The Bradwell Bugle

Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band

APRIL 2011

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From the Editor

Hi everyone

Thanks once again to Keith for providing a detailed report of the Regional Area Contest and in case you haven't heard yet, we came ……

3rd !!!!!!

The engagement list is filling out for the Spring/Summer season and we hope to see many of you at our forthcoming events. New silverware in the band cabinet will put a sparkle into our St James Concert performance on Saturday 9th April. We have a packed programme, including another valuable outing for Bradwell Development Band.

Steph

April Rain—Mathilde Blind

The April rain, the April rain,
Comes slanting down in fitful showers,
Then from the furrow shoots the grain,
And banks are fledged with nestling flowers;
And in grey shaw and woodland bowers
The cuckoo through the April rain
Calls once again.

The April sun, the April sun,
Glints through the rain in fitful splendour,
And in grey shaw and woodland dun
The little leaves spring forth and tender
Their infant hands, yet weak and slender,
For warmth towards the April sun,
One after one.

And between shower and shine hath birth
The rainbow's evanescent glory;
Heaven's light that breaks on mists of earth!
Frail symbol of our human story,
It flowers through showers where, looming hoary,
The rain-clouds flash with April mirth,
Like Life on earth.

SUPPORTER'S CLUB REQUEST

We have been asked to provide helpers and marshalls for the upcoming joint concert with MK Youth Brass and Bradwell Silver Band at Stantonbury Theatre on 21st May.

We require 2 marshalls for the top exits, 2 marshalls for the lower exits, minimum of 1 person to sell raffle tickets and 1 person to sell programmes. It's going to be a fantastic evening and any help will be welcome. We will also require the donations for the raffle.

Of course we are always looking for new members to join the Supporters Club. We only meet occasionally, usually just before big events, and a lot of the planning is done by email. If you are interested and wish to find out more please contact Lisa Huckle lhuckle@sky.com

Thanks, Lisa

Postcard from Stevenage — by Keith Jones

The London and Southern Counties 2011 Regional Qualifying Contest was held over the weekend 19/20th March at the Arts and Leisure Centre in Stevenage. Bradwell's section was held on the Sunday and an early morning departure from New Bradwell was required as the draw for the order of play took place at 9:00 a.m.

With most of the percussion kit being supplied at the venue by the organisers, the loading of the coach didn't take as long as usual. The coach driver's route take us on a bit of a tour and it was quite surprising to find ourselves on the new Bedford bypass heading for the A1 at the Black Cat roundabout before finally heading south. There wasn't any traffic about and so in the end it didn't make too much difference. The scenery was mostly pleasant and as a sure sign that spring is here there were plenty of new born lambs to be seen in the fields.

We waited on the coach while Ralph represented the band at the draw. We learned that we were to play second out of the sixteen bands entered in our section, with Milton Keynes Development Band drawing the number one slot.

An early draw is not always an advantage and statistics suggests that the later you play the more chance you have of doing well. However the plus side of an early draw is that you don't have to hang around waiting your turn. We made our way into the holding area and prepared for our performance. With the first band already on stage we were ushered through passport control - sorry I mean the registration process - with some of the member's photographs being subjected to close scrutiny.

All bands had been told not to blow into instruments or make any noise backstage, so it was a bit of a surprise to hear another of the waiting bands launch into a full rendition of "Thine Be The Glory". The organisers frantically rushed to get them to stop as apparently it could be heard on stage; the conductor seemed somewhat reluctant to stop and continued conducting until the piece came to its natural end. This was at the very least discourteous to the organisers and to the band already on stage.

We were moved to the room back stage and could hear the conclusion of the MK Development band's performance which sounded very good. There was no allowance given for setting up so we entered stage en masse and scrambled about a bit to have chairs where they were needed. We started to play the test piece selected for our section, John Golland's "Prelude Song and Dance," and it seemed as always to whizz through. The overall impression as we came off stage was that it been a decent performance and that we had given it our best shot.

Continued — by Keith Jones

We were then invited to pose for official band photographs before we were able to return our instruments and uniforms to the coach which was conveniently parked close by the venue. With fourteen bands still to perform what could we do with the time? Some went to listen to other performances whilst others strolled around the town centre experiencing the delights of Stevenage and discovering to their consternation that MacDonald's had closed down.

