



The Bradwell Bugle

Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band

February 2009

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From the Editor

Hello everyone

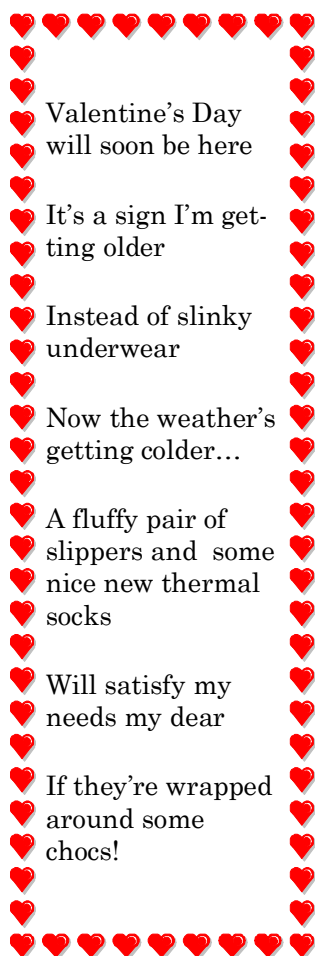
It is again very sad to start the newsletter with an obituary. You will all know that Nick Dytham died over Christmas. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends at this sad time and you will all have your own memories of Nick. I am grateful to Keith Jones who has penned a tribute to Nick on page 2.

Maggie

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS...

I thought I'd leave these in—just in case the optimist in me is justified...!!

- I *will* write to the editor at least once a year with a snippet, a report, a recipe, a joke—in fact anything!
- I will attend the band social events and indeed suggest some to the Secretary.
- I will persuade one member of my family to come out and collect at Christmas!



Supporters Club

As you know, the supporters club has been instrumental in raising funds for the band and has made a great difference. With Norman's passing away, we need to get this up and running again and will be holding a meeting at the school on Tuesday 17th February at 7.30pm for all those interested. Please, have a word with any family or friends who might be able to spare some time to keep the club going and therefore raise funds which the band dearly need. The more people there are, the less time everyone has to spend, so please give it some thought. Any queries, give Robin a call.

A Tribute to Nick Dytham *by Keith Jones*

I knew Nick for over thirty years. His father and uncle were long serving stalwarts of the Wolverton Town Band and it was natural that Nick would follow in their footsteps. However it wasn't just brass bands that Nick was involved with. As well as being able to play every instrument in the brass band he was also an excellent exponent of the stringed bass and bass guitar. His musical versatility meant his services were always in demand, performing in countless musical ensemble ranging from full orchestra down to small popular music groups.

Most of us will know Nick as a trombone or bass player but my lasting vision of him is with the sousaphone which he played with various traditional jazz groups. I remember him bringing it to one rehearsal and when he leaned forward the bell of the instrument caught the head of the person unfortunate enough to be sitting in front of him. The image was of someone sitting under one of those old fashioned hair driers!



Outside of music his next great love was golf and he spent many a happy hour working to reduce his handicap. In the clubhouse afterwards he would then regale his companions with a never ending array of jokes, many of which he would retell after band rehearsal.

Nick was a great character, a superb musician and will be missed by all who knew him.

Engagements Report *by Keith Jones*

Monday 1st December Bradwell WI Christmas Carols and Readings

The first of our Christmas engagements for this year were in the familiar surroundings of the Parish Church of St. James. A warm welcome was extended to a large audience and thanks expressed to the Reverend Chris Collinge for kindly allowing the WI to hold the event in the Church.

We began the evening in traditional fashion with the playing of "Jerusalem" and followed the pattern of a reading from representatives from each of the WI groups present followed by a carol or band item.

The readings were the usual seasonal mixture of the humorous from the likes of Pam Ayers and Joyce Grenfell and some more thought provoking. The readers included two men, one of which entitled "Grumpy Old Women" was perhaps not in keeping with the tone of the others but seemed to be enjoyed.

