



Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band



May 2026

# The Bradwell Bugle

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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 the next engagement (weather permitting of course!) at the May Day Fun Day being held at the New Bradwell Sports Association. Then we have the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Concert to look forward to.

Thanks To Graham Crisp for his contribution.

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

## Important Changes to Practices for May

Practice on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May will finish at 9:15pm to allow the Group playing at the quiz (11<sup>th</sup> May) to practice. **Group Required for Quiz:** Tug, Sam, Nicola, Karen, Steph, Peter, Maria, Lucy, James, George, Robin, Gareth

Practice on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May will start at 7:30pm and will be with Development Band at the beginning on joint pieces for Gala concert.

Gala Concert Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, Senior Band to arrive 5:30pm (for set up).

Development Band to arrive 6pm for logistical run through and practice with Senior Band of Finale and Encore.

At this Concert the Videographer and Photographer will be present before the concert so that pictures and videos can be made.

# 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Concert

This is going to be a good one!

Featuring guest soloist Jack Wilson, soprano cornet player with the world famous GUS band, this Gala Concert will be an incredible celebration not only of our musical heritage, but also our bright and bold future. As we mark our anniversary, we have also chosen to raise money for Camphill Milton Keynes, an organisation who support adults with learning disabilities and autism to live meaningful, fulfilled lives. Please do join us for an amazing night of celebration and music making.

Tickets are now available to purchase online, or you can pop along to the Camphill Cafe where you'll be able to buy them in person (*cash and card accepted*).

<https://buytickets.at/camphillmiltonkeynes/2182900>



The poster features a central circular logo for the Bradwell Silver Band celebrating 125 years (1901-2026) with a windmill illustration. It is surrounded by musical notes and a QR code for ticket booking. Text on the poster includes the featured artist Jack Wilson, the venue Chrysalis Theatre, and the concert date and time.

**Featured Artist:**  
**JACK WILSON**  
Soprano  
Cornet Soloist.  
The GUS Band.

**£10**  
PER TICKET SCAN TO BOOK YOURS

**CHRYSLIS THEATRE**  
Japonica Lane, Milton Keynes MK15 9JY.

**125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Concert**  
**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May – 7:30pm**

Supported by our very own, talented Development Band.

Tel: 07368 628974  
press@bradwellband.co.uk  
www.bradwellband.co.uk

Charity concert for  
**BRADWELL SILVER BAND**  
and Camphill MK.



www.bradwellband.co.uk

## ***Engagement Report***

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> 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 along with the annual presentation of awards. Under the leadership of Musical Director Brian Keech the Band was ready to start the proceedings on time.

We opened the programme with the World Premiere of a piece of music specially commissioned for the Band's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Written by Alan Fernie the piece is called "Echoes of St. James" and has hints of the hymn tune Thine Be The Glory and a reference to the Christmas Carol Angels From The Realms of Glory which of course is something Bradwell Silver Band has always been associated with.

The first soloist of the evening was Ella on baritone with "Rainy Days and Mondays" which was originally sung by the Carpenters and released in 1971 and arranged for brass band by Alan Fernie. Ella has worked her way up from the Development Group and tonight was making her debut solo spot with the Band. Alloway Tales. Ella gave an excellent performance and fully deserved the applause from audience and band members.

This was followed with Peter Graham's "Alloway Tales". It takes its inspiration from Scotland's greatest storyteller, Robert Burns who was born in Alloway, near Ayr in 1759, and died in 1796. This arrangement is of three of his songs, the first song being a portrait of Duncan Gray, who rides into the village to woo Maggie. After some initial misgivings on Maggie's part, wedding bells are in the air, and both live happily ever after.

The second portrait is of Mary Campbell, who lies asleep by the gently flowing Afton Water. This is one of Burn's most beautiful settings, and in this arrangement, the flugel horn is featured.

The final song, "The De'ils Awa wi the Exciseman", sees the scourge of the village, the customs man, spirited away by the Devil in a flurry of dust and hooves. They leave behind some very happy villagers who waste no time in celebrating their good fortune with jigs, drums and fun galore.

The next item was originally featured in the 1995 Walt Disney animated feature film Pocahontas. The song was written by composer Alan Menken and lyricist Stephen Schwartz. "Colors of the Wind", was originally recorded by American singer and actress Judy Kuhn in her role as the singing voice of Pocahontas. A pop ballad, the song's lyrics are about animism and respecting nature, finding its roots in indigenous Native American culture, perspectives which have later been adopted in both transcendentalist literature and New Age spirituality. "Colors of the Wind" received a mostly positive reception from critics, with several citing it as one of the best songs from a Disney film

Then for another piece from the film world with "A Bridge Too Far" which was is a 1977 war film directed by Richard Attenborough. It depicts Operation Market Garden, a failed Allied operation in the Nazi-occupied Netherlands during the Second World War.

