



# The Bradwell Bugle

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## From the Editor

Hello everyone!

Well, here we are into the new year braving all sorts of inclement weather. I hope you've kept all your new year's resolutions and that gym membership you got for Christmas is being well used!

Thank you to all the different contributors this month—all greatly appreciated. Keith Jones is now suffering from writer's cramp with all the engagement reports! If you have anything to say, please email me.

Maggie

## TREASURER'S TITBITS

As you know, we obtain a lot of our income through the Christmas collections and a big thank you to those brave people who turned out in all weathers to shake a box, knock on doors and generally part people from their money! It was much appreciated. Collectors this year were Emily and Pam Tilley, Ann Osborne, Norman and Liz Keech, Lesley Nimmo and son (sorry—don't know his name), Lewis Wilson and Maggie Snape. Also thanks to Karen and Alison who had to be taken off playing as one night we were short of collectors. If you can spare some time this year, please do so as the more collectors we have, the more money we take. Try and persuade friends and relatives! Special mention must go to Lewis, who played the 'charm card' and took over £45 outside Dobbies! Inside you'll see a comparison of income from collections.

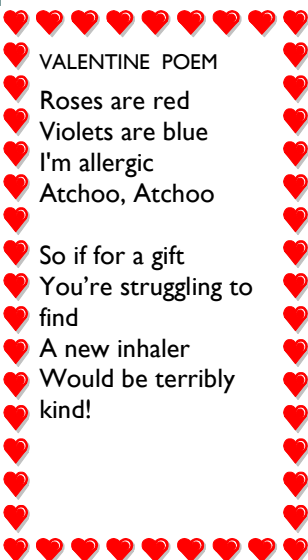
## European Trip

At the Annual General Meeting in 2005, it was agreed that each year for the next 3 years, we would aim to set £1,000 aside out of our income in order to subsidise a 'playing holiday' to somewhere in Europe. At each of the Annual General Meetings in 2006 and 2007, I was able to confirm that sufficient funds were available to allow this.

I can now tell you that after our best December collections yet, we should now have sufficient funds available this year to allow this to happen again. We now have £3,000 set aside to subsidise the costs of trip to somewhere in Europe, and I have advised the Committee that they can now consider where, how, and when the trip should be arranged.

I am currently looking to see if I can arrange sponsorship from commercial or 'official' sources - if any of you have any ideas or know of any organisations that might be willing to provide sponsorship in exchange for some publicity or a concert or two during the trip, please let me know and I will see what I can do.

**Ron**



VALENTINE POEM

Roses are red  
 Violets are blue  
 I'm allergic  
 Atchoo, Atchoo

So if for a gift  
 You're struggling to  
 find  
 A new inhaler  
 Would be terribly  
 kind!



## Engagements Report *by Keith Jones*

### Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December—Bradwell W.I. Carol Concert

Each year, the Bradwell Women's Institute organise a Christmas Carol Concert which is eagerly looked forward to and attended by other local branches. Bradwell Band has been pleased to be a part of this event for a number of years.

In the past this has been held at the Methodist Chapel in Thomson Street but as this is no longer available, it was being hosted for the first time in St. James Church. Being a larger building we were not as confined for space and we were able to have seventeen of our playing members present under the musical directorship of Chris Johnston.

There was a large congregation eagerly occupying most of the pews as we began in traditional style. History suggests that during the 1920s, many Women's Institutes closed their meetings by singing Hubert Parry's setting of William Blake's words "*And did those feet in ancient time*" known as "*Jerusalem*", and this caught on nationally. Although it has never actually been adopted as the WI's official anthem, in practice it holds that position and the Band accompanied the singing of the familiar words.

The evening then followed the usual programme of a Carol being sung followed by a reading by representatives from the various branches. These readings are a mixture of seasonable topics, some religious, some serious and some humorous, all of which were listened to attentively and the readers were warmly applauded.

There were a couple of items that featured the Band on its own, a debut public performance of "The Jolly Reindeer" and the ever popular "Schneewalzer" which has the congregation swaying from side to side in time with the Bavarian style music.

We also introduced to the audience the tune of "Sweet Chiming Christmas Bells" which use the words of "While Shepherds Watched" for the verse and then a chorus of

*Sweet Chiming Christmas Bells,  
They cheer us on our Heavenly way,  
Sweet Chiming Christmas Bells*

There was an interval during which there were copious amounts of food and refreshments on offer.

