



The Bradwell Bugle



Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band

April 2015

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From the Editor

Hi Everyone!

The clocks have gone forward and we are now officially in British Summer Time. The area contest was held on the 22nd March and although not amongst the prize winners, the Band's performance was a good one. You can read a full report in the following pages. With the contest out of the way the Band are now working hard on rehearsing the music for their Spring Concert in St. James Church and the first of this year's outdoor engagements. Hope to see you all there! I wish you all a Happy Easter

PS: Don't forget to let me have your contributions for future editions.

Sarah-Jayne



Development Band

The Development Band has been working hard on preparing a short programme of music to be performed as part of the concert to be held at St. James on 25th April. We are hoping that all of the members of this group will be involved with this and be able to demonstrate the progress they have been making.

We currently have an enthusiastic group of 21 and the emphasis has been on playing together as a group. In the twelve rehearsals so far this year they have managed an average attendance of nearly 90% which is a tremendous effort. There is a mixture of ages and abilities and includes some who are already part of the main band. The more experienced players are a great help to those who are still learning the basics and serve as an excellent example as to what can be achieved if you are determined enough to want to play in a band.

We are also fortunate to have the support of the parents who have the responsibility for bringing the learners along to rehearsal every week. Anyone with children will know the potential nightmare of getting their kids to the right place at the right time and with the necessary equipment so we are very grateful for this support.

The Development Band is currently having a two week Easter holiday break and the next rehearsal will be on Thursday 16th April at 7:00 p.m.

What's On!... April

Where you can see and hear Bradwell Silver Band this month:

On Saturday 25th April the Band will be performing their annual Spring concert in the Parish Church of St. James starting at 7:30 p.m. The programme will include music especially selected to suit all tastes and there will also be a performance from our Development Band. If you can help us to publicise this concert please contact our Publicity Officer Steph (press@bradwellband.co.uk) and she will be more than happy to supply you with posters.

On the following day, Sunday 26th April, the Band will be travelling to the small village of Spratton, Northamptonshire which is commemorating those from their community who served in the Great War of 1914-1918. The date chosen is 100 years exactly since Spratton resident, Lt William Rhodes-Moorhouse RFC made the daring but fatal flight that earned him a Victoria Cross. There is to be a replica WW1 aircraft on display – a BE2b from Old Sarum Aerodrome (of the type flown by the local VC hero) and a chance to meet the soldiers and VAD nurses at the Great War Society's living history encampment. There will also be authentic military vehicles from the period brought by the RAF Museum. Further details can be found on www.sprattonhistory.com

This event is being held in the grounds of Spratton Hall School NN6 8HP with free entry and free parking.

Saturday April 25th
from 7:30pm

BRADWELL
SILVER In
BAND Concert

St. James Church,
New Bradwell.

Tickets: £6
Concessions: £5

For details call: 01908 616463 email: press@bradwellband.co.uk
WWW.BRADWELLBAND.CO.UK

Area Contest Report

Sunday 22nd March

London & Southern Counties Region of the

National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain

Bradwell Silver Band travelled to Stevenage to compete in this year's area contest. Because of the large number of entries in our section, the draw for the order of play was to be made in two groups. Bradwell were to be part of the second draw to be held at 12:00 so we had the comparative luxury of not having to make such an early departure as some of our fellow competitors.

We loaded the coach and set off just after 10:00 a.m. with the driver doing well to negotiate the narrow streets of New Bradwell where vehicles are routinely parked on both sides of the road. We went via junction 14 of the M1, headed southbound, came off at junction 13 and then followed the A507 passing Ampthill, Shefford and Henlow before picking up at A1M for the final stretch into Stevenage. We dropped Steve off at the Leisure Centre to be our representative at the draw and continued to the Fairlands Valley Park where Robin had booked the meeting room for a rehearsal. I think it is safe to say that Fairlands Valley Park is Stevenage's equivalent to our Willen Lake. Fairlands has 120 acres of parkland situated within the heart of Stevenage and an 11 acre sailing lake which is used for sailing and angling. With its cafeteria it seems to be a very popular destination for the locals and our rehearsal attracted quite a bit of interest from those passing by. There was no room for the coach to park outside the venue and we had a mostly pleasant stroll in the early Spring sunshine to reach the facility. We had a good run through of some of the test piece before learning that we had been drawn to play at 20 out of the 22 entries. With an estimated playing time of 4:00 p.m. there was no rush so we were able to enjoy refreshments before boarding the coach for the short journey back to the Leisure Centre.