## ***Engagement Report***

Following this we had "Duet for Two Cats" featuring Tug Wilson on cornet and his youngest son Louis on trombone. The "Duetto buffo di due gatti" (humorous duet for two cats) is normally a performance piece for two sopranos and piano. Often used as a comical concert encore, it consists entirely of the repeated word miao ("meow") sung by the singers. While the piece is typically attributed to Gioachino Rossini, it was not actually written by him, but is instead a compilation written in 1825 that draws principally on Rossini's 1816 opera Otello. Wearing masks and playing without music, Tug and Louis gave a highly enjoyable rendition capturing the essence of two cats having a late night confrontation.

The next item was another piece adapted from the classical world, "Cortège from Mlada". Between 1868 and 1870, work was in progress at the Imperial Theatre in Saint Petersburg on a new ballet opera. The theme of this opera was to be based on Slavic mythology. Many well-known composers from Saint Petersburg participated in this project, which was, however, shelved after some time.

A number of years later, one of the composers involved, Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, took out the manuscript once more and used it as the basis for his own ballet opera "Mlada". This opera was first performed on November 1st, 1892 in the Maryinsky Theatre in Saint Petersburg.

The first half of the concert was reached with playing two movements from the test piece played at this year's area contest, "Three Haworth Impressions by Gordon Langford. This conjures up musical imagery of the area of Yorkshire where the Bronte sisters were born.

We played movement two, "The Three Bells" which is a reference to the pseudonyms adopted by Ann, Charlotte and Emily Bronte. The music begins with three "bell"-notes; Ab for Acton Bell, Cb for Curren Bell and Eb for Ellis Bell, and these three notes form the basis of a wistful waltz tune.

The final movement is "The Worth Valley Railway" and a celebration of the victory of the people of Haworth in their fight to retain their railway. The nine-eight rhythm of a slow train is prominent, and our once-sombre motif is transformed into a triumphant fanfare.

There followed an interval during which the Development Group set up the stage ready for their contribution to the concert. Having ensured all was ready for their performance, Musical Director Keith Jones raised his baton for the opening item, the theme from "The Muppet Show".

The group always offer the chance to one of their members to act as announcer and tonight it was the turn of Sebastian. Having introduced himself he mentioned that the first line to their opening item has the words "It's Time To Play The Music" and that the group would continue with "A Piece Of Cake"

The Development Group learn to play music in different styles. Playing as part of a group helps build confidence and they also offer the chance for any of our members who want to add to their experience by performing a solo. Tonight they featured flugel horn player Amelia with "Wishing Well" by Andy Norman.

For their next piece they played "Any Dream Will Do" from the Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber musical "Joseph And The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat". Over the years the song has been sung by many performers but probably most famously by Jason Donovan who at the time was playing the part of Joseph in the West End stage production. In this arrangement euphonium player Jacob led the band playing without music!

## ***Engagement Report***

Then it was another piece especially written for the junior band "Beetle Drive" by Alan Pring. The title is taken from a fun dice game where players draw a beetle piece by piece based on the dice rolls. The winner is the first to complete the beetle and for many years this simple game has been used for fundraising and group events.

All too soon they reached the last item in the programme tonight. With the hope that the audience had enjoyed the performance and that they are looking forward to taking part in the Band's 125th Anniversary Gala Concert being held next month, Sebastian introduced a Jolly Little March written by Gary Young called "Tweedlee Dee Tweedlee Dum".

The group left the stage with applause ringing in their ears and the result of the raffle draw was read out before Musical Director Brian Keech introduced the Band's Annual Awards which were presented to the winners by the Band's Chairperson David Wilson.

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 Jacob Glanville.

The Musical Director's Award which is chosen by the MD of the senior band and presented to a deserving Bradwell Silver Band player went to Luke Wilson.

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 year it went to Rachael Forrest.

The Norman Keech Trophy is presented by the Chairperson to an individual who has given outstanding service during the past year was awarded to Brian Keech.

The Graham Huckle Memorial Shield for the Player of the Year as voted on by the individual members went to Rachael Forrest.

Congratulations go to all the winners tonight!

