



The Bradwell Bugle

Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band



July 2026

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From the Editor

Hi Everyone!

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

In June the Band gave three enjoyable outdoor performances in and around the Milton Keynes area. The good weather meant they have been heard outdoors by hundreds of people. This month sees the Band playing at the Bradwell Windmill and the following week at the School Carnival. In addition an ensemble will be taking part in the St. James Church Patronal Service.

The Band will be taking a summer break before resuming rehearsals in August. More details can be found inside this edition.

As we approach the long school summer holidays I hope all of you who are going away on holiday have a great time.

I thank Tug and Rachael for their contributions this month and as always, I would welcome articles or photographs for inclusion in future editions of The Bugle.

Sarah-Jayne

Summer Break!

Over the coming weeks the Band will be having a break from practices.

The last rehearsal will be Thursday 16th July returning on Tuesday 11th August.

There will be a practice on Thursday 23rd July for the group playing at Patronal Service from 8pm - 8:30 pm

The Development Group's are taking a longer break with last practice this term on Thursday 16th July and rehearsals starting back for the Autumn term on Thursday 3rd September.

From The Chair

Welcome again to my monthly update. First, I would like to thank the band for their efforts at the band engagements in June. All three were quite heavy programmes and playing on grass has its challenges.

We have a slightly quieter July but with a high-profile engagement at the Windmill which is part of our anniversary celebrations which I hope will be a great success. We need to ensure this is well attended. The socials team are working on this and any help you can give will be appreciated. Then on to the carnival which is just as high profile in a way as it is the only real 'thank you' we say to the school for letting the band use the school for rehearsals and storage. We need to ensure that we give a good account of ourselves to make sure that this is noticed and I am sure we will.

Then on to our summer break and a well-deserved rest. Some of the band will be playing at the Patronal Service at St James and also a small group are playing at the Milton Keynes Museum's Community and Culture Celebration during the band break (don't worry those that are playing have already been asked). The Museum want a 30 minute set which includes getting on and off the stage, so we have decided to use a small group due to the timings and small performance space.

Those of you that have attended band engagements will have noticed we have a photographer who has already produced a great record of our anniversary year so far. I am sure you will have seen these on our socials. Also, the videographer is progressing but obviously this is a slightly different process, I will update you on these in future editions of the Bugle.

Due to the band shutdown, we have decided not to have a committee meeting in July so there will no update from me in the August Bugle. As always, I am happy to answer any questions you have. I have a band email address that can be used for this which is: chairman@bradwellband.co.uk

Thanks,

Tug (Chairman)



Engagement Reports

Saturday 6th June Vintage Event Newport Pagnell

The first of two scheduled engagements this week-end for the Band was in Newport Pagnell for their annual Vintage Event. The weather forecast had not been good with rain and thundery showers being predicted. Happily the forecasters were proved wrong and apart from the briefest of showers the rain stayed away for our performance. The decision had been taken to take the Band's gazebos and there was a great team effort to get these erected which would offer protection from the elements.

This year the organisers had closed the High Street to through traffic and we were to play outside the entrance to the Methodist Church.



The Band was set up and sat down ready to play in plenty of time before the scheduled start time. Musical Director Brian Keech had selected a programme of music to fit in with the theme of the day with music associated mostly with the 1940s.

It opened with "Colonel Bogey" a march composed by Kenneth Alford in 1914. Soldiers often made up words to sing as they marched along to the familiar tunes. The words sung to this one are not particularly suitable for our readership but the tune reached a whole new audience when it was used in the classic 1957 war film "The Bridge on the River Kwai".

For the second item principal cornet player Tug was featured in "A Nightingale Sang In Berkeley Square" a nostalgic 1940s romantic song with lyrics by Eric Maschwitz and music by Manning Sherwin. The best known version was sung by Vera Lynn the Forces Sweetheart but has also been recorded by many others including Glenn Miller and Bing Crosby.

Engagement Reports

Next up was Glenn Miller's classic big band swing number "In The Mood" which was immensely popular at dances when the American forces were stationed in Britain. This was followed by "Bless 'em All", a selection of popular war time songs. Arranged by Gavin Somerset this features "Wish Me Luck As You Wave Me Goodbye", "We're Going To Hand Out The Washing On The Siegfried Line", "Kiss Me Goodnight Sergeant Major", "Apple Blossom Time" and an up tempo version of "Bless 'em All".

