



# The Bradwell Bugle



Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band

February 2025

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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, as there are no public engagements, but the Band has been working hard in rehearsals looking at music that will form part of this year's repertoire as well as the Area Test Piece.

As always we will aim to publish information on all of the Band's forthcoming activities as and when the details are confirmed.

I thank Brian and Chas for their contributions 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



## Area Contest 2025

The London & Southern Counties Regional Championships is to be held at the Stevenage Arts & Leisure Centre on the weekend of the 15th & 16th March 2025. Saturday 15th March will see the Fourth Section followed by the First Section at the Gordon Craig Theatre. Sunday 16th March will feature Bradwell Silver Band in the Third Section followed by the Championship Section at the Gordon Craig Theatre. On the same day the Second Section will be taking place in the Main Concert Hall.

One of the problems for bands in all sections is being able to field the full complement of players allowed under the rules. In a trial for the 2025 Regional Championships there is an amendment to these rules for bands competing in Sections 3 & 4 only who will be allowed to borrow up to two players, regardless of reason. The borrowed player/players must be registered with an accredited Registry (BBP/Scottish Registry), and can be registered with a band in any region of Great Britain. The borrowed player/players can be from another band in the same section or section below the borrowing band. i.e. Section 3 bands can borrow from bands nationally- graded Section 3 or Section 4. Section 4 bands can borrow from bands nationally -graded Section 4 only. d) A player may play with a maximum of THREE (3) bands in the 2025 Regional Championships series

As part of the Bradwell Band's preparations sectional rehearsals are being held as follows:

- Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February - 19:00-20:30 - Horns
- Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February - 20:30-21:45 - Front Row Cornets
- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February - 19:00-20:15 - Trombones
- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February - 20:15-21:45 - Basses and Percussion

## ***Band Recognises Long Service***

*With the full support of the members, Musical Director Brian Keech has compiled the following information*

At our Newport Singers Christmas concert a member of the choir was talking to me and said as the band is so busy with engagements and practices it must be difficult to retain members. I said quite the contrary and this got me thinking how many year's service the current band has given to our organisation.

The current total service to the band by all members is 541 years and this includes anytime as part of Junior/development band.

Tug and Keith joined the band 50 years ago in 1975. Though both tell me they had long breaks they both were permanent helpers when I became MD in 1991.

Dave Sanderson is our longest serving member with 45 year's service. Fraser & Robin have the longest continuous service at 35 years. We have 7 members who have completed more than 30 years service and another 5 members who have served longer than 20 years.

With Brin recently leaving and Helen joining we now have more female playing members (17) than male, I believe a first in our long history.

See below full information as at the end of 2024:

<b>Member</b>	<b>Year Joined</b>	<b>Break in years</b>	<b>Total Service</b>
<b>Brian</b>	<b>1976</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Tug</b>	<b>1975</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Jess</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Oliver</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Ellis</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Julia</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Sam</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Clare</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Alison</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Chas</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Nicola</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Karen</b>	<b>1989</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Keith</b>	<b>1975</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Steph</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Peter</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Julie</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Michelle</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Fraser</b>	<b>1989</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Lucy</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Maria</b>	<b>1989</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Ella</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Louis</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Erin</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Rachael</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>George</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>James</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Luke W</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Dave S</b>	<b>1977</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Robin</b>	<b>1989</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Luke C</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Steve</b>	<b>1988</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Gareth</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Tania</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>

## Music For 2025

At the beginning of each year the Musical Director chooses the pieces of music that are likely to feature in the coming season of concerts and other performances. Our thanks go to the army of library elves who turned up early into the New Year for this annual refresh. Most of the music used last year has been filed away and the current pads are full of exciting new music ready for the upcoming year!



As well as the Area Test Piece, there is the usual eclectic mixture of classical transcriptions, marches, selections from the musicals, arrangements of popular songs, solos, sectional features and some more reflective music. There should be something suitable for all of our audiences to look forward to as we familiarise ourselves with the music. No doubt as time goes by there will be more music added to the folders but in the meantime the Band have been making good progress in familiarising themselves with some of the recently distributed music.

One of the pieces we have looked at recently is *In Perfect Peace*. This is described as a chorus setting and arranged by Kenneth Downie, a former Salvation Army bandmaster who has contributed notable compositions to the wider brass band world. One of these was “*St. Austell Suite*” which was used as a 3<sup>rd</sup> section test piece back in 2002.

The main purpose of Salvation Army bands is as an aid to religious worship by providing musical accompaniment for hymn singing and performing what can best be described as mood setting music in their services. This particular piece would normally be played just before the sermon was given and is based on the hymn tune “*In Perfect Peace*” with words taken from the Bible Isaiah 26:3 *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee.*

As a youngster brought up in the Salvation Army tradition, singing and playing a musical instrument was second nature. When playing I was always mindful of the words we were providing the accompaniment for as this helped with the phrasing and knowing when to take a breath. Most recently I heard this piece performed by the Salvation Army Band at my eldest brother’s funeral service and it has become especially meaningful to me.

## From The Archive!

### FROM THE ARCHIVE –

*As we look forward to our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, this series delves into the band's archive for stories about its early history.*

### GILBERT LOCK, THE FIRST BANDMASTER – AND HIS EARLY SUCCESSORS.

The early years of the band seem to have been fairly turbulent with five bandmasters being appointed in the first ten years. The first of these was Gilbert Lock.

