



# The Bradwell Bugle



Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band

June 2021

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## From the Editor

*Hi Everyone!*

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

We are pleased to report that with the restrictions gradually easing we are finally back in the rehearsal room. It may only be in smaller groups for the main band but it's a start. The Development Group's youth members had been back in the rehearsal space since 18th April and as from May 20th the adult members of the group were allowed to join them.

As we look forward some engagements are already being planned for the summer months and onwards and these will be confirmed soon.

We are all keeping our fingers very firmly crossed that the current restrictions are eased completely on June 21st, but of course this very much depends on the infection rate and other data relevant to our area. All players will be contacted once the situation regarding a return to full rehearsals has been made confirmed.

My thanks go to Jess for her contribution this month. If you would like to send me something for inclusion in future editions I would be very grateful.

*Sarah-Jayne*

## *In Other News...*

Congratulations to Peter Roder on his acceptance to Queens College, Cambridge to study Maths. The whole band is proud of Peter's achievement and will wish him well when he starts his studies in September.

### ***St. James Church***

Following the very welcomed news that Bradwell Silver Band had begun to resume rehearsals we were pleased to learn that our good friends at St. James Church have also been finally able to open their doors for public worship. In April the Church Council had reviewed the current situation and decided that as local infection numbers were similar to the national average and with the eased lockdown restrictions plus the encouraging number of people receiving their first and second vaccinations it was decided that the Church would resume weekly services beginning on 2nd May. Attendance at services does not need to be booked in advance and whilst they will endeavour to cater for those who do want to attend it may be necessary to turn people away if the safe numbers determined to maintain social distancing are exceeded.

As with the procedures currently in operation by the Band and in accordance with Government requirements a register of all those attending is being kept. As well as the usual social distancing measures in place face coverings must be worn at all times within the building unless medically exempt. Refreshments cannot be served after the service at this time but social mixing in the Churchyard is permitted.

## *Senior Band*

Tuesday 18th May saw the long awaited return to rehearsals for the Bradwell Silver Band. A delay in receiving confirmation of the new regulations meant that for the first night back we were only allowed a group of six indoors, five players from the horn and baritone sections plus Musical Director Brian Keech.

The following Thursday brought together all the cornets and the next Tuesday saw basses, trombones and euphoniums. The last rehearsal of the month saw the back row of the cornet section joined by the horns and baritones and one bass player.

The plans for rehearsals in the coming weeks are as follows....

Tuesday 1st June	Tug, Tania, Sam, Oscar, Alison, Karen, Steph, Julie, Maria, Shaun, Lucy Louis, Luke W, Dave S <b><i>(Key Holder Tug or Sam)</i></b>
Thursday 3rd June	Jess, Adam, Julia, Oliver, Daniel, Gail, Keith, Peter, Jayden, Fraser, Matt, Ben, Luke C, Robin <b><i>(Key Holder Keith or Robin)</i></b>
Tuesday 8th June	Tug, Jess, Sam, Oliver, Daniel, Karen, Keith, Peter, Maria, Shaun, Fraser, Louis, Ben, Luke C, Dave S <b><i>(Key holder Tug, Sam, Keith)</i></b>
Thursday 10th June	Tania, Adam, Julia, Oscar, Alison, Gail, Steph, Julie, Jayden, Maria, Lucy, Louis, Matt, Luke W, Robin <b><i>(Key Holder Robin)</i></b>
Tuesday 15th June	Jess, Tania, Sam, Oscar, Daniel, Keith, Julie, Shaun, Jayden, Fraser, Matt, Ben, Luke W, Dave S <b><i>(Key Holder Sam or Keith)</i></b>
Thursday 17th June	Tug, Adam, Julia, Oliver, Alison, Gail, Karen, Steph, Peter, Maria, Lucy, Louis, Luke C, Robin

The percussion players can attend any of these practices but must inform Brian when they are attending. If any of the listed players is unavailable on the night selected they are asked to swap with another member in their section so that we have the maximum number of players present.

We are all keeping our fingers very firmly crossed that the current restrictions are eased completely on June 21<sup>st</sup>.

The groups have working on music some of which was originally purchased last year when we anticipated it would become part of the repertoire to be performed by the Band. Some of the pieces looked at includes "Macarthur Park", "A Disney Spectacular", "Hallelujah" (as performed by Leonard Cohen) and a prelude on the hymn tune "Lavenham".

"MacArthur Park" is a song written by American singer-songwriter Jimmy Webb that was recorded first by Irish actor and singer Richard Harris in 1968. Jimmy Webb had been asked to create a pop song with different movements and changing time signatures. The inspiration for the song was Macarthur Park in Los Angeles. The music starts with a mid-tempo introduction and opening section, called "In the Park" is followed by a slower tempo and quieter section called "After the Loves of My Life".

