



# The Bradwell Bugle

Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band

January 2017

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## From the Editor

Hi Everyone!

A Happy New Year to you all! I hope you have had a great Christmas and the chance to spend some quality time with your family. The Band was very busy during the month of December bringing festive cheer wherever they have performed. The last two concerts were played to capacity audiences and once again the generosity of the good people of New Bradwell has been amazing. Reports on all of these follow and there are many excellent photographs on the Band's Facebook page courtesy of Ron Chappell.

So after all this activity, 2017 will start less hectically when rehearsals recommence and the next playing engagement will be the Area Contest at Stevenage in March.

This is going to be my last Bugle for a couple of months, as the birth of my first child is imminent! I thank those of you who have contributed articles and for the kind comments I have received. These have made editing the Band's Newsletter worthwhile and I look forward to resuming the role in the not too distant future.

Sarah-Jayne

## News

Bradwell Silver Band is very pleased to announce the appointment of David Wilson as their new Principal Cornet. David has been a member or guest player with the Band for over 40 years so we are so pleased to welcome him back. David is an excellent player with fantastic leadership skills and will be a massive help to our young band. Dave's appointment sees a reshuffle in the cornet section with Julia moving to Soprano and Adam on to the front row as assistant Principal. Both of these players have played an important part in the Band's progression over the past few years and we wish them well in their new roles.

The Band would like to send its congratulations to Clive Keech on his appointment as Musical Director of the Great Horwood Band. Clive was a member of our Band for many years before taking up the post of MD with the Toddington Town Band, he starts his new role with Great Horwood in January.

## *Notes From The M.D*

As you can see from the Engagement reports in this Newsletter the band has undertaken 14 engagements in December playing to hundreds of people. The Band's performances have brought a great deal of enjoyment to everyone who has heard us whether that be people attending our Concerts or sitting in their living rooms listening to the street Carols. Our music has also been relayed around the World by videos (see Facebook page "I Grew up in New Bradwell").

The commitment by all players has been excellent with at least 27 players performing at each Concert and well balanced groups performing at all other engagements. This has been a real team effort by everyone and you should all feel very proud.

I would though like to pass my Thanks to the following:

To: Robin, James & Sam – who have made sure Band kit is delivered to every engagement and transported back to school afterwards.

To: Steph – who has produced Posters, Programmes and other Publicity to make everyone aware of the Band's performances.

To: Fraser – who via Social Media and the Bands website has made access to the bands news/pictures easy and accessible for all.

To: Sarah Jayne – who produced Carol song sheets for St James and the Side Club allowing us to edit our programme accordingly.

To: Karen – who must be on first name terms with staff at the bank for dealing with all the cash, and keeping us all up to date.

To: The Young members of the band - who have sold CDs at our concerts.

To: Our Collectors – who knock on every door and raise so much funds on our behalf. They are also the face of the band at these engagements and receive lots of comments.

To: John – who produced 2 wonderful pieces of music, which the audiences and players have enjoyed a great deal.

To: Keith – who has attended every one of the senior band and Developments band engagements, leading the band in my absence and helping me with musical arrangements where required.

To: Our Families – who support us and enable us to undertake so much time with our Hobby over this period.

And finally to the players, your musical talent teamwork and friendship has made this one of the best Christmases ever. You have heightened the bands popularity and made many more fans. The people of Bradwell are very proud of "Their" band and rightly so.

Thank you all.

*Brian*

## **Engagement Report - Keith Jones**

### **Thursday 1st December**

### **Christmas Concert with Two Mile Ash School**

### **Stantonbury Theatre**

The senior Band's first Christmas engagement was the now firmly established concert with Harmonize, who are the choir from the Two Mile Ash School led by Emily Marshall and assisted by her colleague Sally Scriven. After just one rehearsal with the choir, the Band was to provide musical accompaniment for a number of the songs tonight as well as featuring some music from this year's festive repertoire. The tone for the evening was set from the very first item with the Band and Choir combining for "Merry Christmas Everybody". The choir were to use backing tracks for all of their individual items this evening, the first of which was "Holly and Mistletoe", a lovely song performed with sign language.

The Band's Musical Director Brian Keech introduced the Band's first solo item which was Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride" after which the choir sang "Winter Carol" before combining with the Band for "Christmas Candle" a short but lively piece based on an old Russian folk song. The Band's next featured item was "I Believe in Father Christmas", a song by Greg Lake with lyrics by Peter Sinfield. Although it is often categorised as a Christmas song, this was not Lake's intention, he claims to have written the song in protest at the commercialisation of Christmas. The link between verses comes from the "Troika" portion of Sergei Prokofiev's Lieutenant Kijé Suite.

The choir sang one of the most performed pieces of music associated with the festive season, "The Christmas Song". Sometimes known by its opening line as "Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire" or, as it was originally subtitled, "Merry Christmas to You", this is a truly classic Christmas song written in 1945 by Bob Wells and Mel Tormé. According to Tormé, the song was written during a blistering hot summer in an effort to stay cool by thinking cool.

This year the choir's musical director chose two of the more traditional Christmas Carols. Children's voices accompanied by a brass band are for me one of the most evocative sounds of the Christmas period and it was really special to hear "Silent Night" and then "Away In A Manger".

