



The Bradwell Bugle



Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band

JANUARY/DECEMBER 2011

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From the Editor

Hi everyone

After a frantic, busy but very enjoyable December (see report from Keith) it's been great to have a quiet relaxing January. As the band is now hard at work gearing up preparing for the Annual Area Contest in March, this Newsletter will cover January and February—we'll be back in March.

Remember that this newsletter would be rather dismal reading without contributions from friends and members of the band. Please send me any memories, trivia, jokes or celebration announcements that can be published. Thanks

Steph

CHRISTMAS INCOME UPDATE—DAVE SANDERSON

WINTER ROSE

By Delores Parsons

"A winter rose, so fragile and fair
It's grace and beauty, beyond compare.

Standing strong, against the cold winter winds
Bending...never breaking, never giving in.

You remind me so, Of that winter rose
Bending...Just a little as those cold winds blow.

And like that rose, I shall cut you free,
And keep you warm and safe with me.

Keep you safe, within my heart
Until those winter strom clouds part"

I have just finished cashing up the Christmas money for Christmas - a bit late because of decorating in the New Year.

Christmas Total so far is £2463.29 with about £300 more to come in yet from Dobbies and Two Mile Ash School concert which is always well into the New Year before it arrives.

I would like to thank all players and families for their support and more importantly please pass on this information and well deserved thanks to our Volunteer Collectors. The collectors help and dedication is greatly appreciated, the amount raised at Christmas time is a major part of our annual income.

Thanks Again Everybody,

Dave

Engagement Reports — by Keith Jones

Wednesday 1st December
Concert with Two Mile Ash School
Stantonbury Theatre

The recent snow and freezing temperatures had made the car park and approaches to the theatre treacherous but once inside the anticipation was already building for an enjoyable evening of music making. As always there was a packed audience of proud parents, relatives and friends to welcome the school choir as they took their places. In addition to the choir there were also a number of instrumentalists from the school who contributed during the course of the evening.

After a short introduction, the Band and choir opened proceedings with the carol "Deck The Halls". The choir then sang "Heal The World" with several verses sung by a solo treble.

The Band's first solo item was "I Wish It Could Be Christmas Everyday" a popular Christmas song. It was first released in 1973 by the English glam rock band Wizzard. It reached number four in the UK singles chart but was beaten to Christmas number one by Slade's "Merry Christmas Everybody" which remained there for five consecutive weeks. As with most Wizzard songs, it was written by Roy Wood.

The choir then sang "Have You Seen The Mistletoe?"

The Band's next item was "A Partridge In A Pear Tree", a new addition to our Christmas repertoire. "The Twelve Days of Christmas" is known for being one of the most tedious pieces for any band to play – but with this arrangement by Gavin Somerset the band has a chance to get their own back! The musical director starts to conduct the "Twelve Days Of Christmas" but it would appear the players have other ideas on what should be played. Throughout the piece, well-known carols are blasted out from all corners of the stage. The M.D fights to keep the front row playing all twelve days as the trombones blast out *Jingle Bells*, the horns decide to join in and then the back row show their retaliation by giving a round of "Once In Royal David's City". The M.D & front row finally admit defeat and give in at the end to a rousing line of "We Wish you a Merry Christmas". A fun piece to play although the cramped confines of the stage meant we couldn't do the choreography as practised.

Then it was the turn of the choir again who sang "This Is The Time and the Season".

The Band responded with "All I Want For Christmas Is You" is a song by American singer-songwriter Mariah Carey and released by Columbia Records in November, 1994. After a slow introduction it develops into an up-tempo love song, incorporating pop music and traditional beats. Its lyrics describe a woman's declaration that she does not care about Christmas presents or lights; all she desires for Christmas is to spend time with her lover. Aah!

There followed a delightful piano solo from one of the Two Mile Ash school pupils, a technically difficult classical piece played with great confidence and style.

