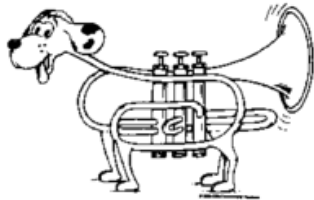


The Bradwell Bugle



The newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band

July 2006



Cornet

Ventus brassus Pistonus

Though often confused with its cousin, the trumpet, this friendly Creature is shorter and considerably more agile.

From the Editor

Welcome to the July edition of the Bradwell Bugle. This month we have one engagement to report - the recent concert in the Priory Gardens in Dunstable.

We have a request for the Supporters' Club for cakes and other items to sell at New Bradwell school fete on the 15th July, and also for any spare fruit you may have to add to their marathon jam making efforts - 200 jars sold last year! With recent losses of playing members, the Supporters' Club has also lost members, they are now down to 2 - if you would like to join, you would be very welcome. Please contact Norman Keech on 222298

At a recent concert in Leighton Buzzard (engagement report to follow next month), the Band wished a fond (temporary!) farewell to Sam Allen. Sam's baby is due around the end of the month. We all send best wishes to Sam and partner Mike for the busy and exciting (!) months ahead, and look forward to welcoming Sam back around Christmas time. Some one has already asked if the baby's name is down to join the band - Sam says: 'Wait a year or two!'.

We've also said 'farewell' to Dave Huckle whose work commitments are making it difficult for him to attend regular practices. He is joining Wolverton Town Band whose practice night is more convenient - but he's promised to come back and help us whenever needed!

There are also two special birthdays celebrated recently - Siân who is now 18 and Dave Sanderson who is - well, we'll let you guess!

**Guy Drury
and Alison Drury**

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Engagement Report

Dunstable - Priory Gardens Saturday 24th June

The success of being one of the very few local authorities left who still actively promote regular summer band concerts in the park has this year led to the Dunstable Town Council extending their concert season by holding some on Saturdays as well as every Sunday.

Thus it was that the Band travelled to Dunstable for a 2:00 p.m. start. We were playing in the Priory Gardens and thoughtfully the council had arranged car parking for Band members inside the grounds. The gardens are extremely well maintained with some colourful flower beds and with the historic priory (parts of which date back to the 12th century) as a backdrop make a perfect setting for a summer's afternoon musical entertainment.

As we prepared for the performance we were fascinated with the sight of a bride and groom arriving in the park followed by the wedding guests in all their finery. Apparently

they had just had a civil ceremony but had chosen to have their photos taken with the Priory in the background. Norman Keech, who was there to support the Band with his selection on souvenirs, received a request for the Band to provide background music at another wedding in a few weeks time. Unfortunately as this was going to be on a Friday afternoon we had to politely decline the offer.

We started promptly at 2:00 p.m. with musical director Chris Johnston raising his baton for "Olympic Fanfare and Theme". This is a good opening item but the music took a little while to settle before we adapted to playing outdoors on grass. A selection from Dvorak's "New World Symphony" followed and then the first soloist of the afternoon, Keith Jones playing the tenor horn solo "Your Song", which I am reliably informed was originally written and performed by Elton John (whoever he is!).

The whole horn section of Adam, Keith, Sian and Luke Wilson was then featured in the Beatles tune "Hey Jude". Next was a selection from the show and 1953 film, "Calamity Jane". This includes the tunes: "The Deadwood Stage", "Black Hills of Dakota", "Just Blew In From The

Engagement Report

Windy City”, and “Secret Love”. As with all such selections, it keeps the players on their toes with its frequent changes in key and tempo but despite some previous concerns this piece went pretty well.

The up tempo “A Kind of Magic” came next followed by “The Golden Lady” by Goff Richards. The Bangles hit “Eternal Flame” brought the first half of the concert to an end.

Having been suitably refreshed during the interval, the Band resumed with Kenneth Alford’s march “The Great Little Army”. Reisseger’s classical overture “Die Felsenmuhle” (The Mill on the Cliff) was a bit of an endurance test on such a hot afternoon but the front row cornets did well in keeping the faster passages flowing.

Our second soloist was a flugel solo by Adam Keech with “Share My Yoke”. Such is Adam’s confidence that he dispensed with the music and gave a sensitive performance of this lovely melody which provided a great contrast to the items either side of his solo.

