



# The Bradwell Bugle



Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band

April 2021

## *Inside this issue:*

Editors Note	1
More Memories From The M.D.	2
Brass Bands England Covid-19 Update	3
All Our Yesterdays	4
Maintaining A Brass Instrument	5-6
Humour	7
Contacts	8



## From the Editor

Hi Everyone!

Welcome to the April edition of the Band's monthly newsletter.

The clocks have gone forward and with Spring now upon us I hope that we can all start to look forward to being able to return to something approaching normality in the not too distant future. There is obviously not much to report on this month regarding any Band activity but we know that behind the scenes our committee have been holding meetings to formulate plans for the potential restart of playing activities. As soon as there is any definite news on this it will be communicated to all members.

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.

Have a Happy Easter!

*Sarah-Jayne*

## Message From Our Secretary

Hi everyone, I hope you're all still safe and well.

As you all know the government has set out a roadmap for the easing of lockdown measures. Having looked at this, combined with the ongoing advice from Brass Bands England, we hope to start bringing the development group back from around April 12<sup>th</sup>. This will mean, probably, only a group of 12 at a time and unfortunately will have to be limited to under 18's, apart from tutors.

We will look at Senior band rehearsals after the May 17th gateway, but at the moment, due to the layout of the halls which the school is having to use to comply with regulations, we may not be able to have full rehearsals, unless the weather behaves, in which case we may be able to practice outside, perhaps in the trailer compound  
This is something which is ongoing and I shall be keeping in contact with the headmaster.

I have some bookings in the diary including, on Aug 21<sup>st</sup>, the Wedding of Sophie and Scott who if you remember got engaged on Christmas Eve 2019. They have had to postpone the date twice since then so hopefully it will be 3<sup>rd</sup> time lucky!

Regards,  
**Robin**

## More Memories From The M.D.

Normally in the April Bugle we would be looking back on the Regional Contest but sadly for the second year running due to Covid we have no such event. This has made me look back on my history with the contest.

Even though I joined the band in 1976 my first playing experience of the Regional contest wasn't until 5th March 1989 mainly due to the band not having enough players in those days. My first Regional contest was held in Watford Town Hall with the test piece being "Suite for Brass". I remember at Watford a big car park behind the venue where the coaches were parked and you then entered via the "Tradesman entrance" at the back of the building. The stage was extremely high with bands looking down on their audiences. The first time I conducted at the Regionals was 1st March 1992 when the test piece was "The Seafarers" and even though I have conducted many pieces over the years I still remember this piece very clearly. For the years 1997 & 1998 the contest was held in Basildon Essex, so a long trip for the band. The stage was massive but split with a sound proof curtain in the middle, therefore bands were able to sit and warm up one side of the curtain whilst another band performed on the other side. At the end of the performance the curtain lifted and you just walked forward and took your seats for your go. 1998 was the first and only time for me when 2 pieces were chosen to be played "Solemn Melody" and "Scenes from a Comedy". As their titles suggest the pieces were very different in style and character.

In 1999 the contest was moved to Stevenage, a venue that has been used ever since. Whether it was due to the new venue or the choice of the 4th section test piece "Indian Summer", 32 Bands entered that year. We came 6th and in such a large field I believe was one of our best ever results. As you are aware the Regional Qualifying contest is the entry point for the National finals and though our first final was 2018 the band was very unlucky in 2011. If more than 16 bands enter the contest the first 3 bands qualify for the finals, in this year we came 3rd but for the only year in the past 30 years less than 16 bands had entered.

There are of course many other stories associated with the contest including the year I picked too many players and had to tell someone at registration they couldn't play. Or the year a player played the whole first movement of a piece with a mute in that they had forgotten about!

In the four years that I had away from Bradwell I also played with Towcester in two Midland 1st section contests. The band was mainly made up of students and due to events on the same day and both contests we requested a number 1 draw (so I got good at playing the National Anthem)

In 1993 I also played for Wolverton band at the National Finals held at Wembley Conference centre. As MD of Bradwell I was not a registered player so when one of the Wolverton players suddenly came unavailable I was asked to help out at short notice. With my brother Clive and good friend Keith in the band it was a very enjoyable experience especially as the band came 2nd in the Final.

Many memories but of course the highlight so far is 2018 winning the 4th section and coming 5th at the Finals. The announcement of the band drawn number 14 as the winners will stay with me forever as will the celebrations afterwards, something very special.

