



Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band

The Bradwell Bugle



March 2024

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From the Editor

Hi Everyone!

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

This month will see the first performance by the Band in 2024, as they take part in the Regional Championships being held in Stevenage on Sunday 17th March. The Band has been working hard on the Test Piece and are determined to give a good account of themselves on the day.

Inside this issue you will hopefully find out everything you need to know about the contest. A full report on the day's activities will appear in the April edition of the newsletter.

With the ever increasing costs of hiring a coach, the decision has been taken for members to make their own way to the venue. Our near neighbours and friends at Olney Brass will be competing in the 2nd Section on Saturday while Milton Keynes Brass will be taking part in the 1st Section on the Sunday. We wish them both well.

I thank Chas for his contribution this month. If you would like to send me something for inclusion in future editions this will be gratefully received.

Sarah-Jayne

Congratulations!

Congratulations go to Luke & Chey on the arrival of Noah Daniel Wilson who was born on Thursday 15th February. Noah was five weeks early and is still in hospital, but doing very well.

This also means Tug and Karen are now doting Grandparents! 😊



Area Contest

The London & Southern Counties Regional Committee will welcome 79 bands to the 2024 Regional Championships at Stevenage Arts & Leisure Centre on the weekend of the 16th & 17th March. Two bands will qualify for the Championship Section Royal Albert Hall final, with appropriate qualification numbers in the others depending on the number of competing bands.



Due to the large number of entries all sections apart from the Championship will have a split draw to determine the order of play. This is a sensible measure taken to avoid all the Bands arriving at the same time and makes travel planning a little bit easier.

Bradwell Silver Band will be competing in the Third Section which has 17 entrants. This is to take place in the grandly titled "Main Concert Room" which in reality is a multi-purpose sports hall.

The first draw for order of play will be made at 9:45 a.m. with the second draw at 11:15 with the band drawn number one are due to commence play at 11:00 a.m. Bradwell have been advised by the organisers that we will be in the first draw.

List Of Bands Entered

Third Section

Test piece: *Corineus* by Christopher Bond

Adjudicators: Sam Fisher and Helen Douthwaite-Teasdale

1	Amersham Concert Brass	M. Peach
2	Bradwell Silver	B. Keech
3	Brighton & Hove City	A. Wooler
4	Castleton	M. Stammers
5	Cold Ash Brass	J. Johnstone
6	Cottenham	P. Mackley
7	Crystal Palace	J. Lynch
8	Great Yarmouth	C. Swaep
9	Hangleton	R. Baker
10	Hemel Hempstead	D. Shave
11	Hungerford Town	T. Crouter
12	Jubilee Brass (Oxford)	C. Sadler
13	Littleport	I. Johnson
14	Putney & Wimbledon	S. Topp
15	Regent Community Brass	S. Tong
16	Tadley Concert Band	P. Chapman
17	Welwyn Garden City	W. Douglas
18	Yiewsley & West Drayton	B. Skrypka

Area Contest

Admission Tickets

Players will be issued with a competitor's ticket which must be produced at registration and to gain entry to the playing area.

The ticket prices for non-players are as follows.

Adult £17.00
Over 60s £15.00
Under 16s £15.00
Family (*1) £28.00
Weekend (*2) £19.00

A family ticket admits a single adult and children to any section on one day (either Saturday or Sunday). A weekend ticket is valid for entry to all sections on both the Saturday and Sunday.

Tickets will be available from the box office prior to the contest and may also be purchased on the day.

Notes for Visitors

The organising committee advise that due to extensive construction works in the Stevenage Town Centre visitors should allow plenty of time to get to the venue and find a space in nearby public car parks.

There are refreshment facilities available in the Leisure Centre and the Theatre Bar will be open. Prices tend to be a bit pricey but there are a reasonable selection of suitable outlets situated in the shopping centre which is a few minutes walking distance from the venue.

Recordings

World of Sound will record all performances again this year. The Committee will not enter into correspondence or discussion as regards to the relative merits of any performance based on these recordings. The use of personal recording devices of any kind is strictly prohibited. The Committee reserves the right to refuse entrance to any person carrying any such equipment.

The Bands

The London and Southern Counties area covers Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Channel Islands, East Sussex, Essex, Greater London, Hertfordshire, Kent, Norfolk, Oxfordshire, Suffolk, Surrey, West Sussex.

The entry list for this year is very similar to that of last year, 14 of the same bands with all but two having the same musical directors. The newcomers to the section are Yiewsley & West Drayton who have dropped down from the second section whilst Putney & Wimbledon and Tadley have been promoted from the 4th section.