The Stevenage Arts & Leisure Centre could by no stretch of the imagination be described as the most beautiful of brass band venues, but it does the job adequately. With the First Section also taking place there were a large number of Bands who needed to be accommodated and as our waiting area was not going to be available for some time we were allowed to store our instruments and uniforms in the locker area. Members dispersed to enjoy the many delights offered by Stevenage, carefully heeding Robin's request that we stayed sober! Some managed to listen to other bands in the section before we met back up and were finally able to prepare for our performance. We went through the registration process and were soon on stage ready to play. The opening bars were confidently played and we went on to give a decent performance of the chosen test piece 'An English Pastorale' .

After we came off stage there was just time for instruments to be put away in their cases and for members to enter the hall for the last performance of the day and then the results. Our section had the largest field of competitors in the country this year and was undoubtedly a marathon effort for the adjudicators Nick Garman and David Hirst to deliberate on. Unfortunately for them they were not offered the opportunity of sharing their thoughts as is customary prior to the announcement of the results. Instead there was just a cursory announcement of the top placings. I feel this was a bit of a shame for everybody involved in making the contest what it is, especially the bands who had been rehearsing for weeks. Also it is usual to thank the stewards and leisure centre staff for their efforts and there was no recognition of this. We learned a few days later that this oversight was an unfortunate error by the announcer and all bands have since received a written apology from the organisers of the contest. The adjudicators did provide a written copy of what they were going to say and you can read their comments further on in this newsletter.

Area Contest Report (Cont'd...)

So along with all the other bands who had not been announced amongst the places we were left to wait to hear what our placing was. We eventually learned that the adjudicators had placed us 11th. The adjudicators' written comments on our performance were passed around for us to read and there were some positives remarks as well as a few pointers as to what we could improve upon. The coach arrived to take us back to New Bradwell where we arrived just after 7:00 p.m. It had been a long but mostly enjoyable day. There was a very good atmosphere amongst the band members with the youngsters particularly enjoying each other's company. This will stand us in good stead for what promises to be another busy summer of engagements.

We thank Liz and Luke for their willingness to be play with us today and help us field an almost complete band. We thank Robin for making all the arrangements to get us there as well as making sure we were fully compliant with the registration procedures.

We thank Brian for his efforts over the past months in preparing us for the contest. Brian in turn thanked all the playing members for their efforts and said that the adjudicators' comments were very much in accordance with how he felt the performance had gone.

And so another area contest has been and gone. Congratulations to the Bands that qualified for the National Finals which will be held in Cheltenham in September, we wish them well as they represent our region against the qualifiers from the other seven regions.

Fourth Section Results:

Test Piece: 'An English Pastorale' - Dean Jones

Sunday 22nd March

Main Concert Hall

Adjudicators: Nick Garman & David Hirst

1. City of Norwich (Andrew Craze)*
 2. Castleton Brass (Peter Ryan)*
 3. East Coast Brass (Paul Speed)*
 4. Watford Band (Ian Graves)
 5. North London Brass (Patrick Dodds)
 6. Tadley Concert Brass (Paul Chapman)
 7. Letchworth Garden City (Tim Welch)
 8. Woodbridge Excelsior (Chris Lewis-Garnham)
 9. Brighton & Hove City (Matthew Hackett)
 10. Crystal Palace (Michael Gray)
 11. Bradwell Silver (Brian Keech)
 12. Snowdown Colliery (Christer Aberg)
 13. Wantage Academy (Nikki Jones) 14. Godalming (James Haigh)
 15. Abbey Brass (Abingdon) (Rob Tompkins)
 16. Cottenham Brass (P. Mackley)
 17. Witney Town (Rhys Owens)
 18. Hadstock Silver (Lisa Jardine-Wright)
 19. Royston Town (Steve Earley)
 20. Bletchington Silver (S. Barwick)
 21. Ampthill Town (Chris Bengier)
 22. Marsh Gibbon Silver (Andrew Allcock)
- Withdrawn: M.K. Development (M. Nevin)**

*Top three bands qualify for National Final

Area Contest Report (Cont'd...)