The final piece for the first half of the concert was music especially written for the Band by John Lee, "Boxing Day Promenade".

After an interval Band and choir joined forces again for "When Children Ruled The World" which featured in the musical Whistle Down the Wind composed by Andrew Lloyd Webber based on the 1961 film, whose source novel was written by Mary Hayley Bell in 1959.

This was followed by a very sensitive rendition of "Somewhere Only We Know". This is a song originally performed by the English alternative rock Keane and released as their third commercial single in 2004. In 2013 the song was covered by Lily Allen for the John Lewis Christmas advert. Her version surpassed the success of the original in the UK, topping the UK Singles Chart.

The Band played "Christmas Swingalong" with the audience invited to join in the singing of a medley of well know songs, "Winter Wonderland", "All I Want For Christmas Are My Two Front Teeth" and "Have Yourself A Very Merry Christmas".

The choir then sang "Hope of Heaven", a Christingle Song with words and music by Mark and Helen Johnson. The older children took to the front of the choir holding small battery powered candles to sing the opening lines 'Light up a candle and hold out the globe, Here in the darkness the light of the world.' This was lovely song with thoughtful words.

Then it was time for the Band, the choir and the audience to get involved in a bit of physical activity by swaying to "Schneewalzer". This is not really a celebration of Christmas but always seems to be one of the highlights enjoyed by our audiences.

The last solo item by the choir was "What Christmas Means To Me". This is a lively up tempo Motown song originally recorded by Steve Wonder and has an infectious rhythm which had most of the audience and Band clapping in time to the music.

## Engagement Report - Keith Jones

The grand finale saw Band and choir combine for the old favourites "Jingle Bells", "Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer", and of course "We Wish You A Merry Christmas". There followed some words of thanks from Emily for the choir, the Band and her colleague Sally. Head Teacher Sarah Bennett also spoke to say how much the children enjoyed the experience of performing in a theatre with the Band and hopes that the tradition will continue for many years to come. The Band played "Jingle Bells" as the choir made their exit and brought an enjoyable evening to a close.

Robin received the following message from Emily:

*"Thank you so much. You were all incredible, as always. Sally and I really enjoyed seeing how mesmerised the children were by you all, they absolutely loved it. Please can you pass my thanks on to everyone, I went outside to thank the children and parents as they were leaving and by the time I came back in you'd all gone, so I'm very sorry I missed you"*

Head teacher Sarah Bennett wrote the following comments in the school's newsletter:

*"Yesterday evening, our annual Christmas concert took place with the Harmonize choir. This event always marks the beginning of the festive period for me. Performing on stage at the Stantonbury Theatre, with the New Bradwell Silver Band, was an amazing experience for the children. They sang beautifully and it was a hugely enjoyable evening."*

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### **Saturday 3rd December**

### **Christmas Tree Festival**

### **St James Church, New Bradwell**

This week-end was the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the St. James Christmas Tree Festival with the Church displaying trees supplied and dressed by many of the local organisations including one from the Band. This year the theme was "Angels" which exhibitors were encouraged to incorporate into their trees if possible. As well as admiring the trees, performances of music from local people and groups had been arranged and when we arrived a quartet was performing festive numbers as well as other popular songs.

As we are into a busy period and there was not as much space available for us to perform, Musical Director Brian Keech chose to take a smaller group of 14 players for a 60 minute programme of music from this year's repertoire plus some carols from the red books. We set ourselves up ready to play at the rear of the Church. This is very much an informal concert as people are wandering looking at the trees, enjoying refreshments or happy just to sit and enjoy the music, whilst children were busy looking for hidden stars which had been placed around the Church. We started our sixty minute session with "Merry Christmas Everybody", "Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer" and "Christmas Swingalong" followed by some carols from the red books. The pieces were to flow in quick succession with "Boxing Day Promenade", "Somewhere Only We Know", and "Christmas Candle" receiving another airing after Thursday's concert. There were more carols including "Sweet Chiming Christmas Bells" which is a particular favourite with the locals. That included former player Tony Jenkins who was in the audience and I am sure he remembered this with some fondness from his time as solo cornet with the Band. He used to enjoy playing this and referred to this tune as "The Wanger". We went back into our folders for "I Believe In Father Christmas", "Christmas Scene" and our usual finale of "Jingle Bells" and "We Wish You A Merry Christmas". The group produced a performance with nice balance and control in evidence.

It is good to report that the central heating has been sorted out since our last visit so although we were near the main door which kept being opened it was a comfortable temperature to perform in. As we finished Ben Godfrey was about to perform a number of trumpet solos accompanied on the Church organ by Helen. The organisers of the event were very happy with the attendances over the week-end.

## **Engagement Report - Keith Jones**

### **Monday 5th December**

#### **Bradwell WI Carol Concert**

#### **St James Church, New Bradwell**

We were back in the Parish Church for the traditional annual Carol Concert organised by the Bradwell WI. The Church was almost full with WI members and friends from around the Milton Keynes area, including Bradwell, Castlethorpe, New Manor (Wolverton), Two Mile Ash, Shenley & Loughton, Great Linford and Central Milton Keynes. After a short introduction and welcome, the evening started with the customary singing of the WI anthem "Jerusalem". Under the leadership of Musical Director Brian Keech who acted as compere and announcer for the evening, it followed the usual pattern of a carol sung with Band accompaniment, followed by a reading from a representative of each of the WI branches, as well as some from Bradwell and St James Church. These seasonal readings provided a balanced mixture of the humorous with some a bit more thought provoking. The carols sung in the first half were Once In Royal David's City, It Came Upon A Midnight Clear, Away In A Manger, While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks, The Holly and the Ivy.

