



The Bradwell Bugle

Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band

June 2015



From the Editor

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Hi Everyone!

The Band has been kept busy with three engagements in May and another three coming up this month. Meanwhile the Development Band showed off their talents in their Solo Competition, a full report follows...

Well done to Steph who continued to get the Band some great publicity recently on the 4BarsRest, All4Brass, and TotalMK websites.

Don't forget, as always I will welcome any articles or photographs that we could include in future editions of this newsletter. Thanks Steph for your contribution this month! ☺

Sarah-Jayne

Strike Up The Band!

(See what I did there??)

Members of the Development Group together with the under 18s from Main Band enjoyed a boisterous afternoon bowling and causing general mayhem. Thanks to Sam, Jemma, Tanya, Karen, James, Steph and lone parent stand in Rudolf & Pedro's mum for chaperone duties; all have been assured the nervous ticks will fade in time! A great time was had by all and we hope to make the under 18s social an annual tradition.



What's On!...June

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

Sunday 7th June (*Outdoor Event*)

Stony Stratford Big Lunch 2015.

Wolverton Road Recreation Ground, Stony Stratford access via Magdalen Close or Vicarage Walk, The ever popular Big Lunch day is back. Take your friends and family and a picnic, or enjoy the on-site refreshments.

We are playing two 45-minute sessions, 12:00 - 12:45 and 13:30 - 14:15.



Saturday 13th June (*Outdoor Event*)

Wicken Dog Show
The Old Rectory, Wicken

Wicken is a village about one mile north of the A422 road between Milton Keynes and Buckingham. Food and refreshments and Dog registration from 12:00. Judging from 14:00. Other attractions include a Pimms Bar, food, Cream Teas, Tombola, Raffle Bouncy Castle, Cake and Plant Stalls.

Saturday 27th June – (*Outdoor Event*)

Haversham Fete
A Traditional Village Fete.

Engagement Reports - Keith Jones

Monday 4th May

May Fun Day

New Bradwell Sports Club

It was with pleasure that Bradwell Silver Band again accepted the invitation to perform at the annual May Fun Day organised by the New Bradwell Sports Association. Among the other attractions on offer were a bouncy castle, children's rides, stalls, licensed bar and food with proceeds going to Willen Hospice.

The wet weather of the previous day had thankfully cleared away to give a bright and mostly sunny day although there was a bit of breeze about. With this warmer weather Insect life abounded with a ladybird taking a particular interest in Alison's hair whilst later a crowd of midges hovered ominously over the front row cornets. Good job they didn't land on the music otherwise the cornets may have thought these were notes and tried to play them. One member of the cornet section even managed to get sunburn, but only on one side of the face!

As has become the custom, the Band opened proceedings with a one hour programme of music. We set up in the area reserved for us and were all seated in plenty of time. Musical Director Brian Keech raised his baton and we began with the march "Stars & Stripes Forever" followed by Julia with the solo "Ben". We followed this with "Eternal Flame" and then featured the full might of the percussion section with "Sing Sing Sing". Then it was the turn of the horn section to feature in "A Whiter Shade of Pale" succeeded by "Floral Dance". Tug was the featured soloist in "Memory" and then it was back to the horns with "Happy Horns".

Then we had the debut performance of John's arrangement of "Open All Hours" The music is instantly recognisable as the tune used for the television comedy of the same name. The original title of the music is "Alice, Where Art Thou?" a typical Victorian sentimental ballad telling the story of a melancholy man lamenting the departure of a girl taken too soon. Max Harris adapted the tune to introduce the pilot episode of Ronnie Barker's 1973 season Seven of One. It wasn't long before Open All Hours took on a life of its own and ran for a number of series.

It has recently returned to our screens with some of the original cast as "Still Open All Hours". In this version Julia played the opening and closing bars unaccompanied with Toby unexpectedly coming to the front of the band for the final bell note which represented the finger-snapping cash register which was very much a feature of the programme. This arrangement has just been published by Pennine Music which means that John now has two of his works made available to the brass band world. Well done John!

We continued with "Going Home", "Song Of The Seashore", and as our final item "Mama Mia". It had been a very good playing session with just a few players short of a full band. We thank Tug once again for his playing help.

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

Saturday 9th May

North Crawley

This was a new venue for the Band and had been advertised as a Bangers & Brass concert. Tonight we were performing a concert at the parish church of St. Firman in North Crawley which is approximately 3 miles to the east of Newport Pagnell. The Church is an imposing grade I listed building with parts dating back to the 12th century. One of the many historical features are the boxed pews. There are apparently only two Churches in Britain dedicated to this little known Saint, martyred in AD 287.

