



The Bradwell Bugle

Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band

September 2015

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From the Editor

Hi Everyone!

Welcome to the September edition of the Bradwell Bugle. I hope all of you have had the chance of taking a break and recharging the batteries. The school holidays will soon be over and you can hear the collective sigh from parents as the kids go back to start the new term. Congratulations to Louis and Luca on their excellent examination results and good luck as you start 6th form. The Band has been busy over the recent weekends with some high profile engagements, reports on these follow. In addition you will be able to see some of the many photographs taken at these events on the Band's Facebook page and website.

As always I would welcome any contributions for future editions.

Sarah-Jayne

Development Band

Rehearsals resumed on Thursday 13th August and although some members were still away on holiday we have had enough players to make rehearsals worthwhile. They are learning a completely new programme of music to perform at future engagements, more details on these as and when confirmation has been received.

School News

The building work has been progressing well during the summer holiday and hopefully will be complete by the time the children are due to return on the 7th September. This work has been necessary to expand New Bradwell School from 60 places in each year group to 90 places, to be implemented in stages with effect from admissions into the Reception year group in September 2015. The proposal will also include the expansion of the school nursery class from 30 children per session to 40 children per session, which equates to an additional 20 early education places. There will be new classrooms in use for the first time and improved car parking for teachers and other school staff. With the dining area and main hall being rebuilt, we are very grateful to the school for having alternative rooms made available for band rehearsals over the past few weeks.

What's On!...September

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

Saturday 5th September (*Outdoor Event*) - Free Entry!

Cosgrove Park 12:00-1:00pm & 2:00-3:00pm.

Cosgrove Park are holding another open week-end giving people the chance to see what it has to offer and an opportunity to explore the Park . The Band will be performing two sessions in front of the restaurant. Hopefully we will keep the bass cases away from the water this time!

Sunday 13th September (*Outdoor Event*) - Free Entry!

Leighton Buzzard Bandstand – 3:00-5:00pm

Each summer the Leighton-Linslade Town Council arranges a series of band concerts in the traditional bandstand at the Parsons Close Recreation Ground situated behind the High Street. There is a large car park close by and refreshments will be available in the interval.

Sunday 27th September

Soloist Competition and Social Event. Please listen out and check Emails for further details.



Engagement Reports - Keith Jones

Sunday 16th August

Moth Club Rally

Woburn Abbey

One of the most popular heritage events of the summer calendar, The International Moth Rally was held again in the grounds of Woburn Abbey. This year marked the 30th anniversary of the first 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. The de Havilland Tiger Moth was a biplane designed by Geoffrey de Havilland and operated in the 1930s by the Royal Air Force (RAF) and others as a primary trainer. The Tiger Moth remained in service with the RAF until replaced by the de Havilland Chipmunk in 1952, when many of the surplus aircraft entered civil operation. The de Havilland Moth club founded 1975 is now a highly organised owners' association offering technical support and focus for Moth enthusiasts.

A warm summer's day with plenty of sunshine was waiting for us as we returned to play at this high profile engagement. We had no need to put up the gazebo and set ourselves up in the member's enclosure and under the baton of Musical Director Brian Keech we opened the first of our two performances with "Stars and Stripes Forever". Soprano player Adam Chappell was our first soloist with "The Miss Marple Theme", followed by "Sing, Sing, Sing" in which the percussion team are let loose. The horn section featured in "A Whiter Shade of Pale" before the medley of hits from the musicals in "Breezin' Down Broadway". Tug featured in "Memory" followed by "Floral Dance" and the first performance of "Fascinating Drums" which as you can guess is another percussion feature. We ended the first playing spot with "Highland Cathedral".

We enjoyed a break in playing although the warm weather had encouraged the presence of insects with lots of spiders and some persistent wasps, one of whom showed a lot of interest in Tania's burger.

The second half of our performance featured songs from or associated with the Second World War, opening with "Colonel Bogey", and in quick succession "A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square", "In The Mood", "Run, Rabbit, Run", "In The Quartermaster's Stores" which features the vocal talents of our members. "Those Magnificent Men In Their Flying Machines" was played twice, the second time to accommodate the official video being taken of the events. We continued with "The Great Escape", the "Theme from Foyle's War" and ended with the selection "Keep Smiling Through".

