



The Bradwell Bugle



Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band

March 2021

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From the Editor

Hi Everyone!

Welcome to the March edition of the Band's monthly newsletter. I hope you and your families are bearing up as well as can be expected considering the trying circumstances that continue to affect us all so much. At least the weather has started to get warmer and there are some welcome signs of Spring.

The Prime Minister recently announced the government's roadmap to cautiously ease lockdown restrictions in England. Getting children back into school has been the top priority and so from 8 March all children and students will be able to start returning to face to face education in schools and college. Other provisional dates have been set for the gradual easing of the rules with the hope that by June 21 all legal limits on social contact can be removed. Of course this still very much depends on the statistics regarding infection rates continuing to show an improvement. So although nothing is guaranteed, we should all start to feel a bit more positive that things are finally moving in the right direction.

With little currently happening with banding activities to report on, this month's content can only reflect again on past events in the Band's history. My thanks go to Brian for his contribution. If you would like to send me something for inclusion in future editions I would be very grateful.

Sarah-Jayne

Band News

As most of you will have been made aware, Brian Keech, the Band's Musical Director, has been struggling with health issues over the past few months. After many visits to hospital and a lot of tests being carried out, Brian now faces major surgery for the removal of a kidney. A date has been set for this in the coming month and it is likely that he will need to stay in hospital for three days before being released to continue recovering at home. Our thoughts are with Brian and Liz at this anxious and difficult time and we send them both our very best wishes.

Quiz night returns!!! After a few months gap, the regular Thursday night on-line quiz has resumed. Hopefully this will be able to continue until the Band is finally able to return to practise.

The quiz starts at 8:00 p.m. and to join the Zoom Meeting use the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86731755704?pwd=MTNqZmJrSEw4RU11N2o5OGd3eElwUT09>

Meeting ID: **867 3175 5704**

Passcode: **644440**

More Memories From The M.D.

In the last newsletter I wrote about the Butlins contest that would normally take place in January. For many years a major contest in February took place in Milton Keynes. Called the Milton Keynes Brass Band Festival the contest was run and organised by members of all the local bands. Roy and Beryl Lack and Fred Gee were the leading figures for many years but members from Bradwell had important roles to play with my father Norman on the committee for many years whilst Keith was a Contest controller.

In the early years two sections were held at Radcliffe school Wolverton with the other two held just down the road on Wolverton mill. After a few years in Wolverton the contest was moved to Stantonbury Campus with sections held in the Theatre and Sports Hall.

The format of the contest was an Entertainment programme lasting between 17 and 20 minutes. One piece selected by the organisers had to be played by each band in their section. The contest was very popular with bands travelling from all over the country to participate. Some of my memories of this excellent event include the following.

The band that won the championship section were invited back the following year to give an evening concert following the contest. My first recollection was a concert from the Tadley band from Hampshire. Most members from Bradwell were stewards at the contest, taking on roles like manning doors, helping back stage with registration etc and moving drum kit. This did mean a long day if the band was also playing, an 8 a.m. practice and still helping out at the contest at 8 pm at night.

I remember the year the Huddersfield Tecol Band came but were unable to play as the coach keys snapped in the boot of the coach so they were unable to get out their instruments and music.

As mentioned earlier, the programme time was between 17 and 20 minutes with penalty points if you finished early or went over time. The timing was taken from the first note until the last and included applause and competing. A light system was used so that all could see with a green light when 17 minutes had been reached and a red light when 20 minutes concluded.

I remember one band whose final piece finished with a drum cadenza. Running short of the minimum playing time, the MD looked around waiting for the green light to come on before he stopped his drummer and concluded the performance!

It was good to note that most of the local bands took part and were successful. At a time when Bradwell didn't have a full band so unable to enter Regional contest this was our main event of the year as we were able to get help to play. As reported in a previous article one year the contest was held on Valentine's Day and Tug played My Love is like a Red Red Rose and at the end presented a rose to Karen in the audience.

Entertainment contests were rare and probably the reason why it was so popular and bands were able to bring many different things into their programmes from new compositions to comedy items etc. Milton Keynes people also supported the event massively with it always well attended. The mayor of Milton Keynes would always come and listen to the last few bands to play in the championship section and then present the prizes afterwards.

With the contest being held in February there was regularly weather problems especially with snow. It was an excellent event for many years but sadly no longer.