Norfolk has one representative with Great Yarmouth who have the greatest distance to travel of all today's entrants while Suffolk is represented by Castleton.

The Greater London area sees entries from four bands. Crystal Palace Band, Regent Community Brass, Putney & Wimbledon and Yiewsley & West Drayton.

East Sussex has two entries with Brighton and Hove City and Hangleton
Berkshire will be providing two bands. Hungerford Town and Cold Ash

Oxfordshire will have Jubilee Brass and Hertfordshire has two Bands. Welwyn Garden City and Hemel Hempstead while Buckinghamshire has ourselves and Amersham Concert Brass.

Area Contest

Cambridgeshire has one representative with Littleport. The odd one out is Tadley who are based in Hampshire and as such should really be in the West of England region. Historically they have competed in the London & Southern Region as they previously rehearsed just across the county border in Berkshire.

I am sure all of the Bands have been working hard on rehearsing the test piece and we hope that they all perform to the best of their abilities on the day. Most of the bands websites indicate they have vacancies for players but I am sure will be doing their best to have a full complement of players on the day.

The Adjudicators

Helen Douthwaite-Teasdale



Helen hails from the North East of England and began playing the trombone aged 8, joining the local Hetton Silver Band and Houghton Area Youth Band. Helen has been a member of many North East of England music ensembles including Young Sinfonia and Jambone as well as being Principal Trombone with the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain.

Helen completed both her BMus and MMus degrees at The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland studying with professors Simon Johnson, Lance Green and John Kenny. During her studies she performed with a variety of ensembles, winning the RSNO Apprenticeship Scheme in 2011 and was also awarded the Robert McCreath Prize in 2012 for most significant contribution to the brass department over a period of study. Helen has been Principal Trombone of the Reg Vardy Band, Kirkintilloch and Kingdom Brass winning 'Best Instrumentalist' at the Scottish Open Brass Band Championships 2010 and 'Best Soloist' at the West Lothian Challenge 2011.

Helen has extensive experience of working with young people as a music instructor and in 2012 co-founded the Gorbals Youth Brass Band, a project bringing instrumental tuition and the lifelong learning of music to young people in Glasgow. As well as classical trombone, Helen has a passion for early music and in 2010, became a member of the Britten-Pears Young Artist programme as part of the Baroque Orchestra. She was also awarded The British Reserve Insurance Prize for Early Music in 2009.

Helen conducted the Irvine and Dreghorn Brass Band, competing at the Nationals Finals twice and winning SBBA Third Section Band of the Year 2017.

Recent contest adjudications:

Scottish Youth Championships 2023
North West Regional Championships 2023
Yorkshire Area 2023
Whit Friday – Diggle

Area Contest

Sam Fisher



Originally from Reading, Berkshire, Sam grew up in Tavistock, Devon. His formative years were spent with the local town band, Stannary Brass Band, Bodmin Town Youth Band, City of Plymouth Wind Band and The Royal Naval Volunteer Band (Devonport).

Sam moved to Barnsley in September 2000, where he studied music performance with Roger Webster and David Hirst. Having joined Carlton Main Frickley Colliery Band that autumn, Sam went on to play Cornet and Flugel Horn with Brighouse and Rastrick Band and Grimethorpe Colliery Band for a number of years, returning to CMFCB in 2009 where he remained until November 2018.

Sam currently works as a performer, musical director and adjudicator. His passion for Brass Banding continues to be the focus of much of his free time; however, more recently Sam has focused on developing a more varied professional network, allowing for opportunities to perform with a wider variety of ensembles.

Sam is an Eclipse performance artist, using their instruments for his commercial work as a Flugelhorn and Trumpet player.

The Composer



Christopher Bond was born in Cornwall and a composer particularly noted for his brass band compositions. He grew up in the town of Camborne learning the piano and cornet from a young age. Christopher attended Camborne Science and International Academy before undertaking his A-Levels at Truro and Penwith College.

At the age of 18, Christopher moved to Cardiff and studied composition at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama from where he graduated in 2014.

Christopher is Composer in Residence to Cory Band the number one ranked brass band in the world. In addition to his work with Cory Band, he has written for many of the world's leading brass bands, including Grimethorpe Colliery Band, Brighouse and Rastrick Brass Band, Leyland Band and Brassband Willebroek.

Solo commissions include Owen Farr, Stephen Sykes, Brett Baker, Tom Hutchinson, Steve Stewart, Lode Violet, and a work for Eminence Brass Quartet, comprising members of the Black Dyke Band, Cory Band and London Symphony Orchestra. His work has been performed at many locations in the United Kingdom, including at Wales Millennium Centre, Regent Hall, Durham International Festival of Brass, the RNCM Festival of Brass and during the BBC Welsh Proms at St David's Hall as well as radio broadcasts both locally and nationally on BBC Radio 2, BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM.