It had been a decent performance even though we did have to battle against the tannoy which was keeping the crowds informed on the plane movements. Brian received a number of kind comments from people who had been listening to us and they were complimentary on the variety of music played. We were grateful for playing help from Tug and on trombone from Dan who plays with the MK Youth Band.

During our performance Brian was interviewed for a radio programme, "Harry & Edna on the Wireless at the 2015 Moths at Woburn". Brian was happy to give details of the Band's history and current commitments and the interviewer showed a lot of interest in the age diversity of our playing members.

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

The broadcast radio show included the band playing “The Great Escape” and “Those Magnificent Men In Their Flying Machines” can be heard whilst the presenter was interviewing another contributor to the programme. To hear the programme in full go to <https://www.mixcloud.com/harryandedna/moths-at-woburn-2015/>

Harry & Edna are a husband and wife team and offer a new style of presenting ‘vintage’ music radio shows where their relaxed and informal style of light hearted banter & anecdotes are mixed with stylish guests. Doyens of the vintage scene for many years, they have developed a contact list which has allowed them to cover a wide variety of topics on their shows ranging from vintage fashion to historic gardening. They currently run a historical events business called Vintage Sweethearts & have worked both ‘on stage’ and behind the scenes at many vintage events. Harry & Edna are proud of their client list that includes the Goodwood Revival, Dame Cleo Laine’s vintage afternoon & Hednas Vintage Nightclub.



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

Saturday 22nd August

VJ Day Celebrations Brass on the Grass

Bancroft Park

Organised by the Stantonbury Parish Council, the theme for the evening was to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Victory over Japan Day which finally marked the end of the second world war in August 1945. The Stantonbury Parish Council represents around 10,500 people living in the parish which is made up of Bancroft, Bancroft Park, Blue Bridge, Bradville, Linford Wood, Oakridge Park and Stantonbury.

Set in the very pleasant surroundings of Bancroft Park, the weather was warm and stayed dry as hundreds of people came along to enjoy the free outdoor event. A stage had been erected in the park and the Roman Park Residents Club was available to non-members for drinks, food and the all important comfort stop. The audience had been invited to bring along seating and many had also brought their own favourite refreshments which helped create a relaxed atmosphere as the evening proceeded.

Under the leadership of Musical Director Brian Keech, the Band started proceedings in the first of our two sessions performing music with a Second World War association. This began with the march "Colonel Bogey" followed by "A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square", "In The Mood", "Run, Rabbit, Run", "In The Quartermaster's Stores" which again featured the vocal talents of our members. Our first spot ended with the selection "Keep Smiling Through" which includes the songs "The Army, The Navy and the Air Force", "Yours", "Lili Marlene", "White Cliffs of Dover" and "We'll Meet Again".

Our place on stage was taken by Junction 14, MK Ladies Chorus. Junction 14's declared purpose is to promote the singing of songs in barbershop style, which is four-part close harmony, sung without any accompaniment with the voices alone provide the texture of the music. They sang a number of popular songs before they in turn were followed by Daz and Chave who you will not be surprised to learn are a tribute act to Chas and Dave. Comprising a keyboard, a guitar and some clever backing tracks, they sang some of the songs performed by original duo including "Snooker Loopy". Apparently they had travelled all the way from Portsmouth for this evening.

Junction 14 returned to the stage with some more songs sung in harmony. It is interesting to know that as well as performing concerts they also enter competitions, the format of which would sound familiar to those of us in the brass band world. There is an annual national competition, known as Convention and to qualify for this regional preliminary competitions are held in which the highest scoring choruses go through to final. They also enter local Music Festivals and competitions, not only for the experience but also because they believe it helps to acquire performing skills that probably could not be picked up in any other ways.

Daz and Chave came back for their second session and performed a mix of middle-of-the-road pop songs before a Cockney type finale with "Maybe It's Because I'm a Londoner" (complete with the interjection 'Have A Banana!') and getting massive audience participation with "The Hokey Cokey".

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

The Band's second spot began as dusk fell with the march "Aces High". This was followed by John Lee's arrangement of the "Theme From Foyle's War" and then "We're Going To Hang Out The Washing On The Siegfried Line". We then switched to a Last Night Of The Proms theme with excerpts from Henry Wood's "Fantasia On British Sea Songs". The audience loved the Hornpipe and enthusiastically stood up and waved to Rule Britannia. They also very much enjoyed Hubert Parry's "Jerusalem" and Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance No: 1" (Land of Hope and Glory).