More Memories From The M.D.



FOURTH SECTION (STANTONBURY THEATRE)

Test Piece: "Hayride" from "Wheatlands", *Bram Wiggins*
 1st Prize: Cecil Bowden Memorial Challenge Trophy, Certificate & £200
 2nd Prize: Milton Keynes Borough Challenge Trophy, Certificate & £100
 3rd Prize: Bejam Challenge Trophy, Certificate & £60
 4th Prize: Certificate & £40
 Best Instrumentalist: Phillip Goodwin Challenge Trophy, Certificate & Medal

Draw 8.45am Play 9.30am Adjudicator Dennis Wilby

	Name of Band	Conductor	Order of Play	Points	Results
1	Barlestone Victoria	David Hughes			
2	Becontree Brass	Frank Stevens			
3	Bradwell Silver	V. Bower			
4	Chinnor Silver	D. Pegram			
5	Croft Silver	Graham Sutton			
6	Ellesborough Silver	A. J. Copcutt			
7	Ercol	Percy Fletcher			
8	Fulham	Andrew Meyers			
9	Jayess (Queensbury) Junior	David Crisp			
10	Jubilee Brass (Oxford)	K. J. Membury			
11	Mere Manor Brass	Nick Chivers			
12	Sovereign Brass	Harold McNeil			
13	Stonesfield Silver	R. J. Banks			
14					

The red numbers displayed on the platform represent the number printed on the programme. The black numbers displayed on the platform represent the order of play as decided by ballot.
 Admission to the hall is not permitted during the band's performance. It is also a condition of admittance that no members of the audience or competitors are allowed to take photographs or make recordings during a performance.

The audience is requested not to applaud when a Band takes the platform, but kindly to reserve applause until the Band has completed the performance. It is also important that the audiences shall refrain from mentioning names or numbers of Bands.

Brian

Free Music To Keep You Playing!

Pennine Music is one of the leading publishers of brass band music and they have recently made the following generous announcement designed to encourage home practise ahead of a return to normal banding activities.

It is fast approaching one year since normal rehearsals were suspended for Brass Bands. We, like many of you are looking forward to the day we can return to band rooms. However, we too are concerned that the banding movement could have been irreparably damaged following the last twelve months. Pennine Music would like to do everything we can to help keep players' brass band playing alive and not pack away their instruments for good.

Without you, there is no us! To that end, we have started to put together these 'Practice Pads' for you to download completely free. They contain a variety of music & there are backing tracks available for download for many of the titles included here at: www.penninemusic.com

We hope this will go some way towards helping ride the storm and get us back in the band rooms with chairs filled with players.

More practice pads will be added over the coming days and weeks.

Online Solo Contest

In a normal year (remember those?) the Oxfordshire & District Brass Band Association hold a number of festivals, the first of which is held in February where many bands including Bradwell have entered in the past as a preparation for that year's chosen area test piece. Other events organised include an entertainment contest which takes place in the autumn and a solo competition that is normally scheduled for the end of April.

For this year they have recently announced that the solo contest will be going ahead in April but because of the ongoing circumstances will be held as an online event. Entrants to the festival will be asked to submit a video recording of their chosen solo which will be judged by respected adjudicators Dr David Thornton and Duncan Wilson.

In the past week Brian has contacted all of the younger members of the Band advising them of this contest. We know that some of them have previously submitted recordings for University applications and school events so there is an opportunity of using these. We would also like to think some of our older members may be interested in taking part.

This is a unique opportunity to be part of something that may well become the norm of the future. You just need to submit a video recording which has to be an unedited single camera shot. Compared with the usual event this means that there is no travelling involved and there will be no live audience to add to any nervousness you may feel when performing live. With this format you get the chance of making as many recordings as you need to before submitting the one you feel is your best performance!

