



# The Bradwell Bugle

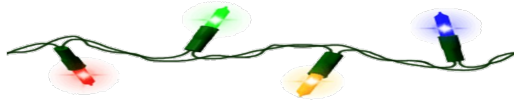
Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band



December 2024

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## From the Editor

Hi Everyone!

Welcome to the December edition of the Band's monthly newsletter and the final one for 2024.

November saw the Band leading the parade at the annual Remembrance Sunday in New Bradwell, a report on this follows.

There are now just 24 more sleeps left until Christmas Day and the Band is looking forward to contributing to the Festive spirit by performing at a number of engagements over the coming weeks. There are four contrasting concerts for the Band to look forward to. The first is a joint performance with the children of the Two Mile Ash School followed by the concert in St. James Church which also features the Development Group, the annual collaboration with the Newport Pagnell Singers and finally a more informal concert in the side club. There are also a couple of other engagements plus the street carolling which means a busy month ahead for our playing members. Details on all of these can be found inside this issue and reports will appear in the New Year edition of the Bugle.

I thank Chas for his article this month. Please make it one of your New Year's resolutions to let me have a few paragraphs or photographs I can use to fill out these pages in the months to come.

May I wish you and all those you hold dear a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Sarah-Jayne

## **COLLECTORS WANTED!**

We would like to ask if there anyone who would like to help us out collecting with other 'Santa's little helpers', even if it for just one evening, going around knocking on doors, taking donations and collecting on behalf of Bradwell Silver Band while the band plays in the streets? We are a jolly bunch and all we ask is that you dress warmly (Santa hats optional), are over 16 years old and happy to shake a bucket.

Our carolling sessions are as follows:-

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> Dec New Bradwell Carols (meet at New Bradwell School car park) 18:45-21:00

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec Bradville Carols (meet at Halley's Comet pub, Bradwell Rd) 18:45-21:00

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> Dec Stony Stratford (Cofferidge Close, High Street) – two sessions 09:15-11:00 & 11:00-12:30

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec New Bradwell (meet in New Bradwell School car park) 18:45-21:00

If you feel you would like to help please contact the band's secretary email:

[secretary@bradwellband.co.uk](mailto:secretary@bradwellband.co.uk) and join our band at this lovely time of year, it'll be much appreciated.

## Engagement Report

### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November Remembrance Sunday Parade & Service New Bradwell

Organised by the New Bradwell and District Branch of the British Legion, the first part of the observance is a short service of Remembrance and the laying of poppy wreathes at the Clock Tower memorial. On a cloudy but dry mild day the Band formed up at the school and marched down to the Corner Pin playing "The New Colonial" to take up position at the head of the parade.

Other uniformed organisations then formed up behind and eventually the command to march off was given. The Band led the parade on to the Newport Road to take up the usual position around the Clock Tower. Following the Band were the Standard Bearers of the British Legion, members of the local Sea Cadets, veterans and members from other youth uniformed groups.

The short service at the Clock Tower was led by the Reverend Canon Chi Ocala of St, James Church and after the exhortation "We Will Remember Them" the standards were lowered as the Band's Principal Cornet David Wilson sounded "Last Post". After an appropriate period of silence he then played "Reveille". The Band played "Supreme Sacrifice" as the first wreath was laid by the Mayor of Milton Keynes, Councillor Marie Bradburn. She was followed by representatives of other local organisations which included a wreath laid on behalf of the Band by our President.

After prayers and a blessing the Band played two verses of the National Anthem to conclude that part of the service. There followed a lengthy gap waiting for confirmation that the traffic had been stopped before the Band led the smaller procession to the Church playing the traditional "British Legion March". With a police car blocking the roundabout by Church Street the parade was forced to divert into St. James Street where it was brought to a halt and dismissed.



Musical Director Brian Keech had formed an ensemble of twelve players to play in St James for their Remembrance Sunday service. Sadly as has been the case in recent years, the numbers in attendance were very low with the majority who were there being British Legion Representatives.

