



Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band



October 2026

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From the Editor

Hi Everyone!

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

After a long hot summer we are now into the Autumn season with cooler temperatures and daylight hours getting noticeably shorter. September saw the Band taking part in the Harvest Festival event at the New Bradwell Windmill and a report on this can be read inside this issue.

They are now looking forward to the Stony Stratford Autumn Fayre on Sunday 4th and then the annual Autumn Concert in St. James on the Saturday 12th October. The Band has been busy rehearsing for these and will be featuring some of their soloists in an entertaining selection of music. The Development Band will also be taking part in the Church concert.

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

Sarah-Jayne

Development Group

Weekly rehearsals for the Development Group resumed on 3rd September after the summer break. This gives the group just six weeks to prepare for their participation in the Autumn Concert at St. James on Saturday 10th October.

We have moved four adult learners into the main group to gain further experience of playing in an ensemble and warmly welcome the return of Clare, mother of Teresa and Amelia.

We have also accepted four new beginners under the age of 10 in to the group. Added to the other two existing learners we are now at full capacity for the teaching resources we have available. If any member of the senior band is willing to assist in tutoring this would be greatly appreciated. Please let Keith, Steph or Sam know if you would like to be part of this sometimes hectic but ultimately rewarding process of training the players of the future.

From The Chair

Welcome again to my monthly update for September 2026.

The month has gone by very quickly with the band only having one engagement up at the Windmill. Although it was very windy, the band played well and it was once again great to do something for our local community.

As I wrote in my last update I had been asked to take part in a Milton Keynes Hospital Radio programme and be interviewed about brass band and our band in particular. So on Monday 28th September. I went up to the hospital to find the smallish radio studio. It was quite daunting before I did it, but the host Sophie Hindley was very good and made me feel very at ease. The show is called Tracks and Chats. I had to pick four tracks that were played during the show which I had to introduce them. These were all brass band although Sophie had said that they didn't need to be. I didn't subject the listeners to test pieces but I felt it only right that I chose brass band pieces. The four tracks I chose in the end were Post Horn Gallop, MacArther Park, Procession to the Minster and Floral Dance. I was asked questions about brass bands in general, me and of Bradwell Silver Band. Although the show lasted two hours it seemed to go by very quickly and I felt I didn't say everything I would when I was preparing before the day. Sophie could not confirm how many people would be listening as they didn't have any way of monitoring listener numbers, but it sounds like the numbers were swelled by quite a lot of the band listening. I was quite happy with how it went but I won't be taking up after dinner speaking that's for sure.

It has been quite some time since we had an audit of band instruments and equipment. Sam has sent all of the band document to fill in. Please complete this as soon as you can so we can tally all the equipment to our inventory list and in particular ensure we have adequate insurance cover.

The committee is still working on the 125th year with planned activities already planned with the videographer, photographer and our other plans to document the year. Thank you to all the band for their efforts this year and I must thank the committee, Lucy Davies and Brian for all their efforts so far.

We now move into the Autumn with only a few engagements in October and November. Obviously the most important of which is our concert in St James. As always, I am sure you will all do your best to ensure we give a good account of ourselves to our local community. Then it is on to December with our ten engagements in the run up to Christmas.

Finally, a date for your diary. The band AGM will take place on Thursday the 19th of November 2026 at 8pm. We will very soon be asking for nominations for officers of the band and the committee. Please ensure you ask anyone you propose if they are willing to take on the role.

Thanks

Tug (Chairman)

Engagement Report

Saturday 12th September New Bradwell Windmill Harvest Festival

Harvest has been celebrated by humans for thousands of years. This is a time to gather with the community, give thanks for a bountiful year, share your hopes for the year to come and enjoy music, dancing and craft. Today's event was organised by the Milton Keynes Arts Centre supported by Living Archive and Milton Keynes Museum as part of this year's Heritage Open Days.

Visitors had been promised 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!

With this all taking place in front of the historic windmill the Band had the honour of opening the day's proceedings. What had originally been planned as two 30 minute slots of with a break was changed rather late on to one continuous slot of 45 minutes starting at mid-day.

With Musical Director Brian Keech conducting the programme opened with the specially commissioned "Echoes of St. James". This was followed by the first of three soloists to be featured today, Ella on baritone with an arrangement of the Carpenter's song "Rainy Days and Mondays". Ella has become an established member of the Band and shows increased confidence with every performance. Then came "Manhattan Skyline", "Yellow" and then the next soloist, Luke Wilson on Eb Bass with "Nellie The Elephant". We then played the upbeat "Country Roads" before playing the well loved Harvest hymn "We Plough the Fields and Scatter". Fraser then played the euphonium solo "Calon Lan" and the programme continued with "A Bridge Too Far". The trombone section was featured in "Frolic For Trombones" and the final piece was "Mama Mia".