There were three combined items from the Band and Choir to conclude the first half. The first was "Christmas Swingalong", which is the medley of "Winter Wonderland", "All I Want For Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth" and "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas". This was followed by "Away in A Manger" and then "Come And Join The Celebration".

After an interval, the choir started off the second half with "Christmas Time is Here".

The Band and Choir combined for "When Children Rule The World. From the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical *Whistle Down the Wind*, this song is sung by a group of children celebrating that "Jesus" has been re-born on Christmas Eve and that if they all work together as a team to help him back to health then he will reward them.

Engagement Reports — by Keith Jones

They decide to take him some food and all the children in the village join them on the way. At the end of the show it doesn't work out that way... "Jesus" turns out to be an escaped convict who was hiding in the hay barn when they found him.

The Band then played another new addition to the repertoire, "I Believe In Father Christmas". This was a song by Greg Lake (a member of Emerson, Lake & Palmer), with lyrics by Peter Sinfield. The song starts off with

*They said there'll be snow at Christmas
They said there'll be peace on earth
But instead it just kept on raining
A veil of tears for the virgin's birth*

Although it is often categorised as a Christmas song this was not the intention, Lake is said to have written the song as a protest to the commercialisation of Christmas. In between verses can be heard snatches of *Troika* from Prokofiev's suite Lieutenant Kije, as effective a musical depiction of a sleigh ride as Leroy Anderson's famous piece.

The choir sang "Sleigh Bells" with percussion effects supplied by Adam and Orla.

Band "It's Gonna Be A Cold Cold Christmas" was a 1975 hit song for Dana, an Irish singer and former politician. Dana originally achieved fame when she won the 1970 Eurovision Song Contest with "All Kinds of Everything" which became a world-wide million-seller. Over thirty singles and thirty albums later, Dana's career continues, now also as a leading songwriter and performer of Catholic music.

The choir sang the very familiar "Stop The Cavalry" which started with the bugle call introduction from Adam and Orla. As with the earlier "I Believe In Father Christmas" this song was never intended as a Christmas hit, rather it was an anti-war protest song. However, the line 'Wish I was at home for Christmas' - as well as the brass band backing - have led to it becoming a modern tradition to play and sing around Christmas time.

The audience and choir were then invited to participate in swaying to "Schneewaltzer"

The Band and Choir combined for the final three items, "Jingle Bells", "Rudolph The Red Nose Reindeer", "We Wish You A Merry Christmas".

There were thanks from Ms Armstrong for the super efforts of the choir who were once again superbly prepared by Dorothy Courtman with musical accompaniment from Peter Thorley. Ms Armstrong was also able to announce to the delight of the choir and audience that Two Mile Ash School had tonight been named winner of the 2010 Pride in Milton Keynes School of the Year award. The school has achieved outstanding status in all areas from Ofstead at its last three inspections. It is described as "A family working together, striving for excellence, progression and achievement at all levels and in all areas".

Considering we only had only the one rehearsal with the choir, the evening went really well and Brian was pleased with the Band's performance. We were grateful for playing help from Luke and Jack

This is still a lot of work to be done by the Band in the weeks ahead and in front of some very contrasting audiences but this was a very good start.

Engagement Reports — by Keith Jones

Sunday 5th December

St James Church New Bradwell

An octet of players from the band led by musical director Brian Keech took part in a special service to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the dedication of the Parish Church. The preacher and celebrant was The Right Reverend John Pritchard, Bishop of Oxford. There were also representatives from other denominations and the Mayor of Milton Keynes, Debbie Brock was present with her Royal Marine Cadet escort.

The Band played a number of hymn tunes as the congregation gathered prior to the commencement of the service. We then provided the accompaniment for the singing of the opening hymn "Now Thank We All Our God".

The next hymn was especially chosen as it was written by John Mason who was vicar of St. Peter's, Stanton Low from 1668 to 1675. As most of you will know, St. Peter's was the original Parish Church of Stantonbury (later known as New Bradwell) and part of the old 12th century chancel arch was used in the building of St. James's.

The Bishop's sermon was both amusing and thought provoking and included some local references.