The service started with the reading of the names of the Fallen, as Maureen is now too frail to do this the reading was undertaken by two Cadets who we did struggle to hear. Next Tug played Last Post and after the silence Reveille. Within the service the ensemble accompanied three hymns, Amazing Grace, Dear Lord and Father of Mankind and Now Thank We All Our God.

After the ensemble had played the National Anthem the blessing was given leaving the Band to play Abide with Me to end the afternoon's proceedings. This was the first church service we had undertaken with the new Vicar and it was certainly different to those of the recently retired Paul.

We had 26 of our own players on the march and they made an impressive sound as they made their way around the streets. There are several videos and photos available on the Band's Facebook page. We had Erin and Rachael marching with us for the first time With Rachael's music card holder falling apart we were very grateful to Tracy (Ella's Mum) for running back to the school to get her own lyre to lend to Rachael.

## Engagement Report

Special mention goes to Ella who had marched with MK Brass in their morning parade in Newport Pagnell.

One of our members who was especially busy during the various Remembrance services taking part around Milton Keynes was principal cornet player David "Tug" Wilson. On the Friday he played at Milton Keynes Central Railway Station for the Avanti West Coast Poppy Train. The Royal British Legion had worked with Avanti to organise a unique train journey which started at Glasgow Central and stopped at 16 stations heading south before terminating at London's Euston. On board the train was an empty wreath which was presented at each station to a representative of the Armed Forces Community. At Milton Keynes station it was local veteran Samir Amadu, who placed a triple spray of poppies into the wreath as a mark of remembrance and respect. By this point the wreath was taking shape and it was completed by the time it finally arrived in London.

On Saturday Tug was at Bradwell Village Hall in the morning and MK Lightning Ice Hockey game in the evening. Sunday saw him at Olney Market Square in the morning and then of course New Bradwell for the afternoon.

Monday saw Tug at the MK Council ceremony held at The MK Rose. Tug was flanked by our drummers Oz and Gareth as they headed the parade that marched from the City Centre.

Then he was off to a Care Home in Eaglestone and finally Lovat Fields Retirement Village where he played in the garden and again in the front car park.

Meanwhile Keith played at the Castlethorpe Village event on the Sunday morning, something he has been doing for over thirty years. Then on Monday at short notice he had the privilege to represent the Band at the New Bradwell School's Act of Remembrance held at the Corner Pin led school head teacher Mr. Gray. This saw most of the school gathered around the Clock Tower Memorial to hear special poems written by some of the pupils, a song from the Year 6 choir and finally a song sung by the entire school. The children were extremely well behaved and it is encouraging to see the school involving them in this act of remembrance.

The Band would like to say a massive Thank you to Tug, Keith and any other of our players who took part in Acts of Remembrance during the weekend.



## ***Introducing...Chas Leslie, Band Archivist***

Those of you who follow such things will have noted that at the AGM the band appointed an Archivist for the first time.

The obvious question is - What does an Archivist do?

The obvious answer is - They look after the Archive!

An archive is all the documents and other items that any group or organisation accumulates over the years and are kept as a record of its history and activities. So the band's archive consists of the minutes of meetings, annual accounts, letters, past copies of The Bugle, press cuttings, concert programmes, photographs, bits of uniform, an old trombone, and lots of other bits and pieces that have not been thrown out. This material is still accumulating and will continue to do so for as long as the band exists.

As the band's Archivist my role is not simply to look after a pile of papers and bags of stuff.

- It has to be catalogued and filed so that we know what is there and where it is.
- It has to be maintained as new material is added.
- It has to be preserved so that it doesn't rot through getting wet or fade because of the light.
- Some of it has to be researched to understand what it relates to.

It has to be made available so that it can be used by people researching family histories or past events that the band played a part in.

So why now? Back in March 2023, the band had their first meeting about what how we might celebrate our 125th anniversary which takes place in 2026. One idea was to share the band's story since its founding in 1901. Sorting through the boxes it soon became apparent that although we had quite a lot of irreplaceable memorabilia and historical documents, there was no system to it, we had no idea of what we actually had and it all needed looking after very carefully.

