

# The Bradwell Bugle



Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band

July 2021

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## From the Editor

Hi Everyone!

Welcome to the July edition of the Band's monthly newsletter. The Band is gradually returning to more regular rehearsals despite the setback caused by the postponement in the further relaxation of the Covid19 regulations which we had all been looking forward to in mid-June. For the time being Tuesday evenings have been designated as a full band rehearsal and held outdoors, weather permitting. Thursdays continue to be Development Group followed by pre-selected smaller groups from the senior band and held indoors. Full details can be read inside this issue as all eyes are now turned to the next target date of July 19<sup>th</sup>. As soon as any changes are confirmed they will be communicated to all band members.

All being well the Band will be back in action for the first time in 19 months at the Patronal Service in St. James Church at the end of the month and then on the bandstand in Dunstable on the second Sunday in August. It will be great to be able to finally report on band activity again after such a long break.

If you would like to send me something for inclusion in future editions I would be very grateful.

*Sarah-Jayne*

## Forthcoming Engagements

The following engagements have been accepted by the Band, subject to the Covid-19 restrictions being fully lifted in Mid-July...

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July** - Patronal Service in St. James Church New Bradwell  
Service Starts at 09:30am *(Details still to be finalised.)*

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> August** - Bandstand Concert at Grove House Gardens, Dunstable - 14:45-16:30pm.

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> August** - Wedding in St. James Church, New Bradwell - 11:30am.

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September** - Evening Concert in Cosgrove - 19:30pm.

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October** - Autumn Concert in St. James Church, New Bradwell – 19:30pm.

## ***Senior Band - July Rehearsals***

For the first two Tuesdays in July it is planned to hold a full practice outside in the school trailer compound. As we are restricted on the times we can play outside these practices will be from 19:30-21:00pm. We still have to meet Covid rules so social distancing is required, if any one enters the school to fetch chairs or use the facilities these areas must be cleaned down. Please bring with you a stand and pegs/magnets etc to keep your music on your stand.

If the weather is unfit for an outside practice Brian will contact you by email by 6pm and we will then have a smaller group practice inside as per the listing below.

Our Thursday night practices will continue inside, in small groups and run from 8pm to 9.30pm. If you are unable to make a group where listed please swap with another section member.

As always if you have any questions please ask.

### **Thursday 1st July**

Jess, Adam, Julia, Oliver, Daniel, Keith, Peter, Shaun, Maria, Jayden, Matt, Ben, Luke C, Robin

### **Tuesday 6th July** (if wet)

Tania, Adam, Julia, Oscar, Alison, Steph, Julie, Maria, Jayden, Lucy, Louis, Matt, Luke W, Robin

### **Thursday 8th July**

Tug, Jess, Sam, Oliver, Daniel, Karen, Keith, Peter, Shaun, Fraser, Louis, Ben, Luke C, Dave S

### **Tuesday 13th July** (if wet)

Tug, Jess, Sam, Oliver, Daniel, Karen, Keith, Peter, Maria, Lucy, Louis, Ben, Luke C, Dave S

### **Thursday 15th July**

Tania, Adam, Julia, Oscar, Alison, Steph, Julie, Shaun, Maria, Jayden, Fraser, Louis, Matt, Luke W, Robin



*This photo showing the first full Band rehearsal since March 2020, was uploaded to the Band's Facebook page on the 22nd June.*

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### **Development Group**

Having had the privilege of being back rehearsing since April, the Development Group will be taking a well earned break during the summer in line with the school holidays.

The last rehearsal will be on Thursday 22nd July and we will be resuming on Thursday 2nd September.

## *In Other News...*

### *Congratulations!*

We are delighted to report the marriage of Stephen Osborne to Alice Whiteside on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Everyone associated with the Bradwell Silver Band sends them congratulations and the wish for a long and happy life together. Because of the restrictions currently imposed on weddings it may not have been the event they had been hoping and planning for but those who were there had a wonderful time. *(Photo courtesy of Alice Osborne.)*



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### *Engaged!*

The Band would also like to pass on their congratulations to Luke Wilson and his partner Chey on their recent engagement.

Karen (Wilson) excitedly took to Facebook to share this lovely news. 😊

## ***From The British Bandsman***

*As Brass Bands all over the country look forward to resuming something approaching normal activity, the recent postponement in the long awaited lifting of restrictions caused confusion as to what the current regulations do and do not permit. In an attempt at clarification the following article appeared on the British Bandsman Facebook page.*

Brass Bands in England will still be able to rehearse and perform together, following news of the temporary halt to the country's roadmap to recovery. Addressing the nation on June 14, Prime Minister Boris Johnson confirmed that stage four of the roadmap would not take place on June 21, as originally planned amid concern over the spread of the Delta variant of COVID-19.