To emphasise the close links between the Church and the community it serves, prior to the sharing of the bread and wine representatives from local organisations presented tokens of their group. The Band's contribution was an engraved trombone dating back to 1902 which Robin had especially polished up for the occasion.

The Band and organ combined for the recessional hymn, the rousing - and one of my personal favourites - "To God Be The Glory".

We were complimented on our playing and how well it had blended in with the church organ. This was a very special day for the people of New Bradwell and Bradwell Band was privileged to have been invited to play a small part in this celebration.

Monday 6th

Bradwell WI Carol Concert

St James Church New Bradwell

This is an engagement Bradwell Band has been happy to be part of for around twenty years. Organised by members of the Bradwell WI, groups from all over Milton Keynes meet for an evening of seasonal readings and carol singing. Those present included members from New Manor (Wolverton), Two Mile Ash, Loughton & Shenley, Great Linford and Central Milton Keynes.

After a short introduction and welcome, the evening started with the traditional singing of the WI anthem "Jerusalem". The programme followed the usual pattern of a reading followed by a familiar carol. The Band had a solo spot in which we played "Ding Dong Christmas" which is the carol given the "Floral Dance" treatment. We followed this with "A Partridge In A Pear Tree", this time with choreography. This caused much amusement amongst the audience and not a little confusion amongst the players, not all of whom seemed to be sure when they should be standing up or sitting down!

An interval allowed the intake of some much needed hot drinks as the temperature in the Church was really cold. The second half started with some band members wearing their fleece jackets in an attempt to get a bit warmer.

Engagement Reports — by Keith Jones

In the Band's solo spot this half we played "I Wish It Could Be Christmas Every Day" followed by "Schneewaltzer". The whole audience joined in with the swaying and other movements, no doubt grateful for the chance of generating a bit of warmth!

At the end of the concert there were thanks to everyone for coming and especially to 'Brian and his band'.

We ended the evening by playing "We Wish You A Merry Christmas".

This had been an enjoyable evening in front of another full house.

Saturday 11th December Christmas Concert St. James New Bradwell

For some of our members this was their third visit to the Church in less than a week. The weather had turned somewhat milder so it was not as cold inside as it had been on the previous visits. Despite there being a number of similar Christmas concerts being held in the Milton Keynes area at the same time, a large audience had gathered in anticipation of an evening of festive entertainment.

Under the leadership of our Musical Director Brian Keech, we opened with Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride". Although mainly associated with Christmas the song's lyrics never specifically mention any holiday or religion. In fact, the mention of "pumpkin pie" in the last verse might suggest an association with Thanksgiving rather than Christmas.

Keeping up the snow theme we then played "The Snowman (Walking In The Air)". *The Snowman* is a children's book by Raymond Briggs, published in 1978. In 1982, this book was turned into a 26-minute animated movie for the fledgling Channel 4. It was first shown late on Christmas Eve in 1982 and was an immediate success. It has been shown every year since and has become very much a part of Christmas. The book is wordless, as is the film except for the song "Walking in the Air". The story is told through picture, action and music. The cartoon version was scored by Howard Blake who wrote both music and lyrics of the song.

This was followed by "I Believe In Father Christmas" and then "Away In A Manger" a flugel horn solo by Karen. This is the well known tune but with some unusual harmonies and variations and well played by Karen.

The audience then had the opportunity of participating with the singing of some Carols.

Our programme continued with "Ding Dong Christmas" followed by our second soloist Sue with "A Winter's Tale". Written by Mike Batt and Tim Rice, this was a 1982 hit for David Essex. Again there is no direct reference to Christmas but the lyrics include references to snow and bells ringing in the distance so that's near enough!

"A Partridge In A Pear Tree" brought the first half to a rousing conclusion.

After an interval, the second half began with the Bradwell Development Band. Under the baton of Clive Keech they played two well known carols, "Hark The Herald Angel Sing!" and "Good King Wenceslas". The items and other information regarding the learners group were announced by four young members of the group. This was a nice touch and will give them confidence in their stage presentation. Their efforts were warmly applauded.

