



The Bradwell Bugle



Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band

November 2024

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From the Editor

Hi Everyone!

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

During the past month the Band had just one engagement with another due to take place in Stony Stratford having been cancelled because of the flooding. A report on the Autumn Concert can be found inside this issue.

November sees the Band involved with the local Remembrance Sunday observance and then turns its attention on Christmas!

This month also sees the Band's Annual General Meeting at which the officers and committee for the next 12 months will be elected. This takes place at the New Bradwell School on Thursday 14th November starting at 8:00pm. We thank all of the existing committee members for their services to the Band this past year.

As always I would welcome articles or photographs for inclusion in future editions of The Bugle.

Sarah-Jayne

Every year the Royal British Legion supports Remembrance events across the U.K. At the core of these events is the Act of Remembrance which includes the Exhortation that begins "They shall grow not old". These familiar words are one verse of a poem written by Laurence Binyon entitled "For The Fallen" which was first published in The Times in September 1914.

***They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.***



Arrangements for Remembrance Parade (may change!)

The latest information we have is that the Memorial Service at the Clock Tower will commence at 2:00pm on Sunday 10th November.

Band members are asked to arrive at the school for 1:20pm and will march off to the Clock Tower at 1:40pm

Weather permitting we will wear blazers and straight ties but please bring fleeces in case they are needed.

A Service of Remembrance is being held in St. James Church starting at 3:00pm.

An ensemble has been selected by the Musical Director to accompany the hymn singing inside the Church.

Engagement Report

Saturday 12th October

Autumn Concert

St. James Church - New Bradwell

With the previous week's outdoor engagement at the Stony Stratford Fayre having understandably been cancelled because of the recent flooding, tonight saw Bradwell Silver Band's only public performance during the month of October. Musical Director Brian Keech had selected a programme of music to suit most tastes with an almost equal mix of items featured in our summer engagements with some being featured for the first time.

The Band opened the evening's music making with the Goff Richards arrangement of "Breezin' Down Broadway". This is a selection of musicals which includes "Another Opening, Another Show", "There's No Business Like Show Business", "Get Me To The Church On Time", "Oklahoma", "That's Entertainment" and "Seventy Six Trombones".



They continued with "Romance" a piece composed by Shostakovich as part of his Gadfly Suite. The Russian composer was the John Williams of his day as he wrote more than thirty movie soundtracks. This one was used in the 1955 film *The Gadfly* and again in the 1980s television series *Reilly Ace Of Spies*.

The first soloist of the evening was David "Tug" Wilson the Band's principal cornet with "Georgia On My Mind". With music written by Hoagy Carmichael the original song was inspired by the US state of Georgia. Tug performed the solo with great style and received prolonged applause for his rendition.

It was then time for our classical piece of the evening with the overture from Rossini's "L'Italiana In Algiers". The Italian Girl in Algiers was composed in typical Rossini fashion: quickly, in less than a month. The composer conducted the premiere of the work that he called a melodrama giocoso in Venice in May 1813. In February 1817, it became the first Rossini opera to be given in Paris, where the composer was eventually to reside.

The Overture begins with a slow introduction that features an ornamental solo and is followed by an allegro with a main theme. A contrasting idea is a perky tune which in the orchestral version is played by an oboe and flute and in the brass band version by soprano cornet and solo horn. Then there is a pulse-quickenning episode that takes off like a locomotive getting up steam. It gets faster and louder as it goes - a Rossini trademark for which the composer was both praised as well as damned. This exciting and difficult piece was well played by the Band.

Music from the hit West End theatre production of "Les Misérables" was then featured with "I Dreamed A Dream". With music written by Claude - Michel Schonberg and lyrics by Herbert Kretzmer this is sung by Fantine after she's left alone, unemployed and destitute. Fantine had her hair cut and 2 teeth pulled out for money to take care of her daughter. During this song she thinks back to happier days and wonders about all that has gone wrong in her life.

