



The Bradwell Bugle

Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band



September 2026

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From the Editor

Hi Everyone!

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

We are into the final days of the long and unusually hot school summer holidays and I trust that those of you who have been away managed to have a relaxing break.

There was only one engagement in August, a report on this can be found inside this issue. This month there is an appearance for the Band at the New Bradwell Windmill Harvest Festival details follow inside.

Also happening this month is a concert by the famous Boobs and Brass Band at Whittlebury Park. Bradwell Band's Sam and Steph will be playing with them as they look to continue their incredible record of raising funds for Breast Cancer Now (*see advertisement poster on the last page!*).

Well worth going to listen to if you are available.

As always I would welcome articles or photographs for inclusion in future editions of The Bugle.

Sarah-Jayne

FREE HARVEST FESTIVAL COMING TO BRADWELL WINDMILL THIS SEPTEMBER

- One of Milton Keynes' most historic landmarks is set to come alive with music, dancing, crafts and traditional milling as Hærvest returns to Bradwell Windmill.
- Built in 1805, Bradwell Windmill once used the power of the wind to mill barley and wheat, and today it remains one of the city's best-loved heritage sites.
- Since 2025, the Grade II listed building has been at the heart of an 18-month community project focused on restoring the windmill and helping local people reconnect with the area's history, nature and food-growing traditions.
- Now, after a long hot summer, Milton Keynes Arts Centre is inviting families to celebrate the annual wheat harvest with a FREE family-friendly festival.
- Expect:
 - Music from Bradwell Silver Band
 - Traditional harvest dancing from Rapskallian Morris Dancers and Bhangra One
 - Milling demonstrations
 - Artist-led craft activities
 - Harvest crown making
 - A community parade
- Refreshments will also be available from Coco's Coffee House in New Bradwell.
- Saturday 12 September
- 12pm to 4pm
- Bradwell Windmill
- FREE

It sounds like a lovely way to spend an afternoon while learning more about a piece of Milton Keynes history that has been standing for more than 200 years.

From The Chair

Welcome again to my monthly update for August 2026.

The Band is now back from its summer break.

Unfortunately, in July we had our planned outdoor concert at the Windmill cancelled at very short notice. This was disappointing to us all as it was planned to be part of our 125th Anniversary celebrations. Once Health and Safety issues are raised action must be taken and that was what happened. The committee thought very hard about changing the time of the concert to finish before the cricket match started. However, with the logistics of getting chairs to the site and fears that the short notice would significantly affect the audience numbers, we really had no other choice but to cancel the concert. We have been waiting for the Windmill Project Team to set another date, but so far this has not been agreed. We are scheduled to play again at the Windmill on the 12th of September, and it will be interesting to see if there is a cricket match.

Those that represented the band had a very successful day at the Museum for the Community and Culture Day. Thanks to Chas for all his efforts setting up the day, the others who volunteered to man our stand through the day and the small group that played a half hour set on the bandstand. We used a small group as the session was very controlled. The session was restricted to thirty minutes and that included getting on and off the bandstand. With a full band and percussion, we would have never met the criteria, not forgetting that it was in the Band's summer break. We had a number of instruments on the stand at the Museum on the day to allow people to have a go. Obviously, this was mainly targeted at youngsters, but we had a number of adults having a try including one lady who had played in the past and another lady who was related one of the bands previous MDs. I believe we have already had an approach from one of those who tried an instrument to join the Development Group. I was also interviewed for MK Hospital Radio and that interview has now gone out on air at the hospital. As a result, I have now been invited to take part in a two-hour show in person later in September for which I have to select four tracks to be played. I'm not sure how four test pieces will go down! I'll let you know in my next update.

Also, with the help of Lucy, the committee are working on a proposal to ensure that Milton Keynes has an official Bands in the Park programme every year. This is in its very early stages and there is much work to get us there. This includes gaining the support of other local bands. I will provide further updates on this as the project develops.

Thanks

Tug (Chairman)



Engagement Report

Sunday 16th August

Churchyard Concert

St. James Church New Bradwell

In 2021 the Bradwell Silver Band celebrated the easing of the lockdown restrictions imposed on us all during the Covid pandemic by holding an open air concert outside the Parish Church of St. James. This was a Thank You to the New Bradwell community and friends for their continued support during the 20 months in which the Band was unable to perform in public. This proved to be very popular and has now become an established annual engagement.

We had been experiencing the hottest summer in living memory so it was quite refreshing that today the temperature had dropped to something approaching normal for the time of the year and it was a lot more comfortable for the Band and the large audience that had gathered to listen to the concert.

The start time of the concert was later than in previous years as the Church is now also used by the Romanian Orthodox Church for their services. On the following day they were to celebrate their first Patronal Feast of The Parish of Saint George The Pilgrim.

The Band was set up ready to play with plenty of time to spare before the starting time. The ground is a bit uneven on places and it was important for players to position their chairs carefully to be as comfortable as possible. Some players were on the lookout for red ants having being bitten by them in previous visits. Sturdier footwear was worn today just in case and all seemed to be going well, at least until Fraser picked up his water bottle to discover the ants were all over the lid! Happily no bites were reported this year.