## Senior Band

Then we progress to an up-tempo instrumental section, called "Allegro" before a reprise of the first section that concludes with the final chorus. It is probably most memorable for its rather strange lyrics which are not readily understood. In an attempt to explain, the composer said he had based the song on his own observations of things he witnessed in the park". Everything in the song was visible. There's nothing in it that's fabricated. The old men playing checkers by the trees, the cake that was left out in the rain, all of the things that are talked about in the song are things I actually saw. And so it's a kind of musical collage of this whole love affair that kind of went down in MacArthur Park".

*"MacArthur's Park is melting in the dark  
All the sweet, green icing flowing down  
Someone left the cake out in the rain  
I don't think that I can take it  
'Cause it took so long to bake it  
And I'll never have that recipe again, Oh, no!"*

(They don't write songs like this anymore, thank goodness!)

Disney Films have always been a great favourite with families, partly because of the colourful characters but almost as important has been the popularity of the songs used on the soundtracks. "A Disney Spectacular" was arranger Goff Richards second stab at a selection of songs from the Disney films, the first having been titled "A Disney Fantasy". In this arrangement we have "Be Our Guest" from Beauty and the Beast, "A Spoonful of Sugar" from Mary Poppins, "Bella Notte" from Lady and the Tramp, "Bibbidi-Bobbidi-Boo" from Cinderella, "A Whole New World" from Aladdin and "Under the Sea" from The Little Mermaid.

"Hallelujah" is a song written by Canadian singer Leonard Cohen and originally released on his album Various Positions in 1984. Achieving little initial success, the song found greater popular acclaim through a recording by John Cale, which inspired a recording by Jeff Buckley. Following its increased popularity after being featured in the film Shrek (2001), many other arrangements have been performed in recordings and in concert, with over 300 versions known.<sup>1</sup> The song has been used in film and television soundtracks and televised talent contests. "Hallelujah" experienced renewed interest following Cohen's death in November 2016 and appeared on many international singles charts. This is a very nice arrangement for brass band by Christopher Bond.

Music forms an integral part of Salvation Army worship and evangelism. Bands and songster brigades (choirs) are an important part of church life and public events with the brass band probably being the most recognised feature of Salvation Army music. Their composers have contributed a great amount of music that is regularly performed by brass bands all around the world. Several years ago Geoffrey Nobes a former Bandmaster of the Portsmouth Citadel Band composed "Lavenham" as a tune to words written by hymn writer Nick Fawcett Mayhew. He dedicated this musical arrangement to the memory of a friend who had served as bandmaster at the Lavenham Corps in Suffolk. This is a reflective piece of music which is free flowing and should be played in a cantabile style throughout with careful attention to dynamics. It will perfectly suit the acoustics normally found in a Church.

We eagerly look forward to being able to perform in public again but of course only when it is safe to do so. In the meantime it is just nice to get back to some regular playing and catch up with colleagues we have missed over the past fifteen months.

## *Development Group*

Since returning to regular weekly rehearsals in April, the group has been working hard to catch up with all the playing time that has been missed due to the lockdown restrictions imposed on us in March of last year.

At first we were only able to have those up to the age of 18 but we are very pleased that the adult members of the group have now been allowed to return as well. For the time being we are having to adapt to the most unusual of seating plans as we do our best to abide by the regulations regarding social distancing. This is further complicated by the current layout of the main hall. Table and play equipment are set out for the daily pre-school group and we have to avoid moving these which means our players are spread out around the edges of the hall. Not ideal but at least we are able to enjoy playing again so it is not really an issue.

As is usually the case we have lost a few players over the past twelve months, mostly through the players deciding to concentrate on their educational commitments and upcoming examinations. We wish them all well for the future and thank them for the time they spent with the group. In the meantime we have an enthusiastic group of around twenty players who have been working on a varied selection of music which we will hopefully be able to perform in public later in the year.

The current emphasis is on rehearsing as an ensemble as we are currently unable to offer individual tuition due to restrictions in the space available to us. However plans are well in hand for a new intake of learners in September and more details on this will be announced in the coming months. We should have enough instruments available but what we do need is more members of the senior band willing to come along to help teach the beginners. If you would like to find out more please speak to Keith or Steph who will be delighted to give you details of what would be involved. I think we all know that now more than ever the Development Group represents the future of the Bradwell Silver Band. Giving us just one extra hour per week will help ensure that the Band is able to look forward to the continuation of their long and proud history of music making in the local community and beyond.



## Meet The Band!

A welcome revival to the monthly segment we started last year, where we introduce to you the members of Bradwell Silver Band!

This month, we have Jess!

**Name:** Jess Gunn.

**Role within the Band:** Cornet.

**How long have you been with the Band?:**

No idea! I think it is nearly 10 years.

**What was the first piece of music you learnt to play?:**

I learned to play in Secondary School in Swansea. So probably something like Baa Baa or Twinkle Twinkle.

