



The Bradwell Bugle



Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band

February 2024

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From the Editor

Hi Everyone!

Welcome to the February issue of the Band's monthly newsletter.

The first couple months of each year are fairly uneventful in the Band's calendar but they have already been working hard in rehearsals ahead of the first official engagement set for Sunday 17th March when they will be taking part in the area contest being held at Stevenage. After that the engagement list is filling up nicely with a variety of interesting public appearances for later in the year. As always we will aim to publish information on all the Band's activities as and when the details are confirmed.

I thank Steph and Tania for their contribution this month and I put out my usual request for more articles or photographs to be considered for inclusion in future editions of The Bugle, especially for the next couple of months where there will be no engagements to report on.

Sarah-Jayne

Music!

We are very grateful to those members and friends who helped sort out the music folders at the end of December, a task made a bit more complicated than it should have been as not all of the folders had been handed in as requested. All the old unwanted music was sorted into band part order before being returned to the library. New pieces were then added to those being retained from last year's repertoire and will form the basis of the programmes to be performed over the coming months. No doubt further pieces will be added to the folders later in the year and we can look forward to entertaining our audiences with a wide and contrasting selection of musical styles.

As well as to this year's area Test Piece "Corineus", other music added includes the contest march "Bramwyn", a classical overture by Rossini "L'Italiana In Algeri", the theme tune from the film The Magnificent Seven as well as solos for cornet, trombone and a horn feature. No doubt at least one person will be welcoming the return of "Highland Cathedral"!

Kings Award For Voluntary Service

Written by Tania Dytrych.

On the 30th of November 2023, Bradwell Silver Band got confirmation that we had been nominated for the Kings Award for Voluntary Service. This is a great honour and is the highest award that a group of volunteers can be awarded, being the equivalent of an MBE. The initial nomination was made by Pete Marland, the Leader of MK City Council and both Saint James' Church and Two Mile Ash School also sent letters of recommendation. The band was surprised to hear of the nomination and felt deeply humbled that members of the public would feel strongly enough to take the time to nominate the Band for the work it delivers as a team of volunteers.

Once the nomination had been confirmed, we were sent a three page document that highlighted what the process would involve. We had to provide the annual report insurance and public liability details, accounts, and details on the safeguarding that we provided for our young members. As you can imagine this involved a lot of work and we have Lucy, Sam and Steph to thank for the preparation of this document that was sent to the Deputy Lieutenant, Sarah Evans who led on our assessment on behalf of the Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire.

Once this had been received, the Deputy Lieutenant got in touch and set up a meeting date with four members of the band (we would have liked to be able to have many more as we realise the importance of everyone's contribution to the Band). As numbers were limited a workshop for all Bradwell Band volunteers was set up the week before the assessment meeting. 25 individuals came along (and we learned that in the room there was 453 years of collective service to the band – an average of 18-years per volunteer. We were blown away by the number of Band members who attended, and feel this just shows the place that the band holds in many peoples' hearts. The meeting provided us with invaluable information on how to present the Band during the assessment.

The workshop focused on our roles as volunteers and also the importance of the band within the local community and wider area. We would like to thank all of the Band, who have made these amazing contributions and enabled us to put a good presentation together to ensure that the Band was well represented and promoted in the best way possible.

At the meeting itself, Lucy had compiled presentation of slides that included all of the pertinent information that we needed to include as well as additional information that allowed us to promote the sides of the band that were more personal. The meeting gave us the opportunity to really think about what the band means to many people, and it was a privilege to be able to be part of this meeting and ensure that as many people as possible, realise what the band means to, and does for the local community.

The main premise of the meeting was to give us the opportunity to provide additional information about the Band.

We shared stories of our charitable work, particularly with Boobs & Brass and Chelsea Old Pensioners, of all the young learners who have gone on to have dynamic music careers, about our work in New Bradwell supporting local events and of course Christmas.

We have a little more information to send to the Deputy Lieutenant before she submits her assessment. This is then sent to the Lord Lieutenant and then a national panel who make the final decision. We will hear the result in November 2024 as part of the Kings Birthday celebrations.



Development Band

After their enjoyable performance at the Christmas Concert in St. James, the group had an extended break before resuming on the 11th January. The three rehearsals held since then have averaged over 25 players in the main group while there were four beginners receiving individual tuition. As always, the music chosen to rehearse aims to be interesting and challenging for all the members to play but also has to take into account the varying playing skills the individual players in the group have currently reached.