This was a good start to the Christmas season; it took a while for the players to achieve a balance suitable for the congregational singing, but the overall sound was good and our efforts were appreciated.

—oOo—

### Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December - Two Mile Ash School Choir and Bradwell Silver Band Christmas Carol Concert at the Stantonbury Theatre

For me, this is one of the best engagements of the Christmas season and something I always look forward to. In front of a full audience, the Band played a short introduction before being joined by the choir in the singing of "Joy To The World". The choir then sang "Merry Christmas Everyone" (not the Slade one!) followed by the Band playing "Wonderful Christmas Time", the Paul McCartney song which was a Christmas hit in 1979. Like Paul's "Ebony & Ivory" and "Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da", "Wonderful Christmas Time" is one of those songs that is either loved or loathed, depending on how cheery you like your music. In this arrangement for band by Frank Bernaerts it was well received.

The choir, which comprised over one hundred 7 to 11 year olds, then demonstrated their versatility by singing a carol in French, the pronunciation being excellent in "Il Est Né, le Divin Enfant", the tune of this carol dating from an eighteenth century composition.

The Band featured the first of our soloists, with Tim Sell playing the haunting (well, it scares me!) Peter Graham arrangement of "Away In A Manger". The choir was next up with two songs "Lullaby Jesus" and "Such A Tiny Child" which was excellently accompanied by one of the choir on the flute.

The Band played "The Jolly Reindeer" and then combined with choir for two more items "Christmas Swingalong" and "Come And Join The Celebration" before we all enjoyed an interval.

## Engagements Report *by Keith Jones*

### **/continued from page 2**

The Choir began the second half with "Sleigh Bells" complete with their own percussion section and followed this with the Band providing accompaniment for the "Cowboy Carol". The school thoughtfully provided headgear for Chris Johnston to wear whilst conducting this item, although the cowboy hat was more John Inman than John Wayne as it was decorated with feathers and glitter!

Sue Snoxell was our second soloist and Chris gave her the cowboy hat to wear in "A Winter's Tale". Sue was a good sport in wearing although she is dreading her daughters finding out. If anyone has a photograph please let me have it, I could use it as blackmail!

The choir sang the delightful "Cat & Mouse Carol" the last verse of which is  
*So they happily sat, little mouse, little cat,  
As they heard Mary singing to her son,  
As she cradles with care, little Jesus so fair,  
This baby, the Lord's chosen one.*

The Band followed with "All I Want For Christmas Is You", another new addition to our Christmas repertoire. This was a hit for American singer Mariah Carey in 1994.

The choir again provided their own percussion effects for "Carol of the Instruments" before the Band involved the choir and audience in "Schneewalzer".

To see a packed audience and choir swaying and standing up in unison is a sight to behold!

The choir's final individual offering was "Calypso Carol" before combining with the band for "Jingle Bells" and "Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer".

After words of thanks to the band, the choir and the teachers, the choir signed off with an enthusiastic rendition of "We Wish You A Merry Christmas". The Band played a couple of carols as the choir left the stage and all too soon the evening was over.

As always, the Two Mile Ash School Choir rose to the occasion. Superbly rehearsed by Dorothy Courtman and Peter Thorley, their singing was clear and enthusiastic and they all looked as they were thoroughly enjoying the experience of performing in a real theatre and singing with accompaniment of a live band. Immaculately turned out, they were a great credit to their school and I am sure their relatives and friends in the audience were immensely proud of their efforts.

As Peter said to the audience, the government have now realised the value of schools in encouraging singing. Singing, as an activity, is an enjoyable (and cheap!) way of making music. It also helps to develop social skills by encouraging the different age groups to mix together on an equal footing.

There were warm words of appreciation for the Band and the sincere wish that the links forged between the Two Mile Ash choir and Bradwell Silver Band will continue to enrich the school's musical experiences for many years to come.



## Engagements Report *by Keith Jones*

*/continued from page 3*

### **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December—St James Church Christmas Concert**

It had a been a day of almost relentless heavy rain so it was a pleasant surprise to find that the Church was almost full to capacity as the Band performed their annual Christmas Concert.

The opening number was Leroy Anderson's "A Christmas Festival" and was followed by Paul McCartney's "Wonderful Christmas Time". Sue Snoxell was our first featured soloist with "A Winter's Tale" a hit for David Essex back in 1982.