We played a number of pieces which were composed as theme music for famous war films, the first of which was Stanley Black's "633 Squadron". Then came "Run Rabbit Run" a 1939 song by Flanagan & Allen, followed by John Lee's composition "Hinky Dinky" based on a song often sung by the soldiers in the Great War, 'Mademoiselle from Armentieres'. This piece sees various sections of the band and soloists taking it in turn to stand up and finishes with the whole band on their feet.

We then played "In The Quartermaster's Store" and the first session ended with "The Great Escape".

The second playing session opened with Ron Goodwin's classic march "Aces High" from the film Battle of Britain followed by "Lambeth Walk" a song from the 1937 musical "Me and My Girl" which told the story of a barrow boy in London's East End. The tune gave its name to a cockney dance which became extremely popular with its familiar shouts of "Oi!" at the end of each line of the chorus.

Then came "Pack Up Your Troubles" and another of the pieces of music made famous by Glenn Miller "The American Patrol". Theme music for the 1977 movie "A Bridge Too Far" led to "Out Of The Blue" a concert march by Hubert Bath written in 1932 for an air display at Hendon and first performed by the Band of the RAF. Since 1948 it has become synonymous with the regular BBC Radio Sports Report on a Saturday evening.

The final offering of the day was "Keep Smiling Through" which is the Darrol Barry arrangement of popular songs which includes The Army, The Navy and the Air Force; Yours; Lili Marlene; The White Cliffs of Dover; and a swing version of We'll Meet Again.

Playing on tarmac and under the gazebos helped the Band maintain a good sound with many people stopping to listen to the music, It had been an excellent playing effort with the Band enjoying playing some different music. We are very grateful for playing help from Tracy of MK Brass.

We thank Robin and Gareth for bringing the trailer and chairs kindly loaned by St. James Church.

Sunday 7th June

Big Lunch at the Riverside Fair Stony Stratford

For a number of years Bradwell Silver Band has had the privilege of being invited to perform at the Stony Stratford Big Lunch which is now combined with the annual Stony Stratford Riverside Fair held on Mill Field.

Organised by the Stony Stratford Town Council, the pre-event publicity promised an unforgettable afternoon of fun, food and community spirit. People had been encouraged to join them for a vibrant celebration packed with something for everyone. Soak up the atmosphere with live performances from the lively Bradwell Silver Band and the uplifting Music Maker Choir guaranteed to keep toes tapping all afternoon. Bring the whole family and enjoy free funfair rides. Free face painting, and hands-on circus skills workshops perfect for kids and the young at heart!

Also promised was a fantastic selection of street food vendors serving up delicious bites and the opportunity of browsing unique finds from local craft traders.

The town was extremely busy today with other activities taking place as part of this year's StonyLive!, an 8 day celebration of cultural talent in various venues around Stony Stratford with drama, music, comedy, art, dance, spoken word and today a Classic Car Show. With all of this taking place finding a car parking space was always likely to be a problem and our playing members did their best to find somewhere close to the venue but all faced a bit of a walk.

Engagement Reports

It was quite a pleasant if rather breezy early summer's day and the good people of Stony Stratford were out in their numbers in family groups ready to enjoy the events of the afternoon.

After an introduction from the Town Crier, the event was formally opened by the Mayor of Milton Keynes Councillor Paul Trendell followed by a poem from the Bard of Stony Stratford complete with his symbol of office a giant pencil. Abracadazra is the current Bard and is a figurehead for the spirit of creativity, culture and community in the town of Stony Stratford and the surrounding areas. It is an official civic position recognised by the Town Council and supported by the Mayor of Milton Keynes. Each Bard serves in the post for a year and creates original pieces in their art form to celebrate the significant town events.



The Band was then introduced with kind words about celebrating our 125th anniversary this year. Having used different music for the Newport Pagnell Vintage Day today Musical Director Brian Keech had chosen music from our current repertoire and opened with Alan Fernie's "Echoes of St. James". This was followed by the first soloist of the afternoon, Ella on baritone with the Carpenters hit song "Rainy Days and Sundays". Ella gave another excellent performance on an instrument that doesn't often get featured in solos.