While banding activities will still be able to take place, concerns have been raised over images shared by some bands online which appear to contravene current guidance. In response, Brass Bands England has sought to clarify the current rules for bands as they continue along the path to rehearsing and performing together.

Commenting on the situation, BBE chief executive officer, Kenny Crookston, said: "There have been some recent cases in which bands' performances, appearing on social media either live or recorded, have appeared to breach the legal guidance from the DCMS in certain respects. It really is of no matter what people can do perfectly legally in other walks of life, like going to pubs or restaurants in close-knit groups; when playing in a brass band they have a responsibility to their organisations, their fellow members and their families' health and wellbeing, to follow the legal guidance issued by the DCMS. We would also like to remind any bands making their own interpretations of the current rules to show some respect for the other members of the brass band community, who may be tempted to follow their example and subsequently find themselves in breach of these rules."

He added: "Brass Bands England is grateful to the DCMS for the direct assistance it continues to provide to brass bands through our work with them. We hope that participants in banding throughout the country will keep this legal guidance at the forefront of their activities as we all strive for a safe return to unrestricted banding as soon as possible."

While activity is allowed to take place in larger groups thanks to the exemption to allow multiple groups to be directed by a single individual, it is imperative that, within these groups, social distancing is maintained at two metres between individuals. The instruction comes directly from the DCMS Performing Arts Guidance, which states for non-professionals (defined as those participating in the performing arts other than for work purposes, such as in an amateur choir, orchestra or music group): 'Activities should be organised to allow for social distancing to be maintained,' in addition to guidance that also includes professionals when training to 'avoid any unnecessary training exercises that comprise social distancing.'

In this area the guidance also references the need to comply with guidance laid out separately under 'Organised events guidance for local authorities', which includes the need to maintain social distancing. The mitigations that allow people to come closer than two metres in professional settings do not apply in amateur settings so cannot be translated across to brass band activity.

NB: Defined professional activity is unlikely to cover any brass band musical activity as this would require all members to be operating as professional musicians for their work and being paid at least minimum wage for both the performance and any associated rehearsal activity, although there are specific projects where this may be possible.

## ***From The British Bandsman***

Face masks should be used at all times when indoors and not playing an instrument. This means a conductor or percussionist should be using a facemask (or transparent faceguard as a minimum) at all times. Players should be encouraged to wear facemasks when on extended rests and whilst other sections are being rehearsed.

In addition to the social distancing requirements mentioned above, the guidance makes several references to the use of barriers between participants. This applies to both professionals and non-professionals and states that they should 'take all reasonable action to mitigate risk to public health'. In addition, the guidance states that in a non-professional setting all possible mitigations should be used. The use of bell covers is considered to be a sufficient barrier so can be used as an alternative to physical barriers between individuals.

In professional settings, the reduction of spacing from two metres between individuals is only acceptable when additional mitigating measures are in place; this includes wearing facemasks (which is not possible while playing brass instruments) or physical barriers. Most professional orchestras are operating distancing of one metre where players can wear masks all the time (such as percussionists or string players), but reducing spacing between wind and brass players where possible using barrier screens. In professional settings this will need additional consideration that increased risk of noise exposure can bring and, as such, is not commonly practiced unless in reduced spacing, such as orchestra pits.

The guidance states that, wherever possible, the use of outdoor settings should be considered, as the risk of transmission outdoors is significantly lower. Subsequently, activity should be planned outdoors and only moved inside when this is not possible.

The guidance states that, to ensure social distancing can be maintained at all times, groups should 'have performers or audience members seated rather than standing'. This is to ensure that the appropriate two metre spacing is maintained and helps to avoid instruments being pointed directly at audience members. Conductors should consider if a seated soloist is appropriate and programme accordingly.

At the time of writing there are no additional legal requirements for areas of higher cases. However, the guidance does state the following: '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.'

Bands in these areas should pay particular attention to the points raised above, aimed at minimising transmission, and making an assessment of risk based on a combination of the composition of the band, the available facilities (both outdoor and indoor), the local prevalence of the virus and where members are travelling from, to assess if proceeding with activity represents an acceptable risk.

## Music

As reported in last month's edition the Band has been rehearsing music which subject to the expected relaxation of regulations we hope will become part of the repertoire to be performed in upcoming engagements.