The audience was then invited to participate by singing the carol "Hark the Herald Angels Sing".

The concert continued with "The Jolly Reindeer" and the ever-popular "The Snowman". The audience sang the Carol "Joy To The World" before we ended the first half with "Christmas Piece" Goff Richard's composition based on the Sussex Carol , the first line of which is *On Christmas night all Christians sing To hear the news the angels bring.*

After the interval it was time for the Band's development group to demonstrate their progress by playing two carols "As With Gladness" and "Good King Wenceslas". Conducted by Clive Keech, this promising group of youngsters played very well and deserved the warm applause they received.

The full band resumed with "Its Gonna be A Cold Christmas" followed by a solo from our Flugel horn player Tim Sell, with Peter Graham's arrangement of "Away In A Manger".

The audience joined in with another Carol "O Little Town Of Bethlehem" and the Band performing "All I Want For Christmas is You".

The final Carol of the evening was "O Come All Ye Faithful" and the audience were invited to join in with the Band's next item, "Christmas Swingalong". This is a Christmas sing-along and includes: "Winter Wonderland", "All I Want For Christmas Are My Two Front Teeth", "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas".

For the last item of the concert we were joined by an elf (well actually Sam dressed up in a convincing costume) who guided the audience in the swaying and standing movements required for "Schneewalzer"

After words of thanks from the vicar, the Band signed off with "We Wish you a Merry Christmas".

We thank Bill Holding for his help on front row cornet and to "Professor" Ralph's two sons who helped out on cornet and trombone respectively.

### **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December—Street Carolling, Haversham**

It was a bitterly cold but dry night as we assembled in Haversham for the start of our street playing for this year. We had a very satisfactory seventeen playing members but only two collectors so we were extremely grateful to Karen and Alison who very kindly agreed to swap their instruments for collecting boxes.

We made our way around the streets and seemed to be well received. One resident kindly provided sherry and soft drinks which were gratefully accepted. We worked our way through the carol book playing 37 different carols and only had to repeat one of them (Jingle Bells). It was a good effort on a cold night. The need for people to stand wherever they can read the music under the sometimes poor street lighting prevent us from standing in the usual band formation and achieving a balance is not always possible.

We were a bit late in starting and our progress along the street was somewhat leisurely which unfortunately meant we didn't have time to finish the whole of Haversham.

## Engagements Report *by Keith Jones*

### **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December—Street Carolling New Bradwell**

The weather was still cold as we met at the band room. We had four collectors tonight but were down to 12 playing members as we set off around the streets of New Bradwell. We covered the High Street, School Street, Thomson Street, Harwood Street, Bridge Street and Newport Road as far as the Cuba on the corner of Church Street. It was a fine playing effort with 36 Carols played,

### **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December— St Mary and St Giles Church, Stony Stratford**

We were at the beautiful Parish Church of Stony Stratford for our Christmas Concert. The inside of the Church was very cold and remained chilly throughout. Holding a brass instrument for close on two hours didn't help the players to feel any warmer! There was a large audience present who were encouraged to join in with the festive spirit.

The programme was the same as St. James except Derek Ashmore's "Jingle Bells" was played at the start of the second half. We were not up to full strength playing wise which meant in parts the balance was not always as good as we would normally expect.

After the final item, Father Ross Northing thanked the Band on behalf of the Church for an entertaining concert and said the proceeds from which were going towards the Church's Restoration Fund.

### **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December—Dobbies Garden Centre, Fenny Stratford**

A new venue for our Christmas Carolling effort saw the band performing outside Dobbies Garden Centre in Fenny Stratford. It was of course cold but the sun was shining which took some of the chill off.

There were two sessions planned, the first from 11:00 to 13:00 and the second from 14:00 to 15:30. The Band had nominally been spilt into two groups but a number of members played in both. For the first session we had 9 players and the second 13, both groups were nicely balanced in their instrumentation.

Free refreshments were kindly provided by the manager of the garden centre and it proved to be a very worthwhile engagement. There was a lot of interest from the people shopping with the children showing a particular delight in hearing a brass band playing Christmas tunes that they knew, "Jingle Bells" and "Rudolph The Red Nose Reindeer" being joint favourites.

We are grateful for playing help in the afternoon from Tug Wilson and Liz Keech. Liz also kindly collected during our morning session. We thank them both for giving up their time to help Bradwell Band at what is a very busy period. Thanks also to Norman and Maggie and young Louis Wilson for collecting.

