Holy Night" arranged as a euphonium solo. There was some nice quiet playing with much improved accompaniment and Fraser rightly received generous applause for his efforts,

Then it was the turn of the audience to participate as we played three traditional carols for them to sing along to, "Hark the Herald Angels Sing", "Silent Night", and "The First Nowell".

"Ding Dong Christmas", otherwise known by the Band as the Christmas Floral Dance because of its almost identical opening, set the audience's toes tapping.

Changing the style again we next performed "Mary's Boy Child" with Karen Wilson playing the solo very well with a lovely tone and perfect phrasing.

The last item of the first half was "Santa Claus-trophobia" which is a medley of Christmas songs containing the word Santa arranged by Sandy Smith. These include "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town", "Here Comes Santa Claus", "I Saw Mummy Kissing Santa Claus", "Giving" (Theme from Santa Claus The Movie), "When Santa Got Stuck Up The Chimney", "A Rootin' Tootin' Santa Claus".

We had played this for the first time last Christmas and with the minimum of rehearsal this time round we gave a good performance. You could sense the Band's enjoyment in playing this item which features in turn the back row of cornets, the horn section, a euphonium solo, the basses and finally the trombones. A good ending to the first half.

There was an interval during which refreshments were available.

The Junior band conducted by Clive Keech were featured in "Stephen Foster Medley", "Good King Wencelas". These items were well played and received prolonged applause from the audience and members of the senior band.

We resumed the concert with Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride" followed by our final soloist for the evening, Adam Keech on flugel horn with "A Winter's Tale". This was a hit for David Essex in 1982 and although it does not actually mention Christmas, a reference to snow in the lyrics means

Christmas Engagement Reports

this was enough for it to become established as part of the festive repertoire. Adam played with his usual confident and expressive style and the accompaniment was nicely controlled.

"Christmas Swingalong" gave the audience another opportunity to exercise the vocal chords with a medley that includes "Winter Wonderland", "All I Want For Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth", "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas". Some more traditional carols followed with "O Come All Ye Faithful", and "Away In A Manger".

"Schneewalzer" the Bavarian style oompah waltz saw full participation from the audience with added choreography from some members of the Band.

Next on the agenda was the Cliff Richard Christmas 1988 hit of "Mistletoe & Wine". This was Cliff's 99th single, and sold almost three-quarters of a million copies to become the biggest-selling single of that year.

"Savoy Christmas Medley" was then introduced by Brian as having been arranged back in the late 1920s. Bradwell Band probably acquired this arrangement not long after that time and it has been featured nearly every year since. This gives members of the Band the chance to show other musical talents by singing "Landlord Fill The Flowing Bowl" and "Little Brown Jug".

After words of thanks from the Vicar, Brian invited her to join in the encore by playing the sleigh bells in "Jingle Bells". After taking more applause the Band finished the evening by playing "We Wish You A Merry Christmas"

A much improved performance, the Band was clearly more comfortable in the familiar setting of St. James's. Equally important was the presence of Steve Osborne on percussion, his unobtrusive but effective style adds so much more to our playing, aids the overall sound and helps to keep the required tempo. Well done to all concerned especially those members making the first appearance with the Band, Ralph and Joshua Tatum and Callum English.

Sunday 11th December

Carol Singing at the Westcroft Local Centre

This is an event organised by the Watling Valley Ecumenical Partnership, a group of five churches on the western side of Milton Keynes comprising All Saints Loughton, Holy Cross Two Mile Ash, St Giles Tattenhoe, St. Mary's Shenley Church End and Servant King Furzton.

The first such event took place two years ago but last year they were unable to obtain the necessary permission to sing carols as the major retailer was in the process of changing from Safeway to Morrison's. Hopefully this is something that can now continue on an annual basis.

A well produced song sheet containing the words of the carols to be sung was provided and we spent a pleasant hour accompanying the excellent singing which included descants in the final verses of several carols. Hot drinks were made available during a short break, which were welcomed on a cold but bright December afternoon.

At the conclusion the choir and band posed for a group photograph before we signed off by playing "We Wish You A Merry Christmas".



