



The Bradwell Bugle

Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band



August 2015

From the Editor

Inside this issue:

Editors Note	1
What's On!	2
Engagement Reports	3-6
Ironbridge Brass Band Festival	7-8
Misc...	9
Future Engagements	10
Contacts, etc...	11

Hi Everyone!

The Band has been enjoying a break before a busy August which will see them performing at three high profile engagements. Reports of the July engagements follow and I am grateful to Peter for his article this month. You never know, this may encourage some others amongst you get around to contributing something for future issues and it doesn't have to be about banding.

If you are still to go away I do hope you have an enjoyable and relaxing holiday.

Sarah-Jayne



SAVE THE DATE

BRADWELL SILVER BAND

SOLOIST COMPETITION

& SOCIAL EVENT

SUNDAY, 27TH SEPTEMBER 2015

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....

What's On!...August

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

Saturday 16th August (Outdoor Event) - Entrance fee applicable

30th International Moth Rally

One of the most popular heritage events on the summer calendar, The International Moth Rally, is being held again in the grounds of Woburn Abbey. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Moth Rally at Woburn, the 40th anniversary of the de Havilland Moth Club and the 90th anniversary of the first flight of the prototype DH.60 Moth light aeroplane.

Saturday 22nd August (Outdoor Event)

Brass on the Grass.

VJ DAY CELEBRATIONS
BRASS
on the Grass
BANCROFT PARK

6pm to 9pm
Saturday
22nd August 2015

WW2 Live Music
New Bradwell Silver Band
Junction 14
MK (Adult) Dance Centre
CHAS 'N DAVE Tribute Band

FREE FAMILY EVENT

Bring a picnic and seating - No BBQ's
BBQ Food and refreshments
available from Club
Disabled parking on-site only
Parking available at MK Museum

Free event, bring your own seating and have a picnic!

Monday 31st August (Outdoor Event)

Stony Stratford Town Fayre

A return to Stony Stratford for the traditional Town Fayre organised by the Lions Club. As well as the Band the Punch and Judy man will be back so let's hope the weather is kinder to us this year

Engagement Reports - Keith Jones

Saturday 11th July

New Bradwell School Carnival

As part of a strong local community, Bradwell Silver Band is always pleased to support the New Bradwell School with their annual parade and fete. This year marked the 30th anniversary of the School Carnival. Annual carnivals in New Bradwell were originally organised in the early 1900's and involved all of the community. The money raised was donated to the Northampton Hospital Fund which at the time was the nearest provider of major medical care. After many years without one, the carnival was revived by the School in the 1980s and combined with the fete which follows in the School grounds has become a very popular event in the local calendar.

The morning was fine and dry with some welcomed cloud cover. The Band assembled in the School Playground and set up the chairs, music stands and percussion ready for the performance by the Development Band after the parade returned to the school.

We played "Army Of The Nile" on the stand and this seemed to prompt the procession to get themselves ready. They must have thought we were going to set off without them! The procession is now a walking one and with young children in the parade it is not going to be that fast moving. We set off playing "1914" and were soon halted to allow the parade to catch up. This was to be a feature of the march, even though we did slow down our pace we were brought to frequent stops. This is not a problem though as we continued to play through the marches "Pack Up Your Trouble", "Slaidburn" and "True And Trusty" even whilst we were at a standstill. The route has been shortened to a more comfortable distance, out of the school playground at Bridge Street and then straight down Church Street, right at the sorry looking Cuba on to the Newport Road, right into Bradwell Road and right again into the High Street. The state of repair of some of these streets still causes a bit of concern and we had to be careful to avoid some of the larger potholes which could so easily have caused injury.



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

The people of New Bradwell were out in large numbers to watch the colourful procession make its way around the streets and it was well marshalled by the school volunteers, watched over by a large number of Thames Valley's finest officers. We made our way back to the school playground and the Band was dismissed as the children slowly made their way back in. We thank Tug for his playing assistance and make a special mention of Luke Wilson who was playing the bass on the march for the very first time. Also we should mention that Musical Director Brian Keech was unable to take part in the march because of his long term leg injury. This was the first time in the thirty years since the carnival was revived that Brian has been forced to miss out and he was naturally very disappointed that he was unable to join in the parade. Brian was there to sort us out before we set off on the march before joining the crowds along the street to watch the carnival parade and he received many nice comments about the sound of the Band.

