



# ***THE BRADWELL BUGLE***

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

## ***Review of 2003***

A very Happy New Year to you all. We hope that Christmas was a good time for you and your family. The year 2003 was another busy year for the Bradwell Silver Band and we summarise some of the highlights as follows.

With the Milton Keynes Brass Band Festival committee deciding to take a break after more than 25 years, our first engagement of 2003 was in *March* at the area qualifying contest held again at Stevenage. After the contest we lost the services of bass trombonist Ken Price, who having been with the Band for a number of years Band was looking to pursue new musical challenges. Dominic Tilley also decided to take a break from playing.

In *April* on the social side of things, a successful Quiz Night was held. Our annual Soloist Competition was held and we were treated to many promising performances by the players of the future as well as the present. Our first formal concert of the year was at St. James which was to be last with the Rev Jo Stoker as vicar. A presentation was made to Jo along with the Band's best wishes for her new appointment in Basingstoke.

The now traditional early *May* Bank holiday saw us performing at the Bradwell Sports May Fayre. For reasons best known to the organisers, the Band's performance was time to start a full hour before the event officially opened but there was still a good audience to hear and appreciate our efforts.

We were pleased to welcome into our ranks Alison Drury who has progressed through the learners group and the return of Martyn Potts, a fine trombonist who previously played with the Band before his employment took him abroad for a number of years.

In *June* we had our major event of the year, a Charity Concert at the Stantonbury Theatre with special guest soloist Steve Sykes. The presence of such an illustrious player inspired the Band to raise it's level of performance to new heights.

A social event was held in the form of a barbeque was held and then the first of two appearances in the summer at Willen Lake, the favourite place for the people of Milton Keynes to spend an afternoon, provided the weather is right! After some successful canvassing by local bands, Milton Keynes Borough Council agreed to sponsor a series of Sunday afternoon Band in the Park concerts. We had the privilege of being the first of these and enjoyed warm weather and a good sized audience. The other local bands that played in succeeding weeks also reporting a lot of support and interest so hopefully MKBC will repeat the series this coming summer.

We played a successful evening concert in Newport Pagnell as part of their annual music and arts festival and performed at the Milton Keynes carnival. We had decided not to march this time and were instead given a prime position in the main events arena. Sadly, poor organisation saw the majority of arena acts over run their allotted times and the Band played very few pieces but were complimented on the professionalism displayed throughout a very long afternoon.

*July* brought the wedding of Patrick and Helen, who first met as members of the Band.

The Band played a leading role in the New Bradwell Carnival, marching at the head of an impressive procession of decorated floats around the streets of New Bradwell. We had a return visit to Willen, this time as part of a Funday organised by the John Lewis partnership.

*August* brought the traditional engagements at the Drayton Parslow horticulture show and the de Havilland Tiger Moths rally held in the

splendid grounds of Woburn Abbey. We performed an evening concert in the open air at Paganell Grange residential home.

*September* saw us play a concert in the Methodist Church in New Bradwell, take part in the annual parade and service of remembrance for the Memorable Order of Tin Hats at their National Memorial in Central Milton Keynes and an unusual engagement playing early on a Saturday morning prior to the start of a fishing match! An enjoyable Car Treasure Hunt was held and we performed a concert in the Parish Church of Stony Stratford.

We also travelled to Wychavon to take part in the annual entertainment contest. Playing in a section of high standard we were delighted with our 4<sup>th</sup> place. It made a very long day worthwhile.

*October* brought our Autumn Concert in St. James after which we said goodbye to Andrew Long our principal trombonist who has left to play with Woburn Sands Band. Patrick Pakes also resigned from the Band after many years service.

A new experience for us was playing at the launch of the British Legion Poppy Appeal in Central Milton Keynes. We were mucked about with by the shopping centre management but received many compliments about our performance.

*November* brought a new job with the Band being asked to play prior to a fireworks display in Deanshanger. The following week-end we took part in the annual Service of Remembrance, playing at the Clock Tower before leading the parade to St. James for the Church service.

The Band held it's Annual General Meeting which although poorly attended led to some productive discussions regarding the direction the members would like to see the Band taking.

Our last "normal" concert for the year was at the Wolverton Methodist Church, and a fine

## **The Bradwell Bugle**

performance it was too. This marked the first appearance in the Band for Luke Colvin.

For reports on the busy Christmas engagements you should read the Musical Director's article.