For the Band this was bit like after the Lord Mayor's Show with only nine of the Band on stage the previous evening being able to put in an appearance. The nine comprised seven cornet players, one horn and one bass and was not the ideal mix of instruments.

However, with Clive showing his versatility by switching to baritone we were able to achieve a sufficient balance to accompany the singing of Christmas Carols. The playing was good and our efforts were appreciated by the choir with some positive feedback from people who have not previously heard a brass band.

Tuesday 13th December

Street Caroling New Bradwell

A cold but dry evening saw the Band tour the streets on eastern side of New Bradwell, a change from our original plan to avoid a potential clash with the Round Table Santa and sleigh which was due in Bradville on the same evening.

We started in the High Street and went on to School Street, High Street, North Street, Thompson Street, Harwood Street, Chipperfield Close, Bridgeway, St. Peter's Way and Newport Road. We started later than we should have and as a consequence did not cover the entire area as planned.

We had a good number of players and our collectors were Norman, Anne and Mavis. Unfortunately the reception we received in some areas was less than welcoming. One "gentleman" shouted some extremely unseasonable comments as he was apparently attempting to sleep (it was only 8:30 p.m.). It is sadly a sign of the times that we may need to reconsider which areas we do cover next year. It will be a shame for some of the older locals not to have the Band playing in their street but we do have to consider the well-being of our members (especially the younger ones) and the collectors.

Christmas Engagement Reports

Thursday 15th December

Street Carolling Bradville

A disappointing turnout of just seven players was all we could muster this evening. After waiting in vain for more members to join us, we eventually started in Bradwell Road and covered Stanton Avenue, Althorpe Crescent, Bradvue Crescent and most of Abbey Way before time ran out. The instrumentation available to us was three cornets, three horns and a bass and it is to their credit that they struck a fine balance of parts.

Our collectors for the evening were Mavis, Anne, Mrs. Tilley and Norman.

Friday 16th December

Concert Stony Stratford

Although we have been performing regular concerts here over the past few years, this was the first time we had been invited to play at Christmas time.

We started with "Merry Christmas Everybody" and this was followed in quick succession by "The Snowman (Walking In The Air)" and "Stop The Cavalry".

Fraser Cousins was the first soloist of the evening with the euphonium solo "O Holy Night".

Then it was the turn of the audience to participate as we played three traditional carols for them to sing along to.

Our next item was "Ding Dong Christmas" after which we played "Mary's Boy Child" with Karen Wilson playing the solo. The first half ended with "Santa Claus-trophobia" which flowed along nicely despite the absence of percussion.

There was an interval during which refreshments were available.

The second half opened with "Sleigh Ride" followed by our final featured soloist for the evening with Adam Keech playing "A Winter's Tale".

"Christmas Swingalong" gave the audience another opportunity to exercise their vocal chords before some more traditional carols followed with "O Come All Ye Faithful", "Away In A Manger" and "The First Nowell".

"Schneewalzer" had the audience join in with the swaying and some standing up at the appropriate times. "Mistletoe & Wine" and "Savoy Christmas Medley" concluded the published programme.

After words of thanks from Fr. Giles Pinnock who explained the proceeds were going towards refurbishment of the

Church food preparation area, we played "Jingle Bells" as an encore.

After acknowledging more applause the Band finished the evening by playing "We Wish You A Merry Christmas"

A reasonable performance, not without mishaps but a nice sound in a Church that has excellent acoustic properties..

We are grateful to Perry Harris from the Wolverton Town Band who was our guest player for the evening on euphonium.

Saturday 17th December

Stony Stratford Street Carolling

Less than twelve hours after leaving Stony Stratford following last night's concert, we found ourselves back in the High Street for our annual stint of playing and collecting in the High Street. It was a particularly cold morning but we performed nearly three hours of carols. We used part of the session to rehearse introductions for carols being used in forthcoming concerts and generally had a convivial morning. Special mention should be made of David Sanderson for playing Eb Bass instead of his usual cornet for the whole session to give us a better balance.

Sadly not every player followed the directive issued the previous evening to wear black trousers and shoes. Wearing warm colourful clothing for playing around the streets at night is fine, however when we are playing in public during daylight hours we should try and look as much like a band as possible. Norman, Paul Harris and Robin were our collectors today and we thank them for giving of their time at such a busy time of the year.

