



The Bradwell Bugle

Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band



September 2021

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From the Editor

Hi Everyone!

Welcome to the September edition of the Band's monthly newsletter.

The school holidays are coming to an end (probably not soon enough for some of you? Myself on the other hand am not wishing the time away, as my baby starts reception!!!) and although the weather has not been that brilliant, I hope you all had the chance to enjoy some quality time with your families?

The Band had a busy August with three engagements and you will find reports on these further inside this issue. This month there is a concert in Cosgrove to look forward to. We understand tickets for this have been selling very well, so if you have family/friends who wish to attend, please contact Steph or Brian for contact details to purchase tickets in advance to avoid possible disappointment.

As always, I would be grateful for any articles and/or photographs which can be included in future editions.

Stay safe!

Sarah-Jayne

Forthcoming Event

Saturday 18th September - Evening Concert @ St. Peter and St. Paul Church Cosgrove, 19:30pm.

Tickets have been selling very well –if you haven't already got one you should check availability before attending

Bradwell Silver Band has had an association with Cosgrove for nearly 120 years! The Northampton Mercury dated Friday 25 July 1902 reported that the fifth annual sports were successfully held at Cosgrove in a field adjoining the Brewery, kindly lent by Mr. G. F. Branson. The programme comprised open and local events, and there were a good number of entries. A large number of spectators assembled to witness the racing, which was of an interesting description, some of the finishes being very close. The Bradwell United Brass Band was in attendance, and besides contributing selections of music during the progress of the sports, also played for dancing.

Safeguarding and Child Protection

We are fully aware of our responsibilities when offering tuition and to comply with current regulations the Bradwell Silver Band has drawn up its own "Safeguarding Policy" and a separate policy for "Child Protection". Copies of these are available on request or may be viewed on the Band's website.

Engagement Reports

Sunday 8th August Dunstable Bandstand

1st September 2019 had been the last outdoor public concert the Bradwell Silver Band was able to perform before everything was put on hold because of Coronavirus. 707 days later we were finally able to make a most welcomed return to our playing activities with a traditional Sunday afternoon Band Concert held at the Grove House Gardens in Dunstable.

Grove House Gardens is a Green Flag Award winning park, situated in the centre of Dunstable adjacent to the Grove Theatre Complex and the Town Centre. The Gardens, which are over 200 years old, were originally part of the private gardens of Grove House and today they benefit from the presence of many mature and unusual trees.

The Gardens are an attractive and well maintained open space offering visitors the opportunity to relax in pleasant spring and summer floral surroundings.

The weather forecast had not looking promising with heavy showers predicted to hit the area during the time our concert was to take place. Making the journey from Milton Keynes we passed through some areas which were wet with recent rainfall but we kept our fingers crossed. And it worked! Although sometimes cloudy and a bit breezy we only experienced one short shower and that was while we were taking a break.

With Robin managing to park the band trailer close by the bandstand we were able to set up and by sat down ready with plenty of time to spare before the scheduled start time. The Band looked resplendent in their familiar blue jackets and stand banners which were almost a perfect match with the colours of the bandstand.



Looks like Steph is so keen to get going she has started to play on her own!

Engagement Reports

Musical Director Brian Keech had selected a programme of music from our current folders and we opened with James Curnow's "Fanfare and Flourishes" which features in part the well-known Charpentier 'Te Deum', a tune most people would recognise as the theme tune for the Eurovision Song contest. This lively opener was followed by Alan Fernie's arrangement of "Yesterday Once More" which was a hit song for the Carpenters in 1973.

Our first soloist for the afternoon was Ben Mirfin on Bass Trombone with "Friend Like Me". This is based on the upbeat song from the 1992 Disney film Aladdin and was performed by Robin Williams in his role as the Genie. Ben produced a super performance which deserved the prolonged applause it received.

We then played Gordon Langford's arrangement of "West Country Fantasy" which 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. In this selection "There Is A Tavern in the Town" requires the trombone soloist to play the opening section in a drunken fashion. Today we were treated to a masterful rendition by Evan Lovell, no doubt drawing on his recent university experiences.

Our next item was being played by us for the first time in public. Arranged by Christopher Bond, "Hallelujah" is a song written by Canadian singer Leonard Cohen and originally released in 1984. Following its increased popularity after being featured in the film Shrek (2001), many other arrangements have been performed and the song been used in film and television soundtracks and televised talent contests.

Something more familiar followed with "New York, New York" which led to "A Nightingale Sang In Berkeley Square" a romantic British popular song written in 1939 and sung by Forces Sweetheart Vera Lynn who became a symbol of the British spirit during the dark days of the war. As Brian pointed out the nightingale, which is a migrant songbird and celebrated in literature and music for the beauty of its song, favours rural habitats and is very unlikely to be heard in Central London. Similarly "Blue Birds Over The White Cliffs of The Dover" which we played later in the programme is an inspired piece of imagination as the American song writer was blissfully unaware that the bluebird is not indigenous to Britain.

