



The Bradwell Bugle



Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band

May 2015

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From the Editor

Hi Everyone!

Welcome to the May edition.

Well done to the Band for a successful concert in St. James. A special mention goes to the Development Group who delighted the audience with their performance. Congratulations to all the Award Winners as well. The Band is now in a busy time which includes five engagements over four consecutive weekends. Let's hope the weather stays dry for the outdoor jobs!

With fingers firmly crossed I look forward to receiving your contributions for future editions.

Sarah-Jayne



Bass Players Wanted!

Bradwell Silver Band is actively seeking to recruit bass players to complete our line up for the busy Summer season. The actual positions are negotiable and instruments are available free of charge for immediate use to suitable applicants. If you know of anyone with suitable experience who may be looking for a new challenge or perhaps a return to playing in a brass band please inform our Secretary Robin or Musical Director Brian.

What's On!...May

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

Monday 4th May (Outdoor Event)

New Bradwell Sports Association are holding their annual Bank Holiday Funday, an event in aid of various charities. Opening time is 1.00pm till 5.00pm and amongst the advertised attractions are music, bar, food, side shows and a bouncy castle. The Windmill which is adjacent to the sports club is also holding an open day. Weather permitting the Band will be playing from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Saturday 9th May (Evening Concert)

A concert at the parish church of St. Firman in the High Street North Crawley which is approximately 3 miles to the east of Newport Pagnell. This is a new venue for the Band and is being advertised as a Bangers & Brass concert! Starts at 7:30p.m.

Sunday 17th May – (Outdoor Event)

Cosgrove Park Holiday Home and Touring Park is holding an open weekend with an invitation to see what it has to offer. Located a couple of miles north of Stony Stratford, it is set in 180 acres of parkland featuring twelve lakes and two rivers. As part of this weekend, Bradwell Silver Band will be performing in front of the restaurant which is situated at The Hub. Our two playing sessions are advertised as being 12 noon to 1:00 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.



Engagement Reports - Keith Jones

Saturday 25th April

Spring Concert

St James Church, New Bradwell

This long standing traditional concert was our first public engagement of the year. It is always a pleasure to perform in the Parish Church where we receive such a warm welcome. With the attendance boosted by family groups who had come along to support players in the development band, the Church was almost full and additional seating had to be made available.

Musical Director Brian Keech had chosen an entertaining and varied programme of music and we began as is traditional with a march, John Phillip Sousa's "The Stars and Stripes Forever". The first soloist of the evening was our principal cornet Julia with the solo "Ben", a song written by Don Black and Walter Scharf for the 1972 film of the same name and sung on the soundtrack by Michael Jackson. Arranged for brass band by Dan James, this gentle song masks a sinister story which tells of a lonely boy who becomes good friends with Ben, a rat. This rat is also the leader of a pack of vicious killer rats, killing lots of people!

Our classical overture this evening was "Nabucodonosor", an opera composed in 1841 by Giuseppe Verdi. Based on biblical stories from the Book of Jeremiah and the Book of Daniel, this opera established Verdi's reputation as a composer. It follows the plight of the Jews as they are exiled from their homeland by the Babylonian King Nabucco (in English, Nebuchadnezzar II). The historical events are used as background for a romantic and political plot with the most memorable music from the opera being the "Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves".

This was followed by Goff Richard's arrangement of "I'll Walk with God". With music by Nicholas Brodzky and lyrics by Paul Francis Webster this song is best known from the movie *The Student Prince*, in which the title character, played by Edmund Purdom, but sung by tenor Mario Lanza, performs this song at the coffin of his grandfather, the king of Carlsburg.

Then came Alan Fernie's arrangement of "Going Home" which was on the debut soundtrack album by British singer-songwriter and guitarist Mark Knopfler. Released in 1983 the album contained music composed for the film *Local Hero*. This music is played at Newcastle United as the players run out onto the pitch.

Our second soloist for the evening was Adam on soprano cornet with "The Miss Marple Theme" written by K. Howard & A. Blaikley and arranged by Helga Perry. This was used to introduce the BBC's long-running 1980s series of Agatha Christie's *Miss Marple* which starred Joan Hickson.