The second part of our involvement with the Carnival was a performance in the main arena by the Development Band. We had 28 players in the group and this included debut performances by Jennifer and Clare on Eb Bass and James on euphonium, all of whom were taking part just weeks after picking up their instruments for the very first time. Five of the Development Band are pupils at the school and had been part of the parade but they all found their way over to us in time for the start of the programme.

Conducted by Keith, the Development Band introduced themselves with the march "Killaloe" which starts off with the cornets standing up to play the opening bars as a form of fanfare. This was followed in quick succession by "Guava Guy" and "Hymn for St. Jim". We then featured three of our young tenor horn players, Samra, Peter and Elliot who stood at the front of the Band as they played "Ode To Joy" accompanied by the lower sections. They were very good and deserved the applause as they took a bow at the end of their playing, Then we featured Evan as the trombone soloist in "Another Day", again standing at the front of the Band and performing extremely well.

We continued with "Mbale Magic" and one of the group's favourite pieces "Highland Farewell" in which the trombones and basses do their best to sound like bagpipes. This was followed by a couple of hymn tune arrangements, "Siyahamba" and "Look and Live". During this item we were joined by Samantha the Panther Mascot from MKFM. Samantha started to conduct the Band so Keith handed the baton over to the delight of the band and the audience. It is to the group's great credit that the sudden appearance of a mascot taking over the conducting did not put them off their stride.

Our penultimate item was "Mardi Gras" and as we had a few minutes left to spare from our allotted time, we ended with a reprise of "Killaloe". At the end the whole band stood up to receive the well deserved applause of a large number of people who had been standing to listen to us. It had been an enjoyable performance and showed great promise for the future of the Bradwell Silver Band.

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

Thursday 16th July

Development Band

Milton Court Care Home

Following on from their successful appearance at the New Bradwell School Carnival, the Development Band performed a concert at a residential care home in Kents Hill. Milton Court Care Centre is a privately owned facility that specialises in residential care for the elderly and vulnerable, while looking to respect personal freedoms. There are many on-site additions that allow for a vibrant social atmosphere and convenient lifestyle, including a shop, a bar and cafe and an in-house cinema. All residents have personal care plans and can contact carers at any time of the night or day via a nurse call system, with the facility also welcoming to people with physical disabilities.

They arrange a programme of events for the residents and welcome visits from schools and local groups. Bradwell Silver Band was approached earlier in the year to see if we would be interested. We believe that performing as a group in public is an important part of the training and development of our future players and we were pleased to accept the invitation to present an evening concert. We chose to do this on the same evening as we would normally be rehearsing and before the school holidays began as we knew that most of the group would be able to take part and we had a magnificent turnout of 26 players.

It was a very pleasant summer's evening and we set up in the outside patio area. We used the same programme as played at the Carnival which started with the cornets standing up for the opening of "Killaloe". As we went on we introduced our trio of young tenor horn players Peter, Samra and Elliot who at just 7 years old is our youngest member. They played "Ode To Joy" accompanied by the lower sections and took a well deserved bow at the end of their playing, We also featured Evan as a trombone soloist in "Another Day", again standing at the front of the Band and performing extremely well. We concluded our 40 minute concert with a repeat of "Killaloe" after which the whole group stood to acknowledge the applause. After instruments were packed away and the stands folded up, the organisers had provided a marvellous spread of refreshments which included piles of cakes. Needless to say our youngsters were not shy in tucking in!

It had been a good and worthwhile performance. It gave the Development Group more experience in performing and equally important provided some entertainment for the residents and staff who may not often get the opportunity to hear a band. Special thanks go to Robin, Sam and James for loading the trailer with the drum kit, music stands, larger instruments and the all important chairs. I would also like to say thank you to the parents of the youngsters who not only brought them along but stayed to listen to the performance. I hope they enjoyed it and can see the progress this group has been making. Thanks also to those who helped carry equipment back to the trailer.

The group is now taking a break and rehearsals will resume on Thursday 13th August. We know some members will be away but we believe we should have enough players to make rehearsals worthwhile. We will be learning a completely new programme of music with maybe a surprise or two. The Development Band has an interesting schedule for the rest of the year with provisional dates for performances at the end of September, one in October, another in November and as part of the Christmas Concert in St. James in December.

