The Bradwell Bugle

Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band

November 2026

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From the Editor

Hi Everyone!

Welcome to the November edition of the Band's monthly newsletter. During the past month the Band had two engagements. They also enjoyed a special meal to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the Band's formation and a report on these can be found inside this issue .

November sees the Band involved with the local Remembrance Sunday observance and then turn its attention to Christmas!

This month also sees the Band's Annual General Meeting at which the officers and committee for the next 12 months will be elected. This will take place at the New Bradwell School on Thursday 19th November starting at 8:00 p.m. We thank all of the existing committee members for their services to the Band during this historic 125th Anniversary year.

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

Sarah-Jayne

Arrangements for Remembrance Parade

(may change!)

The latest information we have is that the Memorial Service at the Clock Tower will commence at 2:00p.m. on Sunday 8th November.

Band members are asked to arrive at the school for 1:30 p.m. and will march off to the Clock Tower at 1:40 p.m. The parade then forms up behind the Band and marches around to the Clock Tower for the service. The Deputy Lord Lieutenant will be attending along with the Mayor of MK, local council members & Cadet units & youth organisations.

After the Act of Remembrance the parade will march to the Church where it will be dismissed.
There is no service in the Church this year

From The Chair

Hi all,

This is my last update before the AGM where we elect new officers of the band including the Chair. It is really important that the band is run correctly and I am happy to say that it has been for a very long time now. There is more and more to cope with running a band each year from additional work for our Treasurer due to our charitable incorporated organisation status to the ever-changing rules advised by Brass Bands England on safeguarding.

Anybody who would like to help run the band will never be turned away. Hopefully by the time you read this we should have the officer nomination form out at band practice for you to nominate and someone else to second each officer candidate. Please make sure you ask anybody you propose if they are willing to stand beforehand.

Since my last update we have had the band meal which I hope you all felt was a good evening. This was restricted to band members and volunteers. We owe a lot of thanks to Karen as I know she put much effort in to organising the evening with some worry at times. I'd like to thank you for my presentation; I was quite humbled by it. I am sure that Brian, Keith and Robin all feel the same. As I said in my short speech it is quite a feat to be where we are now, one of the biggest bands members wise in the area when you think back to the number of playing members we had in the late 1970s and early 1980s. There were four of us at the dinner who were in the band then which again is something which to me further emphasises how embedded we are in the local community. I would like to thank Ella and Erin for their light-hearted presentations which were one of the highlights of evening for me.

The Bands in the Park project is still progressing although we are still waiting on feedback from some of the local bands. Lucy is still working hard to drum up support for the project and we will update you more in the New Year.

It will soon be Remembrance and those of us that play Cornet and some that don't and of course Keith who we welcome back into the cornet ranks from the Dark Side will be busy playing at various parades and events. For the first year ever, I am playing on three weekends a total of seven times. As most of you know I have regularly played at the MK Dons at their closest match to Remembrance. This year I came very close to playing at my team's ground Sixfields the home of Northampton Town. I replied to a post requesting help but unfortunately, I was too late. Always next year!

Thanks

Tug (Chairman)

Engagement Reports

Sunday 3rd October
Stony Stratford Autumn Fayre

Pre-event Publicity:

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.

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This is now an annual event organised by the Stony Stratford Town Council. As we all know, any planned outdoor event is at the mercy of the weather . Holding one early in October can be considered quite risky but today was unusually very warm and sunny throughout, indeed some wished they had brought some sun cream with them!

Held at the Recreation Ground on the Wolverton Road, a late change to the original timings (again!) saw the Band sitting down ready in plenty of time for the start of playing just after mid-day. After words of welcome from the Junior and Senior Bards of Stony Stratford, Musical Director Brian Keech raised his baton and 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".

Then came "Manhattan Skyline" followed by a selection from the musical "West Side Story". With music by Leonard Bernstein and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, this was an American update on Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. It told the story of two teenage street gangs in New York, the Jets and the Sharks. The selection includes the songs I Feel Pretty, Something's Coming, One Hand One Heart, America, Maria, Tonight and Cool.

Bringing the first session to an end was our next soloist, Luke Wilson on Eb Bass with "Nellie The Elephant"'

A local PCSO posed for this photograph with the cymbal; needless to say he was on the beat!

