



The Bradwell Bugle



Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band

April 2017

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From the Editor

Hi Everyone!

Welcome to the April issue of the Bugle.

Spring is officially here and the clocks have gone forward. Well done to the Band for being placed 5th in the area contest, a full report follows. There is no rest for the Band as they are now preparing for three engagements in the two weeks following Easter, see "What's On!" for further details. Reports on these will appear in the next edition of the Bugle.

Any contributions for future issues of the newsletter will be gratefully received!

I hope you all enjoy the Easter break.

Sarah-Jayne

Getting ready for the Summer Season

With another Regional contest completed, the short grey days are finally drawing out. Glimmers of spring and sunshine hint at the season to come and we are looking forward to the start of this year's outdoor engagements. Robin has been busy taking and co-ordinating bookings and events for Band to play at in the coming months. We have a brand new trailer and new uniforms (funded by the Big Lottery with fantastic donations from the local community) along with the new heavy duty music and conductors stands (funded by the MK Community Foundation) and we feel immensely proud and grateful for the amazing support that we have.



Come and see us in action in the fetes and concerts around the area - We will love to see you!



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What's On!... April

Where you can see and hear the Band this month

Saturday 22nd April - Spring Concert and Awards Evening (7:30pm)

St. James Church New Bradwell **See Poster for more details**

Saturday 29th April - St Leonards Church, Yardley Gobion (7:30pm)

The award winning BRADWELL SILVER BAND will be presenting an evening of music at St Leonard's Church. Tickets are £8 which will include wine and a light supper.

Tickets need to be booked beforehand as seats are limited, please contact Margaret on 01908 542794.

Looking ahead to May...

Monday 1st May - Annual Mayday Funday in aid of Willen Hospice. (1:00pm-5:00pm)

Organised by the New Bradwell Sports Association and held at the Bradwell Road Recreation Ground. Stalls, events, food, bar, bouncy castles, games, slides and many other activities.



Contest Report

Sunday 19th March

Area Contest - Stevenage

Bradwell Silver Band travelled to Stevenage for this year's National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain area qualifiers. We compete in the London and Southern Counties Region and the music chosen for the Fourth Section this year was Alan Fernie's 'St. Andrew's Variations'.

We knew beforehand that because of the large number of entries in our section, the draw for the order of play was spilt, with the first half taking place at 10:30 a.m. and the second half at 12:30 p.m. Bradwell were to be in the second half and this allowed us to have a rehearsal at the school before setting off. The drive took us on a different route this year, joining the M1 at Junction 14 and travelling to the turn off for Luton Airport and then straight to Stevenage. Traffic was light so we arrived in good time for the draw and waited on the coach to hear when we were going to play. We soon learned that we were to play at number 12.

Due to the large number of Bands there was no space available for us in the holding areas until later so we left our instruments on the coach which had fortunately been able to park close to the venue. We had just over an hour before we were asked to meet back up and collect our instruments and that gave time for members to seek sustenance in the nearby shopping centre. McDonalds seemed to be a popular choice as it was the closest but Burger King was not quite as busy. There was some time to have a look at the trade stands and then we met back up and made our way into the congested holding area which is normally used for indoor bowls.

We changed into uniform and did the best we could to prepare for our performance. We were summoned to appear at the registration point where our players' cards were closely scrutinised, drawing some comments on how some of us now appear as compared to the photograph on those cards. The percussion team were allowed on stage first to set up the kit provided for them and we were allowed the briefest of warm ups before joining them.

We soon settled into our seats and when we were ready the announcer advised the adjudicators that Band Number 12 was ready for their performance. As we all know the acoustics in the Main Hall are unlike anything we normally encounter but it still takes us slightly by surprise as we quickly have to adjust to the different sounds. We were assured by the adjudicators later on that they can hear every note perfectly in their judging tent but on stage it is sometimes difficult to hear all the parts you normally do when playing. The performance went as well as we would have hoped for and we stood to acknowledge the applause of the small audience dotted around the huge hall.

