



# **THE BRADWELL BUGLE**

**Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band August 2004**

## ***Editor's Comments***

### ***Life After Brian!***

We have started the audition process for a successor to Brian as Musical Director of the Bradwell Silver Band and this has made for some interesting rehearsals. I have been pleasantly surprised by the calibre of some of those who applied for the position and the distances they have travelled to attend the audition. This has included people experienced in getting good results from their previous lower section bands.

The appointment of the new Musical Director is very important for the well being and future of the Bradwell Silver Band and I'm sure will only be done after much careful consideration.

It is a testing time for the committee and the playing members. There has by necessity been some disruption to our normal rehearsal pattern but these have been handled very well. I would like to give a special mention to the latest three youngsters who have moved up from the learner's class, Guy on cornet, George on baritone and Emily on trombone. They have each shown a lot of promise and their concentration on the music being played has been first class.

These youngsters are the latest in a steady succession of learners who have come through the learners group. In the brass band world there is still a worrying shortage of experienced players available so there is a great need to teach the players of tomorrow.

I would like to point out that I am only the editor of the newsletter. The views expressed in this month's newsletter are my own personal ones and not necessarily those of the Band's committee!

You are all very welcome to have an opinion and I will gladly include any comments in subsequent editions of this newsletter.

## ***ENGAGEMENT REPORTS***

***Paganell Grange  
Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July***

Brian Keech's last engagement as Musical Director was at the Paganell Grange Residential home in Newport Pagnell. It was to have been an outdoor concert but given the appalling weather of the previous two days we were moved inside. The Band was a bit cramped and the low ceiling presented a challenge but the concert seemed to go well.

Soloists featured were Tug ("Spanish Eyes"), Adam ("Concerto d'Orangejuice) and Keith ("Afton Water"). Overall, the playing was to a good standard if a little loud for the restricted layout we were obliged to perform in.

Presentations were made at the conclusion of the concert to Brian and Tug in appreciation of the many years of service they have given to the Bradwell Silver Band.



As mentioned last month, we are indebted to Brian and Tug for the services they have given to the Band and we wish them both well for the future.

*Bradwell School Carnival  
Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July*

Our first engagement following the departure of Brian was the Bradwell School Carnival. As usual, this consists of a march heading the procession of colourfully decorated floats around the narrow streets of New Bradwell and then a 45-minute slot in the school playground once the grounds had been opened to the public.

A combination of holidays, illness and work commitments saw us depleted in numbers but in the end we managed 18 players on the march. We could have done with more but we did well with what we had. Just before we were due to set off there was a heavy shower, which delayed things by about ten minutes.

After a bit of confusion on the first march played, the Band settled into a reasonable shape with Ozzy giving a very clear beat on the bass drum. The old favourites were trotted out in quick succession, "Imperial Echoes", "True and Trusty", "Slaidburn", "Standard of St. George", "C.I.V" and "Erimus".

We arrived back at the school and set up for the next slot. This began with another rendition of the march "True and Trusty", not as adventurous as our usual opener but the programme had to be tailored to the resources available on the day.

For the same reason we only featured one soloist today but fittingly this was David Wilson on his last performance before leaving Bradwell Band. As always, Tug performed like a true professional, his rendition of "Spanish Eyes" receiving prolonged applause from audience and Band members alike.

The rest of our programme was on the light side, one of the best items being "In The Mood" which the Band seemed to enjoy almost as much as the many people listening. With perfect timing and just as the rain clouds ominously appeared overhead, we finished with "Born Free". We had

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almost finished packing up when there was a torrential downpour, which saw people scattering for cover wherever they could find it.

This was a good performance with less than a full band but some nice individual touches. There were some nice comments made to me by members of the public about the playing; that is all down to the players.

There was an embarrassing moment when I was mistaken for Brian (easy mistake I know as we are both such good looking fellows!) and there were some photographs taken. The purpose of these is to go with an article in the school newsletter due out in September about Brian's 28 years with the Band. Hopefully they will acquire some pictures of the real Brian by then!

We were very grateful for help from Duncan Bruce on euphonium and Clive Keech on cornet.

So ends another chapter in the history of the Bradwell Silver Band as Brian and Tug have now moved on. We are into a period of change and consolidation.

## *Claydon Young Farmers Birthday Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> July*

Today's engagement was a new one for the Band and took us a little off the beaten track to the grounds of Claydon House for what we were told was a young farmer's birthday celebration. My previous knowledge of young farmers was of a lively group who were out for a good time. Events were to make me revise my opinion!

We arrived in plenty of time for our later than normal start but were a little surprised that the Band initially outnumbered the "partygoers" by about four to one. With Vaughan Bower as our guest conductor, we started our first stint bang on time and gradually more people arrived. By the end there were several hundred there but they were dispersed across a wide area enjoying their own company and picnics. We seemed to attract

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**more interest from visitors to nearby Claydon House who wandered down to listen to the Band.**

**We allowed ourselves a generous pause between pieces; this helped to preserve the lips on what was scheduled to be a long time playing. We had several breaks during the second of which a nice spread of food was made available for the Band. Nicky Davy was delighted with the sheer quantity of cakes available!**

**The whole programme was**

Area Contest in 1996 - his final year before studying at Southampton University.



After graduating with a Business Studies Degree, he returned to Milton Keynes and Stantonbury Brass until last summer when he was taken ill. David was 26.

