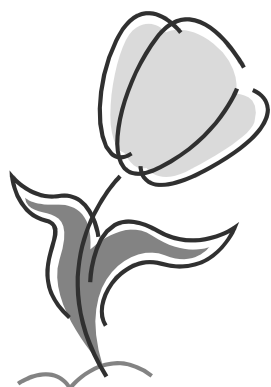


The Bradwell Bugle

The newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band



February 2006



From the Editor

Welcome to the February edition of the Bradwell Bugle. Due to the nature of the time of year, there are no engagement reports this issue, so the Bugle is a little lighter than usual!

On a sad note, the Band is sorry to report the death of Doris Woodward. Doris, who lived opposite the school, had been a friend of the band for many years. As well as being a regular attendee at our concerts she also supplied many pounds of fruit to our Supporters Club to turn into jam. She was also a keen reader of the Bugle and eagerly looked forward to her copy each month. We send our condolences to her family and friends

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Bradwell Silver Band is up for a bit of worldwide publicity soon with new Musical Director Chris Johnston, who runs an internet radio station, being interviewed by a prominent broadcaster in the USA on his podcast site (www.brasscast.com). The interview will also include four of the Band's tracks off our CD. Chris' internet radio station, which is also up for a bit of a plug, is: www.brassbandradio.co.uk. (If you didn't understand any of the last paragraph, don't worry!!!)

The Band wishes to welcome three new players to the ranks; Roy Lack, Gary Morris and Sue Snoxall. Roy, who plays Baritone, is from Great Horwood Silver Band - he recently stepped down as Musical Director there and is now resuming playing with them, but as they don't contest, he's guesting with us. Roy, his wife Beryl and son Paul were for many years on the committee of the Milton Keynes Contest.

Gary Morris, who plays cornet, has popped up on occasions over the years. He and Robin Allen (the band's secretary) used to play with Sundon Park Band in Luton. Gary currently also plays with Toddington Town Band.

Sue Snoxall also plays cornet and is going to play with us for the contest. Sue is making a return to playing after a break looking after her young family. She used to play for Wolverton, ending up on Principal Cornet.

In the run up to the London and Southern Counties regional contests in March, Chris is planning a series of sectional rehearsals on Sunday mornings, 10:30 'till 12. Each section will only have to attend on one Sunday though, so you will get some sleep in the month!!

Guy Drury



Profile of Chris Johnston, MD

We are grateful to Chris for writing this piece about himself.

I was born in 1957 at Carlisle in Cumbria. My family were in the Salvation Army and my father Derek Johnston was an exceptional musician, also my Grandfather was the bandmaster of the Carlisle Citadel Band for many years.



At the age of six the family moved to Rossington Colliery in Yorkshire, as my father accepted the position of Musical Director, this is where my playing career began.

After having begun playing on cornet I moved to Tenor Horn, where I took the lead part in a quartet for my first Contest, the piece was Comrades in Arms. We won first place, and I was also awarded the best player of the day, not bad for a seven year old.

Over the next few years my father being a Musical Director, I played with Dinnington Colliery Band, Thurcroft Welfare band, and ultimately with the then Famous Championship band Cresswell Colliery, on 2nd Cornet, playing alongside such players as the very well known Mervyn Griffiths Principal cornet, also I was privileged to play under the great Harry Mortimer.

I competed in the national Mineworkers Championships at Blackpool against Grimethorpe Colliery, to name only one of many of the top colliery bands at that time.

In 1969 my father was offered the position of Musical Director with the Camborne Town Band in Cornwall (Championship section), so we moved to Cornwall.

I began playing with Camborne Town Band on Cornet then moved to Euphonium. In the four years with this band, winning many local competitions, we won the South West of England Area's three times, playing against the great Professor Walter Hargreaves, and the Sun Life Band. We also gained Fifth place at the National Finals at The Royal Albert Hall, only 1 point behind Black Dyke Mills, the best ever result for a Cornish band. We also won the World Championships in Kerkrade in Holland in 1974, this I remember only too well, as we had to rehearse three Top section test pieces of our choice and the adjudicators chose two on the day that we had to perform. The three pieces were Le Roi dys, Triumphant Rhapsody, Variations on a Ninth. The judges chose Triumphant Rhapsody and Variations on a Ninth. Also the Solo euphonium player had a severe asthma attack and could not perform in two concerts that were also planned, so I had to play these two pieces in two full concerts as the only euphonium player.