I discovered an interesting signpost in the bus station which tells you that Autun (France) is 940 kilometres away whilst Ingelhem (Germany) is a mere 790 kilometres away. It turns out that these are towns twinned with Stevenage. I was enjoying sitting on a bench on a pleasant spring day eating my sandwiches when a starling kindly decided to drop a message on to me from an overhead branch. Perhaps this was an omen.

As our section drew to a close, most of the band members found themselves a seat in the theatre ready for the announcement of the results. As is the custom, before the reading out of the results, the adjudicator, Duncan Beckley, was invited to address the participating bands. He said how he had enjoyed the contest and every band had giving him something of what he had been looking for. However in his opinion the main problem was in the level of consistency across the whole piece and it was on this that he based his final placings

There was then an awkward wait for the results but it is probably best that the organisers check and double check these to be certain before they are announced. It has become customary to read out the four top bands in reverse order. In fourth place were Amersham, in third place (much to the delight of our members) Bradwell Silver. A very pleased looking Robin was presented with a cheque and a trophy. Second place was awarded to Harwich and the winners were LGB Brass.

Full result:

L.G.B Brass (I. Stewart), 15*
2. Harwich R.B.L (A. Sanders), 3*
3. Bradwell Silver (B. Keech), 2
4. Amersham (P. Fisher), 7
5. M.K. Development (D. Johnston), 1
6. Bletchington Silver (N. Hall), 8
7. Great Yarmouth Brass (C. Swaep), 12
8. Letchworth Garden City (T. Welch), 14
9. Cottenham (P. Mackley), 13
10. E.P.B (M. Turner), 10
11. Snowdown Colliery (K. Twyman), 6
12. Royston Band (S. Earley), 11
13. City of Oxford Silver (R. Fleming), 9
14. Kings Lynn Town (S. Ingham), 16
15. Cobham (D. Ruel), 5
16. Charles Church Camberley (R. Cherry), 4

So with a trophy to show for our efforts the journey back to New Bradwell was quite a jolly one. Well done to everyone but a special mention to Dan who answered the call to become a member of the kitchen sink department for the contest. I suppose we'd better let him go back on cornet now.

Area Contest, A Summary — by Keith Jones

While some us are old hands (and by now we really ought to know better), for others I know this was their first experience of the contest scene. I thought I would try and explain how the system works. Brass band grading operates in a similar fashion to football leagues and is based on results. In banding we have a Championship, First, Second, Third and Fourth Section.

Bands participate in the geographic region in which they are based. The UK is divided into eight regions: London and Southern Counties, Midlands, West of England, Wales, Yorkshire, North West England, North of England and Scotland. Each year these areas send representatives to the National Finals and this is decided at the regional area contest.

The total number of qualifiers depends on the number of entrants in each section. The first two bands in each section are automatically invited to take part in the National Finals. If there are seventeen or more bands in the section then the third placed band will also get an invitation. Had there been seventeen bands in our section this year instead of sixteen we would have been going to the finals.

The National finals for the lower sections this year will be taking place at the Cheltenham race course in September whilst the Championship section is held at the Royal Albert Hall in London in October.

Promotion and relegation are part of the grading but they use results based over a three year average rather than a one-off performance. This is a better way of ensuring bands are placed in the most appropriate section based on the level of consistency in their performances over three area contests.

Most contests use a band's current grading to decide which section they are allowed to compete in but the Regional Area Qualifying Contest is the only one that counts in determining what that grading will be.

4barsrest Fourth Section Retrospective — by Clive Thomas

This is a small section of a full retrospective review recently published on www.4barsrest.com, for the full review please visit their website.

" **Quality first half**

The first half of the contest proved to be a bit of an eye opener, with no less than five high quality performances almost coming one after each other.

Bradwell Silver (drawn 2) and **Amersham** (7), will perhaps be disappointed at just missing out on qualification (the 16 bands meant 2 not 3 qualifiers) but both can be mighty proud of their efforts.

Each delivered flowing accounts, not entirely error free, but certainly full of solid solo work, balanced ensemble playing and a feel for the stylistic nuances between the three movements.

For two bands with some very young players in the ranks (Bradwell had one nipper the size of a flugel case) these were performances rich in future potential.