### **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December—Chestnuts School Bletchley**

A somewhat unusual engagement saw 11 playing members make it to the school in Bletchley for the early 6:00 p.m. start. The School had organised an outdoor Carol service and although dry, it was another very cold night with a chilling wind.

The Band played some light Christmas music as the children and their families gathered in the playground. We then provided accompaniment for the carol singing, the words of which were projected on to the school wall. There were also some readings from some of the children, all of whom had been provided with a Christingle orange. Christingle, which means 'Christ Light' is a symbol of the Christian faith and the orange is decorated with a candle, red ribbon, fruit and sweets. The orange represents the world, the red ribbon around it the blood of Christ, the fruit symbolises God's creation and the candle Jesus, the Light of the World.

We were provided with hot drinks halfway through the proceedings and these were very welcome as the cold had well and truly set in by then. At the conclusion of the singing we played a few more of the jolly Christmas tunes to send the kids home happy. The school staff seemed pleased with the evening and received some positive feedback from some of the parents.

We appreciate the effort the players made to be there for the early start, some coming straight from work and others having taken time off from work especially to be there.

## Engagements Report *by Keith Jones*

*/continued from page 5*

### **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December—Tickford Abbey Residential Home**

The Abbey is set in large grounds on the outskirts of Newport Pagnell. Part of the house dates back to the late 17th century and during the First World War was used as a hospital. It is now used as a care home for around 28 elderly residents. The Band sent along 7 playing members to play carols for the residents and staff. By contrast to the freezing conditions of the previous evening, the temperature in the home was very warm and this made playing quite hard work. Refreshments were provided at the conclusion and appreciative comments were received for the playing of Christmas music for the residents.

It is good for the Band to be involved with this very different type of engagement. It's great performing in front of hundreds of people but equally rewarding to play for smaller groups of people who would otherwise not have the opportunity of hearing a band at this time of the year.

### **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December—Bradville Street Carolling**

On yet another bitterly cold evening, the Band met at Bradville for the latest installment of our street playing. We had 13 players and four collectors so once we got started we managed to cover the ground at a good rate of knots. It is always gratifying to seem people come to their doors to listen to the Band and the closer we get to Christmas Day the better the reception we receive. We covered Bradwell Road, Stanton Avenue, Althorpe Crescent, Bradvue Crescent and Abbey Way before our time ran out.

### **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> December—Stony Stratford High Street**

A later than normal start at 10:30 saw a group of 19 players plus collectors. Special thanks to Brian, Adam and Sian for playing with us that day. We finished just before 1:00 p.m. by which time the High Street had become very quiet. Our thanks, as always, go to the collectors.

### **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December—Stantonbury Working Men's Club**

Unfortunately our principal cornet player Sue Snoxell was unable to be there for this concert as she was suffering with the flu. We were extremely fortunate to find a replacement at short notice with Ben Godfrey kindly agreeing to play with us for the evening. As most of you will know, Ben started his playing career at Bradwell over twenty years ago, since which time he has played at the very highest level and now has an extremely busy professional career as a trumpet and cornet player.

Sitting alongside Ben we had Adam Keech, home for Christmas from the University of Huddersfield, and later in the evening they were joined by David "Tug" Wilson to give us a formidable front row.

The programme played was more or less the same as the previous concerts. Soloists for the evening were Ben who demonstrated his wonderful sound with "A Winter's Tale" which he was apparently sight reading, Tim Sell playing "Away In A Manger" and Tug with the ever popular "Post Horn Galop" opening the second half of the concert.

There was an appearance by Santa Claus (Nick Dytham) who distributed sweets to the kiddies in the audience ably assisted by the Elf (Sam).

### **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December—New Bradwell**

We had 17 players and loads of collectors for our Christmas Eve playing around the streets of New Bradwell. The number of collectors meant we were able to cover the ground in almost record time. We were warmly received in every street we went to and crowds of residents came to their doors to hear the Band and to wish us a Happy Christmas. Robin entered into the spirit of things by wearing a Santa Claus outfit and was happy to be photographed with some Polish people enjoying their first Christmas in the UK. There is a lovely atmosphere in the streets around Bradwell and it demonstrates the goodwill shown to the band by the locals. Guest players that evening were Adam, Sian, Brian and Robin. A small group then went into the side club to play a few carols and relieve more people of money.