Fortunately, Milton Keynes has its own Heritage Association and it happened that they were offering 6-month archiving courses for local organisations so we applied for two places. After an open invitation within the bands committee and players, Lucy Davies and I offered to attend and I subsequently agreed to take on the Archivist role.

To start sharing the band's story I am planning a series of articles for next year which will draw on the archive material to highlight some aspects of the band's history, especially its early years. As I work through the archive I am also compiling a list of all the people who have played in the band [or at least I can show have played in the band].

I would also be interested in any items, photos, letters, papers or other things that people have related to the band, even if you do not want to donate them it would be good to photograph them and record their existence – especially if we do not already have copies or examples in the archive.



*The Band Archive as it  
currently exists*

## *All Our Yesterdays!*



This month's look back into the Band's history dates back to 1977. In this photograph staged and published by a local newspaper, the members were re-enacting an incident that allegedly had happened back in the Band's earlier days of their annual Christmas Carol playing around the streets. The story says that although the vast majority of residents were appreciative of the Band playing outside their homes early on a Christmas morning there were a few who were less than pleased to be woken up on one of the very few days in the year when they didn't have to get up early to go to work.

As the strains of "Christians Awake" resounded around the narrow streets an upstairs window was flung open followed by the contents of a bucket of liquid aimed at the musicians. At best this would have been water but it is just as likely to be from a guzunder (a word used to describe a chamber pot which most people kept under the bed when it was far too cold to make a dash for the outside loo!). Fortunately no members were splashed by the contents and they hastily moved on the next street to continue their playing!

The photo was taken in Newport Road outside the florist shop owned by the then musical director David Webb who was also the local funeral director. The shop is now a tattoo parlour.

On the left of the photograph is Bill Teagle, next is David Webb, Maurice Jones who was the landlord of the Cuba public house and drafted in for the photo is on the drum and a mostly hidden Andy Foot, who despite holding a bass was actually the Band's soprano cornet player. The lady tipping the bucket is Edwina Jones who was at the time secretary of the Band.

# EasyFundraising



Help us to raise free funds as you shop for Christmas!

Hi Everyone!

Just a quick reminder in case you needed it that Christmas is just around the corner! Please remember to use easyfundraising when you do your Christmas online shopping this year. Over 7,500 brands including eBay, John Lewis & Partners, Argos and M&S will donate to Bradwell Silver Band for FREE when you use easyfundraising to shop with them. This means you can raise donations for us when you buy anything from decorations and festive food shopping to gifts like toys, jewellery, tech, experiences and more! These donations really help us and all you have to do is use easyfundraising when you're ordering the things you'll be buying anyway.



## Help us to raise free funds as you shop this Christmas

Every Christmas present you buy is a present for us!



Scan the QR code to make a difference every time you shop online  
Visit [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)




- 1 Visit [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)
- 2 Sign up and search for us
- 3 Your favourite retailers donate to us whenever you shop with them

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**Get free donations from thousands of retailers including:**

  
JOHN LEWIS

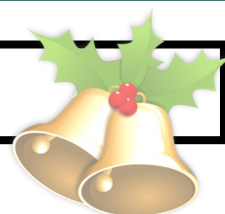

  


## Forthcoming Engagements



*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.*

Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Two Mile Ash Christmas Concert
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	St. James Christmas Concert <i>(see poster!)</i>
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Street Carolling - New Bradwell
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Newport Pagnell Singers Christmas Concert <i>(see poster!)</i>
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Roman Crown, Bancroft Carols <i>(small group)</i>
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Street Carolling - Bradville
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	North Crawley Church <i>(small group)</i>
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Carolling - Stony Stratford High Street
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Side Club Christmas Concert <i>(see poster!)</i>
Christmas Eve	Street Carolling - New Bradwell
Christmas Day	Street Carolling - New Bradwell & Bradville
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Regional Contest - Stevenage

## Arrangements For Christmas Engagements



Our Last Practice before Christmas is Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December and our first in the New Year is Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January.