In 1974 I moved back to Derbyshire to play solo Euphonium with Cresswell Colliery, and also became a coal miner for 18 months or so, again a great honour for me to play with such a great band.

After returning back to Cornwall, I was the Solo Euphonium of the St Keverne Band, when in 1976 the band achieved the title of 3rd section National Champions in the finals in Fulham Town Hall. I was also appointed bandmaster and taught the youngsters. I also stepped in to conduct the main band when needed, having conducted the band on television's Songs Of Praise, and also on a tour of Germany, with audiences over 3000 people, to name just a couple of major conducting debuts.

During this time I won many Solo awards, Champion of Cornwall, Champion of West of England, and others on several occasions.



I was also a member of the 'DJ Brass', a ten piece group of exceptional quality, as to which we did a tour of Cornwall with Goff Richards, who became a family friend.

I then moved to the first section Redruth Town Band on solo Euphonium. After 2 years I was offered the Musical Directors position, which I accepted. After 18 months I was offered the MD position with Hayle Town band, again I accepted.

I then went through a divorce, and decided to move away to Milton Keynes, unfortunately due to work commitments I did not have the time for Brass Bands, until a few years ago.

I had a phone call from Simon Smith, a young man I taught as a learner, only to find out he lived only a few miles away from me and he was now the Principal Horn at Travelsphere band (GUS). He asked me if I wanted to play Baritone for them, this I accepted and played with this great band for about 9 months. Unfortunately my work situation changed and I had to leave, but I had a great time, playing under Frank Renton, Richard Evans, Roy Newsome, and also playing alongside Alan Morrison. Also winning the Areas on the test piece 'Jazz!'

After another break, I had a brief spell conducting Wolverton Town band, who were very short of players at that time. They were improving but I decided it was time to move on.

Recently I have been helping bands out as a relief conductor, such as a concert in Peterborough with the Stamford Brass Band 2nd section in November.

My new appointment with the Bradwell band this year, being local to where I live is a plus factor, also the band has several very competent players. My main focus is the area contest in March, with the Test Piece 'Entertainments' by Gilbert Vinter, not an easy piece, but I feel very confident that the band can produce a very good performance.

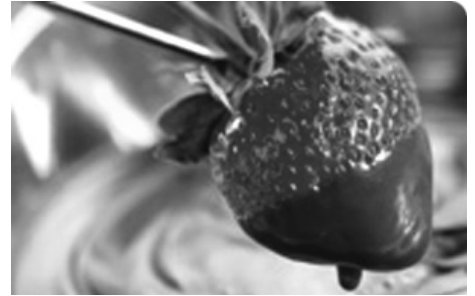
I look forward to the year ahead. *Chris Johnston, MD*

Cookery Corner

Seeing as the 14th of February is Valentines Day, why not make these special treats for your loved one!

Chocolate Dipped Strawberries

1 pint strawberries with stems on - (preferably a long-stemmed variety), washed and patted dry
 115 grams semisweet chocolate
 1 tablespoon cooking oil



Spread strawberries on a working surface with wax-paper-covered tray nearby. You will also need one or two bamboo skewers or other picks.

In the top of a double boiler over hot water, melt the chocolate with the cooking oil, stirring to mix thoroughly. (The cooking oil will add a beautiful shine to the completed sweet.) Place melted chocolate near working surface, but keep chocolate warm.

One at a time, insert the skewer in the stem end of a strawberry and dip into the chocolate. Lift out and shake any excess chocolate back into the pot. Place the strawberry on the wax paper and continue with the remaining berries. The strawberries should set for about 10 minutes before being served.

Chocolate-dipped strawberries can be refrigerated for up to 24 hours, during which time the chocolate will harden.

Servings: 6

Humour - Advantages of being an Eb Soprano Player

Have you ever noticed how the soprano player is always located on the outside of the band, closest to the audience? This is good for many reasons:

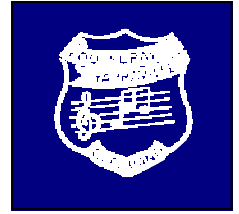
1. If there is a fire you can make it to the door in time instead of being toast like the BBbs.
2. Nobody sits behind you honking in your ear.
3. If the solo cornets get mouthy you can direct a chastening blast beyond the pain threshold.
4. You can easily check out any cute babes/guys in the audience
5. If you are hitting a really good high C you can turn toward the audience slightly and let it rip.
6. You can get out and to the car park after the concert faster.
7. Lots of room to your right for mutes, water bottles, cornet stands and a little table for your beer.
8. Being up front usually suits the soprano players ego.
9. If necessary you can give a disapproving glance to anyone in the band without the MD noticing.
10. If you have to go to the toilet really desperately you can get there first at the break.
11. Same as No. 10 but you get to the bar first.
12. Same as No. 10 but you get to the free food and coffee/tea first.
13. Same as No. 10 but you get to meet the girls behind the bandstand first. (!)
14. It's as far away as you can get from the Bass Trombone.

