



The Bradwell Bugle



Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band

April 2024

Inside this issue:

Editors Notes	1
Area Contest Report	2-3
Development Band	4
All Our Yesterdays	5
Forthcoming Engagements	6
Contacts	7
Advertisement	8



From the Editor

Hi Everyone!

Welcome to the April Edition of the Bradwell Band's monthly newsletter and I hope you all had a Happy Easter. 😊

The main event for the Band last month was competing in the regional contest held in Stevenage, with the result being somewhat disappointing. There's no time for resting though, as the Band have already begun to work on the music that will form their programme for the concert later this month at St. James Church and for the contrasting engagements scheduled for the coming months. More details can be found inside this issue.

As always I look forward to receiving articles and photographs for inclusion in future newsletters!

Sarah-Jayne

Congratulations!

Congratulations go to playing members Clare and George on the arrival of Patrick, who was born on Monday 18th March.

Clare had originally intended on playing in the area contest, but was admitted to hospital where Patrick arrived five weeks early. Patrick is still currently in hospital, but Mother and baby are both doing well.

We look forward to meeting Patrick in the very near future and sorting him out with a suitable brass instrument!

If the proud parents are thinking of a second name, the article at the bottom of Page 4 of this newsletter may be of interest!



Area Contest Report

On Sunday 17th March Bradwell Silver Band took part in the London & Southern Counties Regional Championships held at the Stevenage Arts & Leisure Centre. There were a total of sixteen bands entered into the Third Section who were required to play the selected Test Piece "Corineus" by Christophe Bond.

With 16 bands taking part those placed in the top three positions will be in consideration to receive an invitation to the National Finals to be held at Cheltenham in September. In view of the large entry the Regional Committee had decided to enforce a split draw for the order of playing. This helps stagger the arrival time of the Bands involved and Bradwell were selected to be part of the first draw which took place at 9:45 a.m. with the section starting at 11:00 a.m. Sam represented the Band at the draw where one of the organising committee welcomed them all to St. Evenage which makes the town sound like a very nice place to be on a Spring Sunday morning! Sam drew position number 6 and this was relayed to the rest of the Band. With the increasingly high cost of hiring a coach to travel to the venue the decision had been taken for members to make their own way there and everyone arrived in good time to meet up in the holding area where spaces had been assigned to the bands in order of the drawn numbers.

With section starting at 11:00 a.m. and an expected average throughput of four bands an hour there was time to have a look round or even listen to some of the early bands. All members met back up at the suggested time to change into uniforms and make the final preparations before we were called to the registration point. Here all the registration cards are checked to ensure the members are eligible to play with the Band. Today we had the privilege of performing in the Main Concert Hall otherwise known as the leisure centre.

When the band preceding us had finished their performance we were allowed an all too brief opportunity to warm up the instruments before the percussion team went on stage to make sure their equipment was set up correctly.

The rest of the band followed to take up their place on stage and were soon settled and ready for the adjudicators to indicate that they were ready for us to play. The music opens with a timp roll and a fanfare from the horns which is then picked up by the cornets. There were signs of nerves in the opening section but this settled down as the piece continued. The music lasts around eleven minutes which as always seemed to fly past. There was a smattering of applause at the conclusion which the Band stood to acknowledge. The players made their way back to the holding area to put instruments back into cases and change into something more comfortable for the remainder of the day. Instruments were returned to cars and members sought out refreshments or returned to listen to more performances.



Area Contest Report

Suitably refreshed we made our way back to the venue to hear the last few bands perform. With the section completed representatives from each participating band were invited on stage for the results. The announcer thanked the Leisure Centre staff for their smooth organisation over the week-end and praised the organising committee.

The adjudicators were then introduced and asked to address the bands with their observations. The first up was Helen Douthwaite-Teasdale who was complimentary but also offered some very constructive comments. She was followed by Sam Fisher who was equally appreciative of all the performances they had listened to during the course of the contest but also gave important pointers for players and conductors.

The all important results were then declared. They only announce the first four bands in reverse order and Bradwell were not amongst them. Very quickly we learned that we had come 12th which was a somewhat disappointing result for the band which means Bradwell Band will remain in the Third Section for at least another year. With this result we have to be realistic and acknowledge that the test piece proved to be a real challenge for all of our players despite the many weeks of rehearsal that had taken place.

We are grateful for help from Luke Colvin for covering for Luke Wilson and to Toby who travelled down from Birmingham to add his expertise. We are also extremely grateful to Tania for helping out in the percussion section and it was indeed very unfortunate that the lightning at the back of the band made it impossible for her to read her music.