The group have started to look at a number of new pieces which will be used in their featured slot in the Spring Concert at St. James on Saturday 20th April. Rehearsals will continue weekly (including half-term) on a Thursday evening until 21st March after which the group will take a two week break for the Easter holidays, resuming on 11th April.

There is an interesting opportunity for our younger members to be part of Milton Keynes Music Hub who are putting together a one-off group, the MK Young Brass Hoppers, to play in the 'Showcase' section of the National Youth Brass Band Championships being held in Cheltenham on 23rd March. This will be an inclusive ensemble intended for anyone from beginner up to grade 5 standard, up to age 18 - the event is non-competitive. The band can include any brass instrument, including plastic instruments. Last year three members of the Bradwell Silver Band Development Group took part and enjoyed a good day out in Salford.

Details for this have been announced at rehearsal and if anyone is interested in taking part they should sign up as indicated in the following poster....

Play a brass instrument?

Want to perform at the National Youth Brass Band Championships?



Milton Keynes Music Hub is putting together a one-off group, the **MK Young Brass Hoppers** to play in the 'Showcase' section of the National Youth Brass Band Championships this year.

- This will be an inclusive ensemble intended for anyone from beginner up to grade 5 standard, up to age 18 - the event is non-competitive.
- The band can include any brass instrument, including plastic instruments.
- The event is free but there will be a small charge towards the cost of the coach to the event at Cheltenham at £15 per band member. All band members must travel on the coach together.
- Great opportunity to play with a group and meet new friends who also play an instrument!

We will have two rehearsals before the day. You will need to be available to attend all the dates below and make your own way to the rehearsals (coach provided for event day):

- **Rehearsal 1** – Tuesday 12 March 2024 6.30pm to 8pm at Ousedale School, The Grove, Newport Pagnell, MK16 0BJ
- **Rehearsal 2** – Tuesday 19 March 2024 6.30 pm to 8pm at Ousedale School (as above)
- **Event Day** – Saturday 23 March 2024, Dean Close School, Cheltenham (Timings are still to be arranged but we would be leaving from outside Shenley Brook End School, Walbank Grove, Shenley Brook End, MK5 7ZT)

If you would like to join **MK Young Brass Hoppers** and take part, please use the link below to apply:

<https://miltonkeynesmusicHub.co.uk/mk-brass-hoppers/>

Closing date for applications is Friday 16 February 2024



Milton Keynes Music Hub
Email: music@milton-keynes.gov.uk
www.miltonkeynesmusicHub.co.uk



Build Up To The Area Contest

The 2024 London and Southern Counties Region of the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain will take place in Stevenage over the week end of March 16th and 17th. The Second and Fourth Sections are being held on the Saturday with the Championship, First and Third Sections on Sunday. Bradwell Silver Band will be competing in the Third section.

The five set-works that will test the bands at the 2024 Regional Contests are as follows:

Championship Section: Variations on an Enigma (Philip Sparke)

First Section: High Peak (Eric Ball)

Second Section: Triptych (Philip Sparke)

Third Section: Corineus (Christopher Bond)

Fourth Section: Music for Jock Tamson (Alan Fernie)

In the other national regions the North West will be the first to go on 25th February in Blackpool. Yorkshire will be held over the weekend of 2nd and 3rd March as will most of the Midlands area. Scotland and the West of England will both be taking part over the weekend of 9th & 10th of March with the North of England, and Wales taking place on the same weekend as London and Southern counties.

All bands taking part will be hoping to qualify for an invitation to play in the National Finals which for Sections 1-4 will be 15th/16th September in Cheltenham with the Championship section taking place at the Royal Albert Hall on 5th October.

Where there are up to and including 14 bands in a section the top two will qualify. Where there are 15-19 bands it will be the top three and a section with between 20-24 bands will see the first four bands receiving the invitation.

The test piece selected for the section in which Bradwell Silver Band will be competing in next year is Corineus written by Christopher Bond.



CORINEUS,
THE GIANT IN GUILDHALL.

Build Up To The Area Contest

Corineus, in medieval British legend, was a prodigious warrior, a fighter of giants, and the eponymous founder of Cornwall. When writing this music the composer hoped to flare the imagination of young brass players around the country. It's a tale of love, war and death so there's plenty of drama and excitement in each interlinked movement. Towards the end of the piece there are snatches of a lively tune that is very similar to nursery rhyme "The Grand Old Duke Of York". In fact this tune is actually "The Song of the Western Men", also known as "Trelawny".

This is a Cornish patriotic song, composed by Louisa T. Clare for lyrics by Robert Stephen Hawker.

