



# The Bradwell Bugle

Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band

July 2015

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## From the Editor

Hi Everyone!

Here we are in July then. The exams will have finished soon and the youngsters can start to look forward to a nice long holiday from school. I am not sure whether their parents will share this prospect with the same enthusiasm! If you are going away I do hope you have an enjoyable and relaxing holiday.

There are just two engagements coming up this month. After the New Bradwell School Carnival on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July, the Band are having a 3 week break apart from those playing at the St James Patronal Service. The first rehearsal after this break will be on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> August.

Don't forget, as always I will welcome any articles or photographs that we could include in future editions of this newsletter.

Sarah-Jayne



## Development Group

Numbers continue to increase and we now have 26 members in the group. In June we recruited three new members, one learning to play the euphonium and the other two on bass. Whilst John, Steph and Sam concentrate on the beginners, Keith with playing assistance from Fraser has been keeping the more advanced players busy preparing a programme of music to be performed at the New Bradwell School Carnival. They have also accepted an invitation to perform an evening concert at the Kents Hill Residential Care Home on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July. Following this concert the group will be taking a break with rehearsals resuming on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August.

## Congratulations

To Luke Colvin who has graduated from the University of Bedford with a first class degree in education. Luke will be starting his professional career at a local school in September.

## *What's On!...July*

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

### **Saturday 11th July** (*Outdoor Event*)

New Bradwell School Carnival

The Band will lead the parade around the streets. The Development Band will then be performing at the School with a playing time of 12:45 to 13:30.

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### **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July** (*Indoor Event*)

St. James Church New Bradwell Patronal Eucharist Service at 10:00.

An ensemble from the Band will be playing before and after the service and accompanying some of the hymns.

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The main band will be holding their soloist competition on Sunday 27, September. This will also be a performance by the Development Band and this will be followed by a bring and share social event. More details to follow as soon as possible....

## ***Engagement Reports - Keith Jones***

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June**

**Stony Stratford – Big Lunch 2015**

In June 2012, Stony Stratford Town Council held two events to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee; the Stony Diamond Fun Run and the Big Jubilee Lunch. Due to the popularity of these events, and the positive feedback that the Town Council received, they decided to make The Big Lunch an annual event. The theme of this year's event was the continuing World War 1 commemorations and the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. And if that was not enough there was also Stony 800 to celebrate King John's visit to Stony Stratford in 1215.

There was no charge for entry but anyone attending was invited to bring a donation for the MK Food Bank. Volunteers from Halifax branches in Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire provided free afternoon teas and were kept extremely busy. The Children's activities on offer included potting up plants and games from the Second World War such as whip and top, quoits, coconut shy and skittles.

Held in the Wolverton Road recreation ground, the event was officially opened by the Junior Bard of Stony Stratford after reading one of his own compositions. Under the leadership of Musical Director Brian Keech we played the first of two sessions and included additions recently added to our repertoire "The Great Escape" and "In The Quartermaster's Stores" which included some lusty singing from our playing members. There was also a debut performance of a new arrangement of "Highland Cathedral". At the end of our first slot the Punch and Judy Show took over and performed to a large group of youngsters and an even larger number of grownups.

Having been suitably refreshed, we started our second session which was based on tunes associated with the Second World War. These included "A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square", "Run, Rabbit, and Run", "The Washing On The Siegfried Line" and "In The Mood." There was a first performance of the theme from "Foyle's War", John Lee's latest arrangement for the band.

We also included "Smiling Through" which is a selection arranged by Darrol Barry which includes White Cliffs of Dover, Yours, Lili Marlene and We'll Meet Again. It had been a good effort by the Band on a hot and sunny afternoon. Our thanks go to Tug and Luke Colvin for their playing help and a special mention for Adam Hird who was making his first public appearance as a member of the senior band.

By the time we had finished playing the recreation ground was positively heaving with people. Large family groups had come out to enjoy one of those special summer's day where the sun is shining and everyone is determined to make the most of it. Brian received many kind and encouraging comments from members of the audience and this always makes it worthwhile.

After we had finished playing a Dakota from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight carried out a fly past to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. The Dakota ZA947 built at Long Beach, California in March 1942 has been part of the BBMF since March 1993 and made an impressive and noisy appearance.

