



The Bradwell Bugle



Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2012

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From the Editor

Hi everyone

January is a time of practicing new techniques, being introduced to new pieces of music and preparing the band for the Regional Contest in March. Even though the work is quite difficult it's still a restful experience after the busy and successful December season.

A huge thanks go out to all our supporters, collectors and audience members. An even bigger thank you goes to the families of the band members who put up with a lot and are very patient with their loved ones who always have to be somewhere else in December!

Steph

Music

By Rangarajan Kazhiyur Mannar

A mixture of sound and silence
 Artistic release in time, the essence
 Alluring beauty avowedly delivered
 At best, music is simply divine!

Good music moves our hearts
 Great music cleanses our minds
 Grand music uplifts our spirits
 Gracious music indeed excels

Mellowed cow milks more & more
 Music to ears turns it a philanthropist
 Music therapy to the miserable
 Manifests in salvation- a revelation

Melody transforming the audience
 Music equates earth with heaven
 Mesmerized souls with moist eyes
 Muse over the theme time and again

Music can bring about rain
 Music can unshackle the mind
 Music can well alleviate pain
 Music is simply divine!

BRADWELL SILVER BAND CD



BLAZE AWAY CAN NOW BE PURCHASED VIA
WWW.BRADWELLBAND.CO.UK

December Report Part 2—by Keith Jones

Friday 9th December Lillingstone Lovell

The heavy snow last year meant our planned concert in Lillingstone Lovell had to be cancelled at short notice. So it was with somewhat disconcerting to see the snow falling again around 3:00 p.m. on the afternoon of this year's concert. Fortunately this proved to be just a passing shower but the snow formed ice on the car and the weather was decidedly cold.

The concert was being held in the beautiful Parish Church of St. Mary The Virgin and refreshments were provided for us on arrival with the hot drinks being particularly welcomed.



The Church heating was being augmented by a gas blower but this was switched off before we began to play as it was rather noisy. Because of the constraints in space, we found ourselves seated in an unusual formation. The back row cornets were seated in an elevated position behind the horns with the basses further back behind them. We used the same programme as used at Wolverton the previous week, the only change being Adam Keech as the soloist in "A Winter's Tale".

During the interval we were again offered hot drinks and mulled wine as well as sandwiches and cakes.

Unfortunately the combined effects of the cold, poor lighting, being seated in an unfamiliar formation and having a number of players playing different parts to cover for non-availability of members led to a performance that was not one of our best.

We thank Adam Keech for playing as principal cornet, and guest players Ralph and Byron. In addition we thank those who played parts they would not normally do, Liz moved to cover the baritone part, Louis moved up to 1st Horn (as well as principal Sleigh Bells!) and Sam to repiano.

The journey home was on the difficult side as the temperature had plummeted below freezing and the roads were icy.

Saturday 10th December St James Church, New Bradwell

This was our second visit to the Parish Church this week, having been there on Monday for the WI Concert. There was an excellent audience for our annual Christmas Concert which began under the leadership of Musical Director Brian Keech with "Christmas Prelude". Sue was our first soloist with "A Winter's Tale" and set a high standard for the evening with her playing. "I Believe In Father Christmas" and "Christmas Lullaby" went well and the audience then had the opportunity of joining in by singing some well known carols.

We continued with "Ding Dong Christmas" and Karen with the solo "Away In A Manger", again played with great style. The first half ended with "Santa Claus-Trophobia".

Following an interval, the Development Band under the direction of Clive performed two items. The first was the carol "It Came Upon The Midnight Clear" followed by an up tempo arrangement of "God Rock Ye Merry Gentlemen" which gave the young percussionist the chance to shine. The group played well and again we must give credit to those senior members who give up even more of their time in teaching the future players of Bradwell Silver Band.

December Report Part 2—by Keith Jones

After the draw for the raffle, the Band's programme continued with "I Wish it Could Be Christmas Every Day" and Fraser's haunting rendition of "O Holy Night". "All I Want For Christmas Is You" led to some more community carol singing. The audience then participated with gusto in "Schneewalzer". The last two items for the evening were "Its Going To Be A Cold Cold Christmas" and "Christmas Swingalong".

We were thanked by the vicar for a wonderfully entertaining evening and for our continued involvement with the community.