During the course of the evening we provided accompaniment for the singing of the some of the best known carols. These were, "Once In Royal David's City", "It Came Upon A Midnight Clear", "O Little Town of Bethlehem", "Away In The Manger", "While Shepherd's Watched Their Flocks By Night" and "Hark the Herald Angel Sing".

The first Band item was "Schneewalzer" during which the audience is invited to participate by swaying in time to the music, an invitation they were glad to accept if only as a way of keeping warm in a very cold Church.

Our featured soloist for the evening was Fraser Cousins on euphonium with the lovely composition by Adolphe Adam, "O Holy Night". Fraser produced an admirable euphonium sound and his efforts were generously applauded by audience and band alike.

An interval for refreshments took rather longer than expected as people took the opportunity to get a warm drink inside them.

The carols in the second half were "In The Bleak Mid-winter", "The First Nowell", "The Holly and the Ivy", and "Silent Night".

The Band's contribution was "Ding Dong Christmas" and "The Snowman", or more accurately "Walking In The Air". As pointed out by Brian, Aled Jones had a massive hit release in 1985 with this song but it was originally sung by Peter Auty in the Raymond Briggs cartoon "The Snowman".

The final carol was "O Come All Ye Faithful" and we rounded off the evening with "Jingle Bells" and "We Wish You A Merry Christmas".

Our thanks go to Lisa and Liz who helped us out that evening.

Engagements Report *by Keith Jones*

Wednesday 3rd December , Concert with the Two Mile Ash School, Stantonbury Theatre

We really got into the festive spirit in this concert with the youngsters from the Two Mile Ash School. As always, the theatre was packed to the rafters with parents and relatives of those performing with the choir.

The concert began with "Deck The Halls", the Band playing a verse by way of introduction before being joined by the choir of nearly one hundred voices.

The Choir's first item was "Percussion Carol" with individual members featured on a variety of percussion equipment. The Band followed this with "Merry Christmas Everybody". The Choir then sang the Czech folk-song "Carol Of The Drum".

The Band played the theme song from the "The Snowman" which the choir followed with the Boney M version of 'Mary's Boy Child'.

The next Band item was "All I Want for Christmas Is You" and then Band and choir together performed "Christmas Swingalong" which is a medley of the well known Christmas songs, ' Winter Wonderland', 'All I Want For Christmas Are My Two Front Teeth' and ' Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas'.

They then sang "Away In A Manger" and ended the first half with the hearty invitation to "Come and Join the Celebration".

After an interval the choir opened the second half with "Sleigh Bells" followed by "Do You Hear What I Hear?" with band accompaniment.

The band made a long term weather forecast with their next item, "It's Gonna Be a Cold Cold Christmas"

The choir transported us to a much warmer place with "Christmas Calypso" to which the Band responded with "The Jolly Reindeer".

The last item by the choir on their own was "When Children Rule The World" which has a lovely tune and some fine lyrics.

The Band and Choir the persuaded most of the audience to join in with swaying in time to the music of "Schneewalzer" and the evening drew to a close with "Jingle Bells", "Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer" and "We Wish You A Merry Christmas" by band and choir together

The choir's conductor Dorothy Courtman and accompanist Peter Thorley deserve all the credit for the choir's performance. After just one rehearsal with the Band, all the joint items went very well on the night.

As always, the members of the choir were immaculately dressed and their deportment was first class. They really seemed to enjoy performing and we hope that for many of them they will be able to involve themselves in further musical activities. I had a brief chat with a couple of them and asked if they had enjoyed the evening. One replied that it had been "awesome", so I think he approved!

Engagements Report *by Keith Jones*

Saturday 6th December, Concert at St Mary and St Giles Stony Stratford

Under Musical Director Brian Keech, we began the concert with the 1973 Slade hit "Merry Christmas Everybody". This was followed by "The Snowman" (Walking In The Air) from the Raymond Briggs classic cartoon, and then "The Jolly Reindeer" by Ray Sacks and arranged by Johnny Ocean.