Hawker, a churchman, claimed authorship for the words except for the chorus. He assumed that the Trelawny mentioned in those three lines was Sir Jonathan Trelawny, the Bishop of Bristol, who had been imprisoned in the Tower of London by King James II in 1688. However it is more likely that it referred to his grandfather, Sir John Trelawny, a Cornish Royalist leader who had been imprisoned by parliament in 1628. The people of Cornwall did not actually march to rescue Trelawny, as told in the song. He was imprisoned in the Tower of London for three weeks, then tried and acquitted.

In 1881 at the laying of the foundation stone of the Cathedral at Truro, the song was described by Canon Harvey as "the national anthem of our dear Cornwall.". The song is a regular favourite sung at Cornish rugby union matches and other Cornish gatherings. In some schools in Cornwall, the children are taught the first verse and chorus, and sing it at events such as Murdoch Day and St Piran's Day

This is a song I learned over sixty years ago and performed it with the school choir. As with hymn tunes and other songs arranged for brass band, I always find it very useful to know the lyrics as this helps with the phrasing when playing the music. So when you get the chance to listen to it these are the words!

A good sword and a trusty hand!

A merry heart and true!

King James's men shall understand

What Cornish lads can do!

And have they fixed the where and when?

And shall Trelawny die?

Here's twenty thousand Cornish men

Will know the reason why!



HaBiT Workshop With Towcester Studio Band & Fodens Band

A Report from Steph Chappell.

When the flyer arrived in my inbox from Towcester Studio band announcing they were hosting a workshop with Fodens Band and asking for people to apply I thought 'why not give it go'? I had previously (quite a few years ago now) attending a similar workshop hosted by Black Dyke Band and had thoroughly enjoyed the day.

As part of their Arts Council England supported 'Having a Blast in Towcester' project, Towcester Studio Band organised a workshop and concert together with Fodens Band, who are currently rated the No. 1 band in the world. The day would include a workshop with coaching by Mike Fowles (MD) and players from Fodens plus the opportunity to join in with the evening Fodens' concert at Cripps Hall Theatre in Northampton. Applications were open to all ages and levels of talent. Even better the workshop was local and free – there was nothing to lose by applying and saying a little about my playing history, instrument and my level.

It was a couple of weeks before the email came through congratulating me on achieving a place at the workshop and in the evening's concert. The music had been chosen by Mike Fowles and would follow in a few days. We would be asked to work on 3 pieces of music which would include the world premiere of a specially commissioned piece by John Barber, principal trombone at Fodens, as part of the HaBiT project.

When the music arrived in my inbox it came with a request to be flexible on parts played on the day to achieve a balanced band. When looking at some of the music I was more than happy to play 2nd horn if they asked me. I'd never seen Ds above the stave on a 1st horn part before!

Music

Valero – Swearingen arranged by Sandy Smith. An energetic (quite fast) piece which demands all sections of the band to shine. There is an 8 bar feature for the flugel horn and on the day this was expertly performed by 16 year old Elise Hale, a young and very talented player and creator of 'Brassing Around' website and digital channels. It was a pleasure to meet her and see her enthusiasm for the brass band movement and music.

In Perfect Peace – Kenneth Downie. A stunning and sensitive setting of the song 'Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace'. A beautiful hymn arrangement full of melodic characteristics and sentiment.

Two Shoes – John Barber. A piece commissioned by Towcester Studio Band to be premiered in the evening's concert. The two movement composition takes inspiration from Northamptonshire's Boot and Shoe making heritage. The first movement 'Running' refers to when Mr Law was making shoes for Roger Bannister, the All Blacks and the Springboks. Wearing Mr Law's shoes, Roger Bannister competed in the Helsinki Olympics, smashing the 1500m British Record and later in 1954 famously being the first man to run a mile in under 4 minutes. The movement references 'Chariots of Fire' and images of an early morning run around Towcester. The music builds as the sun rises and calms again as the run comes to an end. The second movement 'Dancing' imagines dances at Towcester Town Hall in the late 1920s. Set as a shuffle, the music references couples dancing in their shows to the Lyndy Hop and Charleston.

HaBiT Workshop With Towcester Studio Band & Fodens Band

The Workshop

We were asked to register from 1pm for a prompt start on stage with Mike Fowles at 2pm. After excited introductions in the 'ladies' changing/rest area and a welcome cup of tea I grabbed my horn, music and reading glasses and took my place standing nervously on the stage. A quick discussion amongst the 7 horn players determined we had 1 solo, 3 1st and 3 2nd horns. Fortunately the 1st horn from Towcester Band graciously agreed to move to solo which left the rest of us comfortably playing our usual parts. All sorted with no fuss, although I was dreading having to play those Ds previously mentioned.