Next up was the "Radetzky March" composed by Johann Strauss Sr. and dedicated to Field Marshal Joseph Radetzky von Radetz. First performed on 31 August 1848 in Vienna, it soon became popular among marching soldiers. After this we played the reflective Goff Richard's composition "Country Scene" which featured Tug and Fraser in the opening and closing cadenzas.

The final item of the first half "Keep Smiling Through" which is the medley of popular songs from the Second World War that includes 'The Army, The Navy and the Air Force'; 'Yours'; 'Lili Marlene'; 'The White Cliffs of Dover'; and a swing version of 'We'll Meet Again'.

After a break we resumed the concert with the classic march "Army of the Nile" written in 1941 by Kenneth Alford and dedicated to General Wavell for halting the advance of the Axis Powers in Egypt. Brian then introduced our second stand up soloist for today, Fraser Cousins on Euphonium with "The Way We Were". This was a song written for a 1973 romantic drama film directed by Sydney Pollack and starring Barbra Streisand and Robert Redford.

Engagement Reports

This was followed by the up tempo "The Lincolnshire Poacher," an arrangement of a traditional folk song by Derek Broadbent as a follow up to his enormously successful "Floral Dance".

The next item is titled "The Lion King" but really should be called "Can You Feel The Love Tonight". Written by Elton John & Tim Rice as one of five original songs for the film, "Circle of Life", "I Just Can't Wait to Be King", "Be Prepared", "Hakuna Matata" being the others. Elton's performance of "Can You Feel the Love Tonight" plays over the end credits of the film.

A very lively rendition of "La Bamba" arranged by Frank Bernaerts followed before Fraser's dulcet tones introduced "One Voice" as written and performed by Barry Manilow. As Brian said in his introduction the song also featured in an episode of "Only Fools and Horses. Del Boy gets drunk and on his way home in the early hours of the morning sings "One Voice" very loudly outside Nelson Mandela House the tower block he lived in. This leads to angry shouting from the other residents and quickly descends into a full scale riot. No such problems today however.

Before the final item Brian took the opportunity to publically thank the Dunstable Town Council for continuing to organise the Sunday Band Concerts and also the audience for coming along to listen. The final piece of the published programme was "An American Trilogy" which was originally arranged by Mickey Newbury using three popular American songs. It begins with the unofficial Confederate anthem "Dixie," followed by the African-American spiritual, "All My Trials," and closes with "The Battle Hymn of the Republic. The song was popularised by Elvis Presley who included it as a showstopper in his concert routines.

After standing to acknowledge the applause the Band played "Sweet Caroline" as an encore. It had been a very good concert with some fine playing even if understandably there were signs of tiredness in some of the playing towards the end of a long programme.

Equipment was quickly packed away for loading on to the trailer and we were soon driving home feeling quite pleased that we had at last been able to take part in an event that hopefully leads towards a return to some sort of normality.

Sunday 15th August

Brass For Brad'II

St James Churchyard, New Bradwell

It was a dry pleasant afternoon with a bit of breeze and some sunshine for this concert given by the Band as a Thank You to the New Bradwell community and friends for their continued support during the 20 months in which the Band was unable to perform in public. Kindly arranged by our friends at St. James, tables and chairs had been set up on the grass in front of the Church for the audience to enjoy tea and a delicious selection of cakes. Others brought along their own seating and settled down to enjoy an afternoon of musical entertainment.

Engagement Reports

The Band was seated with their backs towards St. James Street and were again all sat down ready to play in plenty of time before the due starting time. Musical Director Brian Keech programme for today was very similar to the one performed the week previously in Dunstable with Ben as our one stand up soloist for today.



Photo courtesy of Timothy Barringer – many more photos and some video clips can be viewed on Facebook!

In between pieces Brian spoke to the audience about the difficulties experienced by the Band during the pandemic but said how grateful we were to the whole of the community for their support and donations during this time. Today this community had turned out in force to listen to the Band with many passer bys stopping to listen to at least some of the performance. After our final piece the Vicar of St. James the Reverend Paul Smith thanked the Band for the concert and the audience for turning up in such numbers to enjoy an afternoon that showed what a great sense of community there was in New Bradwell.

It had been a good concert played on an uneven surface with Brian having to negotiate a particularly sharp dip in the ground where he was standing. Fortunately there were no mishaps and the Band members soon had everything packed away into the waiting trailer.

It is to be hoped that this will become a regular annual event and we are extremely grateful to the Church for not only hosting the event but also supplying the refreshments which many people were able to enjoy.