In 2012, his work 'Islands in the Sky' was premiered at the International Tuba Euphonium Conference in Linz, Austria. In the same year, 'The Diamond Jubilee Fanfare' was commissioned and performed in the presence of Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. More recently in 2015, his work 'Aristotle's Air' won the Composition Prize at Brass in Concert, held at Sage Gateshead. The same work was performed by Brass Band Willebroek and the National Band of New Zealand at the 2017 World Music Contest in Kerkrade.

Area Contest

Christopher wrote and compiled the soundtrack for 'Magic in the Skies', the annual summer season of firework displays held at Land's End in Cornwall, featuring the voice of Miriam Margolyes.

His first commission came at the age of sixteen, when he won a competition to write a fanfare for the Cornwall Youth Brass Band to open their fifty-year course anniversary concert. Since then, he has written a further work for the same band, in dedication and performed in the presence of Cornish composer, the late Goff Richards.

In 2019, Christopher's work 'Corineus' was selected as the test piece in the championship section of the National Youth Brass Band Championships of Great Britain. This followed in 2020 with his work 'Neverland' selected as the test piece in the fourth section of the Regional Championships of the National Championships of Great Britain, where it was subsequently performed by brass bands across Great Britain.

In 2022 Christopher was appointed Resident Conductor and musical Director to the GUS Band and in the weeks leading up to the various regional contests has travelled widely in Wales, Scotland and England helping bands to prepare his test piece.

The Test Piece (A Personal View!) - Keith Jones



Corineus, in medieval British legend, was a prodigious warrior, a fighter of giants, and the eponymous founder of Cornwall. The first of the legendary rulers of Cornwall, he is described as a character of strength and power. It is on the medieval ruler that this work, 'Corineus', is based, presented in three contrasting sections. 'Corineus' was premiered by the Cory Band at the RNCM Festival of Brass on 28th January 2018, and broadcast on BBC Radio 3 on 31st January 2018.

On first run through of the music I was reminded of a comment made in the 1970s by a well respected conductor along the lines that in olden times bandsmen used to play wrong notes but in the present day test pieces they write them in for you! For the most part we are used to playing music with clear melodies and straight forward harmonies and it is easy to pick out notes played incorrectly. "Corineus" is a modern piece which has discords, sudden changes in tempo and sometimes sounding a bit harsh on the ears. However which each rehearsal I actually started to enjoy the piece despite all of the "wrong" notes.

It has heraldic like fanfares, some moving slow sections and explosions of menacing colour. It also has hints of music that sound like they have been borrowed from other compositions. I'm not sure if this was deliberate on the part of the composer or just my over active imagination but if you listen closely there are hints of Eric Ball's "Indian Summer", a taste of the foghorn sound that features in Michael Arnold's march "Padstow Lifeboat", a bit of "Bohemian Rhapsody" and "Don't Cry For Me Argentina". There is also a trumpet sounding burst which makes you want to shout "Ole" as an exclamation of encouragement at sporting events and even a hint of the theme music used in "Jaws"!

For me the best of the music is the slow movement with a lovely melody being played by the solo cornet with minimal accompaniment. This is picked up by the euphonium before being handed on to the flugel horn and then for a few bars to the soprano cornet before returning to the solo cornet as the reflective passage ends and enters a menacing finale.

So all in all "Corineus" is a good example of modern music writing and presents a real test for the Band and all the others competing in our section. The reality of course is that as with all Test Piece even though it is likely to be featured at our next concert the music will then be consigned to the library and rarely heard again. Let's enjoy it while we can.