Our last item of the first half was two movements from "English Pastorale" by Dean Jones which was used as the set test piece for this year's area contest.

After a break for refreshments, the Development Group conducted by Keith presented a short programme of music they had been working on since the beginning of the year. There is a mixture of ages and abilities and includes some players who are already part of the main band. The emphasis in rehearsal is put into playing together as a group with simplified parts for those who have only been learning for a short time. They took to the stage to the tune of "Siyahamba" a South African hymn in the Zulu language that translates to "We Are Marching".

Engagement Reports - Keith Jones (Cont'd...)

Having settled into their seats, the group launched into "Guava Guy", described by the composer Andy Norman as a distant cousin of "Watermelon Man" and based on Herbie Hancock's famous jazz tune. This was followed by a slower ballad-like melody with "Another Day". The trombones and lower parts got to pretend they were bagpipes for the opening of "Highland Farewell" which is based on the old Scottish tune "Will Ye No Come Back Again" and in the style of Highland Cathedral. The final item was "Mardi Gras" which is a light Calypso style piece. The playing on all these items had been enthusiastic and full of promise for the future. The group stood to acknowledge the well deserved applause before posing for photographs.



They should all be proud of the performance this evening. Of a special note we had three generations of the same family on stage with Robin, his daughter Sam and her daughter Jess who was making her debut performance since joining the group in January.

The results of the raffle were then announced followed by the Annual Awards presentation by our Chairman James.

- **The Bill Holding Memorial Shield** for the Young Player of the Year went to Orla.
- **The Norman Keech Trophy**, the Chairman presents this award to an individual who has given outstanding service during the past year and this went to Steph.
- **The Keith Clements Shield** decided on by the Committee to the individual who they feel has made an important contribution was presented to Fraser.
- **The Graham Huckle Memorial Shield** for the Player of the Year as voted on by the members went to Keith.

(See Page 11 for a picture of the award winners!)

The senior band continued the concert with the Frank Bryce arrangement of the march "A Bridge Too Far" which was written by J. Addison for the 1977 war film of the same name. This tells the story of the failure of Operation Market Garden during World War II, an Allied attempt to break through German lines and seize several bridges in occupied Netherlands including one at Arnhem.

Engagement Reports - Keith Jones (Cont'd...)

Our final soloist of the evening was Fraser with James Curnow's "Rhapsody for Euphonium". Written in four sections of slow-fast-slow-fast it features an excellent balance of melodic playing and technical passages. An opening cadenza leads to a melodic statement characteristic of Curnow's tonal writing. The Allegro con spirito boasts an energetic accompaniment figure before the euphonium enters on a stately theme. Some sixteenth note sequences provide transition material to the next section that has similar motives with some syncopated feel. There is a brief restatement of the lyrical theme before a transition section that contains a number of chromatic sequences and sixteenth note chromatic scales returns the player back to the high energy tempo.

Our next item was a selection of hits from Buddy Holly whose story is a legend and his music lives on, standing the test of time with hits from the 1950's that cross the generation gap. "Buddy" is an arrangement by Derek Broadbent and after an introduction which has snippets of "Peggy Sue" soon goes up tempo with "Oh Boy", "Peggy Sue". "Heartbeat", "Everyday", "True Love Ways", and "Rave On". In an evening when we remembered Graham Huckle with his trophy being awarded to the Player of the Year, I am reminded that this piece of music was a particular favourite of Graham's.

Our trombone trio of John, Jemma and Luca featured next with "It's Not Unusual", a song written by Les Reed and Gordon Mills and first recorded by a then unknown Tom Jones, The song was first offered to Sandie Shaw and Tom Jones recorded what was intended to be a demo for her. When Sandie Shaw heard the recording she was so impressed with the delivery that she declined the song and recommended that Tom Jones released it himself. The rest as they say is history. The record reached number one in the UK Singles Chart in 1965.