Engagement Reports — by Keith Jones

The Band continued with "I Wish It Could Be Christmas Every Day" and then our final soloist of the evening, Luke with the euphonium solo "O Holy Night". The music was composed by Adolphe Charles Adam who was born in Paris is best known for his ballet *Giselle* but also has many other operatic and theatrical works to his name. Luke and Fraser are taking it in turns to play this solo during our Christmas concerts and Luke gave a confident and assured performance.

This was followed by "All I Want for Christmas Is You" and then some more carol singing.

The last three items on the programme were "Schneewaltzer", "It's Gonna Be A Cold Cold Christmas" and "Christmas Swing-along".

After words of thanks and appreciation from the Reverend Chris Collinge we played "Jingle Bells" as an encore before finishing with "We Wish You A Merry Christmas".

It had been a good performance which was appreciated by the audience. We were very pleased to have Laurence back as a guest player, deputising for Vince who has been unwell. Also there was a warm welcome back to Joe who was home for the holidays. We thank Lisa for her versatility by switching instruments yet again, this time to tenor horn. Finally we thank members of the Supporters Club who took care of the front of house duties.

Tuesday 14th December Bradville Street Carolling

The Band met outside Halley's Comet in Bradville for the first of this year's street carolling. The evening was not as cold as it has been recently but it was good to see that everyone had taken heed of the advice to wear warm clothing, including gloves and headwear.

We had a very good turn-out of twenty players led by our Musical Director and a healthy number of collectors. We started in Bradwell Road and worked our way around Stanton Avenue, Althorpe Crescent, Bradvue Crescent, Abbey Way and finishing up in Mercers Drive as time ran out for the evening. We were very kindly supplied with mince pies by one of the householders who thanked the Band for playing outside his house. With the number of players we had it wasn't always possible to stand in a normal band formation and have sufficient light to see the music. However this had been a fine effort.

Friday 17th December Potterspury

This was a new venue for the Band and turned out to be one of the most enjoyable concerts of the season. The weather was extremely cold with temperatures down to minus 8. The main roads were o.k. but the local village roads were already very icy as we arrived at 7:00 p.m.

Organised by the local WI, there was a very good audience of locals plus visitors from surrounding villages and they were intent on enjoying their night out. The Band responded with probably our best performances over the Christmas period. The programme was the same as performed at St. James's except "Mistletoe And Wine" replaced "A Winter's Tale". The playing was good throughout and "A Partridge In A Pear Tree" and "Schneewaltzer" were particularly well executed.

We were grateful for playing help from Tug, Luke and Jack. With Karen and Louis also playing this was the first time the whole Wilson family had played together in the same concert.

Engagement Reports — by Keith Jones

Unfortunately the very heavy snow fall led to our concert at Lillingstone Lovell on the following evening being cancelled. The roads in Milton Keynes were bad enough, one can only imagine how bad there were in the more rural areas.

Sunday 19th December

Side Club

New Bradwell

We were still in the icy grip of snow and ice but managed to have almost a full Band for this most traditional of Christmas concerts for the Band. Many of our members had very difficult journeys and it is a tribute to them for battling their way through some truly treacherous road conditions.

The programme was the same as performed at St James except Fraser was the soloist in "O Holy Night". We also reduced the number of carols sung so that we could have an earlier finish time to allow people to make their way homewards.

The audience was slightly down on previous years but what they lacked in numbers they more than made up for with their involvement. At the end we received a standing ovation.

Our thanks go to Adam who sat in on the front row of cornets and to Laurence who came in to play bass trombone. We also thank Lisa who tonight filled in on baritone.