As an encore we Played "Jingle Bells" and rounded off the evening with "We Wish You A Merry Christmas".

After the previous evening's disappointments, it was great for the Band to be back on top form again. We thank Gary for helping us out on the front row and the members of the Supporters Club who admirably performed the front of house duties.

Friday 16th December Potterspurvy Village Hall

It was a cold evening but still considerably warmer than our last visit twelve months ago. Thankfully, earlier snowfalls had mostly melted and although it had frozen on the car the roads were o.k. We used the same programme as at Lillingstone Lovell the previous week with our soloists Sue, Karen and Fraser in great form again. This was another good performance by the Band in front of a large and receptive audience and enjoyed by all.

We again enjoyed our fair share of success in the raffle, but you have to buy a ticket to be in with a chance!

We were thanked on behalf of the Potterspurvy WI and all those present for our concert and complimented on the friendly atmosphere we brought along. There were also some very welcome comments on how great it was to see the youngsters in the Band.

We were grateful for help from Lucy and the Joe who was home from University for the holidays. During his introductions, our Musical Director Brian Keech had reminded those present that the village used to have it's own brass band with the splendid name of Potterspurvy Excelsior Prize Brass Band. The prize part of the title apparently dates back to 1904 when the band travelled by horse and cart to Dunstable for a contest. The Band won first prize and were awarded a silver plated cup but as the contest was not held again the cup has been kept in the Church for safe keeping ever since.

Another old village tale recalls that when the Pury band marched by, the pigs sat on the wall to listen. This tale was well known in all the surrounding villages and the Coronation parade through the village in 1953 was led by local man Syd Holloway pushing a model of 'The Pig on the Wall'. There was of course much rivalry between Pury and the neighbouring Yardley Gobion Bands. Pury used to say that one Christmas when Yardley Band went round playing carols they played outside one 'house' where the collectors could not find the door. They walked round it several times before they realised it was a hay rick!

Sadly, as the number of bandsmen from the village dwindled, more and more had to be transported to practice from the surrounding areas. By 1961 it became beyond the financial means of the band to continue to transport the players to practice and the band had to close down. Some of the bandsmen went on to play with Wolverton Band and the remains of the band's funds were paid over to the Parish Council for the general benefit of the village.

December Report Part 2—by Keith Jones

Saturday 17th December Newport Pagnell

A new experience for the Band, we were part of Come Carolling! an informal carol concert for the whole family. All proceeds from the concert were going towards Hope Outreach UK, which is a Milton Keynes based Christian charity working to bring encouragement and hope to needy people in Sri Lanka and South East India.

Also taking part were the Newport Pagnell Singers with their Musical Director Roger Windmill and accompanist Ed Tomlinson. The choir was formed in 1962 by a group of ladies who had been members of the Newport Pagnell Choral Societies which had disbanded a few years earlier. They currently have nearly 50 members and is made up of local people who enjoy giving pleasure to others through their singing.

The evening started with a welcome to everyone from Roger Hall who is the Treasurer and Trustee of Hope Outreach UK. The Choir then began the evening's music making with "Fanfare for Christmas Day" with full organ accompaniment. Throughout the evening the Band was to provide accompaniment for most of the carol singing, the first carol being O Come All Ye Faithful. The Singers then performed two items from their more recent repertoire, "Saviour's Day" which was originally performed by Cliff Richard and "Walking In The Air" from then animated cartoon classic The Snowman.

The next carol was Good King Wenceslas which was followed by The Twelve Days Of Christmas. Involving everyone present, twelve people from the audience were chosen to sing the presents "A Partridge In A Pear Tree" etc whilst everyone else sung "On The First Day of Christmas" etc. With a mixture of young and not so young, the soloists helped produce an enjoyable rendition of this popular song.

Bradwell Band were then featured in two items, the first being the lively "Ding Dong Christmas" and as a contrast the cornet solo "A Winter's Tale". This was again performed with great style by Sue and she received well deserved applause for her playing. Several members of the audience were later to seek Sue out and tell her how much they had enjoyed her performance. I noticed that members of the choir were also impressed with Sue's musical abilities.

The carol "O Little Town Of Bethlehem" was followed by another item by the Band, this time Fraser with the euphonium solo "O Holy Night". Again, this was a super performance with Fraser's using the lovely acoustics of the Church to full effect.