As a quieter contrast to the previous two items we played "Song of the Seashore". Arranged by Ray Woodfield this is a descriptive melody written by Japanese composer Tamezo Narita. In recent times, James Galway popularised the song among flutists and has included it in many of his concert performances and albums.

Our final item in the programme was Philip Sparke's arrangement of John Mile's "Music". John is an English rock musician and songwriter and best known for this song which reached the charts in 1976. The words are:

Music was my first love

And it will be my last.

Music of the future

And music of the past.

We were thanked for our performance by Church Officer Graham Crisp. He said how the money raised tonight would be going towards the redevelopment of the Church which will provide improved facilities for all users.

We played "Floral Dance" as an encore. It had been a good concert with all our soloists doing an excellent job. We are grateful to Tug and Simon for their playing help this evening and special thanks go to our Publicity Officer Steph for some excellent coverage in the press and on-line. Thanks to our President and other friends who ran the front of house duties on the night.

There are some excellent photographs taken at the concert by Ron Chappell which can be viewed on the Band's Facebook page.

Engagement Reports - Keith Jones (Cont'd...)

Sunday 26th April

Spratton Remembers The War

Spratton, Northamptonshire

The Band travelled to the village of Spratton in Northamptonshire which over the weekend was commemorating those from their community who served in the Great War of 1914-1918. The date chosen was exactly 100 years since Lieutenant William Rhodes-Moorhouse of the Royal Flying Corps who was from Spratton was fatally injured. He was on a low-level raid of a railway junction at Courtrai in Belgium which was being used to bring up heavy enemy reinforcements, including the dreaded chlorine gas. Despite his injuries he managed to fly 35 miles back to base to report on his mission. He died the following day, aged 27. He was the first airman to receive the Victoria Cross.

The event was held in the extensive grounds of Spratton Hall, an independent preparatory day school of over 400 boys and girls. There was a replica WW1 aircraft on display – a BE2b from Old Sarum Aerodrome (of the type flown by the local VC hero) and the chance to meet the soldiers and VAD nurses at the Great War Society's living history encampment. There were also some authentic military vehicles from the period brought from the RAF Museum.

We were positioned inside an enormous marquee and under the leadership of Musical Director Brian Keech we performed two sessions. This included some music from the previous night's concert as well as items that will no doubt feature in the coming summer season of events. We opened with "Stars and Stripes For Ever" and followed this with Adam playing the soprano cornet solo "Miss Marple Theme". In quick succession we continued with "Buddy", "A White Shade of Pale", "Sing Sing Sing" and "Eternal Flame". We then featured three pieces from the Great War period, "1914", "Pack Up Your Troubles" and "Florrie Forde's Favourites".

We had a break for refreshments and a chance to view some of the many interest exhibits on display. Despite a pessimistic weather forecast, the weather stayed dry and sunny and this seems to have brought out the crowds.

We began our second session with "A Bridge Too Far" and then featured our young percussionist Toby in "Sandpaper Ballet". We went on with "Mama Mia", "Going Home", "Memory" which featured Tug as the soloist and "American Patrol". We paused to allow commentary on the impressive flypast of a tri-plane which was a late replacement for the plane originally intended which had been declared unsafe for flight. The timing was significant because it was exactly 100 years ago that Lieutenant William Rhodes-Moorhouse was fatally injured. As this disappeared into the distance we continued appropriately with "Those Magnificent Men In Their Flying Machines" before concluding our performance with "Song of the Seashore" and "The Floral Dance".

It had been a good performance at a very interesting and mostly well organised event. The only concern was the field where we were directed to park some of our cars. This had a large mound to be negotiated and the noise as the bottom of the car hit the bump was a bit scary. Hopefully no damage was sustained to any of the vehicles unfortunate enough to have been guided to this part of the car park. One can only hope that if the air cadets who were assigned to the car parking duties pursue a career in the Air Force it will not be as Air Traffic Controllers!

Engagement Reports - Keith Jones (Cont'd...)