Engagement Reports

After a break we resumed with the upbeat “Country Roads” moving on to Flugel Horn soloist Karen with “Concerto De Aranquez” as featured in the film Brassed Off.

Then we played arrangement of “When The Saints” and the programme continued with the march “A Bridge Too Far”. Coldplay’s “Yellow” received another airing before the trombone section of Louis, Erin and George were featured in two contrasting pieces. The first was the reflective “When I Survey” followed by the livelier “Frolic For Trombones”.

The quieter “The Song Of The Seashore” led to the familiar final piece, Abba’s “Mama Mia”.

It had been a good afternoon of music making with a large crowd of locals out to enjoy the beautiful sunny weather. Our soloists and featured players all performed to their usual high standard. We thank Robin for bringing the trailer as close as was possible and to all the players who helped load and unload.

Engagement Reports

Saturday 10th October
Autumn Concert
St. James Church New Bradwell

Tonight saw Bradwell Silver Band back in the familiar venue of St. James Church for their annual Autumn concert. In a change from the normal format, the Development Group had been asked to begin the music making for this evening. Under their Musical Director Keith Jones they opened with the march "Killaloe" which is the regimental quick march of the Royal Irish Regiment. The announcer for the evening was James who introduced the next piece "Air from The Peasant Cantata" by Johan Sebastian Bach. A cantata is a musical composition intended to be sung as opposed to a sonata which is played on instruments. In this selected movement Bach has kept the musical phrases short and the accompaniment simple which makes it an ideal piece for the group to play.

The group travelled back to Ireland for their next item "Galway Bay". This is arrangement of a song composed by Arthur Colahan which tells of the beauty of Galway Bay on the west coast. The song has become a favourite with Irish emigrants around the world and was most famously recorded by Bing Crosby. Tonight this was performed as a trombone solo by Erin which she played very well.

Then came another leap back in time to the early 16th century for "Pastime With Good Company" written by King Henry the Eighth. It is believed the song was written for Catherine of Aragon and due to its simple and catchy melody became a popular English tune played frequently at fairs and in taverns.

The final item in the Development Group's contribution took us north of the border to Scotland for "Highland Farewell," an arrangement of a song about Bonnie Prince Charlie. Originally a poem, it was set to the tune of a traditional Scottish folk song. It expresses joy that the Prince managed to escape to the continent after his unsuccessful attempt to claim back the British throne for his father King James. There was the hope that he would return to Scotland with the words "Will ye no come back again?"

It was a spirited performance by a group of 38 players ranging from the age of 8 up to adult and of mixed abilities. Playing in public is an important part of the development process and helps the performers gain experience.
The Development Group left the stage to be replaced by the senior band. Musical Director Brian Keech had selected a programme of music to suit most tastes and began with the William Rimmer march "Honest Toil". This was followed by a solo by principle cornet Tug Wilson who played "With His First Breath" written by Paul Lovatt-Cooper for Katrina Marzella and the Black Dyke Band.

Next up was a selection from the musical "West Side Story". This selection includes the songs 'I Feel Pretty', 'Something's Coming', 'One Hand One Heart', 'America', 'Maria', 'Tonight' and 'Cool'. This was followed by "Song Of The Seashore" a traditional Japanese tune arranged for band by Ray Woodfield. The original title is Hamabe no uta and was written by Tamezo Narita. The second soloist for this evening was principle euphonium Fraser Cousins with James Curnow's "Rhapsody for Euphonium". This starts off as an unaccompanied cadenza leading to a slow movement with the band providing the harmony. A sudden accelerando leads to an allegro con spirito melody with semi-quaver embellishments and culminates in a big finish.

Engagement Reports

Bringing the first half of the concert to an end was Alan Fernie's arrangement of "Spiritual Sounds", This comprised three movements opening with "Joshua Fight The Battle of Jericho" and followed by "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot". The final movement contains "Peter Go Ring Them Bells" and "Nobody Knows The Trouble I See".

After the interval Brian said he is always happy to receive requests from our audience to play a favourite piece. For tonight former player Brin Carstens had requested we play Malcolm Arnold's "Padstow Lifeboat" as his family have some strong connections with this. It was composed for the launch of a new lifeboat station in Cornwall. This was close to the Trevose lighthouse whose foghorn varies in pitch between middle C and D and can be heard through much of the music.

Karen Wilson was then introduced as the flugel horn soloist in "Concerto De Aranquez" before another airing of "The Bradellite" which had been commissioned for the 125th anniversary.