## Engagements Report *by Keith Jones*

### Christmas Day—New Bradwell/Bradville

After a dry but cold month, the heavens opened during the early hours of Christmas Day. This made it a very wet morning as some 19 players met by the Clock Tower at 6:00 a.m. for the traditional Christmas Day tour around the streets. We started in Caledonian Street and made our way round the streets before finishing up in Bradvue Crescent just after 8:30 a.m. There was then the equally traditional long (and wet) walk back to where the cars were parked. You'd have thought after 107 years we might have worked out that we should have transport ready at the finishing point!

Our thanks to all those players who turned out on such a horrible morning and thank guest players Tug, Kevin, Sian, Liz and Mike. We also thank Fraser's family and the Vicar of St. James's for providing some warming drinks on such a wet morning.

## Engagements—February/March



March	Area Contest	More details nearer the time—keep practising!
16	Stevenage	
	Supporters welcome!	

## Engagements Report *by Ron Snape*

### Sunday 23rd December—Nativity Great Brickhill

This is the third year that we've been asked to play at what is now quite an event amongst the local church community within the diocese covering Great Brickhill, Stoke Hammond, Bow Brickhill and Little Brickhill. The actual nativity is re-enacted with live animals (sheep, donkeys and a horse), real baby Jesus (poetic licence this time as 'he' was a 'she') innkeeping and supporting cast of Kings, Mary & Joseph. What do they say about working with animals and children? It's a very social occasion and unfortunately as most of us were driving we couldn't take advantage of the mulled wine although I think Maggie had mine! The scenes are carried out around the village and start with Mary and Joseph who knocked on the door of the inn and were ushered away to a beautifully built stable complete with hay and crib (which also had a hot water bottle for baby Jesus! The band, which consisted of a small gallant crew—initially Robin, Sam and Mike until the Wilsons were able to get there, along with yours truly, Lawrence, Tim Waller (rector's son) played the accompanying carols to the story read out by John Waller, the rector and narrator. The arrival of the three Kings was heralded by a fanfare played by Tug and Jack Wilson (which fortunately didn't spook the horse!). It was brilliant to see Dad and Son playing together on something like this. Away in a Manger was played so all the children could gather round the crib so the scene was quite magical. After the end of the story the band played the old standard Christmas requests whilst Maggie's grandchildren took the buckets round for the collection. The band I think made the whole event very special, so many thanks to all for giving up your Sunday afternoon and pleasing so many people.

## Adam's Adventures

As many of you are aware Adam Keech left the band in September to go to University in Huddersfield. Here is a brief review of what he has been up to:

With our eldest son Ian just graduating from Leicester University we thought we had a good idea of what life would be like for Adam in Huddersfield. Even though he has a normal timetable of lessons he also has Instrumental & Choral lessons that have to fit in with the Professors times. As many of these Professors are also Professional musicians Adam can have lessons late in the evening 8 or 9pm or at the weekend. The music department at the university is always open allowing use 7 days a week.

He is also expected to play in the music ensembles in the University to which you have to audition. Adam has joined the University Brass Band a group which numbers about 40 players, so is about twice the size of a standard Brass Band. He was selected to play Solo Cornet a rarity for a year 1 Student. The Brass Band is directed by Philip McCann the cornet legend who for many years was principal cornet of the Black Dyke Mills Band. Since September the band has practiced pieces written for Championship section bands which they performed in a concert prior to Christmas. Also in the week before Christmas the band gave lunchtime concerts in the Town Halls of Dewsbury, Leeds & Huddersfield. Each was a sell out which the audience numbering over 1000 on each occasion.

As part of Adam's studies he has to form a group with other students, then promote themselves and undertake engagements. The group Adam is in is called 5 in Uni-son consisting 2 trumpets, Tenor Horn, Trombone & Eb Bass. They have all ready had promotional pictures taken undertook some Christmas carolling and have engagements booked for this year.

Away from music Adam has also joined the university Cricket team. After getting stick that southerners can't play cricket he is enjoying very much.