Adjudicator's General Comments:

"An English Pastoral"

Firstly, may we both thank the bands and conductors for their sterling work in bringing their performances to life on an excellent piece of music and test for the 22 bands taking part in the 4th Section. Please find our comments below, which I hope you will find useful:

General

There was a general lack of consistency from movement to movement – some bands coped well on the quicker movements but not on the slower ones and vice versa. The winning band delivered consistent technical and musical playing throughout the 4 movements.

Tempos proved to be a problem for many bands, particularly in the slow movements which were often played under tempo with the result that the music failed to flow and began to stagnate.

Introduction

Not all bands grasped the elements of 'Maestoso' and the heraldic nature of the opening and tempos varied between bands.

Intonation, tuning and nerves were a factor in a number of performances.

1. Autumn on the Plains

Most bands took this movement too fast – many at 120 or above with the resulting loss of detail and ensemble precision. Several bands had uneven tempos which fluctuated throughout the movement. Bar 78 was generally untidy to the close of the movement.

2. Winter in the Dales

Bravo Soprano and Rep – even top section players would have problems here! Sometimes this opening was tentative leading to a loss of cohesion with nerves a contributing factor. The dynamics were mostly well done but there was occasionally a loss of quality in the louder passages.

Only a handful of bands actually made any change in tempo at the Piu Mosso and this led to a lack of direction musically! There were many fine examples of Solo Cornet playing – thank you. From bar 121 there were tuning issues and only a few bands succeeded in making a good close to the movement – again, many fine examples of Flugel playing.

3 Spring on the Lakes

Many bands played this well under tempo and it was often this movement that led to the loss of marks! The music must flow and be expressive and move logically through the phrases. Again, some good solo work here by all bands but only a handful actually made music in this movement.

4 Summer on the Quays

Most bands made a good fist of this rhythmically. Balance was sometimes an issue and clarity of detail. A good kit player was a definite bonus here! Most bands managed the transition into bar 213 but often the following section was very inconsistent tempo wise as some fought with the "in two" concept?

David Hirst/Nick Garman 22/3/2015

Area Contest Trivia

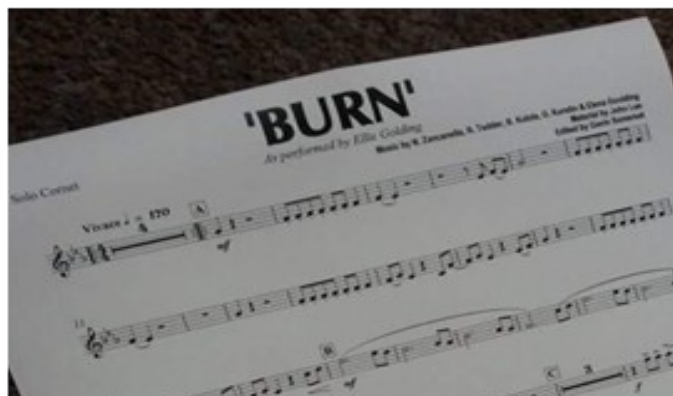
Across the eight regions that comprise the National Brass Band Championships, there were a total of 505 bands that competed. The London and Southern Counties had the largest number of entries with 80 bands in the five different sections, just ahead of the West of England who had 79. The Midlands saw 76 bands battle it out, the North West 75, Yorkshire 58, Scotland 55, Wales 42 and the North of England 40. In total there were 120 4th section bands, 104 3rd Section, 95 2nd Section, 96 1st Section and 90 Championship Section.

Several bands were subsequently disqualified due to a contravention of National Rules regarding registration. Surprisingly this included one of the most famous names in the brass band world, the reigning National Champions Black Dyke. They were disqualified under Rule 9(a) which states "All players taking part in the Contest must be registered with only one accredited Registry at least 7 days before the Friday of the contest weekend and may only compete with the band that holds their Registration. It is the responsibility of the band secretary to apply to the relevant registry for the necessary registration documentation and to comply with the Registry Rules and procedures". Black Dyke will still be competing in this year's National Final at the Albert Hall by virtue of its position as the 2014 National Champion Band.

The dates for next year's area contest have been set for the weekend of 19th and 20th March 2016, see you there!