The festival is open to players of all ages with the classes as follows:

OPEN CLASSES (open to all ages)

Section S: OPEN SOLO CHAMPIONSHIP – ANY MUSIC (including Air Varies)

SENIOR SECTIONS

Section L: ADULT IMPROVERS (up to 5 years playing)

Section M: SENIOR SLOW MELODY

Section N: SENIOR SOLO CHAMPIONSHIP (Age 19+) – ANY MUSIC (including Air Varies)

Section O: SENIOR DUETS – ANY MUSIC – (at least one player to be 19+)

Section Q: SENIOR QUARTETS – ANY MUSIC – (at least one player to be 19+)

Section U: SENIOR QUINTETS – ANY MUSIC – (at least one player to be 19+)

JUNIOR SECTIONS

Section A: Under 9 SLOW MELODY

Section B: 9-11 SLOW MELODY

Section C: 12-14 SLOW MELODY

Section D: 15-18 SLOW MELODY

Section E: JUNIOR SOLO CHAMPIONSHIP (Under 19) – ANY MUSIC (including Air Varies)

Section F: Both Under 11 DUET

Section G: Under 15 (At least one player to be 11-14) DUET

Section H: Under 19 (At least one player to be 15-18) DUET

Section I: Under 14 (Three verses of any hymn tune) QUARTET

Section J: Under 19 (Any music) QUARTET

Section T: Under 19 (Any music) QUINTET

Section P: PERCUSSION – Under 19 – ANY ROUTINE OR PROGRAMME

Entries may be accompanied or unaccompanied, at the performer's choice. They can even use an electronic backing track if they wish, providing it is fully audible on the recording.

The closing date for entry forms and payments is Friday 26th March 2021. Late entries will only be accepted if a class is not full. Video recordings must be submitted before 23:00hrs on Sunday 25th April.

Save Our Brass Bands!

Save Our Brass Bands campaign reaches over £140,000, plus further support available.

Whilst we at the Bradwell Silver Band currently have relative financial stability, many bands across the U.K. find themselves in not such a fortunate situation. In an attempt to help such bands, Brass Bands England launched a "Save Our Brass Bands" campaign which has recently reported hitting another funding milestone with over £140,000 now being raised to support the mission of brass bands across England. As of 19 January 2021, the total raised sits at £140,539, raised through 2,769 supporters of 72 projects nationwide.

For those who may not be aware Brass Bands England promotes, represents and supports brass bands across the country. There are a voice for all bands and all players and they shout about the life-enhancing benefits of this vital part of our culture. They are one of Arts Council England's Sector Support Organisations and as part of this provide support to bands and the wider music and arts sector with the declared aim to excel in music-making, increase participation, and connect with communities. They work with a wide range of partners in both strategic and informal ways to help share the fun, challenges and rewards of being involved with a brass band. They promote and share the brass band story and encourage the support of bands across the country.



The Crowdfunder consists of individual member bands who have been working hard to ensure their bands survive the difficulties presented by Covid-19. To encourage support from loyal audience members and local communities, bands have been offering various rewards to donors, such as the Maltby Miners Welfare Band which has been busy recording bespoke virtual performances for supporters to enjoy remotely.

For bands still seeking support, the Brass Bands Emergency Fund remains open with over £7,000 currently available for bands in need. Individual bands are eligible to apply for support with ongoing costs such as rent, insurance and staff payments. Applicants are also offered bespoke support in governance and funding as part of a wider band triage process offered by BBE. Here, the team will work with you on your business plan to ensure that funds generate short-term impact as well as contribute to the ongoing financial health of your organisation. The band triage offer is free to BBE member bands that need it.

Alex Parker, BBE's Relationship and Partnership Development Manager, said:

"The Brass Band Emergency Fund isn't just about plugging a short-term financial hole. Our band triage sessions can ensure that all areas of band management, such as governance and fundraising, are all pointing towards a sustainable future for that band.

We hope that these micro-grants from our emergency pot can help set these changes in motion so that bands are in a good position to get back to in-person banding when it is safe to do so."

The total Save Our Brass Bands fundraising figure is set to increase further as more bands complete their fundraising campaigns. To support a band please visit crowdfunder.co.uk/save-our-brass-bands.

The Brass Band Emergency Fund is awarded on a rolling basis while funds are available.

In another initiative, Brass Bands England are running a free webinar on "Re-engaging Your Youth Band" on Thursday 4th March at 7pm. If this is something you may be interested in please let Steph know and she will be able to provide further information.

All Our Yesterdays



Our regular nostalgic look back through the Band's history takes us back around thirty years. The Musical Director at the time was Vaughan Bower who was a professional musician serving in the Blues and Royals, a cavalry regiment of the British Army. There are two members in this group who are still very much a part of the present day band. Standing being Vaughan and slightly to the left of the picture you should be able to pick out Brian and Tug. Sadly a few featured in this photo are no longer with us but they remain in the memory of those that knew them as friends and fellow members of the Band.