The planned Tuesday street carolling was postponed until Thursday in the hope that the weather conditions would be better. They were marginally better but it was still bitterly cold and icy underfoot. With an excellent number of players we made our way along the High Street, School Street, North Street, Thompson Street, Harwood Street, Bridgeway and Newport Road. We had a nice surprise waiting for us on the Newport Road where one of the locals very kindly supplied hot drinks (Cointreau optional!) and pieces of cake. This was most welcome and was a lovely gesture. Our thanks go to Adam and Luke Wilson for helping us out.

Christmas Eve

Street Carolling New Bradwell

We assembled at the School and with a good turnout of players and collectors we weaved our way around the streets. We played in Bounty Street, Queen Anne Street, King Edward Street, St Giles Street, St. Marys Street, Newport Road, Wood Street, Wallace Street and Caledonian Road. Thanks to Adam, Jack and Luke for helping us out tonight. Sam's daughter Jessica's accompanied us for some of the time and had invited a friend along. As it was her friend's birthday the Band were happy to play "Happy Birthday" for her.

Christmas Day

Street Carolling

This was the coldest Christmas morning that anyone could remember but we still managed an excellent turn out of past and present members. Meeting at the Clock Tower as tradition demands, we started to play at 6:00 a.m. and made our way carefully around the frozen streets. Many people came to their doors to wish us a Merry Christmas and the Vicar kindly supplied refreshments. We did experience the unusual problem of having valves freezing which caused problems towards the end.

Engagement Reports — by Keith Jones

Brian thanked all the players for their efforts during December. The unprecedented long period of freezing weather had made things difficult but the commitment and dedication of the players meant we were able to fulfil nearly all of our engagements.

It was good to have with us on Christmas morning Adam, Tug, Jack, Tim, Kevin, Sian, Laurence, Liz,



There are some more photographs on the Band's Facebook page courtesy of Dave Huckle.

And so another year in the history of Bradwell Silver Band comes to a close. Here's to 2011!

Keith

Twas the Month after Christmas

Twas the month after Christmas,
And all through the house,
Nothing would fit me,
Not even a blouse.

The cookies I'd nibbled,
The chocolate I'd taste
At the holiday parties
Had gone to my waist.

When I got on the scales
There arose such a number!
When I walked to the store
(less a walk than a lumber),

I'd remember the marvellous meals I'd prepared;
The gravies and sauces and beef nicely rared,
The wine and the rum balls, the bread and the cheese
And the way I'd never said, "No thank you, please."

As I dressed myself in my husband's old shirt
And prepared once again to do battle with dirt...
I said to myself, as I only can,
"You can't spend a Summer, disguised as a man!"

So, away with the last of the sour cream dip.
Get rid of the fruit cake, every cracker and chip.
Every last bit of food that I like must be banished
Till all the additional ounces have vanished.

I won't have a cookie, not even a lick.
I'll want only to chew on a long celery stick.
I won't have hot biscuits, or corn bread, or pie.
I'll munch on a carrot and quietly cry.

I'm hungry, I'm lonesome, and life is a bore...
But isn't that what January is for?
Unable to giggle, no longer a riot.
Happy New Year to all, and to all a good diet.

Bradwell Silver Band, 110 and Not Out! - by Robin Allen

An extract from the first minutes in the first minute book of The Bradwell silver Band;

At a Meeting held in the Stantonbury Schools at 7.30pm on Tues January 15th 1901 with reference to the formation of a brass band for Stantonbury it was unanimously resolved to endeavour to establish one. It was recommended to try and get instruments and to write to Bessons of London for a price list of their second-hand instruments and to try and raise a public subscription for the same.

The following gentlemen kindly offered their services as members or players messrs Mr lock, Mr Beach, North, Ellis, Johnson, Hardwick, Tompkins, Throsby, Rowlidge, Godfrey, Jarvis, Smith, S.Saunders, H. Saunders, Hardwick, L.Hardwick, Harriss.