**UNIFORM:** For the 4 Concerts TMA, St James, Newport & Side Club full uniform is required including Bow Ties and Deadbats. Christmas Hats/Headwear is encouraged to be worn in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of each concert. For all other Engagements, warm clothing is advised, though the Roman Crown event is inside so Christmas Jumpers are a good idea.

**AVAILABILITY:** If your availability now changes due to Illness or Other Commitments please inform me and your Section Leader by Text/Email. Section Leaders Tug (Cornets), Keith (Horns), Fraser (Euph/Bari), Louis (Troms), Robin (Basses), Steve (Perc)

### ENGAGEMENT DETAILS:

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December** TMA School Concert 7.30pm Start Denbigh High School Shenley Church End - Realise Mid week Concerts are difficult so please arrive as early as you can but need help from everyone to set Stage asap.

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December** St James Church 7.30pm Start - arrival time 7pm at latest

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December** New Bradwell Top End Carols meet School 6.50pm

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December** Newport Singers 7.30pm start time- St Peter & St Paul Church Newport Pagnell. Due to Choir practice we do not have access to the church until 6.45pm though Steve & Tania are required 6.30pm for practice with choir. It can be cold in this Church so please bring jumpers to wear under Jackets if required.

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December** Roman Crown Carols 5pm start - Group Required: Tug, Jess, Sam, Clare, Karen, Keith, Michelle, Ella, Louis, Fraser, Dave S, Robin

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December** Bradville Carols - meet Stanton Avenue Bradville 6.50pm

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December** North Crawley Church Plaza 6.30pm start - Group Required: Tug, Oliver, Julia, Sam, Nicola, Karen, Steph, Julie, Maria, Louis, Lucy, Luke W, Robin

**Saturday 21st December** Stony Stratford High Street Cofferridge Close end - Please be careful where you Park as Parking Restrictions/fines in force

9.30am to 11am Group Required: Tug, Sam, Ellis, Clare, Chas, Karen, Keith, Michelle, Ella, Louis, Lucy, Luke W, Robin

11am to 12.30pm Group Required: Jess, Oliver, Julia, Alison, Nicola, Steph, Peter, Maria, James, Fraser, Luke C

*If you wish to play longer than your scheduled spot this will be much appreciated as long as we keep a good balance of parts.*

**Sunday 22nd December** Side Club New Bradwell 7.45pm start - Please be aware tickets have to be purchased prior to the Concert from the Club if you have family members who wish to attend

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December** New Bradwell Little Streets - meet School 6.50pm

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December** Christmas Morning Carols - meet Clocktower 5.50am

We realise this is a big ask performing 11 engagements in a 21 day period, but our aim is always to give our best in standard of Performance and Appearance.

Please help each other as much as possible especially with clearing away after Concerts.

St. James Church, New Bradwell.

# BRADWELL SILVER BAND

*Christmas*  
Concert **Saturday**  
**7th December, 7:30pm**



**TICKETS ON THE DOOR: £8    FAMILY TICKET: £22\***

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

**Tel: 01908 616463**

[press@bradwellband.co.uk](mailto:press@bradwellband.co.uk)

[www.bradwellband.co.uk](http://www.bradwellband.co.uk)

**Supported by our  
very own, talented  
Development Band.**



[www.bradwellband.co.uk](http://www.bradwellband.co.uk)

# CAROLS & BRASS

Saturday 14 December

7.30pm

Newport Pagnell  
Parish Church

Newport Pagnell Singers  
*Jonathan Harris*

Bradwell Silver Band  
*Brian Keech*

Raising funds for UnityMK

Tickets available from  
Cambourne Travel  
Newport Pagnell Singers  
Adult £12 Child £5



**PLEASE JOIN US AT  
"THE EVENT OF THE YEAR"**

# **BRADWELL SILVER BAND**

**SUNDAY 22ND DECEMBER 2024**

**DOORS OPEN FROM 6PM**

Tickets now available from  
the Lounge Bar - buy now to  
secure a seat

**ADULTS - £7.00**

**CHILDREN - £5.00**

Stantonbury Sports & Social Club  
St James Street  
New Bradwell  
MK13 0BJ