20 Important Benefits Of Music In Our Schools

The past twelve months have been difficult for everyone and we particularly feel for those who have had their education disrupted because of the schools closures. As we look forward to the return to school we believe that it is now more important than ever for pupils to have access to music.

Nearly everyone enjoys music, whether by listening to it, singing, or playing an instrument. But despite this almost universal interest, many schools in recent times have had to do away with their music education programs. This is a mistake, with schools losing not only an enjoyable subject, but a subject that can enrich student lives and education. Read on to learn why we believe music education is so important, and how it offers benefits even beyond itself.

- 1. Musical training helps develop language and reasoning: Students who have early musical training will develop the areas of the brain related to language and reasoning. The left side of the brain is better developed with music, and songs can help imprint information on young minds.*
- 2. A mastery of memorization: Even when performing with sheet music, student musicians are constantly using their memory to perform. The skill of memorization can serve students well in education and beyond.*
- 3. Students learn to improve their work: Learning music promotes craftsmanship, and students learn to want to create good work instead of mediocre work. This desire can be applied to all subjects of study.*
- 4. Increased coordination: Students who practice with musical instruments can improve their hand-eye coordination. Just like playing sports, children can develop motor skills when playing music.*
- 5. A sense of achievement: Learning to play pieces of music on a new instrument can be a challenging, but achievable goal. Students who master even the smallest goal in music will be able to feel proud of their achievement.*
- 6. Kids stay engaged in school: An enjoyable subject like music can keep kids interested and engaged in school. Student musicians are likely to stay in school to achieve in other subjects.*
- 7. Success in society: Music is the fabric of our society, and music can shape abilities and character. Students in band or orchestra are less likely to abuse substances over their lifetime. Musical education can greatly contribute to children's intellectual development as well.*
- 8. Emotional development: Students of music can be more emotionally developed, with empathy towards other cultures They also tend to have higher self esteem and are better at coping with anxiety.*
- 9. Students learn pattern recognition: Children can develop their math and pattern-recognition skills with the help of musical education. Playing music offers repetition in a fun format.*
- 10. Better SAT scores: Students who have experience with music performance or appreciation score higher on the SAT. One report indicates 63 points higher on verbal and 44 points higher on math for students in music appreciation courses.*

20 Important Benefits Of Music In Our Schools

11. *Fine-tuned auditory skills: Musicians can better detect meaningful, information bearing elements in sounds, like the emotional meaning in a baby's cry. Students who practice music can have better auditory attention, and pick out predictable patterns from surrounding noise.*
12. *Music builds imagination and intellectual curiosity: Introducing music in the early childhood years can help foster a positive attitude toward learning and curiosity. Artistic education develops the whole brain and develops a child's imagination.*
13. *Music can be relaxing: Students can fight stress by learning to play music. Soothing music is especially helpful in helping kids relax.*
14. *Musical instruments can teach discipline: Kids who learn to play an instrument can learn a valuable lesson in discipline. They will have to set time aside to practice and rise to the challenge of learning with discipline to master playing their instrument.*
15. *Preparation for the creative economy: Investing in creative education can prepare students for the 21st century workforce. The new economy has created more artistic careers, and these jobs may grow faster than others in the future.*
16. *Development in creative thinking: Kids who study the arts can learn to think creatively. This kind of education can help them solve problems by thinking outside the box and realizing that there may be more than one right answer.*
17. *Music can develop spatial intelligence: Students who study music can improve the development of spatial intelligence, which allows them to perceive the world accurately and form mental pictures. Spatial intelligence is helpful for advanced mathematics and more.*
18. *Kids can learn teamwork: Many musical education programs require teamwork as part of a band or orchestra. In these groups, students will learn how to work together and build camaraderie.*
19. *Responsible risk-taking: Performing a musical piece can bring fear and anxiety. Doing so teaches kids how to take risks and deal with fear, which will help them become successful and reach their potential.*
20. *Better self-confidence: With encouragement from teachers and parents, students playing a musical instrument can build pride and confidence. Musical education is also likely to develop better communication for students.*

Source: www.bachelorsdegree.org/2011/03/10/20-important-benefits-of-music-in-ourschools