



The Bradwell Bugle



Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band

May 2025

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From the Editor

Hi Everyone!

Welcome to the May edition of the Bradwell Silver Band's monthly newsletter.

In April the Band performed an enjoyable Concert in St. James Church which included handing out their annual awards. You can read a full report on the proceedings in this issue.

The Band now looks forward to two outdoor engagements with an appearance (weather permitting of course) at the May Day Fun Day at the New Bradwell Sports Association and then participation in the Stony Stratford Riverside Fayre on the first day of June.

I thank Chas for his latest fascinating look back into the Band archives. It would be nice to receive articles or photographs for inclusion in future editions of the Bugle, I'll be pleased to hear from you!

Sarah-Jayne

Congratulations!

Having recently celebrated their Ruby Wedding with a cruise to Norway, the Band's Musical Director Brian Keech and his wife Liz were very pleased to announce that their son Adam and his wife Mary had a baby boy on 17th April.

The Band sends their congratulations to Brian and Liz on their 40 years of marriage and to Adam and Mary on the arrival of Matthew Tomas who was born in The Hague, Netherlands where Adam works as a teacher.

We also send our best wishes to former percussionist Toby Dytrych who recently got married to Charlotte.



Engagement Report

Saturday 26th April

Spring Concert and Annual Band Awards

St. James Church, New Bradwell

The Band was delighted to be back in the familiar surroundings of the Parish Church of St. James for their first concert of the year. With a wedding having taken place earlier in the day there was less time than usual for the Band to set up ready for their performance. We thank all those who assisted in creating the necessary space and under the leadership of Musical Director Brian Keech the Band was ready to start the proceedings on time in front of an almost full house.

Some brass bands prefer to open with a march whilst others might choose a bombastic overture in miniature. The first item on the programme tonight was Alan Fernie's Prismatic Light is a tour de force in the latter category. Originally written for the Scottish based Loanhead Youth Band's 10th anniversary concert in 2012 the music has similarities to a John Williams Star Wars type film score.



The first of our three featured soloists this evening was Steph with the tenor horn solo "From Both Sides Now". Originally written by Canadian singer-songwriter Joni Mitchell this has been arranged for brass band by Tom Greatorex. The lyrics of the song tell of looking at clouds from both sides now and from up and down but concluding that the singer really doesn't know clouds at all. Well this was the 1960s! Steph gave a very confident performance with some nice accompaniment from the Band.

The classical offering for this evening was the Overture to the comic opera "The Impresario" written by Cimarosa. First performed in Naples in 1786, the one act opera tells the story of a man trying to run an opera company but struggling with the words, music and the would be soloists. This was a lighter version of the traditional Neopolitan operand the overture written in Allegro Vivace sets the scene for the story line that follows. In my mind I can hear tunes very similar to that found in Gilbert and Sullivan pieces.

Engagement Report

This was followed by "In Perfect Peace", a chorus setting arranged by Kenneth Downie, a former Salvation Army bandmaster who has contributed notable compositions to the wider brass band world. 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.*

This piece was dedicated to the memory of Beryl Wilson, a supporter of the Band and member of local church congregations for many years who recently passed away.

Then something lighter in style with an arrangement of "Do-Re-Mi" from the Rodgers and Hammerstein classic *The Sound of Music*. This song is used by the governess Maria to teach music to the Von Trapp children using the tonic sol-fa method.

Our second soloist was Lucy on euphonium with "When I Fall In Love". This is a popular song written by Victor Young and recorded by many people over the years but most famously by Nat King Cole. In this arrangement for brass band by Derek Broadbent Lucy gave a lovely lyrical rendition with great phrasing.

The first half of the concert was reached with a reprise of this year's area test piece, Jacob de Haan's "Arkansas". This concert work is based on a well-known folk tune from Arkansas. In the course of this varied work the folk song appears in its complete form and in fragments, in major and in minor, as a ballad in a lyrical orchestration, as a blues, accompanied by a jazzy rhythm and at the end again in its pure form. In the process, all instrumental groups of the brass band get their chance to shine!"

There was an interval during which refreshments were kindly being served by members of the Church and allowed some reorganisation of the performing area to take place to accommodate the Development Group.