So another busy year has been and gone, the traditions of music making by the Bradwell Silver Band continue and long may they do so.

## ***MUSICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT***

### ***ENGAGEMENT REPORTS***

#### ***Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup> New Bradwell Community Centre***

For Bradwell Silver Band's first Christmas engagement of 2003 an ensemble of David Wilson, Sam, Adam, Keith, Brian, David Harris and Robin played at the opening of the New Bradwell Christmas Bazaar. As at many events in Bradwell, people had arrived early prior to the opening of the bazaar and we had been requested to play carols for them. Positioned in the community centre car park we played for just over 30 minutes.

#### ***Wednesday December 10<sup>th</sup> Stantonbury Theatre***

Stantonbury Theatre was once again sold out for this joint concert between the Bradwell Silver Band and the Two Mile Ash School Choir. The format of the concert was that the first half heard both groups performing individually and the second half performed together. Included within the Band pieces were two solos, David W (A Winter's Tale) and Adam (Mary's Boy Child). Both played very well with Adam having to contend with his music falling off his stand (something to do with the conductor jumping about on a wobbly stage).

The whole concert was excellent with all performers giving of their best, the choir were

### 3

extremely grateful for the Band's help. To mark this, a presentation was made to the Band.

It is also nice to report that we had a Grandfather/Granddaughter combination in the performers, Pat Checkley in the Band and Megan in the choir.

This is an event that takes a lot of organising and having worked at Two Mile Ash in the past I know how much they appreciate the Band's efforts in making this concert such a massive success.

Many thanks to Alan and everyone who helped with the kit, especially so many people returning to Bradwell to put away.

*Friday December 12<sup>th</sup>*

*Band Christmas Party Newport Pagnell*

Even though we were disappointed with the lack of members who attended the Band's Christmas party, those who did go had a very enjoyable time. The youngsters showed the adults all the dance moves. Young Sean Edwards was celebrating his seventh birthday today so we all sang Happy Birthday as his Nanny Jeanette brought out a birthday cake.

Many thanks to Robin and Mavis who organised the party, with a special mention to Robin who also did all the catering.

*Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup>*

*St James Church New Bradwell*

We nearly had to put up the sold out signs as the Church was packed for this Christmas Concert. The Band was once again in excellent form with a very high standard of playing all evening. Our opening piece "O Come All Ye Faithful" featured our cornet section positioned in front of the Band to project their fanfare sections. We featured four soloists at this concert: Duncan (O Holy Night), David Wilson (A Winter's Tale & Post Horn Galop), Martyn (Frosty The Snowman) and Adam (Mary's Boy Child). Each

### The Bradwell Bugle

played extremely well and the prolonged applause received after each performance was evidence of the audience's reaction.

The second half of the concert commenced with our Junior Band under the direction of Steve Edwards. They played five pieces, each displaying an excellent standard with good control of balance, detail and volume. Each member of the Junior Band had worked very hard to reach this high standard. Well done to you all, your performance made all the teachers and parents very proud.

The rest of the concert seemed to fly by with audience participation in "Schneewalzer" and the carols being very good. We would like to say a big thank you to our supporters club who were kept very busy running the raffle.

A massive thank you to Keith who once again produced a lovely programme and to Mavis and David who produced some very professional looking posters.

A new concert for the Band which as well as making us many new friends through our playing also made record receipts on the door.

*Sunday December 14<sup>th</sup>*

*Safeway Westcroft*

This engagement was at the shopping area near Safeway at Westcroft. The Band was asked to accompany carol singing with the Watling Valley Ecumenical Partnership Church Group. Their choir numbered over 40 so a good balance was achieved between band and voices. Most of the traditional carols were sung with the Band also playing some other well-known Christmas tunes as interludes. The weather was on the cold side so we appreciated the drinks supplied at half time. It was good to have Dominic playing for us today.

For pictures of this event visit [www.wvep.org](http://www.wvep.org)

*Monday December 15<sup>th</sup>  
Chestnuts School Bletchley*

We have been performing this annual concert now for many years but it was good to see that the school has now re-formed their choir and they also performed. The Band played nine individual pieces, which included Duncan and Martyn as soloists. Again the Band playing was of an excellent standard with the playing of the two soloists adding to this high level. We also accompanied the choir in six pieces, which worked very well. Again we had a full audience which meant the Band had played to many hundreds of people in this three-day spell. Many thanks to Alan who once again towed the Band's trailer and thanks to everyone who loaded and unloaded prior and after the concert.