There followed a sequence which involved children finding concealed Christmas crackers and then finding someone to pull the cracker with it. It transpired that each cracker contained a small whistle, each having a number which in theory corresponded to a note in the scale. The children were arranged in order and did their best to play a verse of "Good King Wenceslas".

The final carol of the first half was "We Three Kings". This was followed by an address and appeal from Dr. Sam Mutheveloe, the founder of Hope Outreach UK. Dr Sam gave a description of the conditions some children face in the impoverished regions of Sri Lanka and asked the audience to help with the good work by making donations. This was a reminder to us all that amidst the excitement of the coming festivities, we should find time to remember those for whom Christmas will not be a happy time.

There was an interval followed by the inevitable raffle before the Band started the second half with "All I Want For Christmas Is You". The mood relaxed with "It's Gonna Be A Cold Cold Christmas" before the singing of three children's favourites, Frosty The Snowman and Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer with piano accompaniment and Jingle Bells.

There followed what for me was the highlight of the evening, the Choir and Band combining for John Rutter's "Christmas Lullaby". Without any prior rehearsal the Singer's Musical Director said it could all go horribly wrong, but any fears he may have had would have evaporated with an excellent combined effort.

December Report Part 2—by Keith Jones

The programme then promised A Story From Father Christmas, but it would appear he was busy elsewhere and so he sent along one of his elves, Frogspawn, to read the story. The Choir were then sang “Ring Out Wild Bells” with organ accompaniment and “Nativity Carol”, another of John Rutter’s compositions, with the piano.

The Band introduced the good people of Newport Pagnell to the delights of “Schneewalzer” and the audience and choir all joined in with swaying and standing up. Their enthusiastic reception of this piece earned them a brief encore which ended up with most of the Band standing up at the end. The lights of the church were then turned off as the Choir sang “Away In A Manger” with Frogspawn the elf singing the solo parts.

“Hark The Herald Angel Sing” brought the programme to completion and there were thanks from Roger Hall for the performers and people who had attended in great numbers. We brought the evening to an end with “We Wish You A Merry Christmas”.

This had been an enjoyable evening and it is good for the Band to be involved in such an event. Nearly all the tickets had been sold in advance and the organisation was excellent throughout with a full colour programme having been produced. We do not have the opportunity of playing regularly in Newport Pagnell so this was another great opportunity of reaching an audience who may not have heard us perform before.

Sunday 18th December Stantonbury Social Working Men’s Club, New Bradwell

Up until the fairly recent past, this concert was probably the highlight of the year for Bradwell Band and was eagerly awaited by Band and club members alike. Most of the Band were also members of the Side Club and the concert room would be packed out for the annual Christmas concert.

We are in different times now of course, the Band has many more concerts and venues to perform at whilst the Club has been experiencing some lean years. With club membership in decline, there has been little done in the way of refurbishment and to me it seems almost exactly the same as it was in the early 1980s. However it was pleasing to see so many people there for our concert, although a bit disappointing that the audience is a bit on the noisy side. I don’t have a problem with that really, they are out to enjoy a family evening out before Christmas, but with children running around and climbing on tables and chairs it resembles more of a holiday camp atmosphere. This would never have been allowed in the old days!

Playing against a background of noise is never easy as it makes concentration difficult, but the Band performed well and rattled through the by now familiar programme we had been using for Christmas this year. The soloists Sue, Karen and Fraser, all performed very well, although they will tell you that they would prefer to stand up for their solos.

The highlight of the evening for most of the audience was the arrival of Father Christmas and Mrs. Christmas. Normally anyone brave enough to volunteer gets shoved into a Santa suit and distributes sweets to the younger members of the audience. This year we had Peter in a very authentic looking outfit with his wife attired in Victorian style. Apparently Peter and his good lady perform the Santa role over a number of weekends leading up to Christmas as the Milton Keynes Museum on Stacey Hill. People stopped me outside the club after the performance demanding to know where we got our Santa from!

We were grateful for playing help from former members Tug, Jack, Luke, and George Bruce. A special mention should also be made of Adam Keech who earlier in the day had driven to Wigan for another engagement before returning in time for our concert.