After standing to acknowledge the sustained applause, we brought the musical part of the evening to an end with the poignant "Abide With Me" in which the front row cornet players stood in front of the stage to sound the "Last Post". The very impressive firework display started and we were left to pack our stuff away.

It had been a long evening with a gap of two hours between performing our two allocated spots, but it was a pleasure to be part of another enjoyable evening. Last year's event was in conjunction with the other local councils of Wolverton and Greenleys and, Bradwell and New Bradwell, so Stantonbury Parish Council are to be commended for going it alone this year. It brings the community together and was completely free of charge. Let's hope we can be a part of it again next year if they decide they are able to continue running the event.

With a number of our members away on holiday, we were extremely grateful for playing help from Tug, Jack, Clive, Emily all on cornet and Andy from Olney Brass on bass. We must also say a massive thank you to Robin, James and Sam who were at Bancroft well before and well after the rest of the band to make sure all the kit was accessible and that we had the gazebo to store our items in between playing sessions.



(Photo courtesy of Brin Carstens)

The Public Houses of Bradwell

Over the years, many brass bands - including Bradwell - have had music specially composed for them. I suspect a great deal fewer will have had a poem written exclusively about them. The following appeared in Sylvia Mead's book "Marching Out" published in 1996 and written to celebrate the 95 years of Bradwell Silver Band.

For those of you not familiar with local history, both New and Old Bradwell were well catered for in the number of public houses available to the local residents. They all get a mention in this witty ditty. I recently had a wander around with my camera to record what they look like in 2015 in comparison with some of the older pictures I have seen.

The band was smart as they fell in, at the end of Brad'll called Corner Pin and just to give their music charms, they each had a pint at the County Arms.



Along the road, but not too far, they'd have another in the Morning Star.



The Public Houses of Bradwell (Cont'd...)

*Newport Road, past church and rec., another pub begins to beck. "Hold fast lads", cried out the tuba
"Let's just try one in the Cuba".*



One more chorus, sharp right turn, up the steps of the old Tavern.



*Right again on the Newport Road, with backs held straight they lively strode. Again with a glass
clutched in their palms, they'd raise a toast in the Forester's Arms.*



The Public Houses of Bradwell (Cont'd...)

Onward, upward all the time, up "Cut Hill" they'd gaily climb. "War Office" ahead, they wear a grin, it's the local name for old New Inn.



Over the hill they gladly rest, and down a pint of the landlord's best. At the next pub, one half will do, it's a brand new place they call Bradvue. Grand and new the pub stands still, in the early days called the Bradville.



Now a long march to the side drum's beat, with never a thought for their weary feet. At last the drummer rests his stick, and they lay the dust at the old Queen Vic.



The Public Houses of Bradwell (Cont'd...)

The music filled the roads that straddle, that lovely place we called Old Brad'll. The Albert is across the street, so over they'd go for another treat.



Then round to the Bell for one last blow, another swift half and home they'd go.



Now homeward bound, they're all in step, a sight we kids would not forget. We followed on chests filled with pride, our tears of joy we could not hide.

BRADWELL BAND, THE BEST BY FAR, THEY'VE NEVER EVER MISSED A BAR!

Future Engagements



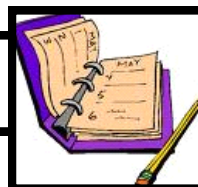
	<u>September</u>	
Saturday 5th	Cosgrove Park	12-1pm 2-3pm
Sunday 13th	Leighton Buzzard	3-5pm
Sunday 27th	Soloist Competition & Social Event	TBC
	<u>October</u>	
Saturday 10th	Concert - St James, New Bradwell	PM
Saturday 24th	Concert - Christ The Vine, Coffee Hall	PM
	<u>November</u>	
Sunday 8th	Remembrance Parade	TBC
Sunday 29th	Milton Keynes Open Contest @ Stantonbury Theatre	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.

Important Reminder from the Quartermaster on the New Uniforms

Thursday 24th September is the date that has been arranged for the supplier's visit to take measurements for the new uniform jackets being purchased for the senior band. As this is a normal rehearsal evening it is hoped that all playing members will be in attendance. However, if anyone is really not able to make it on that evening, Steph will provide you with a self-measurement form and instructions on what to measure! These will need to be completed and returned within a week of the forms being sent out. Also please check if you have any of the Band's spare straight ties. We seem to have given out most of the spare ties and they have not been returned.

Contacts



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Here's one for Tania!