*Tuesday December 16<sup>th</sup>  
Street Carolling Bradville*

With our three collectors Ann, Mavis and Norman working very hard the nicely balanced Band covered the large area of Bradville within our allotted two hours. It is always nice to receive grateful comments which we did many times. The coldness of the night wasn't obvious until the finish and returning to our frozen cars. A good effort by everyone with the standard of playing again very high.

*Thursday December 18<sup>th</sup>  
Street Carolling Haversham*

I'm not out tonight as I've gone to watch Adam in his school production. Once again we didn't have a massive band but a good balance was achieved. The large area of Haversham was covered in our 2-hour slot with our 4 collectors of Mavis, Norman and the Tilley family working very hard. Many thanks to Steve and Keith who took charge of the Band tonight and they were very pleased with the group's playing.

**The Bradwell Bugle**  
*Saturday December 20<sup>th</sup>  
Stony Stratford*

This event is the Band's longest over Christmas where we play for four hours at the front of Cofferridge Close. The weather this morning was horrible with torrential rain most of the time. The Band was fortunate to have been afforded some cover in front of the shops but our collectors had to stand out in the rain.

With a good sized band we played for over 3 ½ hours which is tiring both on lips and bodies. The standard of playing was good even when we reduced the band to a small group. Many thanks to our collectors who once again did an excellent job. Thanks also to Mr & Mrs Haseldine who supplied the Band members with mince pies, these were very much appreciated.

It was a pity the weather was so bad as it obviously reduced the amount of people about in Stony Stratford. It also meant that unlike previous years people didn't want to stop and talk to Band members.

*Sunday December 21<sup>st</sup>  
Side Club New Bradwell*

As in past years the side club was packed full well before the start of our final concert of the year. Tonight the Band numbered 29 with only Lisa away poorly. It was nice to have both Patrick and Vaughan playing. Due to the long playing time tonight the Band played a lot of music with some pieces being played for the first time this Christmas.

Our four featured soloists David Harris, David Wilson, Martyn and Adam all played to a good standard and the audience warmly received their playing. The overall playing by the Band was also very good even though we did struggle to control the volume in certain pieces. During the second half of the concert we had a visit from Father Christmas who gave out sweets to the youngsters.

## 5

Many thanks to everyone who helped load the trailer especially to Robin, Sam, Pat and Steve who also set the club up at lunchtime.

### *Tuesday December 23<sup>rd</sup> Street Carolling New Bradwell*

I must be getting old because again tonight I felt we covered another large area in a very quick time. Our collectors of Graham, Damian, Ann, Mavis and Norman made sure the Band was continually on the move. It is always nice to have people come out onto the streets and listen to our playing and we were grateful for their kind comments. The mild weather tonight was also appreciated.

### *Wednesday December 24<sup>th</sup> Street Carolling New Bradwell*

If anyone was ever in any doubt how much the people of New Bradwell think of their Band they should have come with us this evening. This was more like an outdoor concert as each street was filled with people listening to our playing. We could have stayed out much longer than our allotted two hours as people really didn't want us to go.

You will also see elsewhere in this newsletter that the Band collected an amazing amount of money this evening. Many thanks to Ann, Mavis, Jeannette, Norman and Colin our collectors.

### *Thursday December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Morning*

18 members of the Bradwell Silver Band carried on its greatest tradition by playing on Christmas morning, starting at the Clock Tower at 6:00 a.m. Even though the wind was cold the weather once again was kind to us. As in the previous evening people were waiting on their doorsteps for the Band or looking out of windows. We were all very grateful to Fraser's Dad for supplying us with a drink and to Steve and Jeannette who invited us into their home at the conclusion of our playing for food and drink.

## **The Bradwell Bugle** *General Christmas News*

I would like to say a big thank you to every player for putting in such an excellent effort over the busy Christmas period. Every engagement saw the Band put out a good side with the standard of playing always very high. We have played to many thousands of people this Christmas all of whom, we hope, would have had a better time due to our music. Many thanks to Robin and David who have organised the logistical side of Christmas and together with the help of Alan always made sure we were in the right place and the right time.

I would also like to say a massive thank you from all players to our collectors. We don't realise how hard this task is but without your efforts we would not be able to carry out our activities throughout the year. As detailed later you can see what a fantastic amount of money we have made over Christmas.