Engagement Reports

Then we were transported musically to the USA with "Manhattan Skyline" which featured on the soundtrack of the film "Saturday Night Fever". We stayed in the States for the next item with "Colors Of The Wind" originally featured in the 1995 Walt Disney animated feature film Pocahontas. Next up was the march "A Bridge Too Far" which featured in the 1977 war film directed by Richard Attenborough, followed by "Yellow", an arrangement of the song by Coldplay.

We then featured our front row three cornets Tug, Jess and Oliver with "12th Street Rag". This was composed by Euday Bowman in 1914 when the syncopated off-beat musical style of Ragtime was at its most popular. In this enjoyable the cornet trio gets the chance to play the main theme, embellishments and the familiar "Doo Wacka Doo" rhythm. All great fun and very well played.

To close our opening set we played "Country Roads", John Denver's song in which he looks forward to driving home to the place he belongs.

After a brief break we resumed with Joe Galuska's composition "The Brad'ellite" followed by Fraser as the euphonium soloist in "Calon Lan".

Back to the US for "California Dreamin'" originally a hit for the Mamas & The Papas but got a new lease of life when used by Australian singer Sia for the 2015 disaster film San Andreas.

Then came the quieter "Guardian Of My Soul" which combines the modern hymn "Guardian Of My Soul" with the older tune "Aurelia". Both hymns contain the line "Guardian Of My Soul".

The third and final soloist for today was Luke Wilson with the bass solo "Nellie The Elephant" the well known novelty children's song. Luke again admirably demonstrated the musical capabilities of the tuba which rarely gets to play the melody.

We continued with "The Lion King" from Disney's 1994 animated musical film about a lion cub who becomes king, George Gershwin's "I Got Rhythm" before ending with "Mama Mia", the Abba's hit song.

It had been another good afternoon of playing although being in the middle of a field it was not always easy to maintain the full band sound we had achieved the day before. The weather was reasonably kind to us today (that is no rain!) and lots of people chose to sit on the grass around the Band to enjoy the performance.

We thank Robin for transporting the Band equipment which involved an early start and a late finish as vehicles were not allowed to move around the venue while the event was open to the public.

Sunday 14th June Bands On The Green West Bletchley

"Bands On The Green" is a series of Summer concerts organised by West Bletchley Council at which brass and concert bands are invited to perform. This free event runs every Sunday from June until mid August with the audience urged to bring a picnic and a chair. There is no actual bandstand but takes place in a pleasant green space outside the historic St. Mary's Church. We were delighted to accept the invitation to play again this year. It was a pleasantly warm afternoon as the Band set up ready to play.

Under the leadership of Musical Director Brian Keech we opened the concert with "Echoes of St. James" This was followed by the first soloist of the afternoon, Ella on baritone with another impressive performance of the Carpenters hit song "Rainy Days and Sundays". The Band then played Peter Graham's "Alloway Tales" which takes its inspiration from Scotland's greatest storyteller, Robert Burns who was born in Alloway.

The next three items had a common theme in being connected with the U.S.A starting with "Colors Of The Wind" which featured in the 1995 Walt Disney animated feature film Pocahontas, "Manhattan Skyline" which was used on the soundtrack of the film "Saturday Night Fever" and "By The Time I Get To Phoenix" beautifully played as a flugel horn solo by Karen.

Engagement Reports

Next up was the march "A Bridge Too Far" which featured in the 1977 war film directed by Richard Attenborough.

Following this we had "Duet for Two Cats" featuring Tug Wilson on cornet and his youngest son Louis on trombone. Wearing masks and playing without music, Tug and Louis gave another entertaining rendition capturing the image of two cats having a friendly confrontation.

Joe Galuska's composition "The Brad'elite" received another airing, followed by "Yellow", an arrangement of the song by Coldplay and to end the first half "Country Roads".



After enjoying an interval we resumed with "Stage Centre" before featuring euphonium players Fraser and Lucy with "Deep Inside The Sacred Temple". Then we had a selection from the musical "Les Misérables" which includes the songs Look Down, Master of the House and Can You Hear The People Sing?

Next up was "Guardian Of My Soul" followed by trip back to the US for "California Dreamin" originally a hit for the Mamas & The Papas.

The third and final soloist for today was Luke Wilson with the bass solo "Nellie The Elephant" the well known novelty children's song. Luke again demonstrated the musicality of the tuba which rarely gets to play the tune.

Coming to the end of our allotted time we played "I Got Rhythm" and finished with the foot tapping "Mama Mia."