The Band's Musical Director Brian Keech had selected a programme of music from the current summer's repertoire and opened with "Echoes of St. James" the piece especially written by Alan Fernie to commemorate our 125th anniversary this year. This was followed by the first soloist of the afternoon, Ella on baritone with the Carpenters hit song "Rainy Days and Sundays".

In his introduction Brian said how through the years Band had always been active in teaching the youngsters who would help continue the Band's long history. Ella was one of those who had come through the ranks of the Development Group and is now a valuable member of the senior Band giving a confident and assured performance.

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?

Following this we had "Duet for Two Cats" featuring Tug Wilson on cornet and youngest offspring Louis on trombone. Wearing masks and playing without music, Tug and Louis gave another entertaining rendition in a piece that has been very popular with our audiences this year.

The next two items had a common theme in being connected with the U.S.A starting with "Manhattan Skyline" which was used on the soundtrack of the film "Saturday Night Fever" and then "Colors Of The Wind" which featured in the 1995 Walt Disney animated feature film Pocahontas.

Engagement Report

Then we had the march “A Bridge Too Far” which featured in the 1977 war film directed by Richard Attenborough before the trombone section of Louis, Erin and George were featured in our first public performance of “When I Survey”. Originally written by Olaf Ritman for the Amsterdam Staff Band of the Salvation Army, this uses the tune of O waly, waly a folk song of Somerset origin. This tune is one of the settings used for the Isaac Watts hymn “When I Survey The Wondrous Cross”.

Joe Galuska’s march composition for our special anniversary, “The Brad’ellite”, received another airing before the third and final soloist for today Luke Wilson played the bass solo “Nellie The Elephant” the well known novelty children’s song.

The penultimate item on the programme was an arrangement of the song by Coldplay “Yellow” after which words of thanks were given from Graham Crisp Church Warden and Band Trustee. We finished with the “Mama Mia” with the audience enthusiastically clapping along.

It had been a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon and all our soloists again performed superbly.

By the looks of it I would say we had the largest audience since the event first started enjoying their Sunday outing in pleasant surroundings bringing their own chairs and rugs to sit on. With refreshments kindly made available inside the Church the event had a really good community feeling. The Band is extremely grateful to the Church for allowing us to perform and thankful for the continued support from the people of New Bradwell.

All Our Yesterdays

We go back around 40 years to the mid 1980s with this photograph. It shows the Band performing at a Summer Fete. The players include Mr. Trotman (*bass player on left of the picture*) who Brian referred to at a recent rehearsal. He was a proud Welsh man who had played with the Cory Band and then some prestigious orchestras before retiring to live in Newport Pagnell. The conductor was Keith who was standing in for Vaughan Bower.

Note the old style blazers and how much the back row cornets seem to be enjoying themselves!



What's In A Name?

Everyone knows our principal cornet and Chairman David is better known as Tug, but why?

People who served in the military were often referred to by nick names rather than their own first name as a bonding tradition. Some typical examples are anyone with the surname Smith became Smudger, similarly all Clarks' were called Nobby, Whites' were Chalkie, Millers' were Dusty and Murphys' were Spud.

Anyone called Wilson was known as Tug. This is probably after an Admiral Wilson who became First Sea Lord in 1909. The nickname Tug reputedly comes from an incident when he repeatedly ordered a battleship to try and come alongside and in exasperation offered her Captain a tug to assist!

Our Tug was indeed later to serve in the military but he had already been given the name Tug as a teenager. At a Bradwell Band rehearsal in the mid 1970s when among those present were Denis Taplin then the Musical Director, Keith and Bill Teagle, Denis casually remarked that all Wilsons were accorded the name Tug.

From that night on he was known by his fellow players as Tug. This familiar but rather grainy photo from 1978 shows Tug in the middle with Brian to his right and Ian De Wilder on the right



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.

Saturday 12th September

New Bradwell Windmill Harvest Festival
(Playing time 12:00-12:30 and 13:00-13:30)

This September bring the whole family to Harvest at Bradwell Windmill, where they can enjoy a mini day festival celebrating the annual wheat harvest and the heritage of the Windmill, with live music, milling demos, dancing, making, games and more!

Sunday 4th October

Stony Stratford Autumn Fayre and Dog Show
Wolverton Road Recreation Ground
(Playing time 12:15-14:00 with a 20 minute break)

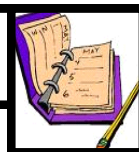
Following the success of the ever-popular dog show last year, we look forward to its return for 2026 as Princess Leia looks to defend her 'Best In Show' crown. There will be live entertainment as always, and more opportunities to sample amazing food, drink, craft and more from some of the area's finest small independent businesses, as well as free rides and inflatables for the kids. Come and join us for this free event that offers something for everyone.

Saturday 10th October

St. James Autumn Concert
(Playing time 19:30)



Contacts



<i>Chairperson:</i>	David Wilson	chairman@bradwellband.co.uk
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<i>Committee:</i>	Dave Sanderson	-

**Northamptonshire County
Federation of Wls**

Present a Charity Concert
Featuring

Boobs & Brass

Sunday, 13th September
Concert Begins at 2:30pm

**Brooklands Suite, Whittlebury Park
NN12 8QH**

Tickets:
£10







St. James Church, New Bradwell.



BRADWELL SILVER BAND *In Concert*

Saturday 10th October 2026 – 7:30pm

Autumn Concert

FAMILY TICKET: £22

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

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

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