The turn out was great, so many players choosing to spend their Saturday playing brass band music and hoping to learn little nuggets of advice to take home.. I was really pleased to see Oliver, Daniel and Ellis from Bradwell's cornet section joining in. There were players from Wolverton Band, Olney Town and MK Brass too. Nicola who plays with Development Band and sits on Bradwell 3rd cornet was there in her Wolverton Band guise.

Mike Fowles explained the format for the day and that the Fodens players were there to help and give advise. I looked around and saw that Mark Wilkinson, principal cornet for Fodens, was finding himself a space on the back row to sit in and play. He sat next to Ellis and shared his part which was amazing. I tried to snap a photo but couldn't get the angle. When chatting to Ellis later he was surprised to find out who his famous neighbour actually was.

We played through all the music and received advice on dynamics, balance, 'flow not slow' and articulation. These are aspects of playing music we've all been coached on before, however, Mike explained them in a way that made complete sense which really helped. His way of conducting was more flamboyant than I've been used to but I soon picked up the down beat and got on with playing the right notes in the right place.




HaBiT Workshop With Towcester Studio Band & Fodens Band

After a short comfort rest we broke out into sectionals all coached by Foden's principal players. For Flugel and horns this was Melanie Whyte, a previous semi-finalist of BBC radio 2 young brass soloist competition and flugel horn soloist at Fodens since 2016. Melanie focused on passages in all pieces which could be improved. It's amazing the improvement from just a few simple corrections and welcome advice. The main focus was the new composition where tricky rhythms intertwine through all sections of the band.

Once back on stage for the final group session it was immediately clear we were all more comfortable with our parts and playing together as an ensemble. The whole of Fodens band joined us to play through Two Shoes and the sound was tremendous. The Fodens players sat amongst the workshop band and were happy to chat and answer questions. I was fortunate to sit next to Grace Jeffers who usually plays 1st horn but on the day was stepping up to play solo as Jonathan Bates had other commitments. Grace has a lovely tone and great, confident sound.

We had an hours break to eat, chat and relax before being ready to go on stage for 6.50pm. All workshop players had been asked to wear there own band or music group uniforms for the concert. I was tickled to see that all Bradwell players had automatically chosen to don bow ties rather our straight ones. It's obviously drilled into us that straight ties are for daytime engagements and bow ties are for evening concerts. Considering there were 16 bands/groups represented it was surprising to see how many wear red jackets. The uniforms for Towcester and Fodens are nearly identical except for some embroidery. I'm happy to say the distinctive blue jackets of Bradwell band stood out rather well amongst the sea of red.



Towcester Studio Band

Combined Foden's and Workshop Band

1. Valero – Swearingen arr Smith
2. In Perfect Peace – Downie
3. Two Shoes – Barber

Fodens Band

4. Ruslan and Ludmilla – Glinka arr Hargreaves
5. Ice Castles – Hamlich and Bayer Sager arr Barber
Soloist : Richard Poole
6. Glorious Ventures - Graham
Soloist : Mark Wilkinson
7. Fanfare and Flying Theme from ET – Williams arr Sykes

NSB Workshop Day Band

INTERVAL

1. Rush – Hazo arr Bates
2. Black Orpheus – Bonfa arr Gilje
Soloist : Melanie Whyte
3. Stardust – Charnichael arr Geldard
Soloist : John Barber
4. Kitten on the Keys – Confrey arr Snell
Featuring : Mark Landon, Sam Iles and Anthony Mann
5. With Fire and Sword – Graham
6. Only in Sleep – Esenvalds arr Littlemore
7. March from The Pines of Rome – Respighi arr Snell

Concert

The format for the concert was simple. The first 2 pieces were to be played by the workshop band only. We would then be joined on stage by Fodens Band to perform the world premiere of Two Shoes. The workshop band would then leave the stage and after a quick set change Fodens Band would perform the remainder of the programme. I loved seeing friends and members of local bands in the audience. This included Brian Keech, Bradwell's MD and Peter Blake our President together with his lovely wife Sue. I was disappointed to see empty seats especially as ticket prices were reasonable. It's a rare opportunity to see the worlds number 1 band in action in our neck of the woods.

My time on stage went so quickly and it didn't seem 5 minutes before we were taking our bows (choreographed to Mike Fowles direction). Mike is a charming presenter and put the audience at ease with his anecdotes and humour. I thought we played rather well for a band who had been formed only hours before. I'll let the audience members give their own opinion on that though.