In the other sections our friends and neighbours at MK Brass had a highly successful day being placed 3rd receiving an invitation to take part in the National Finals to be held in Cheltenham in September. They will also be promoted to the Championship Section in January 2025 and all of us at Bradwell congratulate them on this achievement. Meanwhile In the 2nd Section Olney Brass were placed 16 in an entry of 18 bands.

So that's it, the Regional Championships are over for another year. 466 of bands across eight regions competed for the coveted National Final qualification spots, with 85 bands qualifying for an invitation to either Cheltenham or London later in the year. Congratulations to these bands, but also to every band that participated in the Regional Championships.

Results Third Section:

Adjudicators: *Sam Fisher & Helen Douthwaite-Teasdale*

Test piece: *Corineus (Christopher Bond)*

1. Putney & Wimbledon (Sam Topp)*
2. Amersham Concert Brass (Malcolm Peach)*
3. Welwyn Garden City (William Douglas)*
4. Hangleton (Richard Baker)
5. Hemel Hempstead (Dan Shave)
6. Littleport Brass (Ian Johnson)
7. Yiewsley & West Drayton (Bogdan Skrypka)
8. Cold Ash Brass (Jemma Johnstone)
9. Hungerford Town (Tim Crouter)
10. Crystal Palace (Jim Lynch)
11. Jubilee Brass (Oxford) (Clifford Sadler)
12. Bradwell Silver (Brian Keech)
13. Great Yarmouth Brass (Colin Swaep)
14. Tadley Concert Brass (Paul Chapman)
15. Brighton & Hove City Brass (Andy Wooler)
16. Regent Community Brass (Simon Tong)

Best Instrumentalist: *Yiewsley & West Drayton*

Best Bass Section: *Littleport Brass*

Winning Conductor: *Sam Topp (Putney & Wimbledon)*

***Qualify for invitation to National Final**

Withdraw: *Castleton Brass (Melvyn Stammers)*

Development Band

As has become the custom, members of the Development Group were given Easter Eggs at the last rehearsal before a two week break. They resume on Thursday 11th April when they will have just two rehearsals left to put the finishing touches to the programme of music being presented at the Spring Concert.



With acknowledgements to 4Barsrest

Bands throughout the country are always celebrating the arrival of new members to their ranks after their performances at the various Regional Championship contests — even if they may have to wait a little while for them to take actually start playing. One of which will be Oscar Corineus Thomas, who will hopefully join the ranks of Saltash Town Band in the years to come.

Oscar was born just days before the West of England Regional Championships in Torquay. Incredibly his mum missed just one rehearsal and dad none at all, whilst Oscar attended his first rehearsal after the event before even being named.

After the band gained a fine fourth place finish in the Third Section playing Christopher Bond's test-piece, they were also inspired to add the middle name of Corineus on his birth certificate — a permanent reminder for evermore of his wonderful arrival.



All Our Yesterdays

We go back just ten years for this latest glimpse into Bradwell Silver Band's history.

Taken in April 2014, the occasion was the Spring concert in St. James Church and six of the Band's youngsters pose for a photograph.

Louis Wilson is on the left of the back row next to Dan Gaylor and Luca Ianotta, while in the front we have Orla Howell, Adam Chappell and Toby Dytrych.

On the programme of music that night Orla was one of the featured soloists with "Send In The Clowns". Also on show that night were John Lee with the trombone solo "From A Distance" and the euphonium duet "Foxtrot Between Friends" performed by Fraser Cousins and Luke Colvin.



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.

Saturday 20 th April	St .James Church Spring Concert & Awards Evening (See poster on Page 8!)
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
Saturday 13 th July	New Bradwell School Carnival
Sunday 21 st July	Patronal Service St. James
Sunday 28 th July	Bands On The Green, West Bletchley
Sunday 18 th August	St. James Churchyard Concert
Sunday 15 th September	Songs Of Praise, Willen Tree Cathedral
Saturday 12 th October	St. James Autumn Concert
Saturday 7 th December	St. James Christmas Concert
Saturday 14 th December	Newport Pagnell Singers 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	-
<i>Musical Director:</i>	Brian Keech	md@bradwellband.co.uk
<i>Webmaster</i>	Luke Wilson	lukewilsonmk@btinternet.com
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Sarah-Jayne Edwards	sj.bsb.bugle@gmail.com
<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.

SPRING CONCERT & AWARDS EVENING

Saturday 20th April – 7:30pm

St. James Church, New Bradwell.

BRADWELL SILVER BAND

*In
Concert*

SUPPORTED BY OUR
VERY OWN, TALENTED
DEVELOPMENT BAND.

FAMILY TICKET: £20

(2 adults + 2 children or 1 adult + 3 children)



Tel: 01908 616463

press@bradwellband.co.uk

www.bradwellband.co.uk