There were some nice comments on Facebook, this is just a selection....

“So lovely to see the community out enjoying the Bradwell Silver Band, tea and cake!”

“Was such a lovely event –made me feel quite emotional to hear the band again after all this time!”

“This is what I call village life and spirit – well done!”

“Wish I could be there - I now live in New Zealand but remember as a child listening to them coming round playing Christmas carols! Such a talented group of people.”

Engagement Reports

Saturday 21st August

Wedding of Sophie & Scott

St James Church, New Bradwell

Today saw the Band back at the Parish Church to play at the Wedding of Sophie and Scott. Back on Christmas Eve in 2019 Scott had chosen the Band's annual visit along his street to surprise his girl friend by proposing to her. Fortunately for everyone concerned she said yes and the Band played "Congratulations" before playing the young lady's request for a favourite Carol "Sweet Chiming Christmas Bells".

Some 20 months later the couple were at last able to go ahead with the wedding and as the limit on the number of guests has now been removed the Church was nearly full with friends and relatives. Although not directly connected in any way with the Band, the bride and groom have grown up in New Bradwell and as with a lot of locals eagerly anticipate the annual Christmas carolling. They very much wanted the Band to perform at their very special day.

Under the leadership of Musical Director Brian Keech, our involvement today was to play a selection of music chosen by the happy couple as the guests took their places. Before the arrival of the bride we played "She's The One", "Crazy Little Thing Called Love", "Sealed With A Kiss", "Lollipop" and "You Are Not Alone".

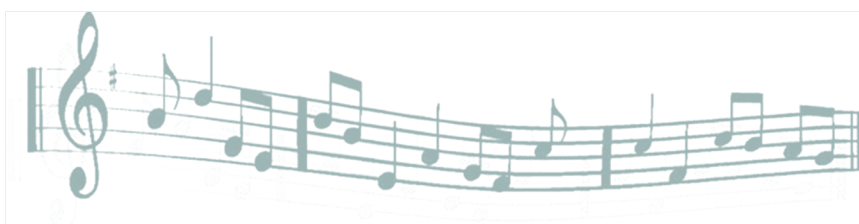
The congregation were welcomed to the Church by the Reverend Nicola Martyn-Beck who was conducting today's ceremony. After a brief explanation of the order of service the congregation and band were asked to stand as the bridal party made their entry to the traditional "Bridal Chorus" written by Richard Wagner and played by the Church organist Helen Rouse.

The Band was to accompany the singing of the first of two hymns "The Love We Share" to the tune of the Londonderry Air otherwise known as Danny Boy. This was followed by a prayer and a reading before the marriage ceremony declaration. There was Bible a reading and the address from the minister. The marriage was marked with an exchange of vows and wedding rings.

The second hymn "These Vows Of Love Are Taken" was accompanied by the organ. The words were written by Susan Sayers and first published in 2008 and is set to the familiar tune of Thaxted which was originally composed as "Jupiter" in Gustav Holst's Planet Suite. After more prayers the blessing was given and the party retired to the Lady Chapel to sign the register. During this signing some especially selected recorded music was relayed through the speakers. With formal paperwork completed it was time for the newly married couple to proceed down the aisle.

For the recessional music the bride had made a rather unconventional with "Sweet Chiming Christmas Bells" which was a favourite of her grandmother. It had been requested that we play this at the usual tempo and we completed three full verses and choruses before the last of the congregation had left the Church for the photographs to be taken.

After the service ended we performed two more items with "The Lion King" and "Eternal Flame". The Band posed for some official photographs including one in which all members were pointing towards the newlyweds. We had been fortunate with the weather today which had been forecast for heavy rain and although not exactly sunny I am sure the photographer will have been able to capture many images which recorded this happy event.



Development Group

Although officially on a summer break, a lot of work has been going on behind the scenes before the restart of lessons on September 9th. For the main group there will be a new programme of music to work on whilst we are expecting an intake of around a dozen newcomers who are taking up the challenge of learning to play a brass instrument. In addition we have received enquiries from some people already having lessons and hopefully they will be of a sufficient standard for them to be able to take their place within the main group.

The Group was able to restart ensemble rehearsals in April this year but we were working with the restrictions imposed by the Coronavirus outbreak which meant we only had use of the main hall in the school. Without access to other rooms within the school we were unable to offer any individual tuition.

The post on the Band's Facebook page looking for new members has attracted a lot of interest and with offers of help promised by senior band members we are looking forward to being able to teach newcomers the basics of playing a brass instrument. If you are one of those who have offered to help you will be contacted shortly to assign your specific tasks for these classes.

Want to learn a brass instrument and join Bradwell Silver Development Band?

