

The Bradwell Bugle

The newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band



April 2006



From the Editor

Welcome to the April edition of the Bradwell Bugle. Firstly, Bradwell Silver Band would like to wish all the readers of the Bugle a Happy Easter. This month's Bugle is a little thicker than the first few months of the year as we are starting to pick up the engagements once again!

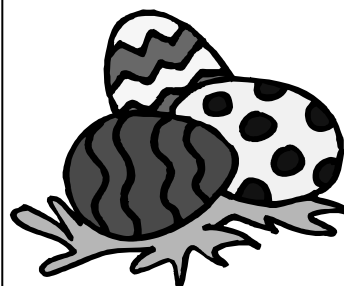
One of the Band's most important concerts this year will be at Stantonbury Theatre, involving Bradwell Silver Band and Steven Mead, a world-class euphonium player. This is on Saturday the 22nd of April, and is sure to be a sell-out. Tickets are now available from the Band's secretary, Robin Allen on 616463. Also, if any one is available to assist with Front of House duties at this concert your help will be greatly appreciated! Please contact Norman Keech for more information. There is more about Steven Mead on page 4.

And finally, many thanks to Keith Jones who has written both the Engagement Report for St. James, and the Contest Report for the Regional Contests at Stevenage.



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Guy Drury

Engagement Report

Concert at the Parish Church of St. James New Bradwell

Saturday 11th March 2006

We have traditionally performed a Spring concert at this venue for a number of years but this year it had been arranged for a month earlier than usual to help in our preparations for the area contest. This was Chris Johnston's first engagement since being appointed Musical Director.

Our opening number was "Parade of the Charioteers" from the epic 1959 motion picture "Ben Hur", a MGM

three and a half hour, wide-screen Technicolor blockbuster. The chariot race sequence in the Roman Circus is one of the most thrilling and famous in film history. This race is one of the key scenes in the movie, used in all the movie's publicity posters, and was introduced by a fanfare followed by the thrilling march "Parade of the Charioteers". Original music written by Miklos Rozsa and arranged for brass band by Steve Sykes, the opening fanfares immediately conjure up the image of splendidly attired gladiators performing a lap of honour before the serious racing began.

Engagement Report

For this item the Band were seated in an unusual arrangement, the horns in the seats normally occupied by the solo cornets, the trombones where the horns usually sit and the front row cornets standing up to the right of the stage. The back row cornets are also standing but in their usual position. There was a confident opening and a competent performance although not without odd blips here and there.

There was a quick reshuffle for the Band to adopt their normal seating positions for our first public performance of "Entertainments" by Gilbert Vinter, the area test piece for this year's National Championship qualifier. This is three movements Caprice, Elegy and March and in all honesty is a tricky piece for bands of our standing. Another good opening led to a reasonable performance with perhaps a hint of rushing. Chris's hard work on this piece over the past few months showed through. One could sense that the audience were not entirely sure about this music as it is not a typical concert item but they applauded anyway!

Our first soloist for the evening was Adam Keech on flugel horn with "Share My Yoke". Singing is an integral part of the Salvation Army's musical mission, and "Share My Yoke" first appeared in the "Musical Salvationist" in July 1987 as a selection for four part choir. The words and music were written by Joy Webb and arranged for solo cornet and brass band by Ivor Bosanko. Ivor's touching arrangement has great beauty and an evocation of suffering which is slaked by the comforting words of the Lord.

The words of the first verse are:

When I'm tired and nothing's going right for me
When things I've counted on just do not come my way
When in my mind the thick grey folds of doubt
arise
It's then I seem to hear him say.

(Chorus)

Share my yoke and find that I am joined with you
Your slightest movement I shall feel and be there too!
Share my yoke and come the way that I must go!
I our "togetherness" my peace you'll know;
The world beholding us will see it so!

This is a lovely melody, mostly accompanied by the lower instruments in the Band, and Adam gave it an emotional performance.

By way of a complete contrast, our next item was "It's A Kind of Magic". Written by Roger Taylor this was released by Queen on 17th March, 1986 and spent 5 weeks in the charts and reached number 3. This arrangement for brass band by Jan Van Kraeydonck is a lively up-tempo number and tonight there was some fine percussion playing in evidence.