Brass Band Music

As our members and readers of the newsletter will know, our solo trombone player John Lee regularly produces arrangements of all sorts of music for the Band to play. These have proved to be very popular with the Band and most importantly the audiences. We are delighted to learn that one of John's arrangements has now been published by Pennine Music, one of the country's leading suppliers of brass band music. "Burn" is a song composed and performed by Ellie Goulding and became an instant hit holding the number one spot for three weeks. The driving rhythms underneath the melodic lines mean that the work lends itself well to the Brass Band medium. With the track growing in popularity around the world, this release shows off the versatility of a brass band perfectly and will find favour with younger audiences and players.



Future Engagements



	<u>April</u>	
Saturday 25th	Concert - St James Church, New Bradwell	PM
Sunday 26th	Spratton Fete	PM
	<u>May</u>	
Monday 4th	May Day at the Mill	TBC
Saturday 9th	Concert - North Crawley Church	PM
Sunday 17th	Cosgrove Park	12-1pm 2-3pm
	<u>June</u>	
Sunday 7th	Big Lunch, Stony Stratford	TBC
Saturday 13th	Wicken Dog Show	12.15- 1.45pm
Saturday 27th	Haversham Fete	PM
	<u>August</u>	
Saturday 22nd	Evening Open Air Concert, Bancroft Park	PM
	<u>September</u>	
Saturday 5th	Cosgrove Park	12-1pm 2-3pm
Sunday 13th	Leighton Buzzard	3-5pm
	<u>October</u>	
Saturday 10th	Concert - St James, New Bradwell	PM
	<u>November</u>	
Sunday 8th	Remembrance Parade	TBC
	<u>December</u>	
Thursday 3rd	Two Mile Ash Concert - Stantonbury Theatre	PM
Saturday 5th	Christmas Tree Festival, St James Church	TBC
Saturday 12th	Newport Pagnell Singers	TBC
Saturday 19th	Concert - St James Church, New Bradwell	PM

*If are not going to be available for any of these engagements please 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.
Playing members are asked to arrive at least 30 minutes before the start time shown for the performance.*

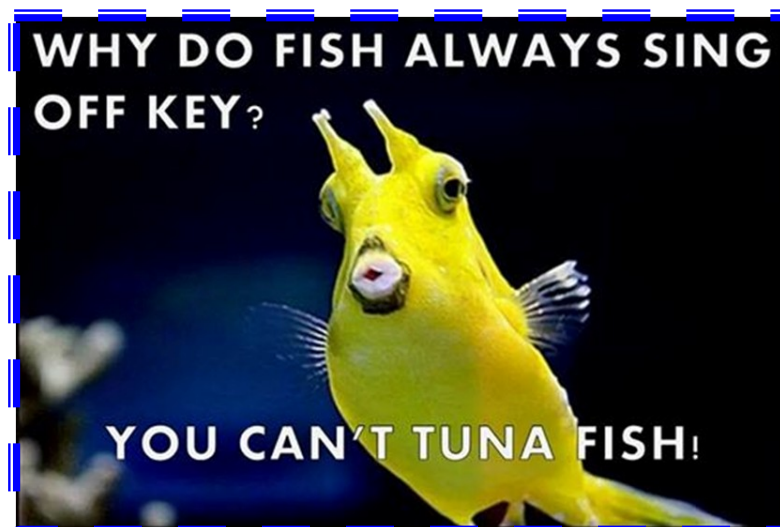
Contacts



<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 Allen	-
<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>Website:</i>		www.bradwellband.co.uk

Fancy A Night Out?

If you are of a certain age and enjoy Ska and Reggae Music you should head to the Tawny Owl pub in Walnut Tree on Good Friday, 3rd April. The 2Tones are a group of musicians based in and around Northampton who specialise in playing songs made famous by such bands as Madness, The Selecter, The Specials, and many more. Our trombone player Jemma's other half plays bass in the group which also includes brass players some of us know from their time at Towcester Studio Band. The 2Tones will be performing from around 9 -9.30 p.m. and will be finished for midnight. Check their website out for an idea of the music they perform, skaband.co.uk



Saturday April 25th
from 7:30pm

BRADWELL
SILVER
BAND *In
Concert*

St. James Church,
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Tickets: £6
Concessions: £5

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