Adam knew that going to Huddersfield would give him the opportunity to play in a local Brass Band. It has been reported that the 20 mile area around Huddersfield has the largest amount of bands in the UK. Adam had decided before going to university that he would try many bands before deciding which one to join. This has not quite worked out as he has been in high demand. A few weeks after arriving he was asked by the Skelmanthorpe Band (one of the country's top 1<sup>st</sup> section bands) if he would help them at the Pontins and Wilkinsons Contests. The Pontins contest was held in Prestatyn where Adam playing Solo Cornet helped the band win. The set piece was Sinfonietta for Brass Band. Two weeks later the Wilkinson's contest was held in St Helens and playing Year of the Dragon the band came third. The adjudicator at Pontins Kevin Wadsworth had heard about Adam and asked if he would play Flugel for Barnsley Building Society Band, the band which he conducted. Adam played with Barnsley up to Christmas performing "A Winters Tale" at many of their concerts. He also appeared on Look North with them. Adam has a very busy run up to Christmas some days performing 2 concerts

Adam did though decide Barnsley wasn't the band for him and when the opportunity came to play for the Yorkshire Imperial Band (a Championship section band) he moved on. As I write this article Adam is at the Butlins contest in Skegness. For Championship section bands this is a two day contest, with a set piece on the Saturday and an own choice programme on the Sunday. As part of Imps own choice they are playing "Amaziona" a piece which features the whole cornet section standing out the front of the stage. Luckily Adam is very good at remembering music as he has had to learn this piece to play without music in two weeks. After Butlins the band is also recording a performance for Listen to The Band, the Friday night radio 2 programme.

Also over Christmas Adam received a phone call from the Hepworth Band asking him to a practice. This band is currently graded in the top 12 bands in the country and would give Adam the chance to play in all the Top competitions, British Open etc.

From a parents view point Liz and I are pleased that Adam has all ready made good friends and is enjoying himself as well as learning a great deal. From a banding viewpoint it seems that everything is done by word of mouth. Once bands hear about a player they find out what they are like and contact you.

***Liz & Brian Keech***

## Chris's Corner



*a regular spot to know what's what!*

As this is my first Chris's Corner I thought I would start by discussing different instruments played in a Brass Band - this month starting from the top is the Soprano Eb Cornet. This type of cornet is probably the most difficult instrument in the band as there is only one per band. So you need to be confident in yourself and in practice to make this instrument sound at its best.

The Soprano Cornet adds wonderful colour to the sound of the brass band, generally this instrument plays in the higher register above the Bb Cornet section, however if played badly can have an adverse effect on the balance & sound of the Brass Band.

There have been some wonderful Soprano players in the Brass Band world namely Peter Roberts, Alan Whycherley to name just 2 that spring to mind. I was very fortunate when I was 2<sup>nd</sup> Cornet aged just 13 years old, with Cresswell Colliery Band (then Championship section) when we had a guest player for a concert in Liverpool, Alan Whycherley on Soprano at just 14 years old. We all knew once we heard him play that he was going to be one of the top players, and so he was, playing with the Fairy Band & Leyland Vehicles shortly after this concert.

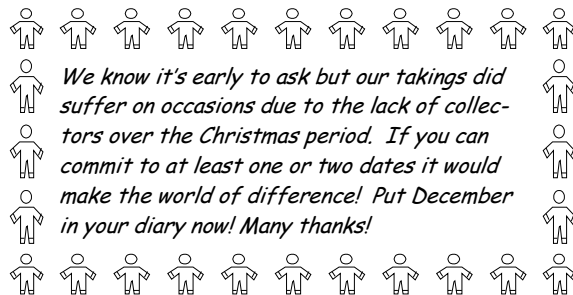
In Bradwell band we have our very own Soprano player Ralph Tatum. Ralph has so many letters after his name, being a Professor, he is also a great character. Ralph has, I believe, always been a Soprano player, but when he had to go travelling the world with his day job he even offered to move off the Soprano for 1 contest and play along with the lower cornets, as he knew that it was such an important part for the Band. This is what a true bandsman does and this move worked very well for the band. However Ralph is now back on his Soprano seat where he belongs.

Just recently I attended the Butlins Contest at Skegness and listened to 10 bands playing Life Divine, which is a true masterpiece for brass bands, written many years ago and yet still classed as a championship test piece, This has a tremendous Soprano part all the way through. Plenty of stamina is required for this one. Most of the Soprano players gave really wonderful accounts, even playing to the extent that one Soprano player collapsed on stage and flattened his Soprano cornet - that is commitment for you!

Next edition I will be talking about the Bb Cornet section.