Sunday 18th December

Side Club Concert

Due to illness and non-availability of some our members, we were grateful for three guest players from Stantonbury, Tug Wilson (cornet) George Bruce (euphonium) and Alan Bruce (Eb Bass), all former members of Bradwell Band. The other guest player we were indebted to was Bill Holding who plays with Towcester. At less than an hour's notice (and on top of a heavy supper!) he drove from his home in Hanslope to play solo trombone. Bill is able to play every instrument in the band to a high standard and greatly helped our performance on the night.

The programme was the same as that performed in Stony Stratford with the addition of "Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer".

We had the usual visit from Father Christmas who distributed sweets to the younger members of the audience. A special word of mention to Luke Colvin who bravely volunteered his services thereby being one of the youngest ever Santa's! Originally another member of the Band - who is of



Christmas Engagement Reports

a more traditional Santa shape! - was due to play the role but costume provided was far too small. Luke quickly offered his services as the top of the costume fitted him very well. Unfortunately the trousers were extra large and he was in great danger of them falling down to his ankles as he made his way around the concert room distributing gifts.

The concert is performed against a general background of general chatter and drinking but is always well received by the audience who appreciate and actively support the Band's long traditions. Prior to the end of the concert, Robin took up the microphone to publicly thank Brian Keech for conducting the Band at all this year's Christmas Concerts. After a difficult end to the year for the Band it was good to have a familiar face at the helm.

Tuesday 20th December

Haversham Street Carolling

On a dry and not too cold evening, a group of sixteen players and a veritable army of collectors proceeded around the streets of Haversham on our annual visit.

Starting in The Crescent, we covered Wolverton Road, Brookfield Road, Keppel Avenue, Rowan Drive, Chalmers Avenue and back to the top end of Wolverton Road. Because of the number of collectors we had, we made excellent progress and had covered the whole area by 8:30 p.m. which meant an earlier than expected finish. We had an almost complete cornet section so Clive once again helped us to achieve a better balance by playing baritone. The player was of a good standard and we didn't repeat a single carol!

Many thanks to Norman, Mavis and the Tilley family for turning out en masse to collect on our behalf.

The winner of this year's Strangest Headwear Award goes to Graham Huckle who was sporting a black balaclava. We are not sure if he was impersonating a member of the SAS or a burglar, either way he was very scary!



'Come Carolling'

Potterspurty Thursday 22nd December

A new event and venue for the Band saw us perform a joint concert in the beautiful Church of St. Nicholas in Potterspurty. Other groups taking part were the choir Cantabile who rehearse in the Church, hand bell ringers from Cosgrove and a group of instrumentalists from the village. There was also a poem and a sketch performed by other locals.

With the audience seated informally at tables, Bradwell Band had the honour of starting the programme with "Sleigh Ride" and then accompaniment the almost capacity congregation in the singing of "O Come All Ye Faithful". The choir's first contribution of the evening was "A Christ-

mas Carol" which despite it's title was actually a witty seasonal song with brief snatches of traditional carols. Written by Tom Lehrer and arranged for choir by local musician Stewart Pemberton, the first verse is:

*Christmas time is here, by golly
Disapproval would be folly
Deck the halls with hunks of holly
Fill the cup and don't say "when"
Kill the turkeys, ducks and chickens
Mix the punch, drag out the Dickens
Even though the prospect sickens
Brother, here we go again*

The Band then featured Fraser with the solo "O Holy Night", his playing being well received and prompting the comment from the compere on what a lovely sounding instrument the euphonium is.

The carol "Good King Wencelas" brought some good singing as the audience were encouraged to sing the appropriate words that call for female, male and children's voices.

A poem read entitled "Ballad of the Breadman" written by the Christian poet Charles Causley was then presented. This is a modern version of the story of the nativity and was performed with different dialects.

Cantabile performed two more items "The Carol Singers" and "Cowboy Carol".

The Band played "Walking In The Air" before the Christmas Ensemble took centre stage. There were two guitar solos followed by an arrangement of "In The Bleak Mid Winter". The ensemble, the majority of which were youngsters, comprised piano, violins, cello, clarinets, flute and guitars, and they played very well. Some of them were then presented with certificates following successful music grade examinations and we were treated to a grade one piano test piece. It was great to see these youngsters involved in their music making.