Bradwell Development Band is open to beginner and learner brass players of all ages.

We provide instruments and tuition for free.*

Tutor groups and development band rehearsals are held on Thursdays between 7 and 7.45pm at New Bradwell School, Bounty Street, New Bradwell

For further information contact
Musical Director Keith Jones
press@bradwellband.co.uk

*Instruments and tuition is free. At times instrument and tutor availability may be limited and there may be a short wait list. Tutors are DBS checked.



All Our Yesterdays

For this month's glimpse back into the past we go back to 1908 and one of the earliest photographs taken of the Bradwell United Brass Band proudly wearing the uniforms that had been purchased the year before. Note that the third trombone player from the left is also holding a baton. It was fairly common for conductors to combine leading the band with playing an instrument at the same time. Usually this would have been a cornet player, we can only imagine how difficult it would be to conduct and play a trombone at the same time!



With acknowledgements to Sylvia Mead's book "Marching Out" The 95 Years of Bradwell Silver Band

Forthcoming Engagements

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

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

Sunday 14th November - Remembrance Day Parade and Church Service - pm

Saturday 4th December - Concert with Newport Pagnell Singers - *(TBC)*

Saturday 11th December - Christmas Concert St. James New Bradwell - 19:30pm

Sunday 19th December - Christmas Concert Stantonbury Sports & Social Club - *(TBC)*

Misc.

Back To Contesting In 2022?

As we continue to cautiously ease our way back into something approaching normality, plans are optimistically being made for a return to brass band contesting next year. After last year's event was ultimately cancelled due to Covid-19, the organisers of the Butlin's Open Brass Band Festival have announced details of the 2022 event to be held in Skegness on the weekend of January 7-10. The £10,000 top prize in the Championship Section remains the biggest prize in brass banding worldwide, with £2,000 each going to the winners of Sections One to Four.

Festival director, Steve Walker, commented: "It's great to be able to make these very positive announcements, especially as there has been so little good news over the past 18 months and with uncertainty still surrounding some band events. We are really excited to be able to host our Brass Band Festival again and would like to encourage as many members of the brass band community as possible to come and join us. If your band is looking for a first event in a long time, then there may be no better choice than Butlin's."

Meanwhile at a local level the London and Southern Counties Region of the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain are looking forward to holding the Area Contest at Stevenage over the weekend of March 19th / 20th 2022 having unfortunately having to cancel the event for the past two years.

It has been a difficult time in all walks of life for the past eighteen months and we trust that the organisers of these events will see their plans come to fruition. Let's hope these contests attract a healthy number of entries, it will be interesting to see how individual bands have picked up the pieces after such a long time of enforced inactivity.

Meanwhile the 2021 National Finals are due to be held for the 1st to 4th Sections in Cheltenham later this month with the Championship Section being held at the Royal Albert Hall in October. Our friends at Olney Brass have been invited to participate in the Third Section and we wish them and their new conductor the best of luck.

Football Team Commissions New Music

Over the past couple of years we have played several pieces of music composed by Paul Lovatt-Cooper who is one of the foremost modern day writers for brass band. To celebrate the start to the new Sky Bet League One season and to welcome the fans back to the University of Bolton Stadium, Bolton Wanderers commissioned Paul, who is a Wanderers fan, to write a new musical composition to be performed as the teams enter the pitch at the start of every home match.

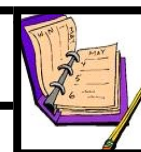
Speaking about the new work, Paul commented: "After what has been an extremely tough 18 months with the COVID-19 pandemic, the idea was discussed about scoring a new piece of music to welcome the teams onto the pitch with a fresh start in this new season. Being a huge Bolton Wanderers fan myself, I channelled all my passion into this new work and wanted to compose a piece of music that will help inspire and motivate both the players and the fans at the start of every game."

Thrilled with the new work, Chairman Sharon Brittan commented: "Music is very important to me and so many people, and when we heard the composition we were incredibly moved. "Paul is a lifelong supporter of the club and the passion and detail he has put into this work is stunning. With supporters returning to the stadium for the first time in over 18 months, we felt it was important that a brand new and unique piece of music was played as the players enter the pitch. I am sure everybody will love it as much as I did."

Wanderers Manager Ian Evatt added: "The passion Paul has for the club is clearly represented in this inspiring piece of music. I was fortunate to listen to it alongside my staff and we all loved it. We are all looking forward to the start of the season and I know that this music will be a fitting soundtrack to our campaign."

Titled 'Enter Our Heroes' it was given its world premiere on Saturday 7th August when Bolton Wanderers entertained MK Dons for the first game of the new season. The game finished 3-3 with Bolton equalising deep into time added on at the end of the game.

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.