As has become the tradition, the second half of the concert was performed by the Group led by their Musical Director Keith Jones. The opening item - one of the three specially arranged pieces by the MD included in this evening's programme - was "Simple Gifts". Based on a well known Quaker song which was made more widely known when used in "Lord Of The Dance", it opens with the familiar strains of "Highland Cathedral" leading on to Amelia featuring as flugel horn soloist in the first verse of "Simple Gifts". A drum break picks up the tempo and conjures up the spirit of Michael Flatley's reinvented Irish dancing.

The group always like to feature one of their younger members to make the introductions and tonight it was 10 year old Abhi who volunteered to be the announcer. She welcomed the audience to the performance and explained that having listened earlier to the Senior Band playing "Arkansas", the Group's programme was based on pieces which also have a connection with the U.S.A.

Engagement Report



The second item was taken from a suite called "The Golden West". "On The Trail" describes a leisurely journey being made on horseback with the horn section being featured in the well known cowboy song "Home On The Range". In this 9 year old Dexter was prominent on the wood blocks creating the steady clip clop of horses' hooves.

This was followed by "The Cat Came Back" a song written back in 1893 by Harry S. Miller which has become a modern favourite with American children. The song tells the story of "Old Mr Johnson" who wants to get rid of his "old yeller cat" but despite all of his desperate efforts to lose him, the cat keeps coming back.

The group then featured some of their youngest members. As they continue learning to play a brass instrument, playing in front of audience is a great experience for them. Tonight the entire back row of nine cornets with an age range of just 8 to 12 years old took to the front of the stage to play "He's Got The Whole World In His Hands", a traditional African-American song which is one of the best selling gospel songs of all times. This was played with a lot of confidence and the youngsters took a well deserved bow at the end of the piece.

Many popular songs have been influenced by classical music composed many years ago. "A Groovy Kind of Love" was a song written by Americans Toni Wine and Carole Bayer Sager and based on a melody by the classical composer Muzio Clementi. The original song was released in 1965 and has since been recorded by numerous artists, with the Phil Collins version being used in the soundtrack of the film "Buster". Tonight the Group played "Sonatina".

Engagement Report

The final piece in the Group's entertaining programme was "Is This the Way to Amarillo?" a song written by Neil Sedaka and Howard Greenfield. It is about a man travelling in Texas to find his girlfriend Marie. The city he is heading for also known as The Yellow Rose of Texas and takes its name from the Spanish word for yellow. This was a lively ending to a varied selection of music in which the group produced some great sounds, demonstrating the progress they are making with their music making. They stood at the end to acknowledge some well deserved applause for their playing efforts. Even the accidental loss of lighting during part of the performance didn't phase them. A member of the senior band had a bit of a stumble back stage, fell down a step and accidentally knocked off some of the lighting! Power was eventually restored and so well disciplined are the group that they didn't miss a beat of music.

There were playing debuts tonight for youngsters Jack on cornet, Jacob on euphonium and Dexter on percussion. Also playing for the first time in public was adult learner member George on bass trombone who was fulfilling a lifelong ambition of performing in public for the very first time.

The group left the stage with applause ringing in their ears and the result of the raffle draw was read out (there were no less than 13 prizes!) before Musical Director Brian Keech introduced the Band's Annual Awards which were presented to the winners by the Band's Chairperson Steph Chappell.

The first award was the Allan Frier Trophy chosen by the MD of the Development Group which goes to the member who in the previous twelve months has shown the best commitment and dedication in learning to play a brass instrument. This is not just about playing but also attendance and general attitude and this year the award went to Susannah Potts.

A new trophy for this year is the Musical Director's Award which is chosen by the MD and presented to a deserving player. This went to Steve Osborne for his all round ability on the percussion kit.

The Keith Clements Shield is decided on by the Committee and this goes to the individual who they feel has made an important contribution over the past twelve months. This was presented to Karen Wilson for her work as treasurer.

The Norman Keech Trophy is presented by the Chairperson to an individual who has given outstanding service during the past year. This year it went not to a player but a trustee of the Band for his unwavering support of the Band. This went to Graham Crisp who as a Churchwarden at St. James helps us to maintain a fantastic relationship with the Church and the New Bradwell community,

The Graham Huckle Memorial Shield for the Player of the Year as voted on by the individual members went to David Wilson. Tug first joined 50 years ago and always performs at the highest level in leading the Band.