The interval was then declared a little earlier than expected as the supper was ready!

The Band were well catered for with sandwiches and cake whilst the audience tucked into a proper supper with Shepherds pie and a dessert to follow.

As the supper was being cleared away the Band began the second half with "Merry Christmas Everybody" before accompanying the singing of the carol "Sweet Chiming Christmas Bells". For this item we were unexpectedly joined by the hand bell ringers but it seemed to work well.

The hand bell ringers from Cosgrove then played "Away in A Manger" with three verses each to a different tune although the audience stuck to their guns and sung the words to the traditional tune throughout! We then had their version of "Jingle Bells" the audience and Band heartedly joining in with the singing.

Christmas Engagement Reports

A joint item by the choir and ringers was the medieval song "Gaudete" followed by choir singing "Rejoice and Be Merry" with some lively piano accompaniment and added percussion.

The Band accompanied the singing of "Jingle Bells", and then we had "A Winter's Tale" another confident solo performance by Adam Keech.

"Schneewaltzer" was the Band's final featured item and the audience joined in with great enthusiasm.

The Choir signed off by singing "We Wish You A Merry Christmas" and remained where they stood in front of the band for the final two carols, "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" and "Away in A Manger".

As an encore the Band played "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" and the long evening was brought to an end.

When I first heard about the engagement I was not sure what to expect but in the event it was a thoroughly enjoyable evening which put me into a proper Christmas frame of mind for the first time this year. Being part of the proceedings rather than the main act is something the Band are not used to, but concentration levels when we were not actively involved were good and I am sure that most of our members enjoyed this evening of music making in front of a friendly audience. I'm looking forward to be invited back next year already!

Our thanks go to Alan Bruce for helping out on bass.

Friday 23rd December

Newport Pagnell Services

A new venture for the Band, we assembled a healthy number of players at the northbound motorway services to bring Christmas cheer to those travelling to their holiday destinations. We played a good mixture of carols, the jolly tunes being interspersed with the more traditional ones. We were able to play continuously until 5:00 p.m. time with small numbers of members taking breaks as and when needed.

The advantages of this location are the facilities available which make for comfortable playing conditions. The collection was a good one and we thank Norman and Mavis for again giving up their time.

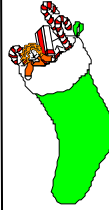
We had almost enough to split into two groups one of which could have covered the southbound side, something to be considered if we go back next year. We would almost certainly double the collection.

Saturday 24th December

New Bradwell Street Carolling

Meeting at the School for 7:00 p.m., a huge number of players and another large group of collectors were ready for the Christmas Eve tour of the streets closest to the ban-

droom. Starting in Bounty Street, we played in Queen Anne Street, King Edward Street, St. Mary's Street, St. Giles Street, Newport Road, Wood Street Caledonian Road and finally Wallace Street. The high number of collectors we had meant we finished earlier than usual. A group of around ten players then made their way to the side club to play four carols to the people enjoying a disco.



The Band attracted a lot of interest as it made its way round the streets, numerous photographs were being taken, hopefully not for evidential purposes! The locals certainly appreciate our efforts and we in turn are grateful to them for their generous support.

Many thanks to the collectors for the evening, Norman, Anne, Mavis, Maggie and the Tilley family.

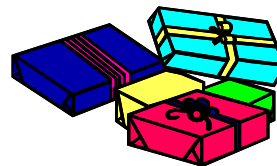
Sunday 25th December

Christmas Day Street Carolling

A cold morning saw another healthy turn out of players and supporters for the traditional tour around the streets of New Bradwell. Meeting at the Clock Tower for 6:00 a.m., we began by playing "Christians Awake" at the junction of Caledonian Road and Wallace Street. We then played in Wood Street, Queen Anne Street, St. Giles Street, St. Mary's Street, King Edward Street, Bounty Street, School Street, High Street, North Street, Thompson Street, Harwood Street and Chipperfield Close which was our first drink stop, courtesy of Fraser's Mum and Dad. We moved on to Bradwell Road where we had another stop for drinks and mince pies kindly being provided by the Vicar. By now the drink was taking effect and we waddled on to Stanton Avenue where yet more drinks were provided. All the drinks provided were of a generous measure and affected our members and supporters in different ways. From Althorpe Crescent we went to Bradvue Crescent for the last playing stop of a busy Christmas period. All that was left was to walk all the way back to our cars which were parked by the Clock Tower. You'd have thought by now we would arrange to have a couple of cars parked at the top end near to where we finish, but somehow the long walk down the hill has become part of the fun.