There are a couple of solos, the first of which is "Friend Like Me" written for bass trombone or Eb Bass. This is based on the song from the 1992 Disney film Aladdin and was performed by Robin Williams in his role as the Genie. The song is also performed by Will Smith in the remake. The second is "The Way We Were" which is a song recorded by American singer Barbra Streisand in 1974. The song was written by Alan Bergman, Marilyn Bergman and Marvin Hamlisch and the lyrics detail the melancholic relationship between the two main characters in the 1973 film of the same name.

Under the heading of selections we have been again looking at Gordon Langford's arrangement "West Country Fantasy". Last performed in public two years ago, this is a medley of traditional folk songs associated with the West Country area (Cornwall, Devon and Somerset) with some familiar ones and a few less well known.

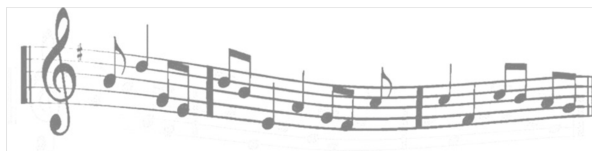
It opens with "O No John!" and goes on to feature "Strawberry Fair", "Blow Away The Morning Dew", "Raggle Taggle Gypsies", "Sweet Nightingale", and "There Is A Tavern in the Town" which starts off as a solo for trombone played in a drunken style, "Cornish May Song" that contains a few bars of all too familiar Floral Dance before "Hey for Somersetshire", "Bridgewater Fair" and finally "Dashing Away With the Smoothing Iron"

We have also been looking at a new piece recently purchased called "Fire In The Blood". Written by Paul Lovatt-Cooper this has quickly become a concert favourite and is often selected as an own choice contest piece.

"Fire in the Blood" was commissioned for the 120th anniversary of the International Staff Band of the Salvation Army. The piece was composed for the celebration concert where the ISB were joined by several other staff bands from around the world to perform independently to a sell-out capacity crowd at Britain's most famous concert venue, The Royal Albert Hall in 2011.



The title is based on the Salvation Army's motto under their famous crest 'Blood and Fire'. As can be expected for a piece originally written for the Salvation Army it contains three songs of worship that have been prevalent in services over a number of years. It opens with Richard Phillips' setting of Psalm 95, 'Sing for Joy', the music is vibrant and full of energy. The music then moves into a more reflective section that includes Howard Davies' emotive song melody 'Lord, you know that we love you' and Laurie Klein's worship song 'I love you Lord'. A restatement of the opening Psalm setting follows leading into a dramatic and powerful finale that combines two pivotal statements drawn from the slower, reflective section. This is a major work and presents many technical challenges for the players but is a wonderful piece of music.



## *All Our Yesterdays*

Normally during the month of July the Band is involved with the School Carnival which is an eagerly awaited annual event in the New Bradwell calendar. Sadly of course for the second year running this has had to be cancelled because of the concerns over Coronavirus.

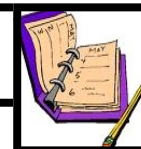
So for this month's glimpse into the Band's past we have gone back to the comparatively recent time of 2012.

This was the year of the Olympics and "Brass The Baton" was an exciting new project designed to increase participation in the Brass Band Music art form on an unprecedented scale never attempted before from a single event. It provided a unique opportunity for brass musicians, and conductors, of all ages, to perform a new music commission as part of a high profile, high quality, nationwide celebration of brass band music making for the 2012 Cultural Olympiad. "Brass The Baton" was a relay race involving 5 conductor's batons, each representing one of the 5 Olympic rings and coloured accordingly. Starting in Europe in May at the prestigious European Brass Band Championships each of the 5 batons will be passed by participating Brass Bands / Ensembles across the UK and Internationally, until they reach their final destination:- the London 2012 Festival in July.

With Lucas at the front carrying the "Brass The Baton" banner the Band leads the parade along the High Street back towards the school.



## Contacts



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If you're on Facebook, then visit and "Like" the Band's page: <https://www.facebook.com/BradwellBand>



**We have vacancies:**  
**Percussion**  
**Cornet, position negotiable**

Bradwell Silver Band is a friendly 3rd section band based in Milton Keynes. We rehearse on Tuesday's and Thursday's between 8 and 9.45pm.\*

We enjoy performing in a wide variety of public and private engagements as well as contesting.

To apply in confidence and for further information, please contact Brian Keech, Musical Director via [press@bradwellband.co.uk](mailto:press@bradwellband.co.uk)

\* Usual circumstances. Covid safety regulations may alter rehearsal times. Instruments may be available if required. Visiting players always welcome.