### Brian

---

### A Message From The M.D.

*"I would like to thank everyone for the kind messages after my recent operation. They have meant a great deal to Liz and I. My recovery will take time but hopefully I will be back to full health at the end of this (pity they didn't sort my legs out and the same time). I would also like to thank everyone for the wonderful basket of fruit and card."*



## ***Brass Bands England Covid-19 Update***

*With acknowledgement to the Brass Band England website.*

It should be noted that all dates contained in this update remain conditional and the proposed timetable provides 'no earlier than' dates and various stages at five-week intervals. This is to allow the government and health experts time to assess the impact of the previous step and provide a week's notice before changes occur.

At the beginning of Step 1, which will see pupils return to schools nationwide, there will be no change to the current guidelines that prevent bands rehearsing or performing. In the second phase of Step 1, not before 29 March, the rule of 6 or 2 households will apply outdoors, it is not yet clear if this will allow small ensemble rehearsals to be possible in these groups.

During Step 2, no earlier than 12 April, all children will be able to attend any indoor children's activity regardless of circumstance. Social Distancing will be required and BBE will publish guidance when the details of requirements are available.

But when will brass bands be able to play again? Non-professional activity will be able to resume during Step 3, which is planned to happen no earlier than 17 May. This will be in line with social contact rules indoors and outdoors as was the case previously and is currently set out on the Brass Bands England Covid advice page.

During Step 3, no earlier than 17 May, COVID-secure guidance will remain in place and premises must not cater for groups larger than the legal limits. This will include:

Controlled socially distanced indoor events of up to 1,000 people or 50% of a venue's capacity, whichever is lower, will be permitted, as will socially distanced outdoor events with a capacity of either 50% or 4,000 people, whichever is lower.

Special provision for large, outdoor, seated venues where crowds can be safely distributed, allowing up to 10,000 people or 25% of total seated capacity, whichever is lower.

Step 4, no earlier than 21 June, will enable large events to take place, including theatre performances, above the Step 3 capacity restrictions, subject to the outcome of the Events Research Programme and potentially using testing to reduce the risk of infection, subject to further evaluation.

The timings outlined above are indicative, and the Government will be led by data, rather than fixed dates.

Before taking each step, the Government will review the latest data and will only ease restrictions further if it is safe to do so. The indicative, 'no earlier than' dates are all contingent on the data and subject to change.



## *All Our Yesterdays*

For this month's glimpse into the Band's history we go back to 1976. The event is a summer fete held at the Stantonbury Campus which had opened just two years before. The conductor is David Webb with Andy Foote on solo cornet with Tony Hart sitting behind him to the left. Around this time Stantonbury had started to form a brass band of their own and they were given a flying start as they were able to include youngsters who were already playing with Wolverton Town Band and Bradwell. Sometimes there was a clash over the availability of players for engagements with the youngsters now being expected to turn out for Stantonbury instead of the bands that had taught them to play. On one such occasion their conductor who was Head of Music at the campus threatened to break somebody's arm so that they wouldn't be able to play for anyone! This was reported to the Head Teacher of the Campus who apologised on behalf of his staff member.



## ***Maintaining A Brass Instrument***

In the hope that we will soon be able to meet and play together we thought it appropriate to remind players how to maintain their instruments.

Your instrument is a valuable item, well worth your respect, care and attention.

Regular maintenance is important – a little time and effort will certainly pay off and should avoid problems which may result in a costly repair bill. However, beware of attempting any repair, however small, yourself. If in doubt, consult a qualified instrument technician for advice.

The two most important factors to remember in caring for your brass instrument are CLEANLINESS and REGULAR LUBRICATION

These are simple instructions on use and maintenance to help you get the best use of your instrument.

Flush out the instrument at least once a month with a mild soapy lukewarm water. Then rinse with cold water and dry thoroughly. Don't use hot water, it may damage the lacquer.

A flexible cleaning brush should be used to clean out slides and tubing, but make sure it is renewed at least twice a year to avoid breakage inside the instrument.

Use a valve cleaner to clean out the valve casing. Do not use a standard flexible brush.

Use a lint-free cloth, such as cheese cloth, as a swab. This may also be used to wipe the pistons which should be very carefully removed and care taken to replace them in the correct sequence.

Use only a quality tuning slide grease when lubricating slides and a minimum amount of valve oil on the pistons.

Use of inferior lubricants can affect the performance of your instrument.

When you have finished playing, loosen the valve caps by half a turn. This will help avoid the trapped moisture causing corrosion in the screw threads.

Ensure that the bell and tuning slide are kept clean by running them through with lukewarm water and a tuning slide swab. After drying with a lint-free cloth, apply tuning slide grease before reassembly.

Make sure that mouthpieces are cleaned thoroughly with warm water a mouthpiece brush. Deposits in a mouthpiece or the mouth pipe can be detrimental to the response of your brass instrument.