There was a break from singing carols for a couple of items from the Band. The first was "Sleigh Ride" followed by "O Holy Night" which featured Fraser Cousins as the euphonium soloist.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing was the last carol before an interval during which drinks and mince pies were made available.

In the second half the carols sung were Good Christian Men Rejoice, The First Nowell, O Little Town of Bethlehem and Silent Night. In the Band feature we played "Boxing Day Promenade" and followed this with the traditional "Schneewalzer" in which the audience and Band swayed from side to side in time to the music. Composed at the beginning of the 20th century by Thomas Koschat, the Snow Waltz is one of the most famous melodies in German folk music. Despite the reference to snow, André Rieu and his Johann Strauss Orchestra perform this throughout the year and it always gets a great reaction from his audiences.

There were then further readings either side of the last carol O Come All Ye Faithful. We were thanked for our involvement in tonight's concert and everyone had seemed to enjoy the evening. We concluded the concert with Jingle Bells and of course We Wish You A Merry Christmas. We had almost a full complement of members playing tonight and this meant the workload during the playing of the carols could be shared around. Playing alternating verses allowed members to join in with the singing.

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### **Friday 9th December**

#### **Conniburrow Carols**

This evening we were back for the fourth year in a row in Conniburrow to provide the accompaniment for some community Carol singing. This is organised by Big Local Conniburrow, a ground breaking local trust programme funded by the National Lottery aiming to achieve lasting change in 150 small areas across England. Run by residents themselves, the Lantern Procession and Carol Singing is one their most popular events. People are encouraged to take part in the Lantern making workshops in the weeks leading up to this and prizes were awarded for the best ones. The evening started with Christmas Stalls Inside Southwood School Hall and a colourful lantern procession around Conniburrow.

This year's singing was arranged for indoors at the school which meant we were in the warm and had good lighting, although it would have been nice to have some music stands. As we were playing from the Carol books most were able to play off their lyres and the few personal stands brought my members were put to the best use possible. Considering the early start time we did well to have a balanced group of sixteen players who today were conducted by Keith.

We played "Deck The Halls" as those in the procession finished off their refreshments. Then it was time for the Reverend Andy Jowitt who is the Vicar of St. Lawrence's Church in Old Bradwell to welcome everyone and introduce the first of the carols to be sung tonight, 'O Little Town Of Bethlehem'.

## **Engagement Report - Keith Jones**

This was followed by 'God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen' and 'Silent Night'. The next three carols were announced by Steve Chilcraft who is the Chair of the Big Local Community and these were 'While Shepherds Watched', 'Away In A Manger' and 'The Holly and the Ivy'.

Then John Moffoot, who is the conductor of the Conniburrow Community Choir, invited the audience to join in with 'Joy To The World', 'Hark The Herald Angel Sing' and 'Good King Wenceslas'. Andy brought the evening to its conclusion by thanking everyone for attending and announcing 'O Come All Ye Faithful' as the final carol. After the singing finished there was time for the Band to play 'Jingle Bells' and round things off with 'We Wish You A Merry Christmas'.

It wasn't the largest of audiences we were to play in front of during the Christmas season but it was a good evening for the Band to be involved with.

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### **Saturday 10th December**

#### **Christmas Bazaar**

#### **Dovecote Manor, Bletchley**

Dovecote Manor is a 41 bed Care Home in Whalley Drive and provides permanent care for those with residential or dementia needs. This had originally been accepted as an engagement for the Development Group. Unfortunately we had quite a few who said they were not available to play and rather than disappoint the home and its residents we changed this to a small group from the senior band. Bearing in mind we also had an evening concert in Newport Pagnell we are very grateful to the members who volunteered to play at this afternoon event as well.

The original plan had been for us to perform in the courtyard outside the main building where the residents, staff and visitors spread over several floors would all be able to hear the Band. However the torrential rain which had been falling most of the afternoon was to make this impossible. Instead we were asked to perform in an area usually used as a smoking area and although under cover it was a tight fit fitting in our group of sixteen players led this afternoon by Keith. Having played several of the jollier carols from the red books we were then asked by the organisers if we could split the Band into two smaller groups so that they could play on the two different levels in the building. Tug led the first group and they were whisked away in the lift up to the second floor.

Keith and the second group were to climb the stairs to the first floor and find themselves playing in the communal lounge. As well as the residents and staff there were a good number of visitors which included some younger children. Keith asked the audience if they would like to chose what Carols we played and the first of these was "Jingle Bells" with the kids all sat in front of the Band and singing along to the chorus. The next request was for "Away In A Manger" which again the youngsters sung along to. Requests for other favourite carols were also received and played before it was time for us to finish as the pony had arrived (see below!). We played "We Wish You A Merry Christmas" before descending the stairs to the ground floor to catch up with the rest of the Band.