Stantonbury sent a group of past and present members to play at David's funeral in Wrexham. Amongst these were David Wilson, Vaughan and Jan Bower. The band played "David of the White Rock" which had been specially requested,

We send our condolences to his family at this sad and difficult time.

### *Player News*

*Adam Keech* recently performed at the Birmingham Symphony Hall with the Stantonbury Campus jazz band that he also plays with. Dressed in the style of the U.S. army they performed a Glenn Miller tribute concluding with "Little Brown Jug". For this they were joined by their partner school Simpson who performed a dance. The hall was not full but nevertheless this was a unique opportunity of performing in one of the country's premier concert venues.

Congratulations to *Kevin Haseldine* who recently passed his driving test.

## **The Bradwell Bugle** *News of Former Member*

*Ben Godfrey* who learned to play with Bradwell Band before moving on to play with some of the finest bands in the country continues to enhance his musical career. There was recently a comparatively rare chance to hear him play locally. On 10th July at Church of Christ the Cornerstone in Central Milton Keynes, some 300 people attended the 30th Anniversary Gala Concert of Stantonbury Brass.

Highlights of the evening included the guest appearance of Ben, formerly principal cornet of the Yorkshire Building Society Band and recently graduated from the Royal Academy of Music. Ben played piccolo trumpet in "Escapade" and stunned the audience with a rendition of the Harry James "Trumpet Concerto".

Ben has also been heard on national radio where he has performed with a number of leading classical and jazz ensembles where his playing has won him many new admirers.

### *Positional Changes*

Following Tug's departure it has been necessary to have a change in the playing positions to give a more balanced ensemble.

Currently, our front row cornets now consists of Helen who has moved from soprano, Karen from the back row and Lisa from baritone. Alison has moved up to second cornet and we have welcomed three new youngsters into the band Guy (Alison's son) on cornet, George (son of Alan Bruce) on baritone and Emily (Luke's sister) on trombone.

We are very grateful to the people who have agreed to move to different parts. It may become necessary in due course to move other players; we trust that we will have your full co-operation should this become necessary.

### *Presentation*

A couple of points on appearance. Following the first couple of jobs in July I would like to make the following observations.

I am the first to admit that the “which tie to wear” policy of the Band is confusing. However as neither the straight tie nor the bow tie take up much room may I suggest that the gentlemen members keep both in their uniform jackets at all times? That way we can all wear the same neckwear.

For outdoor jobs we have been supplied with wet weather jackets and these should be brought along at all times. We all know just how quickly a sunny afternoon can turn into a wet one. We nearly had a situation where we would have had to march in the wet but despite the recent prolonged spell of wet weather there were some members who hadn't brought along their waterproof jackets. We should be prepared for any contingency.

### *SUPPORTERS CLUB*

The Supporters Club ran a stall at the recent Bradwell School Carnival and were poised to surpass last year's total when the heavens opened and forced all the stallholders to close early.

This is the time of year when there are plenty of summer fruits available and thoughts turn to using some of the surpluses for jam making. As a result there is an appeal for jam jars with lids (no coffee jars please, these are not suitable). If you have any please pass them on to Norman.

Here we are barely into August and halfway through the school summer holidays when we are being reminded that there are only 124 shopping days left until Christmas! The Supporters Club will be offering the usual wide selection from the Webb Ivory catalogue. These will be available through Norman when you feel you're ready for it!

We are grateful to the Supporters Club for their efforts in raising funds on behalf of the Band.

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### *100 years Ago*

*Committee Meeting held August 11<sup>th</sup> 1904*

*Present Messer's: J. Jones, C. Hardwick B. Smith, A. Farrow, E. Johnson, A. Tucker and F.C. Sykes*

*Proposed by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Farrow that Mr. Sykes preside at this meeting – carried*

*Proposed by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Jones that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed - carried*

*Proposed by Mr. Hardwick, seconded by Mr. Jones that the question of the band being photographed stand over until the next meeting - carried*

*Proposed by Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. E. Johnson that a vote of thanks to the chairman – carried*

*Meeting closed at 8:25 p.m.*

### *Contact Details for Bradwell Silver Band*

<i>Chairman:</i>	Lisa Huckle	217429
<i>Secretary:</i>	Robin Allen	616463
	<i>(e:Mail rallen2@tiscali.co.uk)</i>	
<i>Bandmaster:</i>	David Huckle	217429
<i>Supporters Club:</i>	Norman Keech	222298
<i>Newsletter:</i>	Keith Jones	314368
<i>Website:</i>	<a href="http://www.bradwellbugle.co.uk">www.bradwellbugle.co.uk</a>	

*As per the article on the front page, presentations were made to Brian and Tug, here are some more pictures taken by Norman and processed by Clive*



*Brian Keech receives his presentation from secretary Robin Allen*



*David Wilson receives his presentation from chairman Lisa Huckle*

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### ***FORTHCOMING ENGAGEMENTS***



*Engagements will appear here when they are confirmed. Please look at the list carefully.*

*If you are not going to be available for any of these engagements you must let the Bandmaster and your Section leader know as soon as possible. This will allow time for arrangements to be made to cover any missing parts.*

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> August**

**Drayton Parslow Horticulture Show**

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> August**

**Tiger Moth Rally Woburn Abbey**

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> August**

***Wedding***

**The next edition of the Bradwell Bugle will be published on Tuesday 7th September, any contributions to**

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*be handed in to the editor by  
August 31st please*

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