"

Engagements

April

Sat 9th	Concert— St James Church Bradwell	7.30pm

May

Sun 1st	Scout parade—Willen Lake	AM—TBC
Mon 2nd	May Day at the Mill	2pm—TBC
Sun 8th	Stoke Goldington Steam Rally	12.30—3.30pm
Sat 14th	Fun Day at the Mill	TBC
Sat 21st	Joint Concert with MK Youth Brass Stantonbury Theatre	7.30pm

June

Sun 5th	Livingstone Lovell	TBC
Sat 11th	Stony Stratford Riverside Fair	TBC

July

Sun 10th	Chruch on the Green Bletchley	1—4pm
Sat 16th	Bradwell School Summer Fayre & Parade	1pm
Sun 17th	Ironbridge Brass Band Festival	All Day

Contacts

Please help the rain forest by having The Bugle emailed to you.!

Please send Steph your email address, unless you have already done so.

Contact Details

Chairperson:	Gary Morris	
	chairman@bradwellband.co.uk	
Secretary:	Robin Allen	616463
	secretary@bradwellband.co.uk	
Treasurer:	Dave Sanderson	616357
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Musical Director:	Brian Keech	310959
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Supporters Club:	Lisa Huckle	217429
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	fras@sky.com	
Website:	www.bradwellband.co.uk	

Rocky Road Recipe
Makes 16:

- 100g (4oz) unsalted butter
- 225g (8oz) plain chocolate, broken into pieces
- 2tbsp golden syrup
- 2tbsp cocoa powder
- 2tbsp caster sugar
- 100g (4oz) Maltesers®
- 100g (4oz) mixed milk and white chocolate chips
- 100g (4oz) mini marshmallows
- 225g (8oz) ginger biscuits, broken into pieces
  Icing sugar to dust

Line a 20cm (8in) square cake tin with baking parchment.

In a small pan, heat the butter, plain chocolate, golden syrup, caster sugar, cocoa powder and stir together with a wooden spoon. Once melted together, leave to cool for 10 mins.

In a large bowl, place the Maltesers®, milk and white chocolate chip, mini marshmallows, ginger biscuits and bind together with the melted chocolate sauce.

Pour into the lined tin and leave to set in the fridge for a minimum of 2 hrs.

Remove from cake tin and slice into 16 snack-sized rocky road bars.

Dust the rocky road with icing sugar to serve.

Bradwell Silver Band Membership List

Committee

Chairperson:	Gary Morris	Trustees:	Brin Carstens / Graham Crisp
Secretary:	Robin Allen	Junior Rep:	Sam White
Treasurer:	Dave Sanderson	Members:	Luke Colvin, Lucy Bedford
Librarian:	Sam White		Fraser Cousins, Karen Wilson
			Michael White

Playing Positions

Principal Cornet:	Vacant
Solo Cornets:	Sue Snoxell
	Gary Morris
	Julia Hollis
	Dan Whitmore
Soprano Cornet:	Ralph Tatam
Repiano Cornet:	Clive Keech
2nd Cornet:	Sam White
	Adam Chappell
	Jess Davies
3rd Cornet:	Alison Drury
	Rachel Griffith
	Orla Howell
Flugel Horn:	Karen Wilson
Solo Horn:	Keith Jones
1st Horn:	Byron Cox
2nd Horn:	Steph Chappell
	Louis Wilson
1st Baritone:	Lucy Bedford
2nd Baritone:	Graham Ford
Euphonium:	Fraser Cousins
	Luke Colvin
1st Trombone:	John Lee
2nd Trombone:	Vacant
Bass Trombone:	Vincent Jarjadian
	Luca Ianotta
E*b* Basses:	Dave Sanderson
	Joe Hillyer
	Jonathan Evans
BB*b* Bass:	Robin Allen
Percussion	Steve Osborne

Non Committee Positions

President:	Revd Chris Collinge
Musical Director:	Brian Keech
Publicity Officer:	Dave Huckle
Magazine Editor:	Steph Chappell
Fundraising:	Supporters Club
Quartermaster:	Vincent Jarjadian

Honorary Members

Chris Coull, Brian Keech, Malcolm Hills, David Wilson, Jim Whyte

Development Group

Rachel Griffith	Adam Chappell
James Fosch	Orla Howell
Steph Chappell	Louis Wilson
Daniel Gaylor	Lucinda Gaylor
Andrew Hutton	Sarah Hutton
Lucas Chappell	Luca Ianotta
Ellis Rees-Kay	Arwel Rees-Kay
Debbie Hodder	Casey Brockwell

The Development Group is open to everyone, irrespective of age. So if you know anyone who's been thinking of taking up a brass instrument, get them to come along. Experience not necessary.

*If you are interested in these positions, or would just like to come along for an evening, feel free to contact the Band's secretary, Robin Allen