We returned to the holding area to pack away our instruments and after stowing them back on board the coach we had some more free time. Some chose to listen to the remaining bands in our section whilst others sampled all the delights that the Stevenage Town Centre can offer.

At the conclusion of the playing the adjudicators were given some time to finalise their comments and the all important placings before being freed from their box. Representatives of all the bands competing were invited to take their place on the stage whilst the results were being checked back stage. The adjudicators for today were Steve Pritchard-Jones and Alan Duguid and they were welcomed on stage and invited to offer their comments on the performances they had listened to during the course of a marathon session. They both said they were pleased to have been invited and what they had been particularly looking for in the test piece. In particular they mentioned the tempo markings which they **felt** could have been better observed. There were some helpful words of advice and they thanked all of the bands for taking part today.

The results were then announced starting with the 4th place and proceeding in reverse order to the section champions for this year. Our name was not mentioned so we had to wait a short while to find out where we were placed. This turned out to be 5th which is an excellent achievement in an entry of 18 bands. It was a relaxed journey home during which we tried to read the comments from the adjudicators. Some of these were really encouraging and there were also suggestions on what we could have done better. The usual congestion in the High Street meant the coach couldn't get down there and instead had to drop us off in Bradwell Road. So we had the chance to exercise our legs get back to the school.

Contest Report

St. Andrew's Variations was a good piece of music for our level of playing and most bands made a good stab at it. The main criticism from the adjudicators was the lack of consistency in the level of playing throughout the whole piece. Many bands had good sections but were then exposed in others which detracted from their performance.

As with most music, if you listen carefully to a piece you can often pick out brief snatches of other tunes. In St. Andrew's Variations the opening section has more than a hint of "Mull of Kintyre". The waltz in variation 3 bears a strong resemblance to the opening line of "Oh What A Beautiful Morning" (There's a bright golden haze on the meadow). Variation 4 has snippets of "Scotland The Brave" and also some bars found in "Men of Harlech". Variation 5 reminded me of "As Long As He Needs Me" from 'Oliver' whilst variation 6 had a touch of an old Victorian Music Hall ballad, the words 'There's an old mill by the stream Nellie Dean' fitting perfectly! Variation 7 reminds me of "Born Is The King Of Israel" from the First Nowell and ends with another Music Hall favourite "Down At The Old Bull and Bush". The finale if played in slightly different rhythm could pass for the theme from the Harry Enfield.

All in all it had been a long day but made worthwhile by our being placed 5th. This completed a very good week-end for the Milton Keynes bands with Olney being placed 5th in the 3rd Section and MK Brass 3rd in the 2nd section.

Our congratulations go to all the Bands who qualified for the National Finals. With the contest now behind us we look forward to the start of what promises to be a busy new season of engagements.

Full Result - Fourth Section

Test Piece: St Andrews Variations' (Alan Fernie)

Adjudicators: Alan Duguid and Steve Pritchard-Jones

1. Regent Community Brass (Chris Bearman)*
2. City of Norwich Brass (Andrew Craze)*
3. Watford (Ian Graves)*
4. Cottenham Brass (Peter Mackley)
5. Bradwell Silver (Brian Keech)
6. Royston Town (Steve Earley)
7. Woodbridge Excelsior (Chris Lewis-Garnham)
8. Hadstock Silver (Di Pannell)
9. Crystal Palace (Michael Gray)
10. Wantage Academy (Nikki Jones)
11. Abbey Brass (Rob Tompkins)
12. Witney Town (Rhys Owens)
13. Letchworth Garden City
14. Great Yarmouth (Colin Swaep)
15. Pangbourne & District Silver (Stewart Lewins)
16. Snowdown Colliery (Andy Collins)
17. Bletchington Silver (Sheldon Barwick)
18. North London Brass (Martyn Stogden)

Comments from our Musical Director

"Can I thank you all for your performance yesterday, besides a wobbly bit in one of the slower sections the playing was excellent and all of you gave of your best. A special mention to all our Soloists who played wonderfully well. This contest was the first time at an Area contest that I had conducted a full band ie. 25 Brass players + 3 Percussionists so thanks to Sam, Ben and Jennifer for their understanding on being left out. As always thanks to Robin on making sure everything ran smoothly.