Congratulations go to all the winners tonight.

With the Awards ceremony completed, the senior band continued the concert with the march "Barnard Castle", a Goff Richards composition for the Barnard Castle Band based in County Durham .

Engagement Report

The third soloist of the evening was flugel horn player Karen Wilson who played Andrew Lloyd-Webber's "I Don't Know How To Love Him" from the rock opera Jesus Christ Superstar. The story tells of the personal relationships and struggles between Jesus, Judas Iscariot, his disciples and the Roman Empire. In the musical this song was sung by the character of Mary Magdalene. Karen gave a moving interpretation of the well known song with her mellow tone filling the Church with a lovely sound.

The Band then turned to Andy Norman's arrangement of four songs from the American singer-songwriter Neil Diamond title "Diamond", This is a medley of some of his most famous songs and includes 'Beautiful Noise', 'Song Sung Blue', 'You Don't Bring Me Flowers' and 'Sweet Caroline'.

Staying in America, this was followed with George Gershwin's "I Got Rhythm" which featured in the 1930s musical 'Girl Crazy'. This is a challenging piece of music arranged by Alan Fernie in which the main theme is heard in a variety of styles. There are also a few bars of another Gershwin song 'Fascinating Rhythm' thrown in for good measure.

Goff Richard's "Light As Air" was the next item which skilfully combines the popular hit of the 1960's 'A Whiter Shade of Pale' with the classical 'Air On a G String'. The music opens with Bach's familiar walking bass part which leads to the horn section featured before the flugel takes over with 'Whiter Shade of Pale'. The music continues with the horns picking back up the main Bach theme to the end.

The last item on the published programme was the theme music written by John Barry 1966 film "Born Free" which told the true story of an orphaned lion cub being raised to adulthood before being released back in to the wilds of Africa.

There were words of thanks on behalf of the Church from Graham Crisp who thanked the Band for their performance and the audience for coming in support of the Band and the Church.

We stayed in Africa for the encore "The Lion Sleeps Tonight".

It had been a very good evening of music making. All the soloists were top class and the Band maintained a high level of performance throughout the varied programme. We thank guest player Martin Wakley from MK Brass for helping us out on Solo Trombone and to Daniel Butterworth for playing on the front row before returning to his studies at university. A special mention goes to Ella who stepped up to play the first baritone part in the absence of Maria who had unfortunately broken a finger a few weeks before.

We also thank Ron Chappell for his photography and video skills during the evening.

We thank our front of house team for their invaluable help with Chey and Jess on box office duties and Anne, Florence and Maria selling raffle tickets. The Band's President Peter Blake was on hand to ensure things were running smoothly.

The Church was nearly full tonight and over £1,000 was raised which is to be shared equally between the Church and the Band.

From The Archive!

FROM THE ARCHIVE –

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

AN APRIL EVENT

The original rules for what was then the Bradwell United Brass Band were agreed at a meeting held on Wednesday 20th February 1901. Having just collected enough money to buy sufficient instruments to establish the band it is no surprise that the Rules made clear that ownership rested with the band as an entity and not with the individual members they had been issued to [2nd & 3rd Rules]. What is interesting is the emphasis placed on attendance, with a register taken at each practice and attendance records posted every three months [6th Rule]; and behaviour - while drunkenness is not specifically mentioned bad language is, as is refusing to obey the bandmaster at practices [8th & 9th Rules]. Members were also forbidden to play in other bands without the committee's approval [7th Rule].

As far as possible I have reproduced the Rules as they appear in the minutes of the meeting, retaining the original spelling and [lack of] punctuation.

- 1st *That this band shall be called and known by the name of the Bradwell United Brass Band*
- 2nd *That the ownership of the whole of the instruments, music, stands and all property of the Band shall be vested in the hands of the Bradwell Parish Council*
- 3rd *That no member of the band shall have any ownership in any of the band property, beyond what his vote as a member entitles him to, and, on leaving the band must give up all property of the band to the satisfaction of the Committee, if the property be wilfully damaged he shall make it good.*
- 4th *That the Management Committee shall consist of a President, Treasurer, Secretary, Bandmaster, 5 playing members and eight nonplaying members and shall conduct all band business the said committee to hold office for twelve months from June 15th but should one or more resign the places may be filled at once.*
- 5th *That the weekly subscription of members be left entirely to the discretion of the committee for the twelve months.*
- 6th *That the band meets twice a week for practice and at 8.30 the secretary shall book all who are present, the list to be exhibited in the practice room once a quarter.*
- 7th *That no member shall play in, nor lend any of this bands property to any other Band without the sanction of the Committee.*
- 8th *The Committee shall be empowered to expel any member for misconduct or for non-attendance, at practice or for bad language.*
- 9th *That the bandmaster or, in his absence the leader shall have complete control over the band at all practices or performances and any member refusing to obey him will be dealt with as the committee may determine.*
- 10th *That the band shall not be broken up as long as six members are opposed to that course.*

