



The Bradwell Bugle

Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band

August 2021

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From the Editor

Hi Everyone!

Welcome to the August edition of the Band's monthly newsletter. After such a long time of not being able to perform we are delighted to be able to report that the Band has just completed their first engagement in nearly twenty months. The month of August will see more activity with concerts in Dunstable and New Bradwell as well as playing at a wedding to look forward to. Full details can be found inside this issue.

We are very much aware that although most legal restrictions have been lifted and many people have been vaccinated, it is still possible to catch and spread COVID-19, even if you are fully vaccinated, and we are still in the third wave of this pandemic in the UK. COVID-19 will be a feature of our lives for the foreseeable future, so we need to learn to live with it and manage the risk to ourselves and others. As COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, it is important that we all use personal judgement to manage our own risk. All of us can play our part by exercising common sense and considering the risks. While no situation is risk free, there are actions we can take to protect ourselves and others around us. Following this guidance will help you stay safe and protect others by controlling the spread. Every action to help reduce the spread will reduce any further resurgence of the virus in the coming months.

For those of you who are planning on going away for a summer break we hope you and your family have a good holiday.

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

Stay safe!
Sarah-Jayne

Musical Director's Notes

The Band is very pleased to welcome three new players to its ranks. Oscar has joined the cornet section from our Development Band, Julie has joined the Horn section after playing with Toddington and Hemel Hempstead Bands and Shaun has joined our Baritone section from the Littleport band in Cambridgeshire. All are very welcome and have settled in with the band very well and will make their debuts with the band in the forthcoming engagements.

Other player changes have seen Louis Wilson show his versatility by becoming the Bands Principal Trombone Player after spells on Horn and Baritone. The Band is actively looking to recruit a cornet and a percussion player to further strengthen our numbers. If you know of anyone who might be interested in joining the band please let me know.

Engagement Report

Sunday 25th July

Patronal Service

St. James Church, New Bradwell

We have an engagement to report on! There had been a gap of 580 days since the Christmas Concert in the Stantonbury Sports & Social Club in December 2019 until today where the Band had been unable to perform in public. It was most appropriate that the venue for this return to playing should be in the Parish Church of St. James in New Bradwell who were celebrating their Patronal Festival.

There were reminders of some of the changes that Covid-19 has made to our everyday lives since our last performance as members were asked to sign in on arrival. Hand sanitizer was available and face masks were to be worn but could be removed once seated. It had been hoped that the service would be held outdoors but it will come as no real surprise that the previous week's long hot spell had come to an end and we had a dull and somewhat damp morning. So the Band led by Musical Director Brian Keech was positioned inside the Church ready to play before the service began, performing a number of hymn tunes.

There were words of welcome from Graham Crisp who is the Stewards Team Leader and then an introduction from the Reverend Nicola Martyn-Beck who said how nice it was to see so many people in the Church for this special service. We were reminded of the difficult last eighteen months and the congregation were asked to remember those who had passed away as a consequence of the pandemic. The Band had been especially requested to play "Hymn To The Fallen", a piece of music written by the American composer John Williams for the film Saving Private Ryan which depicted the horrors of war. This is a powerful and emotional melody which appears during the closing credits of the film, evoking a feeling of hope and strength amid the overall tone of reverence.

Today the congregation were being allowed to sing the hymns for the first time since the lockdown restrictions were lifted and the Band provided the accompaniment for each of them. The first was "Praise The Lord Ye Heavens Adore Him" set to the traditional tune "Austria".

The other hymns sung later in the service were "Lord For The Years" and "To God Be The Glory".

The theme of the sermon was pilgrimage and the music played immediately after the final blessing was "Monk's Gate" which is a traditional tune Ralph Vaughan Williams used to set the words of the hymn which ends "To Be A Pilgrim".

Several more hymn tunes were played as refreshments were served to the congregation. It had been quite an emotional morning being able to play again after such a long time.

Several members of the congregation took the time afterwards to say how much they had appreciated the Band's involvement today and in particularly the opening piece "Hymn To The Fallen".

Development Group

Nobody needs reminding what a difficult eighteen months we have all had to endure as a consequence of Coronavirus. The Development Group has seen many changes. Before the rehearsals were forced to end in March 2020 we had over thirty five members which created a great atmosphere on a Thursday evening. Sadly the long layoff from playing has seen the numbers decline to around twenty. Some of those who have not returned to the group have gone on to continue their educational studies which is something we expect to happen each year while others have decided to concentrate on other interests.