Chris introduced our penultimate item, “Let’s Face The Music and Dance” and this was the cue for the nearby church to start ringing their bells for a wedding. After a delay of several minutes hoping they might stop, we played on trusting that the audience could still hear us above the bells.

Our final item was “One Moment In Time” and we concluded the programme with The National Anthem, a tradition that has almost completely disappeared but one I still

believe to be relevant. Extras pieces of music were not required as we had run out of our allotted time.

It had been a hot afternoon and there followed a slow drive home due to heavy traffic through Dunstable and Hockliffe, some of which was on the way to the Take That concert being held at the Milton Keynes Bowl. However it was well worth the effort as we had performed at an excellent venue in front of a knowledgeable audience. The Council’s representative thanked the Band for their efforts and apologised for the unscripted intrusion by the Church bells.



Playing outside on grass is not that easy and requires the players to adjust accordingly. One of the problems is that you cannot always hear

the other sections playing and this can cause hesitancy in entries if you rely on hearing cues in the music. More than ever this is the time to rely on the conductor’s beat.

This had been good performance in uncomfortable conditions. We were particularly grateful for assistance from guest players for the afternoon, Phil Bearman and Bill Holding from Towcester on trombone and a young man from Stantonbury on percussion.

One last small but important point, when we pack away at the end of a concert can we make sure everything is left as we found it? I had to walk round and collect quite a number of empty plastic water containers which had been discarded carelessly on the grass.

Keith Jones

Whit Friday Marches 9th June 2006 - Olive Keech

Robin Allen and myself were very fortunate to be able to participate in this years’ Whit Friday March contests which take place in the Tameside and Saddleworth areas of Lancashire/Yorkshire. I have helped out the Witney Town Band from Oxfordshire for about 2 years now at various engagements, mainly Mess Dinners at RAF Brize Norton. They are a non-contesting band formed some 150 years ago who have been down on their luck over the past few years, but seem to be enjoying their playing under the leadership of the delightful Amie Flory. The Band was also augmented by 4 playing colleagues of Nicky Davy from Brackley Band.

The band left Carterton at 7 p.m. on the Thursday night to make its’ way up to Denshaw and the band hotel. Hon Sec had been informed that the coach was not ‘dry’ but did not think anything about it until the winebox came down the coach about thirty minutes into the journey! Having been forewarned yours truly had packed some

provisions (!) for the journey which Hon Sec duly partook of. The Band arrived at the Hotel La Pergola at about 10.30 p.m. – rooms were allocated followed by detailed investigation of the Hotel Bar and typical Band talk. Robin and I called it a night at c. 12.30 a.m..

Friday morning dawned over the moors with the sun shining brightly. An early breakfast was set for 7 a.m. as the Band were due at Upper Mossley for 9 a.m. to lead one of the parades for the Walks of Witness. All the villages involved in the area have their Walks where a Band leads each Church parade through the village. The Band arrived at Upper Mossley in good time and it was decided to



Whit Friday Marches 9th June 2006

quickly run through our contest march – Challenge- by Derek Broadbent. It was lucky that Robin and I had been sent our parts (principal 3rd cornet in my case) and we had some idea of what to expect later in the day. We played through the march and got a round of applause from the locals who were already gathering for the commencement of the walk.

The Band formed at the head of its' procession and marched around the corner to an old folks home where we halted and played Onward Christian Soldiers, followed by the National Anthem. We then marched a little further on to the square in Upper Mossley to await the arrival of other processions from the village, all lead by a band. A short service took place with a blessing before the commencement of the Walk of Witness. I should say that by this time, 10.30 am, the sun was fierce and the temperature heading into the 60's so it was lucky the order was to play in shirt sleeves. The march then commenced with Witney Town Band formed up on the front, with another band halfway down the parade. This was when the torture started, as we marched down the hill and back up the hill. The distance equated to something like from the top of the Station Hill in Wolverton down to the Clock Tower and back up again, perhaps further. The band were very grateful to the partners and spouses of the players who provided drinks at relevant points when the Band stopped playing. The marches played on this march were similar to the ones in our own march pads, so not terribly difficult but hard enough in the conditions. The Band returned to its starting place and were rewarded with drinks and cakes from the Church. The march attains a fee as there are more bands required than those willing to march so the fee makes a good contribution to the cost of the coach. The march over the Band retired to the local Masonic Club for meat pie and red cabbage – a local delicacy we were told. After purchasing supplies of snacks for our evening toil we returned to our hotel. As we drove through Denshaw I saw an old friend coming out of the one of the pubs – Colin Reeves from the Hemel Hempstead Band, whom I was able to catch up with later in the evening.