The Band had been allocated the ringing chamber, which is the area where the bell ropes are, as a place to prepare and store cases. I am pleased to report that the youngsters – and some of those not so young – resisted the very obvious temptation of seeing what would happen if you tugged at the ropes. The actual layout of the church meant we were not able to sit in our normal formation and this took a bit of getting used to once we started playing. Under the leadership of Musical Director Brian Keech, we opened with the march “Stars & Stripes Forever” followed by Julia with the cornet solo “Ben”. Then we played the “Buddy” selection before slowing the tempo down with “I’ll Walk With God”. We continued with “Going Home” and then Adam on soprano cornet with “The Miss Marple Theme”. The last item of the first half featured the percussion section in “Sing Sing Sing”.

There was then an interval and the most enjoyable part for many of our younger members as they tucked into hot dogs with all the trimmings.

The second half opened with the march “A Bridge Too Far” before we introduced our final soloist of the evening with Fraser playing “Rhapsody For Euphonium”. Julia featured in “Memory” before we played “Breezin’ Down Broadway”. Arranged by Goff Richards, this is a lively and relentlessly up-tempo medley of show tunes includes Another Opening - Another Show, There's No Business Like Show Business, Get Me To the Church on Time, Oklahoma, That's Entertainment and 76 Trombones.

The percussion trio of Toby, Steve and James came to the front of the Band for a virtuosic performance of Leroy Anderson’s “Sandpaper Ballet”. This novelty item was inspired by the old music hall or vaudeville soft shoe dance in which the dancers would spread sand on the stage to produce a crackling sound when performing. The effect was augmented by the drummers imitating the sound by attaching sandpaper to wooden blocks which they then rubbed rhythmically against each other.

We followed this with the soothing sounds of the “Song Of The Seashore”. The all important raffle was then drawn with band members doing well claiming prizes such as liquorice allsorts, jelly babies and body lotion. We then surprised a member of the audience who this month would be celebrating his 80th birthday with a rendition of “Happy Birthday” in which the audience heartily joined in.

The final item of the published programme was “The Floral Dance”. We played “Mama Mia” as an encore after which we stood to receive the applause from the large and receptive audience. It is always nice to play at a new venue and it had been a good concert. Because of the non-availability of some of our own players this evening, we were particularly grateful for playing help from Malcolm of Olney Brass and Rachel from the Woburn Sands Band. We also thank Simon for his help on the front row. There were also fine individual contributions from Sam who was playing flugel, Steph who stepped up to the first horn part and Sophie on repiano cornet.

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

Sunday 17th May

Cosgrove Country Park



Another new venture for the Band saw us drive the relatively short distance to Cosgrove. The park was built on an area of flooded gravel pits near the River Great Ouse just south of the village. There are pitches for 500 touring caravans and 460 owner-occupied static holiday homes. It has a swimming and paddling pool, fishing lakes and offers water sports including water-skiing and jet -skiing. In their advertising they stated that they are one of England's finest Caravan Parks and our appearance was part of an open weekend giving the public the opportunity of exploring the park to see what it has to offer.

It was a dry day with some bright periods of sunshine followed by cloudier conditions. We were positioned on an area of grass opposite the Lakeside Bistro and amusement arcade. We were very close to one of the fishing lakes, more of this later!

The grass is an area where the Canada Geese usually can be found doing whatever Canada Geese do, and there was much evidence of this underfoot. We set up ready to play the first of our two one hour playing sessions which started at 12:00 noon. In this first session we were to perform some 11 pieces of music from our current repertoire which included a soprano cornet solo from Adam and the first airing this year of "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone".

We had a one hour break in between sessions and most members availed themselves of refreshments in the restaurant whilst the younger ones went off to explore some of the other features on offer at the park. We commenced our second session at 2:00 p.m. and in this hour of playing squeezed in another thirteen pieces. These included for the first time this season "When The Saints Go Marching In", "No Matter What", "When You Say Nothing At All", "The Old Gumbie Cat" and "Skimbleshanks". Being played in public for the first time was "Punchinellie". This starts off with the opening bars of 'Punchinello' one of the most familiar of brass band marches but soon changes into "Nellie The Elephant" and then "Pop Goes The Weasel". The trombones are let loose - not that they need much encouragement - to provide some very authentic trunk calls. There are a few challenging changes in time signature but it is a fun piece to play.

At the end of our performance we stood to acknowledge applause before packing up and making our way home. With a few of our members unavailable today and we were grateful for assistance from Tug as principle cornet, and on trombone we had Dan of the MK Youth Band and Martin from MK Brass. Our playing attracted a lot of attention and also an enquiry about joining our development group so this was a very worthwhile engagement. We are due to return to a similar event being organised for September.