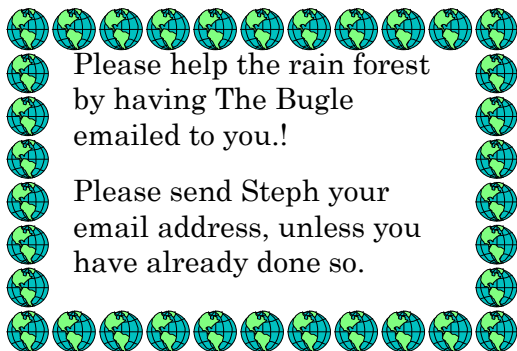
So by the time you get to read this Bradwell Silver Band as it's now known will be 110 years old and, still in many ways run the same way with a committee and membership of volunteers, kept going by their own efforts and by public donation. To be able to survive continuously for 110 years, speaks volumes about the bands membership and about the community of New Bradwell.

The first ever recorded purchase of an instrument was in October of 1902: *The Band decided to purchase a Trombone from Highams of Manchester at a cost of £7.10s.0d, pated at a further cost of £2.10s.0d and engraved at a cost of £1.10s.0d, a total of £11.10s.0d (£11.50 in today's money!) which they propose to present to Mr W. Hardwick the Bandmaster. The inscription read Presented to Mr W. Hardwick by the members and friends of Bradwell United Band, in recognition of gratuitous services as bandmaster, Christmas 1902.*

I still have that trombone as part of the band archive but as a Trombone such as the band now uses costs over a thousand pounds I'm afraid it's unlikely to have a new cousin in 2012!

To help Celebrate this birthday the band are planning a trip to the Iron Bridge museum to take part in their brass weekend on Sunday 17th July, and we will also be performing in Stantonbury Theatre on 21st May with Milton Keynes newest Brass group, Milton Keynes Youth Brass. Please contact Robin for ticket info on 01908 616463 or at rallen2@tiscali.co.uk

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

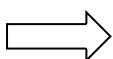
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Webmaster:	Fraser Cousins 225772 fras@sky.com
Website:	www.bradwellband.co.uk

ONE POT LAMB CASSEROLE Serves 4:

- 2tbsp plain flour
- sea salt and black pepper
- 650g (1lb 6oz) lamb neck fillet, diced
- 2tbsp vegetable or rapeseed oil
- 12 button onions or shallots
- 1 carrot, peeled and diced
- 1tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 tin chopped tomatoes
- 2tsp runny honey
- 400ml chicken or lamb stock
- 200g (7oz) baby new potatoes
- 250g (9oz) frozen peas
- 1tbsp mint, finely chopped

Preheat the oven to 180°C (400°F, gas mark 6).

Season the flour and toss the lamb in it. Heat the oil in a large casserole and brown the lamb pieces in batches. Set aside and add the button onions and carrot to the pan. Cook for 5 to 10 mins, until the vegetables are a light golden brown. Add the cinnamon and cook for a further minute.



Add the chopped tomatoes, honey and stock, stirring well, and bring to the boil. Return the lamb to the pan, add the new potatoes and season to taste.

Cover and cook in the preheated oven for 1 hr and 20 mins, until the lamb is tender.

Remove from the oven and stir through the frozen peas, and a little more stock if necessary. Cook for a further 5 mins. Sprinkle with the chopped mint and 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
3rd Cornet:	Alison Drury Rachel Griffith HowellOrla
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:	Vincent Jarjadian
2nd Trombone:	John Lee
Bass Trombone:	Luca Ianotta
E♭ Bases:	Dave Sanderson Joe Hillyer Jonathan Evans
BB♭ 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

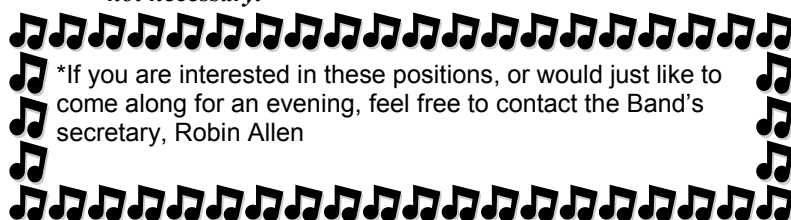
Honorary Members

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

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