We then switched styles again for "Crimond". Arranged by Peter Graham, this features the hymn tune "The Lord is my Shepherd" and has extracts from the Eric Ball brass

band classic "Resurgam" (I Shall Rise Again) Composed as a tribute to the wife of one of brass band's stalwarts, the performance of this item in a church seems entirely appropriate.

For our last item of the first half we reverted to the seating arrangement of the opening item for a big band style item, "Mumbo Jumbo" written by Barrie Gott an Australian who has composed for brass bands and the Salvation Army.

There followed an interval where refreshment were available to all.

The second half began with "Pastyme with Henry", an arrangement by David Lancaster of a Renaissance madrigal attributed to Henry the Eighth. It starts in a typically 16th century style before switching to a more modern beat. The euphoniums are then heard playing the familiar tune of "Greensleeves" before the music reverts to the original style.



The annual Bradwell Silver Band Presentations were then made. These were:

Young Bandsman off the Year: **Luke Colvin**

Bandsman of the Year: (voted for by Band members)
Clive Keech

Keith Clement's Shield: **Karen Wilson**

Chairman's Trophy: **Graham Huckle**

Congratulations to all the winners.

Presentations were also made to **Anne Osborne**, and **Rose Davy**, members of the Supporters Club who work hard to supplement the Band's finances. **Mavis Harris's** efforts were also acknowledged as was **Liz Keech** for making hundreds of pots of jam which are sold on the Band's stall at various events. Our thanks go to these people for their support.



Back to the music and we had our second soloist of the concert, Nicky Davy on cornet with "Satchmo". Written by Kenny Baker as a tribute to Louis Armstrong, this has been arranged by Alan Morrison as a cornet solo. Nicky demonstrated how well he has progressed over the past twelve months or so and despite his young age he seems totally at ease with the Jazz style of playing. An excellent solo played without music received prolonged and well earned applause.

This was followed by "James Bond Collection", an arrangement by Goff Richards of theme music from the classic James Bond films including Goldfinger, On Her Majesty's Secret Service and From Russia With Love. There were some very nice individual touches, especially with the trombone playing of Lisa Huckle reaching top Cs with some style in "Nobody Does It Better"



Engagement Report

Our last solo of the evening was originally programmed as a euphonium duet. However, at short notice David Harris found himself having to work away from home and it was left to Fraser Cousins to perform "Softly As I Leave You" on his own. The accompanying parts for this piece have been written for either a solo or as a duet, thus allowing the soloist to have a much appreciated breather before the big finish. Despite being near the end of a demanding programme, Fraser showed great stamina in his playing and hit the high note at the end with some aplomb.

Another reshuffle to our opening position was required for "Swing Time Religion" an exciting arrangement by Barrie Gott in big-band style based on an original melody and the gospel song 'Give me that old time religion'. This sees some of the Band members clapping in time to the music and another chance for Nicky Davy to play in the Jazz style that suits him so well.

The raffle was then drawn before our final item "One Moment In Time". This was originally a song recorded by

American singer Whitney Houston for the 1988 Summer Olympics held in Seoul, South Korea. Written by Albert Hammond and John Bettis and arranged for band by Frank Bernaerts there was some nice solo playing from Sue Snoxell and Adam Keech.

The vicar thanked the Band for the concert complementing them on the ability to play in such contrasting styles.

This was a good concert performed with the minimum of rehearsal time having been spent on some items. We are indebted to David Scott from Broseley who stepped in at short notice to deputise on euphonium and to Roy Lack from Great Horwood who played baritone.

Keith Jones

Contest Report - London & Southern Counties Regional Contest

On Saturday 18th March, Bradwell Silver Band travelled to Stevenage to compete in the London and Southern Counties Regional Qualifying Contest for the Besson National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain. In our section were 14 bands (another had withdrawn and there were four other bands listed as being in this section who did not enter).

An early start from New Bradwell (7:15 a.m.) was needed to arrive for a rehearsal at the sailing club, dropping Norman off at the venue to attend the draw for order of play. The rehearsal venue was nice and warm with a low ceiling and we ran through the piece really well. As we made our way back to the contest venue we learned that we had been drawn to play number second. That was OK; it meant we wouldn't have to hang around too long before playing. We changed into uniforms and were ushered round to the room for registration. We then entered the stage ready for our performance and I thought we seemed to be fairly relaxed.