*Chris*

### Pleas for help!



## Robin's Revels— our Secretary on his exotic travels!

Its 5am and the alarm's just gone off, it can't be Christmas morning already - can it? No it's something else that seemed to be a good idea at the time, A trip to 'Skeggi' to listen to a load of other bands I've never heard of!

Stantonbury Brass (Yes I have heard of them) asked our MD Chris if he would play for them at this year's Butlin's Mineworkers Contest as Vaughan Bower had to be in the U.S.A. on business. Chris agreed to come out of retirement and as there was a coach going with only a few people on it, I decided to tag along. Sam also thought that sounded like a good idea - "it'll be an early start" I warned, "That's ok" she said not fully realising I meant that early!

Butlins Mineworkers Contest was, literally, in the beginning, arranged for the Colliery bands and was held in Blackpool. After the Mining Strike of 1984 it fell by the wayside and was only resurrected in the last few years. This year was its 46<sup>th</sup> contest.

Skegness is not the easiest place to reach from Milton Keynes and it took us nearly 3hrs; the section started at 10am hence the early departure. Many bandsmen stay for the weekend and the contest seems to run very much in a holiday atmosphere.

We arrived at about 9.00am and made our way towards what looks like an enormous circus tent but which houses the main area of the complex. As we made our way past the chalets we bumped into several old acquaintances of Chris's. Heyl Band, from Cornwall, now conducted by Chris' brother, Derek Johnston were also playing in the third section and all day we were bumping into people who have many interesting memories from our MD's past!!

The Contest itself was held in the Entertainment Theatre. Stantonbury drew no. 2 and their performance seemed a good deal better than the first band but on a par with the third band Matlock who were tipped as the favourites!

As you all know bands-people are a health conscious group so having listened to a few bands we headed for the Burger King outlet and then to the bar!

The trade stand area was one of the best I have seen with music, CD's and instruments including some very colourful cornets and on one stand a very large and very pink(!!) bass mute.

There was also a stand from the brass band heritage group which included a photo of Chris's Dad conducting the Cresswell Colliery Band 500ft underground. Chris pointed out a miners helmet and said 'That's me under there!'

At the end of the Third section there was a short break and then the Championship Section commenced with Wingates playing the test piece Life Divine. A piece of music composed in 1921 for the National Brass band Championships which were then held in the old Crystal Palace, and is a superb piece of music and still a challenge. Wingates have as their Solo Trombone a young man by the name of Peter Moore. Peter, also Solo Trombone with the National Children's orchestra, is only 11! One of the other bands, Yorkshire Imperial, also included in their number Adam Keech who was depping for the weekend. The Championship Section is divided into 2 parts. The test piece is played on the Saturday and on Sunday the bands play a 20 minute entertainment programme and the two results are added together.

Stantonbury were slightly less successful this year managing sixth place. 4<sup>th</sup> place this year was taken by Hitchin band whose First Trombone is none other than Kenny Durbin!

All in all it was a good day out and if you are stopping for the weekend the entertainment laid on makes for a thoroughly enjoyable weekend - Next year anyone?

## Fun Page

### DINGBATS

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Timing Ti ming

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1.  
2. To Blame  
3. To Blame

3

MILLION

4

EXIT LUNCH  
LUNCH

5

MCE  
MCE  
MCE

6

VA DERS

### Ten Things You'll Never Hear Your MD Say Coming Up to a Contest

1. God, that's a boring hymn. Let's play another one
2. Well played, everyone. Let's go home early.
3. I wasn't much of a player, myself.
4. Nicely played, trombones. So tuneful.
5. If you can't play it, don't worry about it.
6. What do you think?
7. I never wanted to be a conductor. I wanted to be a lumberjack.
8. Of course you can miss rehearsals. We're so fortunate that you choose to play with us.
9. Sorry, I lied. We have absolutely no chance of winning anything - ever!
10. I was wrong

- Tuba player: "Did you hear my last recital?" Friend: "I hope so."
- How do you get a trumpet player to play *fff*? Write *mp* on the part
- How do you call a baritone player? Euphonium
- Two tuba players walk past a bar. Hey, it could happen!!

Dingbat Answers:

1. Split second timing, 2. No-one to blame, 3. One in a million, 4. Out to lunch, 5. 3 Blind Mice (no 't's!!!), 6. Space invaders

**WANTED**

Norman Keech needs lots of 1lb and 2lb (500g and 1 Kilo to the under 40's!) jam jars with metal lids if possible please. This is so he can start the pickled onions and jams ready to sell to raise funds.