Thanks go to Tug and Liz for their playing help and to all members who attended on what had been a busy week-end. We say farewell to Gary Morris who played his final engagement with the band today. Gary is looking to pursue other interests and we thank him for his services to Bradwell Silver Band over the past years which included a spell as Chairman. We look forward to seeing home again sometime in the future. Again we are grateful to Ron Chappell for some excellent photographs taken at this event which can be viewed on the Band's Facebook page.

Comment on Facebook:

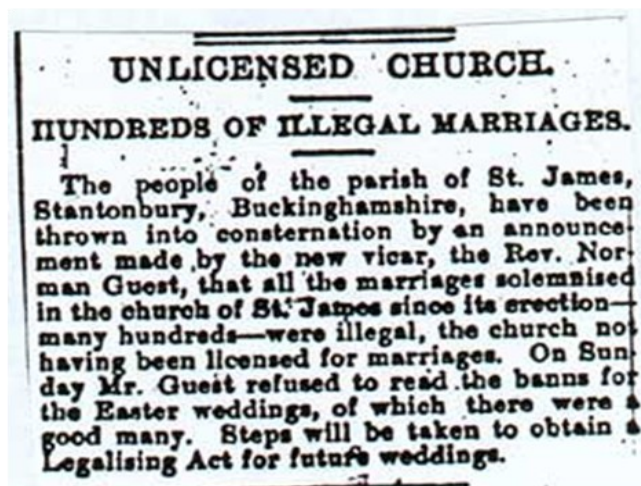
The band were wonderful. The event took us 18 months of careful planning, but it was worth it. It was to commemorate the centenary of the awarding of the first air VC to Lt W Rhodes-Moorhouse. Hope you bought a book! - Spratton Local History Society



The Not So Jovial Priest

We enjoy an excellent relationship with the Parish Church of St. James in New Bradwell and are warmly welcomed there throughout the year. I wonder how we would have got on with one of the previous Vicars who created quite an impact on the community during his 38 year appointment..

The Rev. Alan 'Joey' Newman Guest was an eccentric Irish priest who was appointed Vicar of St. James in September 1908. Within months he discovered that his church had not been licensed for marriages since it opened nearly 50 years previously. There had been nearly a thousand weddings during that period and to the great consternation of all concerned he announced that all marriages at St. James had been illegal. He went on to say that this meant these couples were therefore living in sin which created headlines in the local papers.



The marriage register being used was the one for St. Peter's Church, at Stanton Low which was the original Parish Church. St. James Church had been completed in 1860 as part of the newly created development of the area to provide housing for the expanding workforce at the Wolverton railway works. Through some oversight St. James had not been licensed for the solemnisation of marriages. It needed an Act of Parliament to be hastily passed on June 4th 1909, declaring that all marriages at the church were now valid. It was confirmed in the House of Lords on July 16th that year.

If this had been a bad start for the Reverend it was only to go further downhill after that. The outbreak of the First World War should have been the time for unity between the Reverend Guest and his congregation. This was not to be and it was reported that on one occasion some of the congregation even though their hymn books at him. He could not tolerate other churches which he considered to be interlopers and had a particular dislike for the Salvation Army, kicking a hole in their drum one Sunday!

In 1915 he was summoned to court for striking a 14 year old girl and fined £3 plus costs. The girl had been standing outside her home with some friends when the vicar approached and asked her why she did not attend church. She replied that as a member of the Primitive Methodist faith she could not attend. This upset the vicar who said "There is only one church in England, and that is my church," and slapped her on the cheek. The mark was still visible the next morning and although he later tried to apologise, the girl's mother slammed the door in his face. Not only was he fined, but also ordered to pay the expenses of six witnesses.

This was followed in 1918, with a second appearance at the courts, for insulting behaviour in the public streets, for which he was fined one pound or, in default, fourteen days imprisonment. His sermons at times were more political than religious and he condemned the Labour Party for being pacifist – upsetting Stantonbury and Wolverton, which were Labour strongholds. There were increasing differences between him and the church officers which gradually developed into an attitude of antagonism towards the vicar. This resulted in the withdrawal of Mr Guest's warden, the organist, and the whole choir. The Sunday School teachers with their scholars also left. The church which, under the guidance of former vicars had been full most Sundays with worshippers slowly became deserted. This was not because there was a lack of loyalty to their church by residents in the parish, but because they could not see eye to eye with their vicar, his method of conducting services and his failure to co-operate with his flock.