Rather misleadingly what was described as the main concert hall was actually a large sports hall and was extremely cold. Whether this affected the way we played I am not sure but the first movement was not as neat and tidy as it had been at the earlier rehearsal. The rest of the piece went as well as could be expected for a live performance. We left the stage and were free to explore the many delights that Stevenage offers. That didn't take long and many members passed the time by listening to the other bands.

Prior to announcing the results, the adjudicator trotted out the usual comments. After thanking the Bands for taking part he said that the test piece was too difficult for the Third Section but there were a handful of bands who had

managed to impress him. The rest were told to accept the adjudicator's remarks in a constructive manner. We were not surprised to find we were not in the placings and sat back to witness the celebrations of the bands who had done well.

There was some disappointment when we learned that we had been placed last but in being disappointed I think this at least showed we cared. There followed what seemed an interminable wait for the coach to return and we were finally on our way home. So, was it worth it? Nearly three months of practice, an unearthly starting time, giving up the best part of a Saturday for ten minutes of music making? All the hanging around? Of course it was!



Our thanks go to Chris Johnston for his musical direction and to Robin for all his hard work in the organisation. A special thanks go to Roy Lack who gave his time to attend rehearsals and registered especially for this contest.

Guy Drury unfortunately was unable to play as he had just undergone some extensive dental treatment. His place was taken by Jack Wilson. Jack took it completely in his stride, the only problem we had was finding him a small enough jacket!

Finally well done to all who took part. Remember that contesting is all about one man's opinion on the day. Bradwell Band have engagements all year round at which we entertain hundreds of people, that's what real banding is all about.

Keith Jones

(The full results table is on page 6)

Steven Mead - Biography

Steven Mead will be playing as a guest soloist with Bradwell Silver Band at Stantonbury Theatre on Saturday 22nd April. The following is from his website, www.euphonium.net.

Steven Mead's extraordinary pioneering work with the euphonium has gained him worldwide recognition as one of the world's leading euphonium players and he has been acclaimed as the most travelled soloist in the history of the instrument. Based in the East Midlands in the UK, in the village of Fenny Drayton, near Nuneaton, his hectic schedule sees him playing concerts with leading ensembles, orchestras, brass and wind bands the world over. In recent years he has diversified still further and he has begun to play popular styles and jazz.

He is currently in great demand as a recitalist and clinician throughout the world of brass playing. Not only has he been at the forefront of performance but is credited as a pioneer in euphonium education and repertoire. Steven has been a professional euphonium soloist for some 17 years after a successful career with some of the top British brass bands and as a full time music teacher. It is this wealth of experience that has helped to create a musician who communicates with his audiences.

Born in Bournemouth, February 26th, 1962, he grew up at this popular south coast seaside town, attending Bournemouth School for Boys from 1973-1980. His earliest brass 'training' began at the age of 6, with the Boscombe Salvation Army Junior Band. The euphonium was too big at that stage (!) and over the next few years, gravitated lower, onto tenor horn, then baritone, then at the age of 11 to the euphonium. From the age of 8 to 12 he took singing lessons passing his Grade 8 singing exam with distinction, as a boy soprano!

His love for the euphonium seriously developed from the age of 13 and he was entering competitions at local music festivals from this time. Early teachers included Bernhard Roberts and Glyn Bosanko at the Boscombe SA. From the age of 17 Steven took lessons from brass band euphonium legend Trevor Groom, travelling by train from Bournemouth to Kettering regularly, a round trip of 7 hours on Saturdays. From Bournemouth he moved to the West Country to begin his studies at Bristol University. Whilst at Bristol he came into contact with the composer Derek Bourgeois who encouraged him greatly to persevere while many others gave him advice that to become a professional player he would have to move to the trombone. Although Steven was playing a lot of trombone at the time, the Bristol years clarified that the euphonium was the instrument for his future career whatever that would be. He graduated with a BA Honours degree in Music and moved 12 miles south to the Newton Park College, Bath where he gained a Post Graduate Certificate in Education, qualifying him to teach at secondary school level, (high school).

His brass playing whilst at Bristol was with the University Symphony Orchestra (1st trombone) and with the Bristol Easton Salvation Army Band, then later, the Sun Life Stanshawe Band, his first 'contesting' band. As he completed his



studies at Bath he received an invitation from Howard Snell, the musical director of the Desford Colliery Band, to join the band with immediate effect. As luck would have it a teaching job at the DeFerrers High School in Burton on Trent, in the Midlands, quite close to the band room, came vacant and Steven won the job and joined the band.