According to the 1901 Census Gilbert Lock, born in Ashford, Kent, was 43yrs old and worked as a Railway Coach Body maker at the works in Wolverton. He lived at 24 Bedford Street, Wolverton with his wife, Mary, and six children [3 girls and 3 boys] aged 12yrs-4yrs. He had first worked as a Railway coach body fitter in Ashford and had moved to Arlesey, Bedfordshire in the 1880s where he was employed by the Three Counties Hospital as a Leading Attendant. He met and married Mary Ann Rainbow in 1888. By 1891 he had moved again and was working at the Wolverton Railway Works.



Gilbert Lock [Source: BSB Archives – Keith Jones Collection]

Lock was one of the founding members of the Bradwell United Brass Band, as it was originally called, and was appointed its first Bandmaster at the inaugural meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> January 1901.

It was fairly common practice to pay the Bandmaster for conducting the band and instructing the learners and inevitably the question arose about recompensing Lock for his time. At a committee meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> May the question of a payment to him was deferred to a special meeting “after the holidays” which would decide what should be done with any money collected by the band over the Whitsun weekend. At this subsequent meeting, on 5<sup>th</sup> June, the committee decided by a narrow margin of 7 for and 6 against, to pay the Bandmaster 12 shillings a month (equivalent to about £92.50 today) for teaching and conducting the band.

master  
Mr Lock expressed his surprise at being called upon by the members to perfect his promised salary & he was very sorry to inform them that he could not see his way clear to still continue with the band if they could not compensate him for his teaching.  
Mr Locke's decision having been heard by the members it was decided to take by ballot the opinion of the members whether Mr. Lock should be paid or if we accept his resignation from the band.  
each playing member voted & the votes being counted it was found that 16 voted against payment & 3 voted for payment & 3 not voted at all therefore it was decided to accept Mr. Locke's resignation from the band.  
Therefore it was needless to elect another band.

Extract from the official minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 1901

[ Source: BSB Archives – Main Collection]

The band members themselves obviously disagreed with this use of their money and there was a meeting of all members on the 10<sup>th</sup> June 1901. At this meeting it was decided that the band could not afford the payments at that time and they asked Lock to stay on and the band “would see what we could do for him at Christmas to recompensate him for his labours in teaching and conducting the band”. Lock refused this proposal saying that if the promised payment was withdrawn, he would have no option but to resign. A vote was then taken on whether to make the payment or to accept Lock's resignation: the result was 16 against the payment, 1 in favour and 3 abstaining.

## From The Archive!

Lock's resignation was accepted and the meeting went on to appoint William Hardwick [then the Assistant Bandmaster] as the new Bandmaster, who promised not to raise the question of payments until after Christmas. It is unclear what Gilbert Lock did after his resignation, though it is believed he subsequently joined the Wolverton Band. He died in 1936 and is buried in St James' churchyard.

William Hardwick was also employed at the Railway Works in Wolverton, as an Iron Planer. Aged 35 at the time, the 1901 Census records him living at 11A Queen Anne Street, New Bradwell with his wife Elizabeth and two children [Edward 12yrs & Ethel 9 yrs]. He served as Bandmaster for about three years without payment and in 1902/03 he was presented with an engraved, silver-plated trombone in recognition of his service. In 1905 he was voted £1 per quarter for his services as Bandmaster, increasing to 30 shillings per quarter in January 1908. However, in August 1908 he too appears to have resigned over disputes about this additional payment and a number of other issues within the band [the issues must have been part of a wider split within the band because over half the committee also resigned at this time].



William Hardwick, front centre with trombone and baton, in 1908  
[Source: BSB Archives – Main Collection]



Photo: J Edgar Johnson, centre with cornet, in 1922 [BSB Archives]

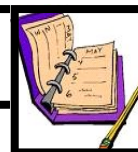
Mr Clark was then appointed bandmaster but he only lasted four months. The reasons for his stepping down are unclear but in January 1909 the committee seems to have got fed-up with the whole issue and resolved to leave the election of the bandmaster to the playing members.

The band then appointed Mr Sharp who lasted until September 1910. At their meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> September 1910, the committee noted that Mr Sharp had raised some grievances. Rather than get involved, the committee decided that these should be left to the band to settle, which they must have done in their own way because a week later a special committee meeting accepted Mr Sharp's resignation. His replacement, J.E. Johnson, had also been a founding member of the band, he had served on the committee [1904-1909] and, in 1910, was the Assistant Bandmaster. He finally seems to have got the measure of the band serving [or surviving] as bandmaster until 1954.

## *Chas Leslie*

I am indebted to Sylvia Mead's "Marching Out" [1996] for the basic chronology of this article; my brother, Colin, for doing the 1901 Census searches for me; and Jennifer Cooper for the additional information about Gilbert Lock. The trombone presented to William Hardwick is in the band's possession and will be the subject of a future article.

## 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>	<b>VACANT</b>	-
<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	-

## *In Other News.....*

### ***Band Welcomes New Member!***

The Band is very pleased to welcome a new member in Helen Smith. Helen has joined our Cornet section from the Moulton 77 Band (Northamptonshire) and has quickly settled in very well. Helen and her husband attended our St James Concert prior to Christmas and it was good to meet them and tell them about our band.

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### ***Congratulations!***

The Band would like to send it's "Congratulations" to Toby and Charlotte on their engagement.

We look forward to seeing pictures from their wedding in April.