When growing up, I knew nothing about brass banding until I was living and working in Rugby and saw an advert for players needed by Dunchurch Silver Band. I played with them for a few years. Julia helped them out at an event and introduced me to Wolverton Town Band (I was living in MK at this point) and I finally moved to Bradwell Silver after the birth of my 2nd child and difficult times at Wolverton.

**Most Memorable Banding moment?:**

I have 2, one very happy and one very sad.

At Dunchurch Silver Band, our young conductor Neil Thompson was sadly killed in a road traffic accident. I remember our next rehearsal, everyone coming together to play hymns, whilst tears flowed in memory of a life lost too young. A moving and memorable moment as the band got together to support each other and his family at a very difficult time.

On a more upbeat note, I really loved our trip to Chelsea and our personal tour of the facilities, followed by a fun and lively evening playing for the pensioners

**What's your favourite piece of music to play?:**

No favourite. Anything with low notes! My range is not the best!

**If you could play another instrument in the Band, which would it be?:**

Drums.

**What other hobbies outside of the Band do you have?:**

I enjoy spending time with my family, photography, painting and going to the cinema.



## ***Update On Easing Of Restrictions***

*Issued by Brass Bands England.*

The recent and most welcome changes in the easing of lockdown restrictions were finally confirmed on the 18<sup>th</sup> May by Brass Bands England. Brass Bands England (BBE) had been working in conjunction with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to confirm that as from 17 May brass bands could return to both rehearsing and performing when social distancing is in place. This is in line with Stage 3 of the planned recovery 'roadmap' previously announced.

The guidance follows the requirements set out last autumn, and bands operating under these will need to make no additional changes to their plans. The performing arts guidance published on Tuesday 18 May makes it clear that non-professional activity can resume both inside and outside, although participants must remain in groups within the legal gathering limits of 6 indoors and 30 outdoors. However, there is an exemption to allow multiple permitted groups to occupy the same facilities and be directed by a single individual. It is important not to let these permitted groups mix either on arrival, during or when leaving the planned activity. BBE recommends treating each member as a single group of one to help ensure that no unnecessary mixing takes place. This process is the same as in the previously published risk assessments.

The requirements still require those engaging in non-professional activity not to do anything that compromises social distancing and to put in place all possible measures to mitigate risks, otherwise the activity should not take place. This includes the use of barriers or other mitigations such as bell covers, which may be more cost effective and easier to manage. Before undertaking non-professional performing arts activity, you should consider the case for proceeding (or not) based especially on the risk involved in the activity and location, and the number and health of participants, particularly if vulnerable individuals are involved. All activity should take place outdoors wherever this is possible.

BBE would like to highlight the following key requirements that need to be included in your risk assessments and mitigated against:

A face covering must be used at all times when not playing. This includes percussion while playing and conductors (who may choose to use a visor for visibility of their face).

Move outdoors where possible.

If indoors, ensure that rooms are ventilated by keeping windows and doors open. This may mean you need to remind members to arrive with suitable clothing as being cold does not remove this requirement. The requirements for social distancing must be observed. Bands can use the relevant BBE risk assessment as a starting point for their risk assessment. These have been designed to maintain distances between all participants during the activity, which makes them suitable for use in all tiers.

Consider the case for performing (or not) given the wider health context of your area with particular regard if vulnerable individuals are involved.

If you do plan to proceed, you should limit the number of performers as far as possible, which must be in line with the rest of the performing arts guidance.

Due to aerosol transmission it is important to limit the total number of individuals involved as much as possible.

Social distancing should be maintained at 2m. In particular, non-professionals should not engage in activities that may lead to social distancing being compromised.



## *All Our Yesterdays*

2008 marked the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of New Bradwell and a series of events were organised to mark this milestone. One of these saw the Band performing in the High Street outside the Co-Op. How refreshing to see no sign of the usual car parking chaos normally to be found at this location!



Brian is of course the conductor and the group of players includes six people who are still members of the current Band. How many can you pick out?



## Humour

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

*Your taste in music can be determined by your chromosomes*

*XY =Male*

*XX =Female*

*YYY= Delilah*

*A man goes to the doctor and says "I keep singing Delilah". The doctor says "It's Tom Jones syndrome". The patient asks "Is it common" the doctor replies "it's not unusual..."*

*Just heard a bloke with a didgeridoo and he was playing "Dancing Queen"- I thought "That's Aboriginal"*

*I've got a joke about Elton John- it's a little bit funny*

*I keep hearing music coming from the printer – I think the paper is jamming*

*At any time the urge to sing "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" is never more than a whim away*

*A friend of mine does backing vocals .It's his voice on "this vehicle is reversing" messages.*

*A friend is in a band called 999Mb –they haven't had a gig yet*

*I'm writing a song about getting my door lock replaced – there's a key change at the end*

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