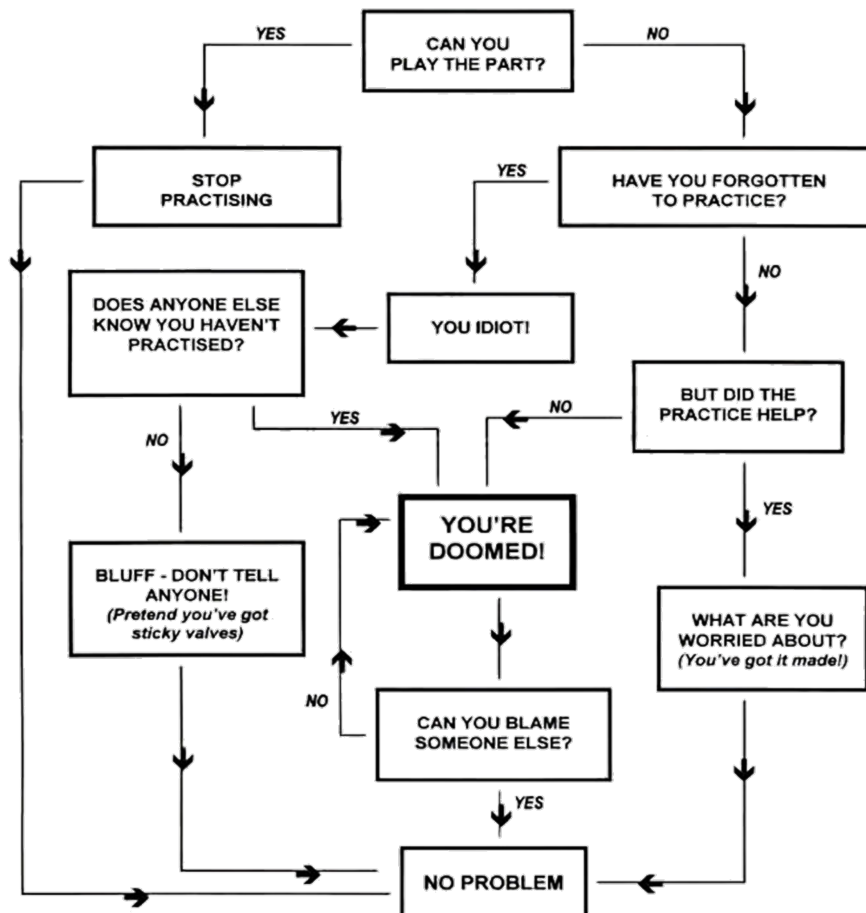
Recording the Band's Past And Present

Lucy Davies and Chas Leslie have started an archiving course being run by the Milton Keynes Heritage Association. The intention is to sort, catalogue and properly archive the Band's collection of papers and other items in time for the 125th anniversary.

If anybody has items they are willing to donate to the collection – programmes, posters, photo albums, photographs [prints, slides or digital], scrapbooks, bits of uniform, badges other memorabilia or ephemera – please list them and send the list to Chas [chasleslie@btinternet.com]. It would also be useful to know if you have any items you want to keep but would be willing to loan [e.g. for a temporary exhibition or display].

Please do not send the items themselves yet; for the moment we just want to get an idea of what we have and what could be added to the archive. It is going to be a long process and we want to avoid getting duplicates or losing stuff along the way.

REHEARSAL PROBLEM-SOLVING FLOWCHART



All Our Yesterdays

For this month's glimpse back into the Band's history we go back 20 years to a performance at Willen on a warm summer's day.

Originally this was to take place on the bandstand but for those of you who remember it this was far too small to accommodate a full brass band. Eventually the bandstand was removed and is now installed at the Milton Keynes Museum in Stacey Bushes.

The programme that day the Band featured no less than five soloists.



PROGRAMME OF MUSIC

BRADWELL SILVER BAND

Musical Director: Brian Keech

*Willen Lakeside Park, Milton Keynes
Sunday 27th June 2004*

THE OLYMPIC SPIRIT
SPANISH EYES (Cornet soloist: David Wilson)
AMAZING GRACE
HARRY POTTER AND THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE
BE MY LOVE (Euphonium soloist: David Harris)
IN THE MOOD
ANGELS
A SWINGING SAFARI
THE WAY WE WERE (Flugel Horn soloist: Adam Keech)
CLOG DANCE
A NIGHTINGALE SANG IN BERKELEY SQUARE
SPIRITUAL SOUNDS

INTERVAL

SENATOR
MEMORY (Soprano Cornet Soloist: Helen Pakes)
MAPLE LEAF RAG
UNCHAINED MELODY
GROUND FORCE
AFTON WATER (Tenor Horn Soloist: Keith Jones)
THE LINCOLNSHIRE POACHER
ETERNAL FLAME
BORN FREE

Programme subject to change

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.

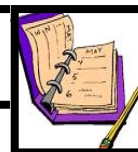
The earlier Sam and Gareth know deps are needed the better. Of course, if you can provide your own deputy that really helps but we know that some of us don't have a ready list of contacts making this difficult.

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
<i>Co-Secretaries:</i>	Sam Allen Gareth Mitchell	secretary@bradwellband.co.uk
<i>Quartermaster:</i>	Robin Allen	-
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Karen Wilson	treasurer@bradwellband.co.uk
<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.