Well done to all those who turned out, despite the early start I'm sure you all enjoyed yourselves and that this got you into the Christmas spirit. A good number of people came out into the streets to hear us play and this made our efforts all the more worthwhile.

Keith Jones



Why does the Women's Institute sing "Jerusalem"?

In the engagement reports you will read about our evening with the WI which began with the singing of "Jerusalem". The following article seeks to explain how this came to be known as the WI's anthem - with acknowledgements to Anne Stamper and the WI's website.

In the 1920s, many WIs were forming choirs and seeking help and advice. The Shropshire Federation was the first County to form a music sub-committee and they invited Mr. W. H. Leslie to advise them. Mr. Leslie, of Llansantffraid on the Shropshire-Montgomery border, was a personal friend of the composer Sir Walford Davies, and was himself deeply involved in amateur music.

So successful was this that Mr. Leslie was invited by NFWI to conduct singing schools in the County Federations round the country and also to write articles about choirs and music for WI Home and Country.

The first WI Choral Competition was held in Sussex in 1923, and very soon other Federations followed. The first one-day school for village conductors was held in London in early 1924 with Mr. Leslie in charge. All went back to their Federations pledged to help to train other conductors and there was a great need for suitable music for these choirs to sing. With Mr. Leslie's help, NFWI brought out the first Women's Institute Song Book - a collection of songs particularly suitable for singing at monthly meetings.

It was Mr. Leslie's idea that Blake's Jerusalem should be sung at the Annual General Meeting of 1924. He persuaded Sir Walford Davies to make a special arrangement for string orchestra of Sir Hubert Parry's setting and he himself conducted the singing. This must have been a stirring experience for those members present.

At this point Jerusalem had not been adopted as the official song. Lady Denman recalled that NFWI ran a competition for an 'Institute song', hoping that it might produce a good but unknown poet. Many poems were sent in but nothing suitable was found; it was after receiving a verse that began, 'We are a band of earnest women' that Grace Hadow, the Vice-chairman, suggested that Jerusalem should become the WI song.

"Jerusalem" had been used by the National Union of Suffrage Societies in the 1918 celebrations of women's enfranchisement, and many of the leaders of NFWI, including Grace Hadow, had been part of that struggle to win the vote for women. Millicent Fawcett, the leader of the suffragists, wrote to Hubert Parry, 'Your Jerusalem ought to be made the women voters' hymn', which of course in a way it was, being adopted by the WI.

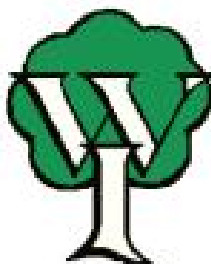
By singing "Jerusalem" the WI is marking its links with the wider women's movement, and its commitment to 'improving the conditions of rural life'.

Additional information from a letter written by Anne Ballard Feb 1984

Quoting the 9th edition of the Oxford Companion to Music

The boldly idealistic song known by this name, which from the 1920s assumed almost the position of a secondary British National Anthem, is a setting by Hubert Parry of words by the poet painter William Blake. The setting dates from 1915 or 1916 and was made on the suggestion of Robert Bridges, the then Poet Laureate, who wanted it for a meeting of the 'Fight for Right' movement in the Queen's Hall London, and it later made a great impression when sung at a meeting in the Royal Albert Hall, in March 1918, to celebrate the attaining of the final stage in the 'Votes for Women' campaign - on which occasion the composer was in charge of the music. It was afterwards adopted by the Federation of Music Festivals, The National Federation of Women's Institutes, etc., and hence became very widely known

Keith Jones



Christmas Collections

Ron Snape, the band's treasurer has worked overtime to get the entire Christmas collections and concert fees counted and recorded, and here are this year's figures:

Date	Item	Cash
10 Dec 05	Paganell Grange Fee	75.00
5 Dec 05	Bradwell WI fee	100.00
7 Dec 05	Two Mile Ash Concert Fee	150.00
10 Dec 05	Olney Street Collection	186.58
10 Dec 05	Donation by post	5.00
10 Dec 05	St James Church Concert (50% Door Takings)	163.00
10 Dec 05	St James Church Concert (50% raffle takings)	35.00
11 Dec 05	Watling Valley Ecumenical Partnership - Westcroft Carols	75.00
13 Dec 05	Bradwell Street Collection	168.14
15 Dec 05	Bradville Street Collection	221.18
16 Dec 05	St Mary & St Giles Church Concert Fee	150.00
17 Dec 05	Stony Stratford Street Collection	356.13
18 Dec 05	Little Brickhill Nativity Collection	26.58
18 Dec 05	Side Club Fee	175.00
18 Dec 05	Side Club Collection	85.02
20 Dec 05	Haversham Street Collection	192.36
23 Dec 05	Potterspurty Church Fee	150.00
23 Dec 05	Motorway Service Station Collection	241.18
24 Dec 05	Bradwell Street Collection	356.81
25 Dec 05	Bradwell Street Donations	15.00
		2,926.98

We must once again say a massive thank you to all the collectors who braved the streets of north Milton Keynes over the Christmas period. As a self-financing organisation these collections are extremely important to us and we are grateful to everyone for their support



Contact Details

Chairman:	Norman Keech	222298
Secretary:	Robin Allen	616463 rallen2@tiscali.co.uk
Musical Director:	Chris Johnston	rapid-radio@fsmail.net
Supporters Club:	Norman Keech	222298
Newsletter/ Press Officer:	Guy Drury	260546 guydrury@btinternet.com
Webmaster:	Fraser Cousins	225772 frasercousins@btinternet.com
Website:	www.bradwellband.co.uk	



Bradwell Silver Band Membership List

Committee

Chairman:	Norman Keech	Playing Members:	David Harris
Secretary:	Robin Allen		David Huckle
Treasurer:	Ron Snape		Nick Davy
Bandmaster:	Luke Colvin	Junior Rep:	Sam Allen
Librarian:	Dave Sanderson	Non Playing:	Mavis Harris
			Paul Harris

Playing Positions

Principal Cornet:	Nick Davy
Solo Cornets:	Clive Keech
	Karen Wilson
Soprano Cornet:	Ralph Tatum
Repiano Cornet:	Graham Huckle
2nd Cornets:	David Sanderson
	Alison Drury
3rd Cornets:	Sam Allen
	Guy Drury
	Cheron Li
	Jack Wilson
Flugel Horn:	Adam Keech
Solo Horn:	Keith Jones
1st Horn:	Siân Haseldine
2nd Horn:	Luke Colvin
	Luke Wilson
1st Baritone:	Liz Keech
2nd Baritone:	Position Vacant*
Euphoniums:	David Harris
	Fraser Cousins
1st Trombone:	Lisa Huckle
2nd Trombone:	Joshua Tatum
	Rod Pakes
Bass Trombone:	Position Vacant*
E♭ Bass:	Robin Allen
	Nick Dytham
BB♭ Bass:	David Huckle
	Ron Snape
Percussion:	Stephen Osborne
	David Brown

Non Committee Positions

President:	John White
Musical Director:	Chris Johnston
Publicity Officer:	Guy Drury
Magazine Editor:	Guy Drury/Alison Drury
Fundraising:	Norman Keech
Quartermaster:	Dave Huckle

Honorary Members

Chris Coull	Brian Keech
Malcolm Hills	David Wilson
Jim Whyte	

Learners Group

Sam Allen	Jez Billingham	Amanda Blunda
Emily Tilley	Emily Colvin	Luke Colvin
Tara Cowel	Alison Drury	Guy Drury
Callum English	Harry Gibbs	Cheron Li
Aston Scales	Damian Tilley	
Jack Wilson	Luke Wilson	

*If you are interested in these positions, or would just like to come along for an evening, feel free to contact the Band's secretary, Robin Allen - see page nine for details.