Also we are still in need of raffle prizes for the forthcoming concerts. If you have any new unwanted presents, or would like to donate a raffle prize, please contact Norman.

**TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION**

I notice we don't have Patrons of the band. It's perhaps a good way of getting additional income, eg they pay a donation each year and in return perhaps a free ticket to a concert? But just to get additional support is good and maybe commercial patrons might sponsor a new instrument, trip to Skegness (!!!) or similar. Let me know your thoughts. Maggie.

**Contact Details**

<b>Chairman:</b>	<b>Norman Keech</b>	<b>222298</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Robin Allen</b> secretary@bradwellband.co.uk	<b>616463</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Ron Snape</b> treasurer@bradwellband.co.uk	<b>07775 538548</b>
<b>Musical Director:</b>	<b>Chris Johnston</b> md@bradwellband.co.uk	
<b>Supporters Club:</b>	<b>Norman Keech</b>	<b>222298</b>
<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>Maggie Snape</b> editor@bradwellband.co.uk	<b>379138</b>
<b>Webmaster:</b>	<b>Fraser Cousins</b> fras@sky.com	<b>225772</b>
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.bradwellband.co.uk">www.bradwellband.co.uk</a>	

**Collections over Christmas**

	2007	2006
Olney Street Collection		62.03
Olney Carols Fee		75.00
Bradwell WI	110.00	100.00
Two Mile Ash Concert Fee	150.00	150.00
St James Church Concert 50% Door	196.00	138.00
St James Church Concert 50% raffle	41.00	28.75
Haversham Street Collection	216.78	176.64
Bradwell Street Collection	156.27	195.44
St Mary & St Giles Church Concert Fee	190.00	195.00
Dobbies Collection	423.99	146.61
Chestnuts School	190.00	
Bradville Street Collection	306.08	236.55
Stony Stratford Street Collection	477.81	510.34
Nativity Collection	65.04	128.87
Side Club	200.00	200.00
Side Club Collection	57.28	68.90
Potterspury Church Fee		180.00
Bradwell Street Collection	372.42	272.93
Bradwell Street Donations Christmas Day	2.00	11.22
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,154.67</b>	<b>2,876.28</b>



## Bradwell Silver Band Membership List

### Committee

Chairman:	Norman Keech	Playing Members:	Karen Wilson, Gary Morris, Graham Huckle, Dave Sanderson
Secretary:	Robin Allen	Junior Rep:	Sam White
Treasurer:	Ron Snape	Non Playing:	
Bandmaster:	Position Vacant*		
Librarian:	Sam White		

### Playing Positions

Principal Cornet:	Sue Snoxell
Solo Cornets:	Clive Keech Gary Morris
Soprano Cornet:	Ralph Tatum
Repiano Cornet:	Jack Wilson
2nd Cornet:	Graham Huckle Position Vacant*
3rd Cornet:	Sam White Alison Drury Brin Carstens
Flugel Horn:	Karen Wilson
Solo Horn:	Keith Jones
1st Horn:	Byron Cox
2nd Horn:	Karen Wilson Luke Wilson
1st Baritone:	Luke Colvin
2nd Baritone:	Robin Allen
Euphonium:	Fraser Cousins Position Vacant*
1st Trombone:	Vincent Jarjadian
2nd Trombone:	Position Vacant* Being kindly filled by Roy Lack at present!
Bass Trombone:	Josh Tatum Lawrence ?
Eb Bases:	Dave Sanderson Nick Dytham
BBb Bass:	Ron Snape Position Vacant*
Percussion:	Position Vacant* Being kindly filled in by Chris Allison at present!

### Non Committee Positions

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

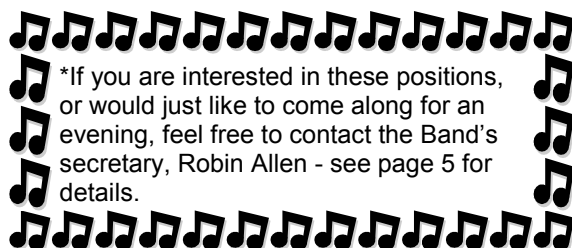
### Honorary Members

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 5 for details.