We were thanked by the organiser and asked to come back again next year. It was still pouring with rain as we made our way back to the cars for the very wet journey home. By the time we got home there was just enough time for some refreshment before getting ready to set off for the concert in Newport Pagnell.

I've been banding for many years and there is very little that surprises me in the wide variety of engagements undertaken in the course of a year. However even I was amazed that one of the other attractions arranged for the afternoon was a visit from a real live party pony! A locally based company offer a totally unique service, a pony party like no other as they bring the pony to you. They take bookings from private houses, schools, funfairs, Christmas parties and Community events. The Care Home had arranged for a visit and a beautiful white Shetland pony adorned in festive decorations was unloaded from the van and led into the building.

## Engagement Report - Keith Jones

The pony was to be walked around the home for the residents and visitors to see and stroke. It was taken up in the lift (one of the reasons I chose to use the stairs instead) and was perfectly behaved. I have heard of pets being taken around residential homes as therapy but never a real pony. One of our members said he wouldn't mind collecting any manure that the pony might leave behind. He was asked what he would do with it and he said 'I put in on my rhubarb'. The response was 'I prefer custard on mine!'

Message left in the Band's Facebook page:

*"A big Thank you to the Bradwell Silver Band for coming to Dovecote Manor`s Christmas Bazaar today, residents, visitors and staff all enjoyed listening to you play, and look forward to seeing you again next year!"*

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### Saturday 10th December

#### Newport Pagnell Singers

Tonight the Bradwell Silver Band were guest Performers at the Newport Pagnell Singers 2016 Christmas Concert. Held in St. Peter and St. Paul, the huge and magnificent Parish Church, the Singers Musical Director Roger Windmill promised in his programme notes an evening embracing the atmosphere and magic of the Christmas season with some old favourites as well as the less familiar. After words of welcome the concert began with "Once In Royal David's City". The opening verse is traditionally sung as an unaccompanied treble solo which was tonight performed by guest chorister Michael Chamberlain. The Band was to provide the accompaniment for the other three verses.

The choir sang two contrasting items, the traditional "Ding Dong Merrily On High" and then a newly composed work "Christmas Is Coming". This was written by Mack Wilberg conductor of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and is a sparkling new take on an old carol. In this arrangement there are a variety of challenging keys before concluding with a hearty 'God Bless You'.

This was followed by the carol "Good King Wenceslas", which featured baritone soloist John Cooper as the Master and Michael Chamberlain as the page and then "O Come All Ye Faithful".

The Band's Musical Director Brian Keech introduced our first solo item which was Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride". We followed this with another favourite for this time of year, "Walking In The Air", a song written by Howard Blake for the 1982 animated film adapted from Raymond Briggs' children's book 'The Snowman'. In the film the song was performed by St Paul's Cathedral choirboy Peter Auty. For the subsequent single release, which reached number five in the UK pop charts in 1985, the vocals were sung by Welsh chorister Aled Jones, who has since become a popular television presenter.

Then there was a delightful duet by Michael Chamberlain who was joined by his younger sister in "I Sing Of A Maiden". "O Little Town of Bethlehem" was the next carol followed by the Band playing "I Wish It Could Be Christmas Everyday" a classic Christmas song by Roy Wood for the British glam rock band Wizzard.

The choir sang "Torches" before the audience were invited to join in with the choir in singing "The Holly and the Ivy". The words are very familiar but are set to an alternative tune written by John Gardner. The jolly melody can best be summed up as being in the style of a Wild West musical. Most members of the Band joined in heartily with the singing as well as actions during the chorus, a good sign that we were enjoying the evening. The last carol of the first half was "We Three Kings" followed by an interval when wine and mince pies were served.

After announcing the winning numbers in the raffle draw, the second half opened with "Jingle Bells". It was time for the Band to introduce our soloist for the evening, Luke Colvin on Eb Bass with "Frosty The Snowman". Luke rightly received prolonged applause for his splendid rendition of this tricky but very enjoyable arrangement.

## Engagement Report - Keith Jones

Brian then introduced John Lee's new composition "Boxing Day Promenade" and at its conclusion John stood to acknowledge his applause.

The Choir's next items were "Zither Carol" which is a Czech folk tune, "Up Good Christen Folk" and "Boy from Bethlehem" with Michael as the soloist.

The Band's next contribution was "Carol Of The Bells" in the arrangement by Paul Lovatt-Cooper. This is based on a traditional Ukrainian Bell Carol, and throughout the piece you hear a four note ostinato, which is a musical figure repeated persistently at the same pitch throughout a composition.

"Silent Night" was sung by everybody and for the next Choir item "Ring Out, Wild Bells"; their conductor explained that the music had been composed by Percy Fletcher who was a prolific British composer. As well as his works for chorus such as the one about to be performed, he also wrote ballads, suites for light orchestra, organ voluntaries for church use, military bands as well as pieces especially commissioned for brass band competitions. The words are from a poem by Alfred Lord Tennyson Published in 1850, the year he was appointed Poet Laureate, it forms part of In Memoriam, Tennyson's elegy to Arthur Henry Hallam, his sister's fiancé who died at the age of twenty-two. For this item the choir's accompanist Ed Tomlinson played the magnificent sounding Church organ and for me was one of the most memorial items performed this evening.