### *Contest Dates*

Bradwell Band have a busy period of contest preparations soon after their return in the New Year. We have entered the following three contests:

Sunday February 8<sup>th</sup> Milton Keynes Festival – Stantonbury Campus  
Sunday February 22<sup>nd</sup> Buckinghamshire & District Contest – Aylesbury Civic Centre  
Sunday March 21<sup>st</sup> Regional Contest – Stevenage

To meet the demands of these contests there will be additional practice dates for the senior band:

Monday February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	8 – 9.30pm
Saturday February 7 <sup>th</sup>	6 - 7.30pm
Monday February 16 <sup>th</sup>	8 – 9.30pm
Saturday February 21 <sup>st</sup>	6 – 7.30pm

Dates will also soon be announced for sectional practices.

## General News

In the build up to Christmas our papers were full of the Soham Murder case. One of the major things to come out was how did Ian Huntley get a job as a caretaker?

As you may be aware there are strict rules involved with working with children and these affect the Band. All of our Junior Band teachers have been police checked and are regularly monitored by the local council.

We also have strict guidelines on how we must work with children; e.g. if one-to-one teaching another adult must be present. We can only teach in rooms that are visible from outside. There are many more rules like this, which we comply with. If any parent wishes to discuss this with us they are very welcome.

and finally.....

We would all like to send congratulations to Nick Davey (Grade 6 with distinction) and Cheron Li (Grade 3) on passing their recent Associated Music Board Exams.

## Brian Keech

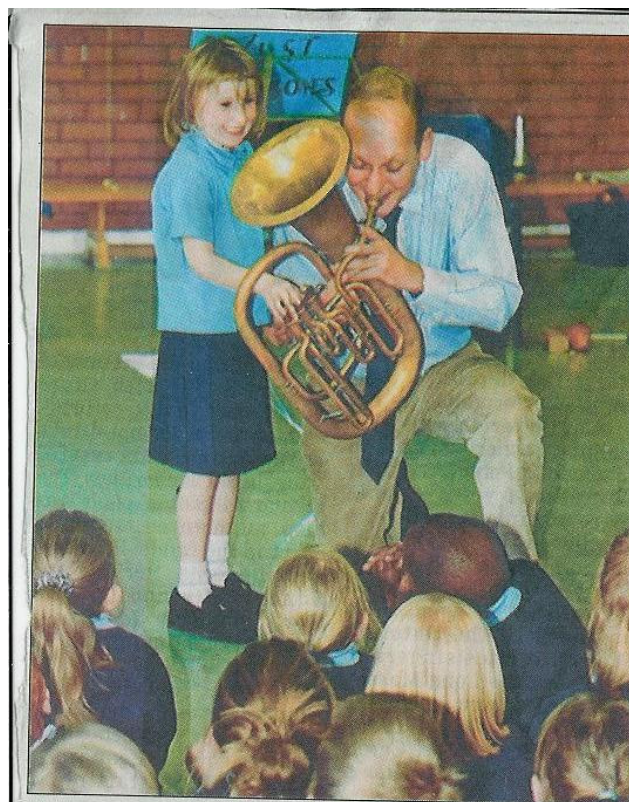
### CHRISTMAS INCOME

(Thanks to Mavis for supplying the following)

	2002	2003
NEWPORT LIGHTS	£80.00	£0.00
BRADWELL WI	£100.00	£0.00
ST JAMES CHURCH	£0.00	£278.20
CHESTNUT SCHOOL	£175.00	£175.00
BRADVILLE	£231.71	£236.35
HAVERSHAM	£191.00	£180.50
STONY STRATFORD	£506.73	£417.00
WESTCROFT	£0.00	£125.00
SIDE CLUB	£155.00	£175.00
BRADWELL 1	£248.80	£224.01
BRADWELL 2	£358.25	£409.31
BUCKINGHAM PARADE	£200.00	£0.00
BRADWELL SPORTS	£175.00	£0.00
DONATION	£15.00	£0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2,436.49</b>	<b>£2,220.37</b>
<b>Difference</b>		<b>-£216.12</b>

## The Bradwell Bugle Music Group Visit School

The following appeared in the Milton Keynes Citizen. It would appear that the youngsters at the school in which we rehearse enjoyed the experience.



There was lots of tuneful fun to be had at **New Bradwell School** when Just Trombones paid a visit along with their exciting range of musical wind instruments.

Under the skilful tutelage of Roger Willey and Ian White, both from the London-based organisation, all the children in the school were shown how to play the instruments.