After freshening up the Band got ready for the Whit Friday marches. The idea is to play at as many march contests as possible. The real art here is someone who knows the routes between the contests and a gifted coach driver. This year there were 10 contests in the Saddleworth area and 11 in the Tameside area. You have to register at each contest before you play and have to decide if there are too many bands in front of you waiting to play. An example of this is that the band arrived at Lydgate and there were 10 Bands registered in front of us so it was decided to continue to Upper Mossley to play.

The format is that the Band marches a short distance up to the contest stand playing a different march – the distance calculated so that the Band on the contest stand is not disturbed by the arriving Band.



The band was first entered to play at Denshaw where we played number 4 out of 53 bands. The big attraction is that you can pit your wits against the top bands in the country at these contests but more of that later. The Band arrived at Denshaw registered and waited for their turn to play. It was very perturbing to sit on the coach as Rochdale Borough Youth Band rehearsed on the grass alongside playing 'ORB' and sounded absolutely fabulous. The contests take place anywhere from football grounds, middle of the road to car parks with the adjudicators hidden away in upstairs rooms of buildings, pubs or even in caravans as at Upper Mossley and Greenfield.

The band had chosen to play '1914' as its' road march – a combination of Its' a Long Way to Tipperary, Hello Who's Your Lady Friend and Take Me Back To Dear Old Blighty. Hon Sec & I had no trouble in playing this having played it to death with Wolverton in Belgium two weeks previous. We formed up at Denshaw to play this only for the Band in front of us playing -guess what – '1914'!. We hastily changed to 'New Recruit' and only needed 16 bars to progress to the stand. 'Challenge' was dutifully performed – still in shirt sleeves – and we returned to the coach. Amie gave a quick pep talk on what she thought we could improve on and off we went to Dobcross followed by Delph ; Upper Mossley finishing up at Greenfield.

A break was taken in the Band Club at Upper Mossley for liquid refreshment which allowed us to listen to 'The Fairey Band' who marched onto the stand with The Great Escape, using The President as their contest march. They were awarded 5th place for their performance. We also heard one of the school bands from the famous Wardle school setup. They started up and everyone said 'Slaidburn' but to our amazement in 8 bars became 'Vindaloo' and then 'Slaidburn' with 'Vindaloo' as a counter melody ! Our final contest was to be at Greenfield. The coach arrived in

a packed village and were told that 10 bands were in front of us. We decided to play and were rewarded with the news that Brighouse and Rastrick were drawn 51 and Witney were drawn 55. Some of us went down to the Recreation Field to listen to the bands – it was amazing at the number of people that arrived when Brighouse came onto the stand to play 'Ravenswood' conducted by Ian McElligott. The time was 9.50 p.m. and getting very dark but some lights provided by the organisers meant that Brighouse gave a sublime rendition of this famous march. Brighouse always attend the March contests and are very traditional in their approach as they wear old fashioned high collar tunics harking back to the time of their formation. They did not win at Greenfield coming 2nd but with 4 1st prizes ,1 second , 1 third and a fourth prize were crowned Saddleworth champions. Each contest has prize monies for the winners as well as special prizes for lower sections, youth bands and for soloists. Total prize money on the circuit this year was around £28,000!



The time now came for us to give our final performance so we regrouped in front of the coach, this time in uniforms with the blue of Bradwell contrasting with the black and maroons of Witney and Brackley bands. The Band chose to play 'New Recruit' here as the road march and we marched up the High street in Greenfield in front of the coach at 10.10 p.m. with rounds of applause from those seated at the side of the road. We arrived at the contest field, formed up in the gloom and endeavoured to give our best rendition of 'Challenge' . We finished our performance to further rounds of applause and a job well done.

The results of our contests were as follows :-

- Denshaw 51st out of 53 bands
- Dobcross 27th out of 57 bands
- Delph 73rd out of 75 bands (appeal pending I hear – someone thinks we should be more like 40th.)
- Upper Mossley 29th out of 43 bands
- Greenfield 37th out of 62 bands

Not a bad night's work for the Band, and totally exhilarating.