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

Sunday 26th July

The Feast of St. James The Great Patronal Eucharist

St. James Church, New Bradwell

The congregation of the Parish Church gathered to celebrate the Festival of St James the Apostle, their Patron Saint. Being in the middle of our three week break, we went with a smaller but nicely balanced group of eleven players conducted by Musical Director Brian Keech. We played a number of hymn tunes prior to the commencement of the service as people took their place in the pews. There were words of welcome for everyone from Church Officer Graham Crisp and following his opening announcements the service led by the Reverend Paul Smith began with the hymn Sing to God new songs of worship, sung to the tune of "Ode To Joy". The order of service included the Collect and readings from the Gospel. Following the sermon the congregation were invited to share a sign of peace and then to receive communion or a blessing.

The Band was to accompany all four hymns sung, the second being the more traditional Lead us, Heavenly Father, lead us to the tune of "Mannheim ". The third hymn was From heaven you came, a modern song written by Graham Kendrick which speaks of how Jesus lived his life as a 'Servant King' and calls us to follow his example of humility and service to others. The final hymn was the rousing "How Great Thou Art" based on a Swedish traditional melody and a poem written by Carl Gustav Boberg.

The Vicar thanked the Band for their participation in the service, mentioning our commitment to the wider community of New Bradwell and our teaching the players of the future. The Band played several more hymn tunes at the completion of the service as the congregation prepared themselves for their traditional lunch. This year Instead of the usual BBQ they had decided to offer pizzas accompanied by salad and a selection of homemade sweets and puddings. The heavy rain unfortunately meant that this could not be enjoyed outside.

Since the Band's last visit in April, the St James development project is now underway and reference was made to the building work that has been started in the vestry. The Lady Chapel is being used as temporary storage while the work is being done but is still accessible for small services whilst part of the church car park has been taken over by the builders for site storage and office space. A project account is now open and available for donations and a series of fund raising events are being arranged by members of the congregation. We look forward to seeing the progress in this important project to make the Church building more accessible and suitable for its modern day use.



Ironbridge Brass Band Festival

Our Chairman Peter and his wife spent the weekend at the annual Ironbridge Gorge Brass Band Festival and kindly sent us this report.

Once again Sue & I made our annual pilgrimage to Shropshire for the Ironbridge Festival., leaving home on Friday morning

As usual we had to travel a “pretty route” via Kidderminster where Sue discovered yet another garden centre (she said we were stopping for lunch – and very good it was too – but after waiting for her to shop for some time I think she had ulterior motives)

Moving on we next stopped at Much Wenlock. This was our first visit there and found it to be a most attractive, old-fashioned town.

We proceeded on to the Wrekin where, once again we were booked in at the “Huntsman” at Little Wenlock. Nice clean, modern accommodation with an excellent dining room for anyone seeking sustenance in that area.

Saturday morning we were up early into Telford to visit the shops before proceeding to Ironbridge in good time for the start of the festival. This year they had a total of twenty bands performing, commencing with the Abraham Darby Academy band. The stars of the morning for me were Cubbington Brass whose soloist was quite remarkable. The afternoon continued in the dull weather culminating with the Jaguar Land Rover band who gave their usual excellent, rousing performance.

On a non-musical note, we once again met our old friend Stan who is the museum car park attendant. Over the past years he has told Sue about his unusual (for a man) hobby of cross stitch embroidery. This year he brought his latest piece which depicted a native American Indian on horseback surrounded by wolves and trees in a winter scene. It had taken him over 1300 hours to complete and had won him a mention in the Museum quarterly magazine as well as acknowledgement in the cross stitch national magazine. A truly wonderful achievement.

(Editor’s note: Stan was delighted to be asked for his autograph on the following copy of the article)



78,000 stitches and 1,300 man hours over 19 months – that’s how long it took Stan Burrows, the Coalbrookdale seasonal car park attendant to complete his latest tapestry, ‘Whispering Winds’, which is absolutely stunning.

Ironbridge Brass Band Festival (Cont'd...)

Later that evening we attended the annual charity concert in aid of the main charity, their local Severn Hospice.