The Band then players "Schneewalzer" and not only were the choir and audience encourages to sway in time to the music but also sing the words of the chorus in German!

The Deputy Mayor, councillor Wendy Egan thanked the choir and band and also the audience for turning up in such great numbers. She spoke about the choir's chosen charity of the year, Community First Responders and encouraged people to contribute to the funds of this very worthwhile cause when they left at the end of the concert.

Michael was back as the soloist in "Away In A Manger" before the final carol of the evening "Hark The Herald Angels Sing". The Band played "We Wish You A Merry Christmas" and brought an enjoyable concert to its conclusion. It was great for the Band to be involved and we thank the Newport Pagnell Singers and their conductor for inviting us to be part of their special concert. It is always a pleasure to perform with and get the chance to listen to other musical groups.

Message left on Facebook:

*"Had a fantastic evening at "Christmas is Coming" with Newport Pagnell Singers and the Bradwell Silver Band at the Parish Church. Even sang one song in German. "*



## Engagement Report - Keith Jones

### Tuesday 13th December

#### Street Carolling

#### Bradville

For the time of year it was a mild night as we met near Haley's Comet in Bradville to begin the street carolling around our local area. It was a bit damp underfoot and there was a brief shower but that wasn't enough to prevent us from making excellent progress. With five collectors we were able to cover a larger area than we have managed for a few years. We started in Bradwell Road outside the Old Vicarage and made stops in Althorpe Crescent, Edwards Croft, Stanton Avenue, Abbey Way and Bradvue Crescent and even got as far as Mercers Drive where we had to finish playing as it was 9:00 p.m. We had 17 players and mainly used the livelier Carols and Christmas tunes from our red books. We only had to repeat one carol and that was because it was requested by a young girl who had been brought out by her father to hear the band playing. We asked her if she would like the Band to play favourite carol and she surprised us with her choice which was "Deck The Halls".

This was an excellent start to our street carolling with some fine playing and lots of people coming to their doors to listen as we made our way round. Our collectors for this evening were Peter our president, Dave Sanderson, Martin's wife Helen as well as Penny and Nicola who are the parents of some of our younger players. We are extremely grateful to them for giving up their evening at a busy time of year to help the Band raise funds.

Message left in the Band's Facebook page:

*"Thanks for coming. It makes my Christmas when you come and play in the street."*

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### Friday 16th December

#### Wolverton House

It is some years since we last played in the Wolverton House Carvery and this evening at the invitation of the management a group of thirteen players played Christmas Carols to a very busy restaurant. We were allocated a space in one of the alcoves and were provided with nice comfortable chairs for our two hour session. We had plenty of room to set ourselves up with music stands but were obliged to sit in a slightly unusual formation because of the layout of the area.

We played our allotted time with a couple of breaks and didn't need to repeat any of tunes we played out of the red carol books. We attracted some interest from one young lady in particular who happily stood and listened to us for over an hour before reluctantly being led away by her family who had finished their meals and were waiting to go home. We also received an enquiry about our learner group. A bit of a strange job as we were hidden from the view of most of our audience but I know we could be heard in most of the areas and at least we were indoors in the warm!



## Engagement Report - Keith Jones

**Saturday 17th December**

**Christmas Concert**

**St James Church, New Bradwell**

The Band was back in the Parish Church for their annual Christmas Concert. Extra seating had to be found to accommodate all of those who had come to listen and we believe that it must have been a record attendance for any of our concerts in the Church. We opened with "Sleigh Ride" and then the first of two featured soloists this evening, principal euphonium player Fraser Cousins with "O Holy Night". Adolphe Adam composed the music which was set to the words of a French poem "Minuit, chrétiens" (Midnight, Christians) written by poet, Placide Cappeau. The church organ had recently been renovated in Roquemaure and to celebrate the event, the parish priest asked Cappeau, who lived in the town to write a Christmas poem. Even though he never showed any interest in religion Cappeau obliged. Soon afterwards, Adam wrote the music and the song has become a classic. It has been recorded through the years by many notable singers including Mariah Carey, Cher, Perry Como, Bing Crosby, Céline Dion, Whitney Houston, Donna Summer, Ellie Goulding, Andy Williams and Sarah Brightman. This evening Fraser gave a fine performance.

We followed this with "I Believe in Father Christmas" and then "Christmas Scene" written by Gavin Somerset. The latter is a festive number that sees an original theme interspersed with many festive favourites appearing in an unexpected form. This would make for a good "Spot the carol" quiz for if you listen carefully you will hear among the tunes 'O Come All Ye Faithful', 'Here We Come A Wassailing', 'Angels From The Realms of Glory', 'Deck The Halls', 'Little Drummer Boy' and 'Jingle Bells'. There is a definite feel of the Christmas spirit to be found in this work and it gives the percussion section plenty to do.

Then it was the turn for the audience to take part by singing some carols "Joy To The World", "The Holly and the Ivy", "Silent Night" and "See Amid The Winter Snow". The next two items were "Carol of the Bells" and "Walking In The Air" and to round off the first half of the concert we played "Santa Claus-Trophobia" which is medley of music arranged by Sandy Smith that includes some of the song titles that the word Santa. The arrangement gives each section of the Band the chance to play some of the melody line. It starts off with "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town" followed by "Here Comes Santa Claus" which features the back row cornets. The horns have their moments of glory with "I Saw Mummy Kissing Santa Claus". Next to have a chance is the euphonium with "Giving" the theme from Santa Claus The Movie. Following a snatch of Mozart's horn concerto, the bass section get a rare chance to play the tune with "When Santa Got Stuck Up The Chimney" before the trombones lead to conclude the piece with "A Rootin' Tootin Santa Claus".