December Report Part 2—by Keith Jones

Friday 22nd December Old Bradwell Sports & Social Club

Our final formal concert of the Christmas season, and indeed the year 2011, was held at the Sports and Social Club in Old Bradwell. We last played there around ten years ago and our memories were that this was a small venue. It had been rumoured that a marquee was to be erected for this concert and we were a bit apprehensive how this would work regarding heating and lighting. In the event there was no marquee and we set up inside the club.

We were a bit depleted in the cornet section but otherwise had almost a full band including percussion. The club was packed out with family groups out to enjoy themselves just a couple of days before Christmas Day. Refreshments were provided and there was a very good atmosphere. I think we were all pleasantly surprised how well this concert went.

Featured soloists for the evening were Adam Keech, Karen and Fraser who all once again played with great style.

Street Carolling

As usual, Bradwell Band played around the streets of New Bradwell in the build up to Christmas, covering most of the area in three night sessions. The first was on Tuesday 13th December, a cold but dry night when we covered the Bradville area, finishing up in Mercers Drive, whilst on Tuesday 20th we covered School Street, Thompson Street, Harwood Street, Chipperfield Close and Newport Road. The rain started to fall as we made our way around and we were quite wet when it came to finishing time. However we were refreshed at a house in Newport Road which had lain on a tremendous spread of food and drinks. This was most welcome and much appreciated.

Christmas Eve found us start off from the school and work our way around. It was a mild and dry evening and I cannot remember seeing as many people come to their doors and windows to listen to the Band as it made its way around the streets. There was a real sense of warmth and community.

Christmas Day Morning

Our final engagement of 2011 found the usual suspects meet at the Clock Tower for a 6:00 a.m. start to a tradition originally started in 1901 of playing around the streets. In an ever changing world, it is great to report on these traditions being maintained. I doubt that the original members of Bradwell Band would ever have imagined that what they started would continue unbroken for 110 years.

The weather was mild and dry, nearly twenty degrees warmer than Christmas morning in 2010! We had twenty players conducted by Brian and started in Caledonian Road and made our way around New Bradwell and Bradville.

We received many Christmas wishes as we made our way around, and there are two which were particularly notable. The first was a lady from Germany who was experiencing her first Christmas in the UK. She thoroughly enjoyed the unexpected sound of a brass band welcoming in Christmas Day and brought out a tray of drinks. The second was a lady who said she had lived in the area for sixty six years and eagerly awaited the arrival of the Band in her street. She is moving away from the area next year and she said with regret that this would be the last occasion she would hear the Band on Christmas morning.

There were also mince pies and refreshments offered to the Band at our final stop.

We thank former members who joined us on this special day. Sian, Kevin, Tug, Jack, Luke, Laurence and of course the rising tuba star Joe with his endless supply of chocolate!

Christmas Summary

So Christmas has been and gone for another year and there is time for some reflection. As those present at the recent annual general meeting will have heard, the Band's finances have taken a bit of knock during 2011 and so Christmas was a great opportunity to start addressing these issues.

During the period December 1st to 25th there were nine concerts, four sessions of street carolling, two jobs involving a smaller group of players and two rehearsals. With the notable exception of one concert, the Band performed to a high standard throughout this period and brought many favourable comments from people in the audiences. It was good to be part of helping to create for so many people that special atmosphere Christmas always seems to bring.

Thanks to Brian for his musical leadership and to all players who helped us through this busy time in what for all of us is already a hectic month. The youngsters of the Band in particular showed good spirit and their playing will certainly have improved as a result. Thanks go to Sam for producing programmes and posters and to Robin for transporting the equipment around.

We also thank those supporters and friends of the Band who came round the streets collecting on our behalf. The money these few dedicated supporters collect from the generous Bradville / New Bradwell communities is invaluable and helps sustain the band throughout the year to come.

Street Carolling Collections:

Bradville	£271.61
New Bradwell	£247.24
New Bradwell Christmas Eve	£312.48

Thank you!

Here's to 2012!