Then can an American inspired piece "Cranberry Corner USA". This was written as song with words by Hal Richardson and music by John Klein. This was a popular song in the 1960's for High School Glee Clubs throughout the USA and arranged for brass band by Denzil Stephens.

The trombone section of Louis, Erin, James, Ben and George then took to the font of the stage for two contrasting pieces, The first was "When I Survey" an arrangement of one of the tunes used for the singing of the hymn followed by the livelier "Frolic For Trombones" . This gives the featured players the chance to shine with lively melodies, rich harmonies and the chance to gliss!

The final item on the published programme was "The Golden Lady" written by Goff Richards for the Cornwall Youth Brass Band's European tour back in 1990.

After words of thanks from Church Warden Graham Crisp we played Gordon Langford's lively arrangement of "When The Saints Go Marching In" as an encore.

It had been a good evening of music making with all of our soloists amazing and the trombone section excelling in their feature.

Our thanks go to our front of house team Chey, Jess, Sami, Anne and Band President Peter. We look forward to returning in December for our Christmas concert

Band Marks Anniversary With Special Dinner

On Friday 23rd October the Band held a special evening to celebrate their 125th Anniversary at the historic Cock Hotel in Stony Stratford. Over 40 members and partners were present for the meal after which Band Chairperson Tug Wilson proposed a toast to the Band, past, present and the future. In his comments Tug said how proud he was as a Brad'll boy to be part of this celebration. He recalled the days in the late 1970s/early 1980s when the Band was down to just ten players. Due to the hard work and perseverance of those dedicate members, the Band recovered from this low point to reach the current record number of players as well as a thriving Development Group.

The Band's President Peter Blake was the called upon to make presentations to four of the Band's longest serving members. First up was Musical Director Brian Keech, followed by the Keith Jones, Tug Wilson and Robin Allen. Each of these has the proud record of over 50 years involvement with brass bands, the vast majority of them being with Bradwell Silver Band.

Brian and Keith received an engraved baton case while Tug and Robin had framed portraits which had been created especially by Chas. They were also presented with a memory book full of pictures going back over 50 years.

Band Marks Anniversary With Special Dinner

Then there were some unofficial presentations made by two of the Band's youngest members, Erin and Ella. As can be expected from these fun and mischievous young ladies, the categories were tongue in cheek, but also observational.

The Best Cat Impression award went to Tug

Most Likely To Say B for Brian went to Brian

Most Likely to Forget to Pick Someone Up – Alison

Wears Shorts All Year Round- Ben

Best Dressed –Karen

Most Sparkly Shoes – Rachael

Most Likely To Make A Child Cry – Louis

Best Chair Stacker – Sami

Most Colourfully Dressed – Maria

Makes A Nursery Rhyme the Most Complicated Thing In The World – Luke

Always Early to Development Band – Keith

Best Slide Whistle –Julia

Best Hair Award -Sam

Most Creative Earrings – Lucy

Rachael then took over to present her awards..

Most Likely To Drop A Mute – Erin

Most Likely to Forget Music – Ella

Most Chatty Duo – Ella and Erin

All good fun and this added to a very enjoyable evening which continued with dancing. We are extremely grateful to Karen for all her hard work in organising this event.

This meal came at the end of a week where the Band had taken part in an extended photo shoot followed by recorded video interviews with a number of players as well as the Band's President and Trustee Graham Crisp. The Development Group was also captured in action as they rehearsed. These recording will all be incorporated into a special video that is being planned to commemorate all of the events held this year celebrating the anniversary,

Forthcoming Engagements

Playing members are reminded that they should use Muzodo to indicate their availabilty.

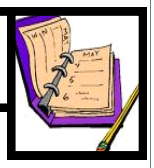
If you have any questions about engagements or your availability, please speak with Sam as engagement secretary, Gareth as co-secretary, Brian or your section leader as appropriate.
The earlier Sam and Gareth know deps are needed the better. Of course, if you can provide your own deputy that really helps 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 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

www.bradwellband.co.uk

Contacts



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Every year the Royal British Legion supports Remembrance events across the U.K. At the core of these events is the Act of Remembrance which includes the Exhortation that begins "They shall grow not old". These familiar words are one verse of a poem written by Laurence Binyon entitled "For The Fallen" which was first published in The Times in September 1914.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.