This wonderful performance and result sets us up for a fantastic Year."

Brian

Contest Report

Report From 4BarsRest.com

Regent Community Brass claimed their first ever Area title in winning a highly entertaining Fourth Section contest in Stevenage on Sunday afternoon. It rounded off a memorable weekend for the band organisation based just a corner kick away from Wembley Stadium in North London, as their senior counterparts also qualified for Cheltenham in the First Section 24 hours earlier. Not to be outdone though, the offshoot band, formed in 2012, joined them thanks to a colourful rendition of Alan Fernie's 'St Andrew's Variations' that certainly gave the judges Alan Duguid and Steve Pritchard-Jones just what they were looking for in the box.

"The winners did stand out for us from a top-six that we felt were pretty good," Alan later told 4BR. "The overall standard was quite variable as you would expect at this level, and it was a question of consistency of approach and delivery for us. We heard everything in the box with the dry acoustic.

There were some odd tempo choices at times which cost bands, but at the top end in particular it was a question of enhancing the basics with good transition changes, accurate intonation and stylistic nuance." That stand-out performance for the duo came fairly early in the draw, as Regent Community Brass led by Chris Bearman played sixth in the 18 band field. "They were a clear winner for us," Alan added. "Their performance had contrasting musicality and style to go with all the solid contest basics you look for. It was fine playing and very well directed."

Joining them in Cheltenham will be City of Norwich Brass conducted by Andrew Craze, and Watford led by Ian Graves, who also gave the judges something a little extra to push ahead of the solid performances from fellow top-six finishers, Cottenham Brass, Bradwell Silver and Royston Town.

It will be City of Norwich's second appearance at the Finals, where they will hope to repeat their victory of 2015, whilst it will mark Watford's first appearance since 2006.

"There wasn't much to separate the bands in second and third, although we felt they were clear of the others in the top-six," Alan Duguid confirmed. "Below them it started to get a bit more difficult as some bands produced better quicker sections than slower ones and vice-versa.

It's a great piece for bands at this level and each delivered performances of merit, so we had to give a great deal of thought about each placing."

The early contest marker came from Cottenham Brass, followed quickly by the eventual winners, sixth placed Royston Town and podium qualifiers Watford, with only two bands from the second half of the draw (Bradwell at 12 and Norwich at 14) making an impression on the final results.

However, there was much to enjoy throughout the day from each of the competitors in a contest that showed the growing strength in depth of banding at the level in the region.

A number of bands certainly made a mark with listeners in the hall if not the box, although enthusiasm and endeavour perhaps got in the way of precision and balance in some cases, whilst some MDs did make some very idiosyncratic choices with tempos in particular.

None was more cohesive in musical thought and consistent in execution for the judges though than Regent Brass Community, as they can now look forward to what they hope could be an equally memorable weekend for their organisation in Cheltenham in September.



Misc...

Development Group

We now have over thirty members in this group and with the teachers and the parents who are encouraged to stay and listen we have a total of around 50 people in the school for our Thursday rehearsals. This helps create a lively atmosphere as we continue to encourage the learners in their endeavours to play brass instruments.

The group will not be rehearsing on **Thursday 6th April** but we will be having one on the **13th April** which is the day before Good Friday. We appreciate that some of the group will be away on a family break but we will have enough available to make it worthwhile.

Thursday 20th April will be the last rehearsal before the concert in St. James and we will be putting the finishing touches to our programme.