Thanks to Clive Keech for these!!

Humour - Signs you've been in banding too long!

A very long list, but we're sure you'll like it! (Thanks to the Footscray-Yarraville City Band from Australia)

1. When you hear music and you start marking time.
2. When you walk behind someone and you're in step with them.
3. When you try to guess the tempo of your favourite song.
4. When all your friends are in the band.
5. When you don't mind changing clothes on the bus.
6. When you point out key changes and dynamics while listening to the radio.
7. When every guy or girl you're interested in is in the band.
8. When you LIKE wearing your uniform.
9. When people ask you about your social life and you say, "*Oh, you mean my trombone / cor-net / etc.?*"
10. When you've had a "trombone-ectomy"
11. When you practice your instrument more than you talk to your dog.
12. When people worry when they see you without your instrument.
13. When band camp is FUN
14. When you remember flats and sharps more easily than your name.
15. When you're alone and you suffocate because there's no one telling you to breathe.
16. When slides feel normal.
17. When your instrument has a name.
18. When you remember your instrument's birthday and forget your mum's.
19. When you give your instrument a birthday party.
20. When you can make brown shoes look black.
21. When your uniform fits.
22. When you see your section more than you see your family.
23. When everyone wants to kill the other football team...and you want to kill the other band.
24. When you think evening practices should last a half-hour longer.
25. When you accidentally call your band director "Dad".
26. When you CAN sight-read.
27. When you can put on your uniform in less than 10 minutes.
28. When your mouthpiece tastes good.
29. When marking time is your favourite form of exercise.
30. When you have a bass strap or drum harness tan line.
31. When you subconsciously start practicing with a pencil.
32. When numbers past 8 aren't important.
33. When you roll-step through the cafeteria so you don't spill your lunch.
34. When you'd rather practice than read this list.
35. When letters past G aren't important.
36. When you get the jokes on this list.
37. When this list reaches the length that it has.



Competition

How many words can you make from:

‘BRADWELL SILVER’

- All words must be four letters or more
- No plurals
- No proper nouns (e.g. names or places)
- No foreign words
- No abbreviations

Think you can try? Just send in your answers to guydrury@btinternet.com, or by post to: 4 Long-leat Court, Great Holm, Milton Keynes, MK8 9HD no later than the 20th of February. There will be a small prize for the person with the most correct answers

Good luck to you all!!

Forthcoming Events and Engagements



Events appear on this page once they have been confirmed. Further details of times, venues and prices can be obtained from Robin.

- Saturday 18th March
London and Southern Counties Regional Championships, Stevenage Arts and Leisure Centre
(it is not yet known when in the day Bradwell will be playing, but it will most likely be in the morning)
- Saturday 11th March
Concert at St James Church, New Bradwell
7.30pm
- Saturday 22nd April
Concert at Stantonbury Theatre, MK with guest soloist Steven Mead. There will be a ‘Brass Masterclass’ hosted by Steve before the concert. (Details to be announced soon!)



Contact Details

Chairman:	Norman Keech	222298
Secretary:	Robin Allen rallen2@tiscali.co.uk	616463
Musical Director:	Chris Johnston rapid-radio@fsmail.net	
Supporters Club:	Norman Keech	222298
Newsletter/ Press Officer:	Guy Drury guydrury@btinternet.com	260546
Webmaster:	Fraser Cousins frasercousins@btinternet.com	225772
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
	Sue Snoxall
	Gary Morris
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:	Roy Lack
Euphoniums:	David Harris
	Fraser Cousins
1st Trombone:	Lisa Huckle
2nd Trombone:	Joshua Tatum
	Rod Pakes
Bass Trombone:	Nick Dytham
E♭ Bass:	Robin Allen
B♭ Bass:	David Huckle
	Ron Snape
Percussion:	Stephen Osborne
	Position Vacant*

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 this position, or would just like to come along for an evening, feel free to contact the Band's secretary, Robin Allen - see page five for details.