Engagement Report

Then to something a bit jollier with our second soloist Luke Wilson with the Bass solo "Tijuana Tuba", Written by Sandy Blair who played with the Brighthouse & Rastrick Band this has a distinctive Mexican style based on the style of music popularised by Herb Alpert and his Tijuana Brass. Luke showed his mastery of the Eb Bass with great confidence.

To end the first half the Band gave its first public performance of "Manilow Magic" which is Alan Fernie's arrangement of some of the singers most popular songs. It opens with "One Voice" followed by "Could It Be Magic" (also became a hit for Take That), "Mandy", "Copacabana", "Can't Smile Without You" and "I Write The Songs".

There was an interval during which Church members kindly provided refreshments.

As is the custom, the Bradwell Silver Band Development Group led by their Musical Director Keith Jones opened the second half of the concert. Tonight's programme of music took a nautical theme and opened with "The Wellerman". This is a sea shanty that became very popular a few years ago and tells the story of three British born brothers who went to New Zealand and made a living from selling provisions to seafarers who hunted for whales.

As part of the learning experience in performing in public, the Development Group always encourages one of its younger members to volunteer to act as the announcer and tonight this was in the very capable hands of Chloe. She welcomed the audience to our featured slot and introduced the next item "Sloop John B." which is about a disastrous voyage on an old sailing ship and made famous when recorded by the American band The Beach Boys in 1966.



The musical journey continued with a venture into the world of pirates who stole from the ships carrying cargo and valuable items such as gold from one country to another. Pirates have always been popular in books and of course more recently in films. First was "Caribbean Pirates" followed by two short pieces written especially for the younger and less experienced brass players by Andy Norman in a set of music titled "Pieces of 8". These were "Sailing The High Seas" and "A Pirate's Life For Me".

Staying in the Caribbean area there was now a step on to dry land to enjoy the delights of a tropical island. Written by Roger Whittaker in the 1960's, the next tune was in the style of a calypso. The lyrics tell the story of a person longing to be free like a bird and the group played "Shaking Yer Feathers" which is based on the song "Yellow Bird".

After the adventures in foreign waters it was time to return home and enter the historic harbour and home of the Royal Navy for over one thousand years with the traditional tune "Portsmouth".

Engagement Report

Chloe hoped that the audience had enjoyed the group's performance this evening and how they are looking forward to seeing them again at the Christmas Concert.

At the end of their playing the group stood to acknowledge the well deserved applause. It had been an excellent performance which despite having five members unavailable for the evening still numbered 25 players plus help from some of the senior band.

The Development Group made way for the senior band to continue with the march "Cross Of Honour". Then the horn section of Karen, Keith, Peter, Julie and Michelle featured in "Hey Jude".

The next piece was one of the new items the Band had been looking at in recent weeks. "Waterfront Sketches" was written by Alan Fernie as a commission for the National Children's Band of Great Britain and first performed in 2016. He had been asked to write a work reflecting the four nations that make up the United Kingdom and found inspiration in exploring the rich cultural heritage that can be found in our great port cities.

There are four movements and tonight we featured the first two, "Belfast" and "Glasgow". The first is subtitled "She was fine when she left here..." and has a dark, brooding opening, full of industrial noise and clamour, and reflecting the epic construction of the SS Titanic. Little did they know... Glasgow is represented with an affectionate portrait of Neil Munro's "Para Handy Tales", and the adventures of the madcap crew of the puffer "The Vital Spark" as it sailed up and down the Firth of Clyde from its berth in the heart of Old Glasgow. Full of quirky west coast humour and with a typical Scottish lilt which has the feet tapping.

Off to Wales for the next item with the Gordon Langford arrangement of "Men of Harlech". A well known rousing song opens with an introduction from the percussion section before the lower instruments play the first verse. The rest of the Band joins in at the chorus which has fanfares. The horn section briefly takes over the melody before the music ends in a triumphant climax.