As well as trombones the youngsters also got to play saxophones and thoroughly enjoyed learning

about music.

Headteacher John White said: "It was a brilliant day. It was wonderful to see how much they encouraged the children to get so enthusiastically involved. Music is an important aspect of education and we do all we can at New Bradwell School to encourage our pupils to participate in it."

● Above, six-year-old Jessica Feasaway plays the trombone along with Roger Willey.

Interesting to note that the picture is captioned as the young lady playing a trombone!

## 100 years Ago

*Annual General Meeting held January 27<sup>th</sup> 1904*

*Mr. Edward presided*

*Proposed by Mr. Facer and seconded by Mr. Panter that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed.*

*Proposed by Mr. S. Saunders seconded by Mr. Throsby that the statement of accounts as read by the secretary Mr. Beach be passed.*

*Proposed by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Godfrey that rule 4 remain as it now stands. An amendment was proposed by Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Throsby that the part of Rule 4 namely "5 playing members and 8 non-playing members" be rescinded.*

*The above motions were brought about by a suggestion from the Band as they considered they ought to be more equally represented on the committee. After a full discussion it was unanimously agreed on a proposal by Mr, Saunders, seconded by Mr. Jones that the committee be equally divided, namely "6 Playing Members and 6 non-playing members to represent the Parish".*

*Proposed by Mr. Godfrey, seconded by Mr. Throsby that Mr. Edwards retain the position of President for the ensuing year.*

*Mr. Edwards in thanking the meeting for the confidence placed in him consented to remain as president and that he would continue to do his best for the Band.*

*Proposed by Mr. Panter and seconded by Mr. Saunders that Mr. Facer retain the position of vice-president for the ensuing year. Mr Facer consented and thanked the meeting for the confidence placed on him and said he would do his best for the welfare of the band.*

*Proposed by Mr. Saunders seconded by Mr. Walters that Mr. Hardwick be elected bandmaster. Mr. Hardwick thanked the meeting and said he would do his best to get the band on.*

## The Bradwell Bugle

*Proposed Mr. Millard, seconded Mr. Panter that Mr. Sykes retain his office as treasurer.*

*Mr. Sykes was unable to attend this meeting through illness but the proposer and seconder stated that they felt sure Mr. Sykes would consent which remarks were supported by others.*

*Proposed by Mr. Thorsby, seconded by Mr. Godfrey that Mr. Tucker be elected to the position of Honorary Secretary which position became vacant through the resignation of Mr. Beach. Mr. Tucker in thanking the meeting for their confidence and in doing him the honour of electing him as secretary of the band promised to do all in his power for the band's welfare.*

*Proposed by Mr. Facer, seconded by Mr. Saunders a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Beach from this meeting for his past services from the formation of the Band. Mr. Beach briefly replied and thanked the meeting.*

*Committee of management*

*Non Players: Mr. Ward, Mr. Panter, Mr. Smith, Mr Johnson, Mr. Walton, Mr. Sutton, Mr. Jones.  
Playing members: Mr. Throsby, Mr. Godfrey, Mr. Johnston, Mr. Walters, Mr. Saunders, and Mr. Hardwick.*

*It being doubtful if Mr. Sutton would consent to act as a committeeman it was decided that Mr Jones should fill the vacancy. Mr. Facer proposed and Mr. Godfrey seconded that the above named gentlemen be elected.*

*Proposed by Mr. Tucker seconded by Mr. Godfrey that Master Teddy Hardwick be elected deputy bandmaster. Proposed by. Mr. Walton, seconded Mr Saunders that Mr. Hill be elected assistant honorary secretary.*

*Proposed Mr. Tucker, seconded Mr. Jones, a vote of thanks to the chairman.*

*Meeting closed at 9:15 p.m*



***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.*

**Sunday February 8<sup>th</sup>  
Milton Keynes Brass Band Festival  
Stantonbury Campus  
Entertainment Contest**

**Sunday February 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Buckinghamshire & District Contest –  
Aylesbury Civic Centre  
Own Choice Contest**

**Sunday March 21<sup>st</sup>  
London and Southern Counties  
Regional Contest – Stevenage**

To meet the demands of these contests there will be additional practice dates for the senior band:

<b>Monday February 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>8 – 9.30pm</b>
<b>Saturday February 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6 - 7.30pm</b>
<b>Monday February 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8 – 9.30pm</b>
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