After an interval for refreshments, the Development Group presented a short programme which featured Christmas music from around the world. It began with "March Christmas Carols" which is an arrangement of 'Hark the Herald', 'God Rest Ye' & 'Joy to the World' in the style of a march. For the next item our compere for the evening Mabel announced that we were going to Germany for one of the oldest known Carols "Gaudete" which dates back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century. As with all sacred tunes at the time, the words were written in Latin and the title of the tune "Gaudete" translates as "Rejoice". Then we were off to the USA as we were treated to the jazzed-up and swinging version of "Jingle Bell Boogie".

We returned to Europe for a traditional French carol "Il Est Ne Le Divin Enfant". The opening line translated into English is "He is born, the Divine Child" and tells the story of the birth of Jesus. The group concluded their slot with the distinctly Caribbean-flavoured Christmas tune "Merry Christmas Calypso" and stood at the end to receive prolonged and well deserved applause.

After the results of the raffle were announced, the Senior Band resumed with John Lee's "Boxing Day Promenade". Our second soloist tonight was Luke Colvin with "Frosty The Snowman" a song first recorded in 1950 which tells the tale of a snowman that is magically brought to life through a silk hat that a group of children find and place on his head. Luke gave another stunning rendition which was enhanced by the sudden appearance of an inflatable snowman.

## **Engagement Report - Keith Jones**

For the next item we played "Stop the Cavalry" which was a song written and performed by the English musician Jona Lewie that peaked at number three in the UK Singles Chart in December 1980. The song was never intended as a Christmas hit but the line 'Wish I was at home for Christmas' as well as the brass band backing made it an appropriately styled song to play around Christmas time. The song's promotional video was set in the trenches of the First World War and the lyrics mention cavalry and Winston Churchill who served as the First Lord of the Admiralty in the first year of the war prior to serving in the trenches himself.

The audience were invited to exercise their vocal chords again with three more carols, 'O Little Town of Bethlehem', 'O Come All Ye Faithful' and 'While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night'. This was followed with another chance to sing to "Christmas Swingalong". This is a Derek Ashmore arrangement of three of the more popular Christmas tunes "Winter Wonderland", "All I want for Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth", and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas".

The audience then needed little invitation to get involved in the swaying as we played "Schneewalzer". The final published item was another arrangement for the Band by John Lee who cleverly combines the two Christmas Carols 'I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing In' and 'God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen' in a piece he named "I Saw Three Merry Gentlemen".

There were words of thanks from the Reverend Paul Smith who is the Vicar of St. James. He said how nice it was to see so many people there and that the funds being raised tonight as a result of the concert were going to help with the considerable running costs of maintaining and developing the Church. He went on to say that they want the Church to become even more of a major focal point within the local community by hosting events such as this concert and also inviting other groups to use the building.

As an encore we played Derek Ashmore's 'Floral Dance' style version of "Jingle Bells" before bringing the evening to an end with "We Wish You A Merry Christmas". It had been a great evening of music making and many nice comments were received afterwards.

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### **Sunday 18th December**

#### **Christmas Concert**

#### **Stantonbury Sports & Social Club, New Bradwell**

Our final indoor engagement for 2016 saw us in the Stantonbury Sports and Social Club for a traditional Christmas Concert. The Club has seen changes over the last few years and is currently undergoing some significant building work. For the second successive evening the venue was virtually full with many people arriving extra early to secure their tables. The programme of music was very similar to the one used in St. James with "Sleigh Ride" as the opening item followed by "O Holy Night" which featured Fraser Cousins. Then it was the turn for the audience to take part by singing some carols "Joy To The World" and "The Holly and the Ivy". The Band continued with "I Believe In Father Christmas" "Christmas Scene" before three more carols were sung, "Silent Night", "Once In Royal David's City" and "See Amid The Winter Snow".

"Carol Of The Bells", "Walking In The Air" and "Santa Claus-trophobia" brought the first half of the concert to a close.

After an interval we opened the second half with "Boxing Day Promenade" and "Stop The Cavalry". The playing and singing of "Jingle Bells" was the cue for the arrival of Father Christmas accompanied by Mrs. Christmas in their wonderful costumes. The many children in the audience were delighted to see him and eagerly queued to receive a welcome as well as a treat from his sack. As this was going on the audience sang "We Three Kings" and "O Little Town of Bethlehem". "Merry Christmas Everybody" was up next followed by "I Saw Three Merry Gentlemen". The final two carols to be sung were "O Come All Ye Faithful" and "While Shepherd's Watched Their Flocks By Night".

"Schneewalzer" proved to be as popular as ever with had the audience swaying and leaping up enthusiastically.

## Engagement Report - Keith Jones

At this point the microphone decided to stop working and Brian did his best to announce to the audience our last piece "Christmas Swingalong. There were words of thanks from a member of the club's committee and we played "Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer" before winding things up with "We Wish You A Merry Christmas".