Our first soloist of the evening was Karen Wilson with "Away In A Manger", a flugel solo arranged Peter Graham. Karen performed this extremely well with a lovely tone and some fine phrasing.

Santa. These are 'Santa Claus Is Coming To Town', 'Here Comes Santa Claus', 'I Saw Mummy Kissing Santa Claus', "Giving" (the theme tune from Santa Claus the movie), 'When Santa Got Stuck Up The Chimney', 'A Rootin' Tottin' Santa Claus'.

In this clever arrangement all sections of the band get a chance to play part of the melody. The basses feature in 'When Santa Got Stuck up The Chimney' which uses the opening bars from Mozart's 4th horn concerto as an introduction.

After an interval we opened up the second half with "Sleigh Ride" is a 1948 composition from the Leroy Anderson's stable of well loved tunes. Although *Sleigh Ride* is closely associated with Christmas, the song's lyrics make no mention of any holiday or religion, just snow! Luke Wilson was our sleigh bell soloist for this item.

Our final soloist of the evening was Fraser Cousins on euphonium with "O Holy Night", Adolphe Adam's beautiful carol arranged by Keith Wilkinson. Despite a less than secure introduction from the Band, Fraser gave us another first class rendition and the acoustics of the Church helped produce a memorable performance.

This was followed with "All I Want For Christmas Is You", a song by American singer Mariah Carey originally recorded this for her 1994 album 'Merry Christmas'. The singer declares that she does not care about Christmas presents or lights; all she wants for Christmas is to be with the one she loves! The song currently holds the top spot at the iTunes holiday songs. It is also currently used on one of the seemingly endless commercials for furniture.

"The Christmas Song" Chestnuts roasting on an open fire, need I say anything more? This is a tricky arrangement for the band which involves some quite drastic key changes.

The audience were invited to joined in with another three carols "O Come All Ye Faithful", "O Little Town of Bethlehem", and "The First Nowell" before we launched in to "Schneewalzer", with encouraged some good communal swaying from the audience.

"It's Gonna Be A Cold Cold Christmas" Roger Greenaway and Geoff Stephens was a 1975 hit for Dana in. Dana first sprung to fame as a winner of the Eurovision Song Contest and in 1999 was elected as a member of the European parliament, a post she held for four years before returning to her singing career.

Our final published item was "Christmas Swingalong" a medley of the well known Christmas songs, 'Winter Wonderland', 'All I Want For Christmas Are My Two Front Teeth' and 'Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas'

After some words of thanks from Father Ross Northing, we performed the Derek Ashmore arrangement of "Jingle Bells" and concluded with "We Wish You A Merry Christmas"
We thank Liz for helping us out on tenor horn and Ron Snape on BBb bass.

The size if the audience was noticeably down on previous years but there were other events taking place locally on the same evening and no doubt this affected the attendance.

However Brian, Keech afterwards expressed his satisfaction with the Band's performance.

Engagements Report *by Keith Jones*

Sunday 7th December Santa Jog Willen Lake

The British Heart Foundation is the nation's heart charity, raising funds for pioneering research that saves and improves the lives of vulnerable adults and children. Research breakthroughs keep thousands of hearts beating but we need donations - you are more likely to die of heart and circulatory disease than any other serious illness, including cancer.

The Milton Keynes Santa Jog is a fun, festive and down right Santastic event aimed to get joggers into the Christmas spirit. Participants can walk, jog or run the 4km course around Willen Lake, Milton Keynes whilst dressed in the free Santa suits the BHF will provide you with! They encourage you to get a team of friends, family or colleagues together, don your Santa Suits and give the best gift of all this Christmas the gift of life.

A band of fourteen players under the baton of Brian Keech met at Willen Lake on a very cold and icy but sunny morning.

With chairs borrowed from the school and transported in the trailer by Robin, we were positioned just in front of the hotel and near to the starting point of the jog. During the course of the morning we performed a selection of carols and items from our Christmas folders.