The Band followed this with "Singin' In The Rain" the main song from one of Hollywood's greatest ever musicals. Those of a certain age cannot hear the music without remembering the images of Gene Kelly swinging from a lamp post as the rain pours down on him. Morecambe and Wise also featured this in one of their classic sketches.

Staying in the USA, the last piece on the programme next piece was "Country Roads", a song performed by John Denver and telling the story of a man who was longing to return home to his state of West Virginia.

"Swinging Safari" was played as an encore. This was written and performed by Bert Kaempfert and is similar in style to "The Lion Sleeps Tonight".

With several members unavailable this evening we were extremely grateful to have two guest players who agreed to help us out with very little notice. From MK Brass we had Martin on soprano and Tracy on euphonium.

Our Treasurer provided the following summary:

What a lovely Autumn St James's Concert. Although the Church was not filled to capacity we did actually manage to raise as much as last year's concert and this was split between the Band and the Church. We enjoyed performing and supporting our wonderful Development band who are going from strength to strength. It was lovely to feel so appreciated and we had some lovely feedback.

A big thank you must go to our wonderful front of house helpers who included Chey and Sami on tickets and not forgetting Anne who ran the raffle single-handedly without her usual little helper Florence who had a prior engagement. We are so appreciative of all your hard work, we couldn't do it without you!

All Our Yesterdays!

This month we go back to 1962 for our glimpse into the Band's history. The Clock Tower is a familiar landmark in New Bradwell and is the focal point for the annual Remembrance Parade.

During the second part of the 1940s the local British Legion began raising funds for a memorial to commemorate the men of New Bradwell who lost their lives in the Second World War. The original intention was to provide a community hall, but a suitable site was not found, so it was decided instead to build a clock tower housing a book of remembrance. With the Parish Church lacking the strong clock tower originally intended it is possible that the projected memorial was seen as an opportunity for providing an alternative. The tower was designed by Mr Bootham of the Buckinghamshire County Council Architect's Department; the contractor was H W Tarrant. The cost of the memorial was £1,700. The memorial was unveiled on 2 September 1962 by Dr J ML and Mrs Love, presidents of the New Bradwell District Branch and women's section of the British Legion. It was dedicated on 2 September 1962 by the vicar of the Church of St James, Reverend RGM Russell, assisted by the Baptist minister, Reverend D M Harris, the Reverend AR Bidnell, Methodist Minister, and the Salvation Army Lieutenant, Miss Esme Lewis.

The names of the 15 local men killed in the Second World War are found in an additional inscription on the listed First World War Memorial in New Bradwell Cemetery. Above the doorway is a bronze plaque carrying the following inscription, with the well-known quotation from Laurence Binyon's poem 'For the Fallen'.

The Bradwell Silver Band played at the unveiling ceremony and has played there on numerous occasions since.



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.

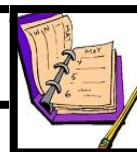
The earlier Sam and Gareth know deps are needed the better. Of course, if you can provide your own deputy that really helps but we know that some of us don't have a ready list of contacts making this difficult.

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 10 th November	Remembrance Parade & Church Service
<u>TBC</u>	Two Mile Ash Christmas Concert
Saturday 7 th December	St. James Christmas Concert
Thursday 12 th December	Street Carolling - New Bradwell
Saturday 14 th December	Newport Pagnell Singers Christmas Concert
Sunday 15 th December	Roman Crown, Bancroft Carols (small group)
Tuesday 17 th December	Street Carolling - Bradville
Friday 20 th December	North Crawley Church (small group)
Saturday 21 st December	Carolling - Stony Stratford High Street
Sunday 22 nd December	Side Club Christmas Concert
Christmas Eve	Street Carolling - New Bradwell
Christmas Day	Street Carolling - New Bradwell & Bradville
Sunday 16 th March 2025	Regional Contest - Stevenage

Contacts



<i>Chairperson:</i>	Steph Chappell	chairman@bradwellband.co.uk
<i>Co-Secretaries:</i>	Sam Allen Gareth Mitchell	secretary@bradwellband.co.uk
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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.