When the Development Group were finally able to restart towards the end of April this year we were only allowed the use of the main hall in the school which meant we were unable to offer any individual lessons for new starters. Now that the restrictions are being lifted a recruitment campaign has recently been launched on the Band's Facebook page and this has received a lot of interest. We currently have a growing waiting list of people wanting to learn to play a brass instrument and are eagerly looking forward to receiving their first lessons when the group restarts in September.

We know we have sufficient instruments available and all being well we will have use of additional rooms in the school to allow us to provide the individual tuition that is going to be required. The biggest question is will we be able to have enough senior band members available to help with the teaching? The committee will be addressing this issue in the weeks to come as we all know how important the Development Group is to the future of Bradwell Silver Band.

Between April and July this year the Group managed to hold thirteen enjoyable rehearsals before taking a summer break in line with the school holidays. The last rehearsal held was in the form of a mini concert performed in front of parents and siblings who we were able to admit into the building for the first time since the final restrictions were lifted earlier in the week. The group showed the progress that they have been making by playing an entertaining selection of the music they have been working on. This began with the circus march "Around The Circle" and followed by "Feeling Sheepish", "The Cat Came Back", "Two's Company", "Wild West Yonder", "Major Dance", "Knock-Knock", "A Touch Of Oompah" and to bring the short concert to an end "Highland Farewell".

The group restarts on Thursday 9th September and will be working on a completely new programme of music as we look forward to hopefully being able to perform in public again towards the end of the year.



Forthcoming Engagements

Sunday 8th August - Bandstand Concert at Grove House Gardens, Dunstable - 14:45-16:30pm

A traditional Sunday afternoon Bandstand concert in the open air.

(It is advisable to use the Grove House Theatre car park, rather than the closer Asda supermarket one.)

Sunday 15th August - St. James Church, New Bradwell - 15:00pm

A free one hour thank-you concert for the Bradwell community. The Church will be providing refreshments and we will be playing outside in the churchyard. If wet we will be inside the church.

Saturday 21st August - **Private Engagement** Wedding - St. James Church, New Bradwell

Saturday 18th September - Evening Concert in Cosgrove - 19:30pm

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



Sunday Band Concerts

Grove House Gardens
FREE

Sunday 1 August

11.30 am - 1.15 pm
Luton Brass Band

2.45 pm - 4.30 pm
Hitchin Band

Sunday 8 August

11.30 am - 1.15 pm
Chiltern Hills Brass Band

2.45 pm - 4.30 pm
Bradwell Silver Band

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL



FREE OUTDOOR CONCERT

BRINGING BACK THE BRASS

SUNDAY 15th AUGUST FROM 3PM

ST. JAMES CHURCHYARD, NEW BRADWELL

BRASS FOR BRAD'LL

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER THE PERFORMANCE

Join us for a free outdoor concert to thank the community for their continued support.

Tel: 01908 616463
press@bradwellband.co.uk
www.bradwellband.co.uk



Misheard Lyrics

The Band recently played the hymn that ends with "To Be A Pilgrim" in the Patronal Service in St. James and this took me way back to my school days. In the 1950s we used to have an assembly every morning which included singing a hymn and reciting the Lord's Prayer. Those not of the Christian faith were excused from the religious part of the assembly but came in at the end for any announcements. As I also regularly attended Sunday School I was very familiar with most of the hymns and often heard words being sung that were not actually quite correct. This could have been down to the fact that not everyone could read and the words of many of the hymns were learned by heart. The children would sing what they thought they had heard previously and so it was that "To be a pilgrim" became "To be a penguin". Similarly, renditions of "I am the Lord of the Dance Settee" and "Come by Car my Lord" made perfect sense to my primary school classmates.

At Sunday school a favourite was 'Gladly the Cross I Bear', which we thought was a story about Gladly, the cross-eyed bear and we thought we knew God's first name when reciting the Lord's Prayer "Our father, who art in heaven, Howard be thy name."

Then there was the little boy who appeared at Sunday school with a cucumber. Apparently he had misheard when the teacher said it would be nice if they could all bring a newcomer with them next week.

My wife attended a Catholic school where a frequent prayer began "Hail Mary, full of grapes" and included the line "Blessed art thou a monk swimming".

All good innocent fun and I'm sure many of you will have your own favourite misheard lyrics.

One you will probably all know the European Champions League programme on TV which has a chorus singing "The Champions". I always think it sounds as if they're singing "Lasagne". Yes, I know, in writing it looks nothing like it but listen to it next time the Champions League is on the television.



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

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