This was performed by the Jackfield Elcock Reisen band together with the Jaguar Land Rover band. Back again on Sunday morning in the heavy rain with Shropshire Youth kicking off proceedings. This was followed by the "Internationally renowned" Oompah Band led by the Festival Chairman and well known character, Neil Fury.

The sun came out later (red knees again) and the large crowd which had assembled were able to enjoy some quality music throughout a most pleasant afternoon. Once again Neil invited anyone who wished to play onto the stage for a mass session of "Festival Brass" when they played unrehearsed and with no prior knowledge of the pieces they were to perform. All things considered it was a very good sound.

We waited to hear the band of the Royal Signals who (to my untrained ear) played extremely well, but I expect they have the opportunity to practice every day so should be well rehearsed! Incidentally, it would appear that their attendance was part of a recruiting campaign for military musicians – they said that they are the largest employers of professional musicians in the country!

By then it was early evening so we set off towards home with a quick stop at the Huntsman for a final meal before the motorway experience travelling home.

On arrival in Grafton I then had the task of unloading the many plants that Sue has purchased at the festival plant stall (they greet her with open arms each year – I'm sure she's their best customer!) and off to bed. All in all, a great weekend.

Finally, Neil said that, although they have a waiting list of bands wishing to perform next year, he would be very happy to have Bradwell attend, if they so wish. Something to think about if funds allow.

It was interesting to note that in the programme, acknowledgement was made to a grant received from the Wavendon Foundation to help with the development of its brass band workshop for musical education of schoolchildren in the Telford area. Perhaps an application from Bradwell for the development band would be appropriate.

JAZZ LEGEND SUPPORTS BAND FESTIVAL

It appears that jazz legend Cleo Laine also has a soft spot for brass band music.

Ironbridge Brass Band Festival treasurer June Softley was surprised - and not a little delighted - to receive a cheque signed by Dame Cleo Laine on behalf of her charity The Wavendon Foundation.

Formed by Cleo and her husband John Dankworth, The Wavendon Foundation supports individuals, organisations and other charities which are engaged in musical education and the performing arts and lent its support to help the Brass Band Festival develop its brass band workshops which bring music education to the schoolchildren of Telford.

PS : Neil Fury joke: - Why did the scarecrow receive an award? Because he's outstanding in his field!

Misc...



I enjoy Christmas as much as the next person but get annoyed by how the advertising seems to get earlier and earlier each year. For me, this year's first mention of Christmas was a brochure delivered through the letterbox advertising the Dream Circus at Willen Lake which it humbly claims to offer the best Christmas Parties Ever.

The date of delivery was July 14th which was even before the schools had broken up for the summer holidays and a mere 164 days before the special day!

Keith

Below is a picture of the Development Band, which was taken during their recent engagement at the Milton Court Care Home.

More pictures and a short video clip can be seen on the Band's Facebook page. A special "Thanks!" to Sarah Gates for supplying these.



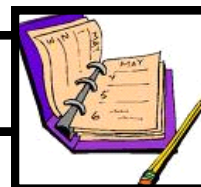
Future Engagements



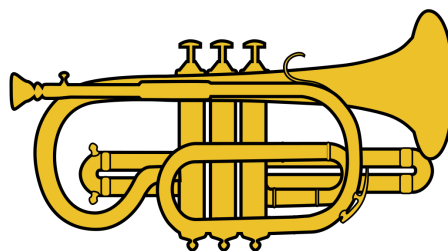
	<u>August</u>	
Sunday 16th	Tiger Moth Rally @ Woburn Abbey	TBC
Saturday 22nd	Evening Open Air Concert, Bancroft Park	PM
Monday 31st	Stony Stratford Town Fayre	PM
	<u>September</u>	
Saturday 5th	Cosgrove Park	12-1pm 2-3pm
Sunday 13th	Leighton Buzzard	3-5pm
Sunday 27th	Soloist Competition & Social Event	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 Wicken Dog Show

Dear Robin,

I just wanted to say a BIG thank you to you all who came to Wicken on the wettest and worst day of June. It was good of you to come and to continue to play so merrily as if it were a lovely day. Thank you for your valiant effort and everyone who came thoroughly enjoyed the music.

I hope we shall be able to tempt you back again at our next event.

Best wishes to you all