It had been a good performance with all soloists playing with accomplishment. As the Band packed away afterwards I had a good conversation with the Mayor of Milton Keynes, Councillor Paul Trendall. Paul had been present at our Gala Concert back in May. He said how much he enjoyed hearing the Band performing today in the heart of the community in which we are based.

We were very grateful for playing assistance today on the front row of cornets from Tony Hart of the Great Horwood Silver Band.



Padstow Lifeboat Station



1931 Hawkers Cove Station, Camel estuary



2006 Trevoze Head Station, replacing the 1967 boathouse



RNLB (Barnet Class) Joseph Hiram Chadwick 1952-1967 became No2 boat in 1967



RNLB (Oakley Class) James and Catherine MacFarlane 1967-1983, transferred to Lizard Station and retired 1988

A new lifeboat station, on the easterly side of Trevoze Head was commissioned in 1967. It was formerly at Hawker's Cove beside the notorious Doom Bar in the Camel estuary on which Padstow town is situated. Pictured top right is its 2006 replacement: note the long stilts, lifting the boat house above the huge local tidal range. (*Doom Bar ale was brewed in Rock until Jan 2026 before transferring to Burton-on-Trent*).

Trevoze Head lighthouse, half a mile to the west, is just over the hill at the top of this picture. In times of poor visibility, the keepers would operate the huge 36ft reed foghorn aka 'Lord Rayleigh's Trumpet' whose stentorian low C to D pitch would be audible 10 miles out to sea. This features in the opening bars of Malcolm Arnold's *Padstow Lifeboat March, Op 84* written in 1967 to commemorate the opening of the new lifeboat station. The foghorn went electric in 1963, and was finally de-commissioned in 2012.

From 1968 my father Captain Ken Carstens was Superintendent of Penzance District, exercising control of Trinity House south-west coast lighthouse and seamark operations extending from Start Point in south Devon around Cornwall to north Somerset. This included Trevoze Head Lighthouse. He later became Chief Superintendent West Coast, based in Swansea, with overall responsibility for Penzance, Swansea and Holyhead Districts, extending his operational territory from Start Point to the Mersey. He also served for 14 years as Secretary and Launching Authority of the Mumbles Lifeboat Station. During this period he raised £400,000 towards the cost of a new Tyne Class lifeboat. He, together with Derek Scott the coxswain and lifeboat crew, was presented with the Freedom of the City of Swansea by the Lord Mayor.

My late brother-in-law Brian and his younger son Justin have been building lifeboats in Cowes since the 1960's, and the Padstow Oakley boat was built there. So, Brian probably had a hand in its construction.

Brin

Padstow Lifeboat Station



Trevose Head Lighthouse

Note: Lord Rayleigh was the chief scientific adviser to Trinity House who designed the original compressed air foghorn which operated at Trevose Head from 1913 to 1963. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1904.



An example of Lord Rayleigh's Trumpet



Padstow's Oakley Class Lifeboat



James and Catherine MacFarlane in Penzance. Since retiring in 1988 from the Lizard station it has been preserved at St. Michael's Mount



~~Capt~~ Ken Carstens
THV *Winston Churchill*

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 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)

Friday 23rd October

Band Meal at the Cock Hotel Stony Stratford

Sunday 8th November

New Bradwell Remembrance Sunday

Thursday 19TH November

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 24th November

Rehearsal with Two Mile Ash School

Wednesday 2nd December

Concert with Two Mile Ash School

Saturday 5th December

Christmas Concert St. James Church

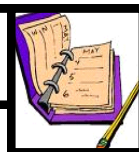
Saturday 12th December

Christmas Concert with the Newport Pagnell Singers

Sunday 20th December

Christmas Concert Stantonbury Sports & Social Club

Contacts



<i>Chairperson:</i>	David Wilson	chairman@bradwellband.co.uk
<i>Secretary:</i>	Sam Allen	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>	VACANT	-
<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	-

Studio Photoshoot

As part of our 125th Anniversary Celebrations, we are looking to get up-to date photographs of the Band to be included in the Commemorative brochure as well as socials and other publicity.

As part of the package from photographer Sam Cook, we have booked a session in the studio. The aim is to get photos of the full Band as well as sectionals and individuals members.

Details are still being finalised and it is expected that it should be completed in a couple of hours.

The date is Sunday 18th October, timings and venue to be confirmed.

If you haven't already done so, please indicate your availability for this on Muzodo.

On Friday 23rd October the Band will be having a celebratory meal in the historic The Cock public house in Stony Stratford.

STONY STRATFORD

AUTUMN FAYRE

FREE ENTRY & ENTERTAINMENTS

LOCAL • COMMUNITY • TOGETHER

SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER

12PM UNTIL 4PM

WOLVERTON ROAD RECREATION GROUND
MK11 1PW

 STREET FOOD	 LOCAL CRAFTS	 LIVE MUSIC	 DOG SHOW	 FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY
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 Stony Stratford Town Council

 Events
Working
Group

St. James Church, New Bradwell.

TICKETS ON THE DOOR
£8

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