There had been a good sized audience listening to today's performance and they seemed to enjoy it. Our playing wasn't quite up to standard created the previous week-end but the featured soloists again all did very well. Our thanks go to the West Bletchley Council for running this annual series of summer concerts and inviting us to participate. For a city the size of Milton Keynes it is a shame that they seem unable to organise a similar series of summer concerts for the local bands to perform at. Instead we need to apply further afield in places such as Dunstable, Leighton Buzzard and Northampton who still have proper bandstands in well kept gardens which are always well attended by audiences looking to enjoy a traditional Sunday afternoon Band Concert.

During the interval there was an interesting conversation with a lady in the audience whose father, Ted Beesley had played percussion with the Band in the 1970s. She was also the sister-in-law to the then Musical Director David Webb. Having picked up one of our booklets she was pleasantly surprised to find a photograph of them in a group photograph taken at the 75th Anniversary celebrations. It is always great to make contact and share memories with people who have had connections with the Bradwell Silver Band over the years.

Whit Friday 2026

We thank Rachael for the following fascinating article.

On Friday the 29th of May Erin and I took a journey north to take part in the Whit Friday Marches with Towcester Studio Band. This year's theme, "Magic"! It was an early start (for Erin 8 a.m. is early) and with costumes and instruments packed we headed up the M1/M6 with a brief stop for breakfast on the way. We arrived at our hotel in Oldham about midday where we had a quick bite to eat and drink and checked into our room. We then donned our costumes and met the band in the car park for some marching practice before the coach arrived at 3pm. First stop was Scouthead.

Our chosen march piece was "It's a Kind of Magic" by Queen. Then the band assembled on Dawson's Field to play the chosen contest march "The Wizard" by George Allan. It was a good solid first performance from the band.



We then boarded the coach for the 2nd Village, Delph. This might be one of the most famous locations with many bands having it on their must visit list. Delph was featured in the famous 1996 film *Brassed Off*. The Bands march down the hill past the library through the streets lined with hundreds of people. It really was a great atmosphere.



Next, we headed to Dobcross where we first had a much deserved refreshment break in the Dobcross Band room.

The band then performed at the famous picture perfect setting under the Swedish Whitebeam trees on Churchfields village green.

Whit Friday 2026



Back on the coach again and we headed off to Diggle. Here we had quite a wait with a few bands ahead of us. A chance to sit down and enjoy the other bands, in particular Chav Brass! If you've not heard of them they play lots of dance music and really seem to get the crowd excited which encourages the younger generation.

We were also by this point getting a lot of attention with all our costumes. Those of us who chose wigs were perhaps regretting our choices by this time of the day!

Our 5th and sadly final village was Lydgate. Here we had another uphill march before playing outside The White Hart Inn. Due to the number of bands already waiting this was to be our last contest. The light was dimming and registrations were closing at nearby villages so the band decided to head back to the hotel for more refreshments in the bar.

We had a super day; definitely a bucket list tick and we hope we get invited back next year.



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 5th July

Music At The Mill

Milton Keynes City Council is leading on the Bradwell Windmill Project which celebrates the history of Bradwell Windmill as a key heritage and community attraction for Milton Keynes. Made possible with funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Milton Keynes Museum and the City Council, the project is running for 2 years until the end of 2026.

The project will see major restoration works to the mill itself, as well as a public programme inviting local residents to build a deeper connection with the heritage of the area, the site, the natural environment and food heritage. Throughout the project there will be a number of different opportunities for residents to get involved, from events, open mill days, volunteering opportunities, workshops and more. The Grade II listed Windmill will undergo essential repairs to fix infrastructure and preserve its historic features. The project will also improve how the site's unique history

Join us in celebrating the 125th anniversary year of the Bradwell Band for an afternoon of Music at the Mill.

Saturday 11th July

New Bradwell School Carnival

Procession leaves school at 12pm.

Development Group playing after parade returns, approx 12:45pm - 1:30pm.

Sunday 26th July

St. James Patronal Service

10am

Sunday 16th August

St. James Open Air Concert

Saturday 10th October

St. James Autumn Concert

Contacts



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New Bradwell School Carnival

SATURDAY 11TH JULY
12 NOON - 4PM
(PARADE STARTS AT 12)

**CARNIVAL PARADE
FAIRGROUND RIDES
FOOD STALLS
RAFFLE
ENTERTAINMENT AND MORE**