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

There have been many interesting incidents experienced at engagements over the years and today we were to add another to the long list. As mentioned at the beginning of the report, we were positioned on a grassy area adjacent to a lake. To help with our visual appearance, we like to store the instrument cases neatly and whenever possible, out of the general sight of our audiences. Today's area chosen for storage was close to the edge of a lake with the grass sloping quite steeply towards the water which meant you had to be extra careful of your footing.

A few of us had even speculated before we started to play which of our members was mostly likely to end up in the water. Happily this did not happen. However just before we were starting one of our items, a member of our percussionist team had the misfortune to clip one of the empty bass cases as he moved from one piece of kit to another. The case had been nicely balanced and only needed the slightest of touches to send it rolling down the slope and into the water! Fortunately the case was closed and floated as stately as a galleon. There was some consternation and a few anxious moments as a rescue plan was formulated. Our resident lifeguard Jonathan was preparing to strip down to his Speedos when James grabbed one of the poles from the band's pop-up display. Together with the aid of our president, James managed to guide the case back towards the bank and Peter fished it out of the water.



Meanwhile sympathetic members of the audience plus band members also leapt into action by recording the scene on their mobile devices. I think this was the first time anything connected with a bass had been landed in these waters but I don't think you will be reading about it in the Angling Times.



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

Thursday 21st May

Development Band Solo Competition

Bradwell's Got Talent!

This evening we held our annual solo competition for members of the Development Group. The competition encourages players to perform a solo of their own choice in a 'safe and supported' environment. Simon Cowell was otherwise engaged so we were very pleased to welcome as our adjudicator for the evening David Rose who is Vice Principal of Milton Keynes Music Service and Musical Director of MK Youth Brass.

On a warm summer's evening we were delighted to have in the audience a large number of family groups and friends who came along to support the learners and with members of the senior band also present this created a very friendly atmosphere. To start the proceedings the group under their Musical Director Keith Jones performed two items, "Siyahamba" and the march "Killaloe". The solo competition was divided into three sections; Beginners for those who have been playing for around six months or less, Intermediate for those with slightly more experience and Advanced for those members who are already playing in the main band. The draw to decide order of play had been made off stage and we started off with the beginners group where we had four entries. Teresa on cornet played "Frere Jaques", George on euphonium "Home On The Range", Jess on cornet "On Holiday" and Elliot on tenor horn "Ode To Joy".

We had a bumper entry of ten soloists in the intermediate section. Pedro on cornet started with "Aura Lee", followed by Samra on tenor horn with "Greensleeves", Rudolf on cornet with "It's Me O Lord", Ben on bass trombone with "Eastenders", Adam on cornet with "Sombrero Sam", Karen on tenor horn with "Sprig of Thyme", Mabel on cornet with "Camptown Races", Oscar on cornet with "Jerusalem", Evan on tenor trombone with "Basse Dance" and finally Peter on tenor horn with "Rock Around The Clock".

In the advanced section we had three entries, Adam on cornet with "Colonel Glib (Retired)", Tania on flugel with "The Ash Grove" and Daniel on cornet with "March form the Occasional Oratorio". With solos completed the group played "Highland Farewell" before putting their instruments away and getting stuck into the refreshments.

Brian Keech Musical Director of the senior band spoke to say that he had enjoyed listening to the soloists this evening. He went on to say how important it was for the continued existence of the band and that we need to encourage the learners, who will hopefully one day take their place in the senior band. Brian then invited our adjudicator David Rose to make his comments. David complimented all the soloists on their efforts and said there were excellent signs for the future of brass playing in Bradwell in particular and also the wider area of Milton Keynes. He went on to get give some very helpful hints on how each individual could continue to improve their playing, particularly in the area of breath control.

The winners of each section were then announced with David presenting the trophies. These were George in the beginners, Evan in the intermediate and Adam in the advanced. As well as receiving individual comments sheet, all those playing tonight also received a certificate and medal in recognition of their participation.

It had been a great evening with some excellent and brave playing from the record entry of seventeen soloists. To their great credit every individual who took part did so willingly and was responsible for their own choice of music. Not one piece of music was repeated and this made for an entertaining evening. Special thanks to Steph and Sam for their help in organising medals, certificates and refreshments.



Brass Arts Festival - Steph Chappell

BRASS ARTS FESTIVAL 2015 WITH BLACK DYKE BAND

One of the great experiences of my music life began with an email from Brian Keech saying 'I think you would like this' – thanks Brian!

“As part of the 2015 Black Dyke Festival of Brass there will be a Tenor Horn Spotlight. A chance to work with the Black Dyke Horn Section and engage in a number of workshops. The afternoon gala concert in the stunning main hall of Leeds Town Hall will offer delegates the opportunity to take part in massed brass section feature jointly with Black Dyke Band with Director Nicholas Childs.”