Television success undoubtedly helped his early career. On two occasions he won the solo prize in the BBC Best of Brass Competition (1983 with Sun Life and 85 with Desford). He also was awarded the Euphonium Player of the Year Award 1986 and 1993. The Desford years 1983-1989 saw the band playing at its very best, achieving many awards, including the European Championship, the Granada Band of the Year, BBC Best of Brass and the hat trick of victories at the National Brass Band Championships at the Royal Albert Hall, London (1987-89).

He enjoyed the high school teaching too with several outstanding music students going on to superb professional careers in music. He was also the conductor of the school

brass band, string orchestra and directed 3 of the school shows.

By 1989 Steven had been invited to teach euphonium at the Royal Academy of Music, London, the Birmingham Conservatoire, and the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. The diary was getting very full and reluctantly the high school teaching had to be phased out over the next 3 years. The professional solo engagements also were already at around 40 per year, raising to its current level of about 75.

It is a spirit of innovation which has driven his career, from his early success with some of the leading brass bands in the UK, to his founding of the British Tuba Quartet to the countless premieres and commissions of new music. He premiered the Euphonium Concerto by Martin Ellerby in Switzerland with the Brassband Berner Oberland, and the Euphonium Concerto by Philip Sparke with the Breeze Brass

Band in Osaka, Japan.

Innovative too is his work with the unique Brass Band of Battle Creek (USA), his involvement with the 5 National Tuba Euphonium Festivals (1994-2000) in the UK, and his setting up of specialist euphonium 'schools' in the Benelux countries and Japan. His innovation has extended to mouth-piece and instrument design, including the new Besson Prestige Euphonium, with many Steven Mead products now in demand the world over.

Now he lives with his family in the little village of Fenny Drayton, near Nuneaton and concentrates most of his energies to his extraordinary solo career, the Royal Northern College of Music, Boosey and Hawkes (where he serves as a clinician and instrument consultant)— and his long suffering wonderful family. Whether as a campaigner for the instrument or on the concert hall stage Steven is rarely out of the spotlight, each year he continues to take the euphonium to new audiences including concerts with the Minneapolis Pops Orchestra, the Capella Cracoviensis (Poland), London Brass, the Dutch Marine Band and the US Army Band, and the Classic Quintet (woodwind quintet from Bolzano, Italy).

Humour - The Character of Brass Band Members

*A variation on an old theme I know, but still funny - thanks to www.battletownband.com
You need to read the whole piece in the order given to get the joke!
(Please don't take any of this personally!)*

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Leaps tall bandrooms in one bound;
Is more powerful than a locomotive;
Is faster than a speeding bullet;
Walks on water; gives policy to God.

BAND CHAIRMAN

Leaps single storey bandrooms in one bound;
Is about as powerful as a locomotive;
Is just as fast as a speeding bullet;
Walks on water if the sea is calm;
Talks to God at set times of day.

SOLO CORNET PLAYERS

Leap small bandrooms with a running start;
Are almost as powerful as a locomotive;
Are noticeably slower than a speeding bullet;
Walk on water in an indoor swimming pool;
Talk to God if a special request is approved.

EUPHONIUM PLAYERS

Can barely clear a bicycle shed;
Always lose a tug-of-war with a locomotive;
Can fire a speeding bullet;
Swim well, and are occasionally addressed by God.

TROMBONE PLAYERS

Make high scratch marks when trying to leap bicycle sheds;
Are frequently run over by locomotives;
Can sometimes handle writing implements without injury;
Can do doggy paddle, and talk to animals.

HORN PLAYERS

Run into bicycle sheds;
Recognise locomotives two times out of three;
Are not issued with writing implements;
Can stay afloat only with water wings, and talk to walls.

BACK ROW CORNET & FLUGEL PLAYERS

Can't remember where the bandroom is;
Say "Look at the choo-choo" when shown a locomotive;
Don't know what the other instruments are;
Think water's only use is for making beer;
Are occasionally spoken to by others.

BARITONE PLAYERS

Recognise a bandroom two times out of three;
Think a locomotive is a BBb bass;
Have no idea what a speeding bullet is;
Are revolted by the mere thought of water;
Ask "Who is God?"