The Whit Friday March contests are all what Brass Banding is about . The camaraderie is wonderful with the ability to compete with and against the top Bands in the country, visiting Bands from other countries or the numerous 'scratch' Bands put together specifically for the day. Robin and I thoroughly enjoyed our weekend with Witney Town Band and thank them for their invite to participate. We hope it is not the last time we participate in such a great event – hopefully next time as part of Bradwell Silver Band.

P.S. the road marches are very, very short – I promise you!

Olive Keech

Competition

Last month's competitions were Sudokus - well done to Liz Keech who got both right, a prize is on its way to you Liz. Here are the correct versions:

The easy one:

7	9	5	1	3	2	8	4	6
8	6	1	9	7	4	2	3	5
2	3	4	8	5	6	1	7	9
1	4	2	5	9	7	6	8	3
5	8	3	2	6	1	7	9	4
6	7	9	4	8	3	5	1	2
4	5	7	3	2	8	9	6	1
3	2	6	7	1	9	4	5	8
9	1	8	6	4	5	3	2	7

The hard one:

6	7	8	9	5	2	3	4	1
1	5	3	7	4	8	6	2	9
4	9	2	3	1	6	8	5	7
9	8	6	1	2	5	4	7	3
3	4	1	6	7	9	2	8	5
5	2	7	4	8	3	1	9	6
7	3	4	2	9	1	5	6	8
8	1	9	5	6	4	7	3	2
2	6	5	8	3	7	9	1	4

Forthcoming Events and Engagements



Events appear on this page once they have been confirmed. Further details of times, venues and prices can be obtained from Robin.

- Sun 9th July
British Legion, Bletchley
11.15 am
- Sat 15th July
New Bradwell School Carnival (march)
1.30pm
- Sun 13th Aug
Bedford Bandstand - Mill Meadows
3-5pm
- Sat 19th Aug
Drayton Parslow Fete
Afternoon
- Sun 20th Aug
Tiger Moths, Woburn Abbey
Afternoon

Contact Details

Chairman: Norman Keech 222298

Secretary: Robin Allen 616463
rallen2@tiscali.co.uk

Musical Director: Chris Johnston
rapid-radio@fsmail.net

Supporters Club: Norman Keech 222298

Newsletter/ Press Officer: Guy Drury 260546
guydrury@googlemail.com

Webmaster: Fraser Cousins 225772
frasercousins@btinternet.com

Website: www.bradwellband.co.uk





Bradwell Silver Band Membership List

Committee

Chairman:	Norman Keech	Playing Members:	David Harris
Secretary:	Robin Allen		David Huckle
Treasurer:	Ron Snape		Nick Davy
Bandmaster:	Luke Colvin	Junior Rep:	Sam Allen
Librarian:	Dave Sanderson	Non Playing:	Mavis Harris
			Paul Harris

Playing Positions

Principal Cornet:	Sue Snoxell
Solo Cornets:	Clive Keech
	Karen Wilson
	Gary Morris
Soprano Cornet:	Ralph Tatum
Repiano Cornet:	Graham Huckle
2nd Cornets:	Mike Sanders
	Jack Wilson
3rd Cornets:	David Sanderson
	Alison Drury
Flugel Horn:	Adam Keech
Solo Horn:	Keith Jones
1st Horn:	Siân Haseldine
2nd Horn:	Luke Wilson
1st Baritone:	Liz Keech
2nd Baritone:	Guy Drury
Euphoniums:	David Harris
	Fraser Cousins
	Luke Colvin
1st Trombone:	Lisa Huckle
2nd Trombone:	Emily Colvin
Bass Trombone:	Nick Dytham
E♭ Bass:	Robin Allen
B♭ Bass:	Ron Snape
Percussion:	Stephen Osborne
	Position Vacant*

Non Committee Positions

President:	John White
Musical Director:	Chris Johnston
Publicity Officer:	Guy Drury
Magazine Editor:	Guy Drury/Alison Drury
Fundraising:	Norman Keech
Quartermaster:	Dave Huckle

Honorary Members

Chris Coull	Brian Keech
Malcolm Hills	David Wilson
Jim Whyte	

Learners Group

Amanda Blunda	Jez Billingham
Emily Tilley	Emily Colvin
Tara Cowel	Alison Drury
Callum English	Harry Gibbs
Aston Scales	Damian Tilley
Jack Wilson	Luke Wilson

*If you are interested in this position, or would just like to come along for an evening, feel free to contact the Band's secretary, Robin Allen - see page five for details.