After the award ceremony was completed the concert continued with the march "Ravenswood" by William Rimmer. He was a prolific composer of marches for the Brass Band movement. As a virtuoso and widely respected Cornet soloist he latterly became involved in the conducting and training of bands as well as composing and proffering well-crafted and challenging arrangements for Brass Band. "Ravenswood" is a favourite choice of bands competing in the Whit Marches as a contest march.

Then we had a duet featuring our euphonium players Fraser and Lucy with "Deep Inside The Secret Temple" from The Pearl Fishers. The title in French is Les pêcheurs de perles and is an opera in three acts by the composer Georges Bizet. First performed in 1863, The Pearl Fishers is set in ancient times on the island of Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) and describes a moving tale of friendship tested by love. The famous friendship duet ('Au fond du temple saint'), performed by two of the central characters Zurga and Nadir, is one of opera's most famous and instantly recognisable arias.

## Engagement Report

Next up was a selection from the musical "Les Misérables". Based on the book by Victor Hugo, Les Misérables has been entertaining audiences around the world since its first performance in London in 1985. Whilst the initial critical reviews were not favourable, the paying public disagreed and the success of the West End musical led to a Broadway production. The show had a big revival in 2012 with the release of the hit film. This selection features the Prologue, Look Down, Bring Him Home, Master of the House and Can You Hear The People Sing?

The final soloist for the evening was Luke Wilson with the Eb Bass solo "Nellie The Elephant". As might be deduced from its title, this was a novelty children's song with the main character packing her trunk and saying goodbye to the circus. Luke played this very well and demonstrated that the bass can be an effective solo instrument.

This was followed by a much more reflective style of music with Darren Shaw's "Guardian Of My Soul". The primary purpose of all Salvation Army bands is to serve as a means to proclaim the Christian gospel. The choice of music played during the service helps set the mood and prepares the congregation for the message to follow. This music combines the modern hymn "Guardian Of My Soul" with the well loved older tune "Aurelia" which is one of the tunes used for "O Jesus I Have Promised" which dates back to 1869. Both hymns contain the line "Guardian Of My Soul".

The final item in the published programme was Goff Richards "Stage Centre" a bright, upbeat, and modern original work by Goff Richards. Characterized by driving rhythms and clean, commercial-style orchestration

There were words of thanks from Church Warden and Band Trustee Graham Crisp who also read out a poem especially written for the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

As an encore the Band played John Marcangelo's "Clog Dance". John was a member of the group Violinski and the music was inspired by a shop in his home town which sold clogs. As a kid he would pass the shop where the owner was hammering away at his last making and repairing traditional clogs. The piece has become a brass band favourite having been featured in the award winning film "Brassed Off".

We thank our super front of house team Anne, Florence and team Osborne, Chey, Sami and Jess. Peter helped with the drawing of the raffle and welcoming of guests. We raised £400.55 each for the Band and St James's which is brilliant considering the audience wasn't at full capacity as we had hoped.

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Following the premiere performance of "Echoes of St James" Brian sent an e-Mail and video to the composer Alan Fernie with the following text...

*"Hi Alan*

*On Saturday night Bradwell Silver Band gave the Premiere performance of your Echoes of St James. The performance took place in St James Church New Bradwell and was enjoyed massively by both audience and band. The attached email has a video of this performance.*

*Thank you so much for the composition it will be a massive part of the bands 125th celebrations."*

Brian subsequently received the following reply...

*"Thanks for this, Brian, and for the kind words. Your fine band, and yourself, of course!, make the piece sound great, and I'm glad it's all worked.*

*It's yours and yours alone, now, 'til April 2028, which is when we'll release it for publication.*

*aye, Alan "*

## ***1901...What A Year That Was!!!***

### **The Bradwell Bard.**

#### **1.**

It's January 1901 and Great Britain is in mourning,  
For Queen Victoria has passed away after 63 years of ruling.

#### **2.**

A brand new era in this country has only just begun.  
Ruled over by a new male monarch, Edward, Victoria's son.

#### **3.**

What other events occurred you ask in this most significant year?  
Here's just a few that I have found and that you're about to hear.

#### **4.**

Alexander Palace opened, upon its high north London hill,  
A palace for entertainment, a role it fulfils still.

#### **5.**

The navy's first submarine was launched neath oceans deep and blue,  
The first of many more such craft with its pioneering crew.

#### **6.**

Frank Hornby up in Liverpool was patenting Mecanno,  
The building toy's still going strong from all those years ago.