By the time registration was complete there was the surreal sight of hundreds of Santas ready for the off. There was a competition for the best dressed youngster and then a local fitness centre provided staff to do a gentle warm up routine.

The joggers were sent on their way and we continued to play for the many people waiting for their return. The Mayor of Milton Keynes, Councillor Jan Lloyd, stopped to have a few words and say how much she was enjoying the music.

This was a worthwhile event to be involved with and our playing was reaching a lot of people who would not normally get the opportunity of hearing a brass band. We also subsequently received a telephone call from the organisers to thank us for our musical efforts and to say the proceeds from the day were likely to raise more than £50,000 for the charity.

This engagement marked the end of an unprecedented eight consecutive days of Band activity. It had started with the Soloist competition and with five engagements plus the two normal rehearsals it meant a lot of commitment by the playing members at a very busy time of the year.

Saturday 13th December St James Church

As Christmas drew ever closer, we were performing our annual Christmas concert in the Parish Church of New Bradwell. Under the leadership of our Musical Director Brian Keech we performed the same programme used at Stony Stratford. From start to finish the playing was of a good standard and we were thanked at the end by the Vicar for a wonderfully entertaining evening.

The solos went very well, with Karen, Sue and Fraser all receiving prolonged applause for their excellent efforts. After the interval the development group under the directorship of Clive Keech performed two carols "As With Gladness" and "Good King Wenceslas". This was introduced by the new Chuckle Brothers (Luke and Jack) and the youngsters in the group showed a lot of promise in their playing which was very well received.

We give grateful thanks to our guest players for the evening, Andrew Long from the Woburn Sands Band on trombone, Carolyn Stoneman from the MK Brass Development band, Ron Snape from Great Horwood on BBb Bass, Ralph's son Josh on Bass Trombone, Lisa on cornet and Liz on baritone. We were also pleased to welcome the return of Steve Osborne on percussion and Sian Haseldine on tenor horn who was home from university for the holidays.

Thanks also go to Ann for organizing the raffle and to Sue's husband Kevin for helping to sell the tickets.

Engagements Report *by Keith Jones*

Tuesday 16th December, Haversham Street Carolling

Thankfully it was neither too cold nor raining as we met at Haversham to commence our street carol playing for this year. With Brian Keech waving the baton, we had a group of 16 players. The standard of playing was good considering the poor light available to read our music. Time ran out before we could reach the houses at the far end of Wolverton Road but this was an excellent effort. Our thanks go to Ann and Alison (Rachel's Mum) for collecting on our behalf.

Thursday 18th December Bradville Street Carolling

We met outside Haley's (formerly known as the Jovial Priest and the Bradville, and made our way up Bradwell Road, Althorpe Crescent, Stanton Avenue, Abbey Way, Bradvue Crescent and Mercers Drive. It was a milder evening but we did have some quite heavy rain for a while. Keith got to choose the carols tonight and we had an extremely good turn out of collectors. As a consequence we were able to cover more ground than we have managed for the past few years and this was reflected in the magnificent amount collected.

Saturday 20th December Stony Stratford Street Carolling

It was a mild morning as we gathered outside Cofferridge Close for our annual street playing in the High Street. We had a good turn out of players and played more or less continuously for around three hours, with players taking a break as and when required. We played most of the familiar carols from the book plus a few different ones on request.

The aromas from the adjacent Indian restaurant were either making you feel hungry or not very well, depending on your preferences.

The total collected was not as much as in previous years but we are grateful to the people of Stony Stratford for their generosity at what is a difficult time for most people.

We thank Tug and Liz for their playing help this morning and Wendy for collecting.

Sunday 21st December Stantonbury Working Men's Club

Our last formal concert of the year was performed in the Side Club in front of a large audience. The programme was the same as used previously with a few additional Carols to pad out proceedings. Our three soloists again performed well despite a rather noisy audience and close encounters with children sliding around the floor. It is not easy to maintain concentration when this sort of thing is going on but the Band was able to concentrate on the music,

After a lengthy interval, the youngsters in the club enjoyed a visit by Santa (Bryn) and his helper (Sam) who distributed sweets. The evening drew to a conclusion with the Band standing to receive generous applause from the now well-lubricated audience. Brian was pleased with the level of performance and I think most of the audience went home feeling a bit more Christmassy. We thank Adam, Lisa and Steve who helped us out this evening.