**We were in the paper! Did you see us? Guess what piece we were playing?
Joint Concert with TMA & Bradwell Silver Band—December 2011**



Engagements



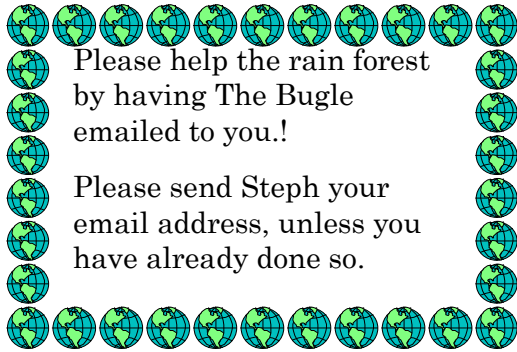
March

Sat 17th	Regional Area Contest—Stevenage	All Day
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April

Further engagements to be confirmed shortly.

Contacts



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

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

Contact Details

Chairperson:	Gary Morris chairman@bradwellband.co.uk
Secretary:	Robin Allen 616463 secretary@bradwellband.co.uk
Treasurer:	Dave Sanderson 616357 treasurer@bradwellband.co.uk
Musical Director:	Brian Keech 310959 md@bradwellband.co.uk
Supporters Club:	Lisa Huckle 217429 lhuckle@sky.com
Newsletter	Steph Chappell 568344 editor@bradwellband.co.uk
Webmaster:	Fraser Cousins 225772 fras@sky.com
Website:	www.bradwellband.co.uk

Mushroom Cobbler & Walnut

Scones

Serves 4

Cooking Time: 8 hours

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, chopped
- 250 g (8 oz) flat mushrooms, peeled and quartered
- 250 g (8 oz) cup chestnut mushrooms, quartered
- 1 tablespoon plain flour
- 200 ml (7 fl oz) red wine
- 400 g (13 oz) can chopped tomatoes
- 150 ml (1/4 pint) vegetable stock
- 1 tablespoon redcurrant jelly
- 2-3 stems of thyme
- salt and pepper

Walnut scones:

- 200 g (7 oz) self-raising flour
- 50 g (2 oz) butter, diced
- 50 g (2 oz) walnut pieces, chopped
- 75 g (3 oz) Cheddar cheese, grated
- 1 egg, beaten
- 4-5 tablespoons milk

Method:

Preheat the slow cooker if necessary; see the manufacturer's handbook. Heat the oil in a frying pan, add the onion, garlic and mushrooms and fry, stirring, for 5 minutes or until just turning golden.

Stir in the flour, then mix in the wine, tomatoes and stock. Add the redcurrant jelly, thyme and salt and pepper.

Bring to the boil. Pour into the slow cooker pot, cover with the lid and cook on low for 6-8 hours. When almost ready to serve, make the topping. Put the flour and butter in a bowl, rub in the butter with your fingertips until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Stir in the walnuts, Cheddar and salt and pepper. Add half the egg, then mix in enough milk to make a soft dough.

Knead lightly, then roll out the dough on a lightly floured surface until 2 cm (3/4 inch) thick. Stamp out 8 rounds with a 6 cm (2 1/2 inch) plain biscuit cutter, re-rolling the trimmings as needed. Stir the mushroom casserole, then arrange the scones, slightly overlapping, around the edge of the dish. Cover with the lid and cook on high for 45 minutes or until well risen.

Lift the pot out of the housing using oven gloves, brush the tops of the scones with the remaining egg and brown under a preheated hot grill, if liked.



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 Steph Chappell
Librarian:	Sam White		Fraser Cousins Karen Wilson

Playing Positions

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

Non Committee Positions

President:	Revd Chris Collinge
Musical Director:	Brian Keech
Publicity Officer:	Vacant
Magazine Editor:	Steph Chappell
Fundraising:	Supporters Club
Quartermaster:	Sam White

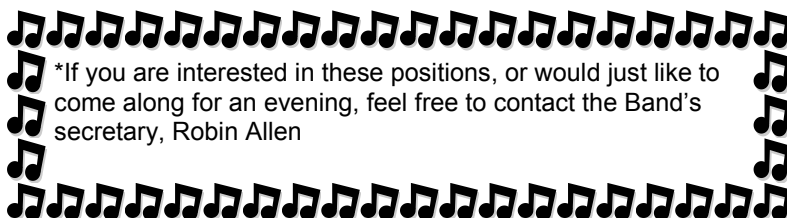
Honorary Members

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
Elis Rees-Kay	Arwel Rees-Kay
Debbie Hodder	Casey Brockwell

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



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