It had been another great night with the audience really entering into the spirit of things.

We were pleased to have Jack and Emily with us tonight as guest players. After the concert had ended Tug and Jack entertained by playing their post horns and that was greatly enjoyed by the audience and band members.

And so all too soon and with some sadness our indoor concerts had come to an end for another year although we still had the street carolling to look forward to. We hear a lot about traditions and being part of the community. I am sure that the founder members of the Bradwell Silver Band would have been absolutely delighted to know that what they started one hundred and fifteen years ago is now as strong as it has ever been in terms of playing membership, learners and the support we receive from our local community.

Messages left in the Band's Facebook page:

*"Always a fantastic night much loved by all us locals. It's really not Christmas until after this event. Thank you to all Bradwell Silver Band members and helpers for all your time, hard work and commitment to our community xx"*

*"New Bradwell are very lucky to have the Silver Band. The dedication in the lead up to Christmas and the performances outside my house on Christmas Eve and Christmas morning - thank you so much!"*



(Photo courtesy of Ron Chappell)

## **Engagement Report - Keith Jones**

### **Tuesday 20th December**

#### **Street Carolling**

#### **New Bradwell**

On a cold but dry evening we had a group of 16 players plus five collectors for our second evening of street carolling. Following the unfortunate incident a couple of years ago when we were told off by an angry resident for waking up her child we broke with the traditional route by starting our playing in Spencer Street where we received the warmest of welcomes. We moved on to School Street and then had stops in the High Street, North Street, Thompson Street, Harwood Street and Chipperfield Close.

There was a long walk from there back to the Newport Road. Once again we were delighted to be offered a full range of festive food and drinks where a huge number of people had gathered for a party especially organised to hear the Band play. Our thanks go to Paula for arranging this and for her generous hospitality. From there we moved along to the corner of Wooton Close and our final stop was by the Cuba.

We had made excellent progress because of the collectors who turned up on the night and our special thanks go to Peter, Helen, Nicola, Doug and Maria. The collection was almost identical to that of last year so thank you to the people of New Bradwell for that .

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### **Saturday 24th December**

#### **Carolling**

#### **Stony Stratford**

It is a few years since the Band played in Stony Stratford High Street on the last Saturday before Christmas so it was great for us to be back there once more. This had been arranged at short notice to fill the void caused by our not receiving permission to play at the Kingston Shopping Centre and we are indebted to Lucy who arranged for the necessary licence to be issued. As we were going to be out again in the evening it had been decided to play from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

We had a band of 18 players and played more or less continuously for two hours with individual members taking a short break as necessary for a warming drink. We played all the usual carols and were more than happy to accommodate a number of requests for particular favourites. This made our presence feel really valued and at one point we found ourselves with quite an audience gathered around the Band. Jobs like this and the reaction of the public make our efforts worthwhile.

We thank our amazing collectors: Peter (in full Victorian regalia), Nicola & Doug, Helen & LJ and Maria's sister, they were all brilliant - apologies if we have forgotten anyone. It was nice to have Lisa playing with us today.



## Engagement Report - Keith Jones

### Saturday 24th December

#### Street Carolling

#### New Bradwell

A group of 18 players met at the school for the traditional Christmas Eve tour around the streets of New Bradwell. On a mild but windy evening we started in Bounty Street and weaved our way along Queen Anne Street, King Edward Street, St. James Street, St. Mary Street, Newport Road, Wood Street, Caledonian Road and Wallace Street. We had a good number of collectors and thus ensured swift progress.

There were many groups of people out in the streets to listen to the Band in the final countdown to Christmas Day and it helped create a wonderful atmosphere. Many thanks to our collectors who made this possible - Peter & Jess, Doug & Nicola, Seife & Samra and John (Daniel's dad).

Peter's Victorian costume again attracted a lot of attention and he happily posed for photographs with some of the residents who wanted to capture an image of this special evening. We were pleased to have with us as guest players for the evening Lisa, Emily and Ben.

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### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December

#### Christmas Day Street Carolling

A dry, mild but windy Christmas morning saw the Band meet at the Clock Tower to continue the tradition started in 1901 of playing carols around the streets of New Bradwell. Musical Director Brian Keech had 24 players to lead through the traditional carols including "Christians Awake". We had lots of people looking out of windows and standing in their doorways to wish us a Merry Christmas. When we reached Bradville, Fraser's Dad came out with a tray of drinks to help us on our way.

When we reached our final spot in Bradvue Crescent there were further refreshments ready for us from a generous local resident who always looks forward to the Band playing outside his house. We were pleased that we were joined by guests Jack, Emily and Ben.

All that was left for the Banding year was the long walk down the hill to where we had left the cars. We'll do it all again next year!

There are a number of video clips of the Band playing around the streets on the Facebook page of "*I Grew Up In New/Old Bradwell*" along with many lovely comments as well as some fond memories.



## Development Group

At their final rehearsal of 2016, the youngsters of the Development Group were presented with selection box and a new draw string bag with the Band's name and logo. Adult members also received a gift to thank them for their efforts over the past year. They group gave another great performance in the Christmas Concert at St. James. Mabel was our compere for the evening and she did a super job of announcing the pieces we were playing. Sadly this was going to be Mabel's last appearance with the group, at least for the time being, as she is joining the Air Cadets in January and they meet on the same night as the Development Group's rehearsals.