Tuesday 23rd December Street Carolling New Bradwell

We started in the High Street and made our way round School Street, Thomson Street, Harwood Street, Chipperfield Road and Newport Road.

Wednesday 24th December Street Carolling New Bradwell

Starting from the Band room in Bounty Street we made our way round Queen Anne Street, King Edwards Street, St. Giles Street, St. Mary Street, and St. James Street. Newport Road, Wood Street, Wallace Street and Caledonian Street. We had lots of players and were extremely well received as many people came to their doors to listen to the Band.

CONGRATS

Well done to Kay White for passing her Grade 2!!

CONCERT SPOT

If you want to publicise any fellow band concerts, or indeed any other events, please email the editor

Contact Details

Chairperson: Sue Snoxell 217541

Secretary: Robin Allen 616463
secretary@bradwellband.co.uk

Treasurer: Dave Sanderson 616357
treasurer@bradwellband.co.uk

Musical Director: Brian Keech 310959
md@bradwellband.co.uk

Supporters Club:

Newsletter Maggie Snape 379138
editor@bradwellband.co.uk

Webmaster: Fraser Cousins 225772
fras@sky.com

Website: www.bradwellband.co.uk



Bradwell Silver Band Membership List

Committee

Chairperson:	Sue Snoxell	Playing Members:	Karen Wilson, Gary Morris , Luke Colvin, Jack Wilson
Secretary:	Robin Allen	Junior Rep:	Sam White
Treasurer:	Dave Sanderson	Non Playing:	Michael White
Bandmaster:	Vincent Jarjadian		
Librarian:	Sam White		

Playing Positions

Principal Cornet:	Sue Snoxell
Solo Cornets:	Jack Wilson
	Bill Holding
	Gary Morris
Soprano Cornet:	Ralph Tatam
Repiano Cornet:	Clive Keech
2nd Cornet:	Sam White
	Brin Carstens
3rd Cornet:	Alison Drury
	Rachel Griffith
Flugel Horn:	Karen Wilson
Solo Horn:	Keith Jones
1st Horn:	Byron Cox
2nd Horn:	Luke Wilson
1st Baritone:	Position Vacant*
2nd Baritone:	Position Vacant*
Euphonium:	Fraser Cousins
	Luke Colvin
1st Trombone:	Vincent Jarjadian
2nd Trombone:	Lawrence Matthews
Bass Trombone:	Position Vacant*
E♭ Basses:	Dave Sanderson
	Joe Hillyer
B♭♭ Bass:	Robin Allen
	Position Vacant*
Percussion	Steve Osborne

Non Committee Positions

President:	John White
Musical Director:	Brian Keech
Publicity Officer:	Position Vacant*
Magazine Editor:	Maggie Snape
Fundraising:	
Quartermaster:	Sam White

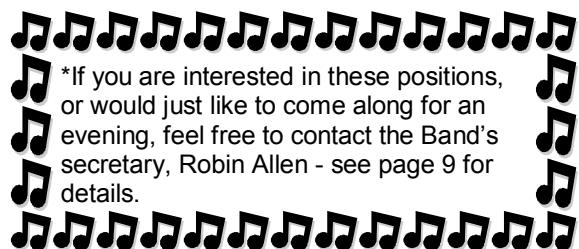
Honorary Members

Chris Coull	Brian Keech
Malcolm Hills	David Wilson
Jim Whyte	

Development Group

Jack Wilson	Jez Billingham
Emily Tilley	Luke Wilson
James Fosch	Kay White
Lewis Wilson	Jack Nicholls
Abi Preen	Rachel Griffith

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. No experience 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 - see page 9 for details.