#### **7.**

Walt Disney was born in this year he of film and cartoon fame,  
He'd bring us Mickey mouse, Cinderella and many more famous names.

#### **8.**

The first electric tramcar ran and changed the transport scene,  
Transforming lives in London, so quiet, so clean and green.

#### **9.**

For those who like a nice clean shave here's something in your favour,  
Gillette this year have just produced the very first safety edged razor.

#### **10.**

Marconi sent his first wireless signal over to the USA,  
What would he have made of mobile phones and technology we use today?

#### **11.**

But something much more important in New Bradwell was occurring,  
For initial plans for Bradwell Silver band were quietly stirring.

## ***1901...What A Year That Was!!!***

### **12.**

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of January in Bradwell school, a meeting was underway,  
To form a brass band in the village with instruments to play.

### **13.**

It was then that Bradwell Band was born to bring pleasure to us all,  
To play in churches, parks and shopping centres and chilly village halls.

### **14.**

For playing Christmas music, on Christmas day at dawn,  
For making happy memories on that very special morn.

### **15.**

For one hundred, one score and five years, the band have been around,  
Playing all types and styles of music always with glorious sounds.

### **16.**

And now the band will play a new piece, its called echoes of St. James,  
Commissioned to mark this special birthday, celebrating our community its aim.

### **17.**

It's so special to have the silver band as part of this small town,  
So thank you Bradwell Silver Band you've never let us down.

### **18.**

So here's to the future of our band, they'll always be around,  
To delight and please the folk of New Bradwell, our silver band's home town.

***Graham Crisp***



## 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.*

Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	May Day At The Mill
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	Fundraiser Quiz <i>(small group)</i>
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	125 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert <i>(see page 2)</i>
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Newport Pagnell Vintage Day
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Stony Stratford Big Lunch
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Bands On The Green Bletchley
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Music At The Mill
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	New Bradwell School Carnival
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> July	St. James Patronal Service
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> August	St. James Open Air Concert
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	St. James Autumn Concert

## Contacts



<i>Chairperson:</i>	David Wilson	chairman@bradwellband.co.uk
<i>Co-Secretaries:</i>	Sam Allen Gareth Mitchell	secretary@bradwellband.co.uk
<i>Quartermaster:</i>	Robin Allen	-
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<i>Librarian:</i>	Chey Wilson	-
<i>Press Officer:</i>	<b>VACANT</b>	-
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<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Sarah-Jayne Edwards	sj.bsb.bugle@gmail.com
<i>Committee:</i>	Dave Sanderson	-

## All Our Yesterdays

As we get ready to play at the May Day, this photograph takes us back to 1948 for the St. Peters Football Club Fete, Whit Monday at the New Bradwell Recreation Ground. Good to see that they were provided with a small platform and interesting to note that the conductor also played. Also note the large tea pot and cups presumably for the Band's refreshment break.



# MAY DAY FUN DAY

ENJOY SOME FUN IN THE SUN FOR A GREAT CAUSE.

**Willen Hospice**  
always there to care

**FREE ENTRY**

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026**  
**1pm to 5pm**

**New Bradwell Sports Association**  
Bradwell Road, Bradville, MK13 7AD

**CRAFTS**

- ✓ Stalls for all
- ✓ Kids rides
- ✓ Food and drink
- ✓ Bar refreshments
- ✓ Entertainment
- ✓ Live Music

Contact for stalls: **Pete Cook**  
[petercook62@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:petercook62@hotmail.co.uk)

Registered Charity No. 270194

# The Big Lunch

@ Riverside Fair

**The Mill Field**  
**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2026**  
**12pm - 4pm**

Live music  
Craft stalls  
Street food  
Free rides and activities

West Bletchley Council  
Events Working Group

# BANDS ON THE GREEN 2026

**West Bletchley Council**

Sundays 2PM to 4PM  
Church Green Road,  
MK3 6BJ

Free event  
For MK3 residents  
Bring a picnic & chair!

07 Jun	Woburn Jazz Band
14 Jun	Bradwell Silver Band
21 Jun	Amphill Town Band
28 Jun	Unprotected Sax
05 Jul	Woburn Sands Band
19 Jul	Winslow Concert Band
26 Jul	Toddington Town Band
02 Aug	Milton Keynes Brass
09 Aug	The Smokin' Gunz
16 Aug	Leighton-Linslade Concert Band
23 Aug	Ukietoones

Follow our socials for more updates:

westbletchleycouncil  
 westbletchleyparishcouncil