Care should be taken when polishing lacquered and silver plated instruments. Harsh abrasives must be avoided all times and only cleaning cloths are recommended.

Try to keep your instrument in an atmosphere of even temperature and humidity and not leave it in sunlight or near a radiator, event in the case.

Be careful not to leave the instrument out of the case in a place where it can be sat or knocked by people or animals. (You would be surprised how often large repairs are necessary as a result of this kind of carelessness!).

## ***Maintaining A Brass Instrument***

Always use a properly fitted case when transporting the instrument and make sure the latches are secured before you pick up the case.

Avoid standing the instrument on its bell as this can cause extensive damage and ensure that you use the correct fitting stand for your instrument.

### *For trombones:*

Fill the complete slide with warm soapy water and activate the slide up and down several times. Remove the water and rinse through with clear, cold water. Repeat as necessary.

The inner and outer slides should be disassembled and cleaned using a flexible cleaner, in conjunction with the slide cleaning kit, to make sure that the cleaner reaches the bottom bow of the outer side.

A SMALL amount of good quality slide cream should be applied to the inner slide stocking and sprayed with the clear water. Trombone oil may also be used as a lubricant, but please make sure that water is NOT sprayed on after the application of oil.

Ensure that the bell and tuning slide are kept clean by running them through with lukewarm water and a tuning slide swab. After drying with a lint-free cloth, apply tuning slide grease before reassembly.



## Humour

We could all do with a laugh during these trying times, hopefully some of the following one-liners will do the trick!

- ◆ *My wife told me to stop impersonating a flamingo. I had to put my foot down.*
- ◆ *I went to buy some camouflage trousers but couldn't find any.*
- ◆ *I used to have a handle on life, but then it broke.*
- ◆ *I was wondering why the frisbee kept getting bigger and bigger and then it hit me.*
- ◆ *When life gives you melons, you might be dyslexic.*
- ◆ *Don't you hate it when someone answers their own questions? I do.*
- ◆ *I can't believe I got fired from the calendar factory. All I did was take a day off.*
- ◆ *Most people are shocked when they find out how bad I am as an electrician.*
- ◆ *My wife just found out I replaced our bed with a trampoline. She hit the ceiling!*
- ◆ *Russian dolls are so full of themselves.*
- ◆ *Two fish are in a tank. One says, 'How do you drive this thing?'*
- ◆ *I don't suffer from insanity - I enjoy every minute of it.*
- ◆ *Today a man knocked on my door and asked for a small donation toward the local swimming pool. I gave him a glass of water.*
- ◆ *I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. It's impossible to put down.*
- ◆ *I got a new pair of gloves today, but they're both 'lefts,' which on the one hand is great, but on the other, it's just not right.*
- ◆ *Two Wi-Fi engineers got married. The reception was fantastic.*
- ◆ *If attacked by a mob of clowns, go for the juggler.*
- ◆ *A ghost walked into a bar and ordered a shot of vodka. The bartender said, 'Sorry, we don't serve spirits here.'*
- ◆ *I put my grandma on speed dial the other day. I call it insta-gram!*

## Contacts



<i>Chairperson &amp; Publicity Officer:</i>	Steph Chappell	chairman@bradwellband.co.uk press@bradwellband.co.uk
<i>Secretary &amp; Quartermaster:</i>	Robin Allen	secretary@bradwellband.co.uk
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Karen Wilson	treasurer@bradwellband.co.uk
<i>Librarian:</i>	Sam Lawrie	cornetgirl87@gmail.com
<i>Musical Director:</i>	Brian Keech	md@bradwellband.co.uk
<i>Newsletter Editor &amp; Webmaster:</i>	Sarah-Jayne Edwards	sj.bsb.bugle@gmail.com

If you're on Facebook, then visit and "Like" the Band's page: <https://www.facebook.com/BradwellBand>

Here you will read the latest news on the Band and also there are many photos and videos to peruse as well.



## News Of Former Players

We were very pleased to hear recently from John Lee, our former solo trombone player and regular arranger of music for the Band. John has retired to the peace and quiet of the countryside and tells us that as the lockdown had gone on so long he became bored with being unable to perform any of the musical gigs he is normally booked to do. Instead he has kept himself occupied by writing another book of short stories. Using the name Philip Ashmore, John's book is titled 'The Second Wave' and is available on Amazon for Kindle readers, but it will also download to any device or phone with a book reading app. You can read a few stories for free online, so you don't need to pay anything, but if you do it's only £1.99 - less than a cup of coffee.

John hopes to see us all again when the dust clears and we look forward to seeing him again.