The Not So Jovial Priest

Following a petition, the Bishop of Oxford attended a service to meet the parishioners. Over 1,000 are reported to have attended the meeting in the evening, at the local school, where the Bishop called for "give and take", and sided with the vicar. There were reports of uproar when the Bishop and Rev. Guest left the building and police were called from Newport Pagnell. The result was that, eventually alone, he went through the offices of the church and played the organ with only himself forming the congregation.

He married in 1916 to Miss Dorothy "Dolly" Cook from Eastbourne who was much younger than himself and described as "a smart, well-spoken woman, quite a lady". They had three children and made frequent visits to his disgruntled mother-in-law in Bournemouth, where it is reputed that he made a nuisance of himself by playing the piano into the early hours of the morning with the police being called to stop him. Mrs Guest left him in 1926, taking the oldest son, aged 9, to return to her mother in Bournemouth. The Reverend claimed custody of the other two children, as he believed was his right. He employed a local housekeeper to help bring up their children before they were sent off to a private school.

Rev. Guest was considered an eccentric, renowned for his "sit-up and beg" bike. It had a large motorbike saddle and wide handles which he rode down the steep canal hill into New Bradwell with his feet on the handlebars and cassock flapping behind. On one occasion, the handlebars came adrift and he crashed, hurting himself badly. A friendly parishioner called for Doctor Penny and he was laid up for a fortnight. He was a fine athlete, often jogging around the fields bare footed and vaulting five bar gates to save time opening and closing them. He was also a swimmer, challenging others for a race in the river and a boxer, challenging one person to a match. This fight was stopped by the Bishop, having discovered that betting was on the outcome.

The Rev. Guest was a fine musician and composer and writer. His two main compositions being a book of hymn tunes and a book called Stantonbury Tales with copies of both of these now in the British Museum. He suffered several bouts of illness and the church almost closed during the 2nd World War due to his illness and people being away. After 38 years, the Rev. Newman Guest resigned as Vicar of Stantonbury and New Bradwell, on 3rd October 1946, and died at a Bedford nursing home at the age of 79 in the same year. His body was cremated at Golders Green.

In remembrance of this eccentric vicar, a street "Guest Gardens" was created in New Bradwell and the local public house in Bradville was renamed 'The Jovial Priest' (now Halley's Comet"). The nickname of Jovial Priest was far from the truth as he apparently had very little sense of humour and being a teetotaler he would not have approved of this. We can only wonder what he would have thought of having a brass band playing in his Church. There again he was a musician so maybe he would have composed some music for us!



Future Engagements



	<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>July</u>	
Saturday 11th	New Bradwell School Carnival	PM
	<i>There will be a 3 week break here. Next rehearsal is 4th August.</i>	
Sunday 26th	St James Church Patronal Service	AM
	<u>August</u>	
Sunday 16th	Tiger Moth Rally @ Woburn Abbey	TBC
Saturday 22nd	Evening Open Air Concert, Bancroft Park	PM
Monday 31st	Stony Stratford Town Fayre	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
Saturday 24th	Concert - Christ The Vine, Coffee Hall	PM
	<u>November</u>	
Sunday 8th	Remembrance Parade	TBC

*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



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Olney



Brass



Spring Concert

to celebrate the life of Alan Jenkin

16th May 2015

19:30

Church of St. Peter & St. Paul
Newport Pagnell

Carol Jarvis **Featuring** **Ben Godfrey**



Admission £5 on the door
All profits will be donated to Willen Hospice



Olney Brass charity No. 1141170

Olney Brass is kindly supported by Olney Town Council

Olney Brass Beginner Band is supported by MK Community Foundation



Willen Hospice
always there to care

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