BASS PLAYERS

Fall over doorstep when trying to enter bandroom;
Have on occasion tried to *play* a locomotive;
Should not be allowed near other instruments;
Will drown if given more than six inches of bath water;
Mumble to themselves.

PERCUSSIONISTS

Can barely read what has been written above;
Should be run down by a locomotive;
Failing that, shot by a speeding bullet;
They are the lowest form of life.

BANDMASTER

Lifts up bandrooms and walks under them;
Kicks locomotives off the tracks;
Catches speeding bullets between his teeth and eats them;
Freezes water with a single glance;
HE IS GOD.

BAND SECRETARY

Sweeps under bandrooms;
Puts locomotives back onto the tracks;
Picks up spent cartridges after bullets have been fired;
Carries the water to be frozen;
HE IS THE SON OF GOD.

Competitions

Previous competition:

Last month's competition was a caption competition. You just had to write a humorous caption for the picture on the right of one of our Bass players, Ron in a phone box on Christmas Morning.

There were number of entries, but the best one was decided to be:

'I've heard of the Bass in the Ballroom, but there's not enough room there!'

This was by Clive Keech. Well done Clive, a prize is on its way to you!



This month's competition:

This month's competition is a 'fun' April Fool's Day quiz. Listed below are 10 'facts' - or are they? All you have to do is to decide which are FACT and which are FICTION.

Just write in with 'FACT' or 'FICTION' by each of the ten question numbers, and the person (or people) that get the most correct answers will win a prize!

The postal address is 'April Bugle Competition', 4 Longleat Court, Great Holm, Milton Keynes, MK8 9HD or by e-mail: guydrury@btinternet.com. All entries to be in by April 20th please!

1. Sir Thomas Crapper invented the toilet
2. The Eskimo language has over 100 words for snow
3. Mud Throwing was an official event at the 1904 Olympic Games
4. The ancient Sumerians worshipped Ninkasi, a goddess of beer
5. Marco Polo introduced ice cream to Europe after watching it being made in China
6. Cockroaches can survive for up to a month with their heads cut off
7. Turtles never die of old age
8. The laws of physics change over time
9. Lightening has been known to imprint photographic images of the surrounding area onto the skin of people it strikes
10. Sharks do not get cancer

Results Table - London & Southern Counties Regional Contest

Listed on the right is the final placing of the bands in order with their name, conductor's name, the position they played and points they were awarded.

1. Norfolk Wherry Brass, A. Craze, 7, 184
2. LBG, I. Stewart, 4, 182
3. Chinnor, D. Pegram, 9, 180
4. Epsom and Ewell Silver, E. Howard, 5, 178
5. Fulham Brass, Paul McLaughlin, 3, 177
6. Hangleton, J. Williams, 11, 176
7. Stantonbury Brass, A. Jenkin, 12, 175
8. Woodbridge Excelsior, Alan Duguid, 8, 174
9. Croydon Brass, P. Martin, 1, 173
10. St. Sebastian's Wokingham, Dave Richards, 6, 171
11. Enfield Motor Museum & Potters Bar Contest Band, S. Groarke, 14, 170
12. Littleport Brass, P. Mead, 10, 169
13. Hemel Hempstead, G. Weeks, 13, 167
14. Bradwell Silver, Chris Johnston, 2, 166
- Hilgay Silver, Andrew Clarke, 15, - WITHDREW

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 22nd April
Concert at Stantonbury Theatre with guest soloist Steven Mead
7.30pm
(Tickets now on sale from Robin Allen, 616463)
- Monday 1st May
May Day at New Bradwell Windmill
1-2 pm
- Sat June 24th
Dunstable Priory Gardens (not Grove House as previously)
2.00 pm - 3.30pm
- Sun July 2nd
Leighton Buzzard - Parsons Park
Afternoon
- Sun 9th July
British Legion, Bletchley
11.15 am
- Sat 15th July
New Bradwell School Carnival (march)
1.30pm
- Sun 19th Aug
Bedford Bandstand - Mill Meadows
3-5pm



Contact Details

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

Website:

www.bradwellband.co.uk

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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 Snoxell
Soprano Cornet:	Ralph Tatum
Repiano Cornet:	Graham Huckle
2nd Cornets:	David Sanderson
	Mike Sanders
	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
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 seven for details.