The idea of me playing with Black Dyke Band was a little daunting at first but after a supportive email from Mr Jonathan Bates, Black Dyke Solo Horn and world famous arranger and composer, I decided to give it a go. Travel arrangements and bed and breakfast were quickly sorted and anticipation built to epic proportions as the day approached and copies of music were shared for practice purposes.

I discovered that as well as the Tenor Horn Spotlight the band were also holding a Bass section spotlight and a workshop with the Yorkshire Youth Brass Band and that we would all be on stage during the afternoon concert. Jonny Bates sent me solo, 1st and 2nd horn parts (ambitious of him) for Trumpets Wild which would be the Youth Band feature; Them Basses which was obviously the Bass Section feature and the Goff Richards arrangement of The Elvira Madigan Theme by Mozart which was to be the tenor horn feature. I also received copies of the magnificent March from the Pines of Rome by Respighi which was to be the finale of the afternoon concert together with the Lorrinan arrangement of Highland Cathedral (now my favourite) which is well known as being the Black Dyke encore.

My Fawlty Towers B&B notwithstanding I arrived at Leeds Town Hall at 9am on a sunny Sunday morning and nervously announced myself at sign in. My usual confidence had flown out the window and I was again a child turning up for an exam with a pencil and a blank mind.

The morning's tenor horn workshop was run by the Black Dyke Horn Section: Jonny Bates, Helen Varley and Alison Childs who introduced themselves and put all the 66 tenor horn players hanging on their every word at ease with anecdotes and tales of being part of a world famous band. The itinerary for the morning included warm up techniques; group, ensemble and individual playing and how and when to use vibrato which apparently is a very important tool and should be known by all. I'm working on that!

After a rehearsal of Elvira Madigan Professor Nicholas Childs joined us to listen to us play and pass on some helpful hints and tips. It was interesting to hear how he treats his band both in rehearsals and at concerts. He stressed the importance of all players knowing each other's parts. Yes, everyone has their position within the band but he strongly believes that a 2nd horn player should also be confident enough to cover all horn parts and the 3rd cornet player should be happy playing Repiano or 4th man down on front row. He quite often changes people around at rehearsals to improve the core strength within the band which gives Black Dyke a consistent sound and a balanced foundation.

Brass Arts Festival - Steph Chappell (Cont'd...)

The Q&A session went on a little longer than planned with topics from choice of mouthpieces, valve oil and breathing techniques covered. This was followed by a discussion on how we can develop the use of tenor horn outside of brass bands with Jonny Bates performing a recital using pre-recorded techno and disco tunes.

Just before lunch we were told that we 66 tenor horns would be joined on stage by 50 bass players, 50 members of Yorkshire Youth Brass and members of 5 local brass bands. Together with Black Dyke there would be over 200 musicians on stage playing to a sold out concert hall. No pressure then...

The logistics of this many players on stage took a little organising but once seated we rehearsed together for the first time all the pieces from the afternoons programme. It was promising to be an amazing concert.

We'd been asked to bring our Band uniforms to create a riot of colour on stage so after a quick change we once again assembled on stage whilst the audience filled up. During the first half we could sit back and listen whilst Black Dyke thrilled with outstanding playing of a very entertaining programme. Soloists amazed and the ensemble playing was fantastic. The first half finale was a magical performance of Peter Graham's 'Metropolis 1927'. The piece allows individual soloists to stand and perform (all without music I might add) and the choreography alone was impressive, with soloists silently winding their way through a mass of players to reach the front of the stage. There was even an air raid siren timed perfectly to sound when required – wonder how much that cost? It was a very emotional experience and I have to admit there was a tear in my eye and a lump in my chest by the end of the piece.

The second half passed with a blur and I enjoyed playing all of the feature pieces, even hitting the high notes! The March from the Pines of Rome starts so quietly but the sound of over 200 instruments at the end was just epic – we definitely resurrected those legions of Roman soldiers! The encore was the wonderful Highland Cathedral and once again the beautiful sound of the two Black Dyke Euphonium players made me fight the tears just in time to stand up and play the tenor horn lead.

It's hard to put into words what I gained from the experience of the day. I made friends, discovered new pieces of music and I hope learnt valuable techniques to improve my confidence and ability. Overall I just had a really, really good time. I would go again and definitely recommend anyone to join in with future spotlights. Sign me up for next year!



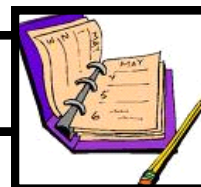
Future Engagements



	<u>June</u>	
Sunday 7th	Big Lunch, Stony Stratford	12-12.45pm 1.30-2.15pm
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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The Kettledrum