HaBiT Workshop With Towcester Studio Band & Fodens Band

After stowing my instrument I joined the Keech family in the audience and got ready to enjoy the rest of the evening's concert. Wow is all I can say. The music and playing were top class and at times I was quite emotional. The solo playing was a pleasure to hear. The only downside was that sometimes the band were a little too loud for the soprano soloist which was a real shame. It was interesting to see that it's not just lower level bands who have this problem. If I had my way and lots of money there would definitely be some new music finding it's way into our library that's for sure. Stunning is an overused word but apt on this occasion.

I would recommend any player to take the opportunity to attend one of these workshops in the future. They are good fun and you get to meet so many like mind people and share experiences. It's a bonus if the coaches are from a top level band and the music is enjoyable to play whilst learning something new. Overall it a brilliant day. The organisation by Towcester Studio Band was top notch and they deserve a lot of praise. Check out the photos on the bands Facebook page and give a like and follow to *@TowcesterStudioBand* to learn more about HaBiT and future plans.



New Bradwell School Praised By Ofsted Inspectors

New Bradwell School in Milton Keynes has been confirmed as a 'Good' school by Ofsted with a number of 'outstanding' features. Inspectors have praised leaders for building a 'remarkably well-considered and cohesive offer' that goes 'well beyond the academic' and highlighted pupils as having a 'particular love of literature'.

New Bradwell is part of the Grand Union Partnership (GUP), a Multi-Academy Trust specialising in primary education within Milton Keynes and Northamptonshire. Inspectors were particularly impressed with the personal development pupils receive describing it as 'excellent' and praising the school for creating 'opportunities to develop a wide range of talents and interests.' This contributes to the school's character development work which was regarded as a 'strength.' Both personal development and the behaviours and attitudes of pupils were ranked as 'outstanding,' the highest possible grade.

School Head teacher Sebastian Gray, who joined the school in September 2023, said: "It was clear to me from the moment I first visited New Bradwell that this school was a special place. I'm particularly pleased Ofsted saw the wide range of development activities we have outside of lessons. We feel these help to create a love of learning that stays with our pupils well beyond their time with us."

Grand Union Partnership CEO Phil Webster said: "New Bradwell was the founding school of the Grand Union Partnership and as such I am delighted that it continues to go from strength to strength. Our mission at GUP is to support each school to be the best version of itself and it is therefore pleasing to see New Bradwell continue to deliver for its pupils and wider community."



Forthcoming Engagements

Playing members are reminded that they should use Muzodo to indicate their availability.

If you have any questions about engagements or your availability, please speak with Sam as engagement secretary, Gareth as co-secretary, Brian or your section leader as appropriate.

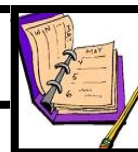
The earlier Sam and Gareth know deps are needed the better. Of course, if you can provide your own deputy that really helps but we know that some of us don't have a ready list of contacts making this difficult.

Please remember everyone is valuable, any missing part impacts on the performance, making deps important for all.

If you have any problems accessing Muzodo let us know (Sam & Steph). As administrators they can re-set passwords and add in responses on your behalf.

Sunday 17 th March	LSC Regional Contest Stevenage All Day
Saturday 20 th April	St .James Church Spring Concert
Monday 6 th May	Mayday At The Mill
Saturday 1 st June	Newport Pagnell Vintage Day
Sunday 2 nd June	Stony Stratford Big Lunch
Saturday 22 nd June	Charity Concert for Camphill
Sunday 21 st July	Patronal Service St. James
Sunday 18 th August	St. James Churchyard Concert
Saturday 12 th October	St. James Autumn Concert
Saturday 7 th December	St. James Christmas Concert
Sunday 22 nd December	Side Club Christmas Concert

Contacts



<i>Chairperson:</i>	Steph Chappell	chairman@bradwellband.co.uk
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<i>Librarian:</i>	Chey Wilson	-
<i>Press Officer:</i>	VACANT	-
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<i>Committee:</i>	Dave Sanderson	-

Bradwell Silver Band

Vacancy Bass (Eb or Bb)

Spm Tuesdays & Thursdays

- Contesting
- Community Performances
- Concerts

Contact Robin 01908 616463
secretary@bradwellband.co.uk
for an informal chat

We have a vacancy for a new player to join our main band.

We are looking for a bass player Eb or BBb. This is a rare opportunity to join the Band as many of our seats are filled by the progression of players through our Development Group.

If you are interested drop us a line now for a chat.