Our thanks go to all the parents, relatives and friends who came along to support the Band at the concert. It was a great experience for the youngsters to be able to perform in front of a full and friendly audience.

The performance wasn't quite without incident as two members had forgotten their music and parents had to make a quick journey home to fetch it and another member's music disappeared completely! It had been left at the side of the Church with the instruments but when it was time to take the stage the music had been moved, presumably by someone needing the seating. At least the player concerned was able to share the music with the person they sat next to. Making music disappear is one thing but losing a mouthpiece halfway through a performance takes some doing. Somehow whilst putting the music on the stand for the next piece the mouthpiece came loose from the instrument and couldn't be found. A crisis was avoided as a mouthpiece was rapidly borrowed from a member of the senior band standing back stage. Happily the missing mouthpiece was later recovered so all's well that ends well.

The group resume rehearsals on January 5<sup>th</sup> and a number of new learners are expected to join us. We have plenty of instruments available but need some help with teaching. We have been asking for a long time for more volunteers from the senior band to help with the learners but so far without success. You have all seen and heard the potential of the players in this group who are vital for the future of the Band so if you can regularly spare the time on a Thursday evening please let Keith or Steph know, you will be made very welcome!



## Misc.

### School News

New Bradwell School Site Supervisor Maurice Eldridge retired from work in December. In their end of term assembly, the Head Teacher Phil Webster spoke in glowing terms about Maurice's contribution to the school. When Phil took over the school some nine years ago the school facilities were not in the best of shape and much refurbishment was needed. Maurice was recruited to be a key part of this redevelopment and has overseen the transformation of the school to the present excellent condition.

Bradwell Silver Band are extremely grateful for the help and assistance Maurice has given us during his time at the school, particularly during the major building work which was carried out in the 2015. Despite all the upheaval Maurice made sure the Band always had somewhere to practise in the school and went out of his way to help when there were major problems with the boiler room where our equipment is kept in storage. The Head Teacher presented Maurice with a gift from the school and Keith was there to make a presentation on behalf of the Band of an engraved glass tankard.

We thank Maurice for all his help and for putting up with Band. We wish him a very happy retirement.

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### Answers to December's Christmas Carols and Songs Riddles

1. *O Holy Night*
2. *Jingle Bell Rock*
3. *Grandma Got Run Over By A Reindeer*
4. *All I Want For Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth*
5. *I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus*
6. *The Little Drummer Boy*
7. *Silent Night*
8. *Deck The Halls*
9. *Silvers Bells*
10. *O Little Town Of Bethlehem*
11. *Away In A Manger*
12. *We Three Kings*
13. *Twelve Days of Christmas*
14. *Go Tell It On The Mountain*
15. *We Wish You A Merry Christmas*
16. *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*
17. *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night*
18. *I Saw Three Ships*
19. *Joy To The World*
20. *Do You Hear What I Hear?*

Well done if you got them all correct! 😊

## Future Engagements

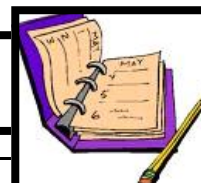


<u>MARCH</u>		
Sunday 19th March	Area Contest - Stevenage	ALL DAY!
<u>APRIL</u>		
Sunday 22nd April	Spring Concert & Awards Evening -	7.30pm

Playing members are asked to arrive at least 30 minutes before the start time shown for the performance.

If you are not going to be available for any of these engagements it is essential that you 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.

## 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 Lawrie	-
<i>Musical Director:</i>	Brian Keech	md@bradwellband.co.uk
<i>Publicity Officer:</i>	Steph Chappell	press@bradwellband.co.uk
<i>Newsletter Editor:</i>	Sarah-Jayne Edwards	sj.cc23@gmail.com
<i>Webmaster:</i>	Fraser Cousins	fras@sky.com
<i>Quartermaster</i>	Martin Oliver	-
<i>Website:</i>	www.bradwellband.co.uk	

## Player List

### Playing Positions

Principal Cornet:	David Wilson
Solo Cornets:	Adam Chappell
	Jess Gunn
	Orla Howell
	Tim Sell
Soprano Cornet:	Julia Hollis
Repiano Cornet:	Sam Lawrie
2nd Cornet:	Tania Dytrych
	Daniel Gaylor
3rd Cornet:	Alison Drury
	Adam Hird
Flugel Horn:	Karen Wilson
Solo Horn:	Keith Jones
1st Horn:	Louis Wilson
2nd Horn:	Steph Chappell
1st Baritone:	Maria Belton
2nd Baritone:	Martin Oliver
Solo Euphonium:	Fraser Cousins
Euphonium	Lucy Bedford
1st Trombone:	John Lee
2nd Trombone:	Evan Lovell
Bass Trombone:	Luca Ianotta
	Ben Mirfin
E <sub>b</sub> Basses:	Luke Colvin
	Luke Wilson
	Jennifer Avery
BB <sub>b</sub> Bass:	Robin Allen
	David Sanderson
Percussion	Toby Dytrych
	James Lawrie
	Stephen Osborne