From The Archive!

- 11th *The Committee leave entirely the choosing of all Soloists in the hands of the bandmaster and hope that all the playing members will do their utmost to assist the bandmaster in this capacity.*
- 12th *That all music played by the band shall be ordered through the bands Committee.*
- 13th *That any person wishing to become an honorary member of the band can do so on payment of 2/6d upwards.*

The ban on playing on other bands was a genuine concern: at the committee meeting on 20th November, 1902, the secretary was authorised to write to Mr Clarke and to draw his attention to the rules and to forward a copy to him. The following month Mr Clarke was again written to asking him *to withdraw his support from any other [band] and to act according to Rule 7*. Then in November 1905 the committee resolved that all new members would be required to sign an agreement that they would not leave to join the 1st Bucks Rifle Volunteer Band, which was based in Wolverton.

General discipline and behaviour also had to be addressed at various times with members being repeatedly reminded of the band's rules:

- *In January 1903 it was decided to print the rules out on cards and give a copy to each band member.*
- *In February 1906 the Rules were written out again and displayed in the practice room for all the band members to see.*
- *In 1908 the copies of the rules were again printed out and issued to band members individually.*

Two particular entries in the minutes hint at some of the behaviours that had to be dealt with:

- *In March 1904 the secretary was asked by the committee to write to the school managers regarding their complaint of a nuisance taking place in the corridor on January 13th and express this committee's regret at the occurrence and state they will do their best to prevent it being repeated. The nature of the "nuisance" is not recorded in the minutes.*
- *In December 1905 the secretary was asked to write to Mr Thorsby regarding his conduct and inattentiveness at practice and also on the recent evenings where the band as been out and he as been present. Thorsby was a senior member of the band: he played 1st tenor horn, was a founding member and had been on the committee since 1904.*

Even attendance at practices had to be encouraged. In January 1906 it was agreed to offer a £1 prize for the best attendance over the next year, with two marks being awarded for being there at 7.30pm [the start of practice] and one mark for arriving by 8.00pm.

Not having anything to compare this behaviour record to, it is difficult to know whether or not the band was particularly unruly, but by 1910 it was on its fifth bandmaster.

Chas Leslie

Forthcoming Engagements

Playing member 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.

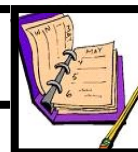
Please remember everyone is valuable, any missing part impacts on the performance, making deps important for all.

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.

Monday 5 th May	May Day At The Mill	Playing 1:00pm-2:00pm
Saturday 1 st June	Stony Stratford Riverside Fayre	
Saturday 7 th June	Newport Pagnell Vintage Day	
Saturday 21 st June	Walton Summer Fayre	
Sunday 22 nd June	Bands On The Green Bletchley	
Saturday 28 th June	<i>Private Event</i>	
Sunday 6 th July	Leighton Buzzard Bandstand	
Saturday 12 th July	New Bradwell School Carnival	
Sunday 27 th July	St. James Patronal Service	
Sunday 17 th August	St. James Open Air Concert	
Saturday 11 th October	St. James Autumn Concert	



Contacts



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<i>Committee:</i>	Dave Sanderson	-

**MAY DAY
FUN DAY**

Monday 5th May 2025
1pm to 5pm
NEW BRADWELL SPORTS ASSOCIATION,
BRADWELL ROAD, BRADVILLE, MK13 7AD

FREE ENTRY

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Contact details for stalls – Pete Cook:
petercook62@hotmail.co.uk

VINTAGE EVENT

NEWPORT PAGNELL

V. E. DAY

**7TH
JUNE
2025**
11 AM
- 5.30 PM