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

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June**

**Wicken Dog Show**

After the glorious weather at our engagement the previous weekend, today we experienced one of those miserable days where it seemed to rain non-stop. On a positive side being June at least the rain was warmer. Wicken is a small village about one mile north of the A422 road between Milton Keynes and Buckingham. Today they were holding a Dog Show in the spacious grounds of the Old Rectory. We eventually found the entrance to the event and were directed to park up on a field adjacent to the house. The organisers were very pleased to see us and thanked us for still turning up on such a horrible day. They also said they were looking forward to our playing cheering up proceedings. The various stalls had been set up and the people running them were all huddled together under cover looking a bit forlorn and perhaps wondering if anyone was going to turn up in the bad weather.

The first thing we needed to do was erect the two large gazebos the Band has purchased to provide shelter on such a day as this. There was some great teamwork demonstrated as the frames were quickly put up albeit on the already wet grass. Enough chairs were eventually provided for our use and we got ourselves ready for first of two scheduled sessions.

With Musical Director Brian Keech away on holiday it was Keith who wielded the baton today as we performed music from our current repertoire. Adam was the featured soloist with "The Miss Marple Theme", and the front row shared out the solo duties with Jess in "Eternal Flame", Tug in "Memory" and Julia in "Open All Hours". Louis was prominent in "Going Home" and the percussion section back to its full complement of three did some excellent work in "Sing Sing Sing". There was a short break for members to seek refreshments, some coming back with pots of tea and delicious looking scones generously covered with cream and jam. Side panels were added to the gazebos during the break to offer a bit more protection from the rain which due to a change in the wind direction was now particularly affecting the back row of cornets.

Despite the adverse conditions the Band continued to entertain the growing crowds as they arrived for the start of the judging. Our second half programme included "Sandpaper Ballet" which was performed without the usual amplification as the battery in the speaker system was dead. We ended with "Mama Mia" and stood to acknowledge the applause.

It had been a fine effort in trying conditions and well done to everyone for maintaining the levels of concentration despite the weather and a particularly friendly but rather wet dog that seemed to love the attention he was getting from the back row while we were playing.

We then had to dismantle the gazebos as the judging in the Dog Show began. Our thanks for playing help from Tug and Simon and also from Lisa who was called in at very short notice. It was also nice to have Luke Wilson back playing with us. We received some very nice comments from some of the people who had been listening to us who said how nice it had been to hear the Band.



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

**Saturday 27th June**

**Haversham Fete**

The third outdoor engagement in the month of June saw the Band travel the short distance to Haversham for their Fete. It hadn't been held last year as there was building work going on at the school, so it was nice to return to something that had previously been an annual event. The weather was good, plenty of warm sunshine and just enough of a breeze to cause a few anxious moments with the music stands. After the official opening ceremony, Musical Director Brian Keech led the Band as they performed two sessions of music making using our current summer pads.

At the end of our first slot we were treated to a display from the English School of Falconry Bird of Prey and Conservation Centre. Based in Bedfordshire, this is one of the largest bird of prey centres in the UK, home to over 200 birds of prey, varying in species of owls, hawks, eagles, falcons, hawks, kites and vultures. The centre is committed to the conservation of birds of prey and their habitats. Raising awareness and educating future generations is an important aspect of their work. The display was accompanied by a running commentary providing facts about the birds. The first bird shown was a vulture which fascinated the crowd with its huge wing span as it flew over their heads. The vulture attracted attention from a group of crows who were not happy at this intrusion into their territory.

Next up was a peregrine falcon, a smaller bird that flew at a tremendous speed. Unfortunately the owl which was the last bird on display was spooked by the sudden appearance of a child who despite repeated requests had been allowed to run into the display ring. The owl flew off into a tree and although eventually recovered by his handler, the display was to end in a slightly disappointing manner. The handler had a thinly veiled pop at the fete organisers for not having provided a roped off arena for their display.

With the birds returned to their carry boxes, we were able to start our second half which included the trombone trio "It's Not Unusual". We stood at the end to acknowledge the applause from a large crowd of people who had been sitting and standing around as we performed. It had been a good effort on another lovely summer's day.

We were grateful to Tug who again provided playing assistance even though he had an evening concert with his own band. We make a special mention also to Luke Wilson who has only just moved to playing the Eb Bass to help fill the playing vacancy.



## *All Our Yesterdays*



Following our recent engagement in Wicken, I was reminded of previous visits to the village made by the Band. The photograph dates back to 1938 and the occasion was the Wicken Club Day Centenary. The Victoria Club was run by the Wicken Medical and Benefits Society. In the days long before the NHS and Job Centres, local inhabitants would pay subscriptions into a mutual fund and money was paid out in the event that illness or accident prevented people from being able to work.