Saturday 22nd April is the Band's Spring Concert and Awards evening at St. James Church in New Bradwell. The evening starts at 7:30 p.m. with the senior band. The Development Group will be playing at the start of the second half of the concert which will be around 8:30 p.m. We expect that our four newest learners will be playing their instruments in public for the first time for part of the programme.

Thursday 27th April will be a normal rehearsal evening and we will be encouraging all of our members to select a solo to be played at the Development Group's Solo Contest on Thursday 18th May (date to be confirmed). We will be offering individual tuition to anyone who would like this.

Well done to Elliott who along with fellow brass players represented the New Bradwell School at a festival held in Christ The Cornerstone Church and achieved a Merit Award. The MK Music Faculty runs this annual Brass Festival for primary school children in order to give pupils an opportunity to hear groups from other schools.

Congratulations

Toby our talented percussionist recently passed his grade 8 examination with distinction and April will be a very busy month for him. He will be playing with MK Youth Brass in Salford and the following week will be joining the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain's Easter course in Rutland. This culminates with a concert at Cambridge University and at the end of the month they will be performing at the prestigious Barbican Concert Hall in London.



Toby performing at the Milton Keynes Young Musician Of The Year in February

Misc...

Milton Keynes Youth Brass

On Sunday 2nd April Milton Keynes Youth Brass travels to the University of Salford to compete in the National Youth Brass Championships. We are proud that so many of our young players are now members of MK Youth Brass and wish Adam Chappell, Louis Wilson, Toby Dytrych, Luca Ianotta, Adam Hird, Jennifer Avery and Evan Lovall the very best of luck. Of course an 'old' Brad'll player, Ben Godfrey, is now the Musical Director of Youth Brass so we have another reason to wish them all well. Youth Brass will perform a 20 minute programme which will include our very own Louis Wilson performing the solo 'He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother' and the test piece 'Smoke Sketches' composed by Daniel Hall. Last Year MK Youth Brass was awarded a Bronze Certificate and let's hope for even better this year!

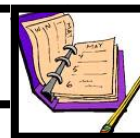
Save The Date!

We are delighted to announce that the band is hosting a joint concert on Saturday 30th September with 'Boobs and Brass' in aid of breast cancer charities. We are honoured to be performing with this great band of ladies for this worthwhile cause.



Full details including ticket price and location will be announced very soon. If you would like to receive up to date concert information please send your contact info to press@bradwellband.co.uk and we'll add you to the distribution list. It will be an amazing event not to be missed!

Future Engagements



Robin is working hard at confirming the engagements for the next six months. There are some exciting new opportunities to look forward to plus other traditional events and a full list will appear when these have been made known. In the meantime we would ask that you note the following dates in your diary for the next couple of months.

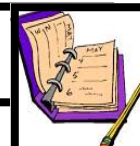
On Tuesday 14th March we will be holding an Open Rehearsal for the Bands Patrons. This will be a normal practice but we would ask that you all aim to arrive for 7.45 p.m. on this evening with the practice finishing at 9.30pm.

<u>APRIL</u>		
Saturday 22nd April	Spring Concert & Awards Evening - St James Church, New Bradwell	7.30pm
Saturday 29th April	Concert - Yardley Gobion	TBC pm
<u>MAY</u>		
Monday 1st May	May Day At The Mill - New Bradwell	TBC 1.00pm

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	-
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<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 _b Basses:	Luke Colvin Luke Wilson Jennifer Avery
B _B Bass:	Robin Allen David Sanderson
Percussion	Toby Dytrych James Lawrie Stephen Osborne





**Celebrations
in Brass**

CONCERT & AWARDS EVENING
Saturday 22nd April 2017 from 7.30pm



BRADWELLSILVERBAND

St. James Church, New Bradwell.

TICKETS: £7.00

*In
Concert*

Tel: 01908 616463

press@bradwellband.co.uk

www.bradwellband.co.uk

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