In this photograph the Cross Tree public house is in the background and the cart is outside the bakers where roasted meat was cooked in the oven for a special lunch served in the school hall. There was then a parade through the village led by the Bradwell Silver Band which ended up at Home Farm where the farmer's wife served drinks. Favourite tunes at the time were "Colonel Bogey" and "Shave The Donkey". We are still familiar with the first tune of course, not sure about the second though although a bit of research reveals that it is a tune still popular with Morris Dancers.

Incidentally, in the days when very few people owned a car, members of the Band would regularly travel to engagements on bicycles in full uniform and with instruments strapped to their backs. I am sure that it kept them fit and no doubt there were very grateful for a refreshing drink before setting off back home. Spare a thought for those who were carrying the larger instruments.

## ***You're Never Too Old!***

A recent nationwide survey has found that the UK is a nation of wannabe chefs and musicians. The Festival of Learning survey which aims to highlight the need for more investment and participation in adult learning classes and education, found that 39% of people want to learn to become better cooks, whilst 23% would love to learn to play a musical instrument. Over 1,000 people were surveyed for their views.

The top 10 skills people would love to learn included:

1. Cooking and baking (39%)
2. Playing a musical instrument (23%)
3. Learning a language or languages (21%)
4. Singing (17%)
5. Photography (15%)
6. Dance (13%)
7. DIY (13%)
8. Art (11%)
9. Gardening (11%)
10. Creative Writing (11%)

50% of those polled said they would be prepared to take up a course to enable them to improve their skills in the areas that they would love to learn, with six out of ten (60%) 25 to 34 year olds interested in taking up a course. The Festival of Learning is led by NIACE (National Institute of Adult Continuing Education) and brings together the wider education and skills community, including employers, charities, professional bodies and government departments to celebrate and promote the many learning opportunities available.

David Hughes, Chief Executive of NIACE stated: "This shows how much we all want to learn new things: It's a natural part of who we are but it also shows that people need help to take steps to find where and how to learn. Meanwhile, Paul McManus, chief executive Music for All, added: "We know that making music enriches and changes lives. You are never too old to start to learn (or return to playing) an instrument and at Music for All, we hope that the Festival of Learning encourages you to have a try."

The top five activities that men said they would love to be able to do, or be better at are:

1. Playing an instrument (32.5%)
2. Cooking (22.9%)
3. Learning a language (20.6%)
4. DIY (18.1%)
5. Photography (16%)

The top five activities that women said they would love to be able to do or be better at are:

1. Cooking (23.6%)
2. Learning a new language or languages (20.7%)
3. Baking (20.3%)
4. Singing (17.7%)
5. Sewing (16.2%)

16-54 year olds said they would be most interested in learning to or being better at cooking, whilst 55+ year olds said they would be more interested in learning to or being better at playing an instrument.

1 in 10 men (10.30%) said they would love to be able to learn how to or be better at baking, with almost 1 in 5 (4.30%) also saying they would like to learn to be better at pottery.

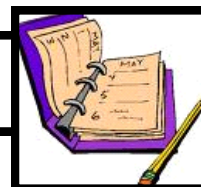
## Future Engagements



	<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
Sunday 27th	Soloist Competition & Social Event	TBC
	<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
	<u>December</u>	
Thursday 3rd	Two Mile Ash Concert - Stantonbury Theatre	PM
Saturday 5th	Christmas Tree Festival - St James Church	TBC
Saturday 12th	Newport Pagnell Singers	TBC
Saturday 19th	Concert - St James Church	PM

*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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### Comments on our performance at North Crawley

With acknowledgements to the SCAN newsletter - comes from the first letter of the names of the four villages of the parish in which it is distributed: Sherington, Chicheley, Astwood and North Crawley.

*An excellent evening of music in St. Firmins on Saturday 9th May was enjoyed by a congregation of around 90 people. The evening featured the Bradwell Silver Band who we learnt have been in existence since 1901. The music covered a wide range of genres, including, Mark Knopfler, Lloyd-Webber, Buddy Holly and tunes from musicals to name but a few, and finished with the 'The Floral Dance.*

*Large sausages in rolls and red wine were served during an interlude, followed by further performances. It was a very enjoyable occasion and a good time was had by all.*