

# The Bradwell Bugle



Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band

July/August 2009

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## From the Editor

Hello everyone

This will be a combined issue due to holiday commitments. Thank you very much to the contributors this issue—much appreciated. Also, the more of you that can sign up to receive the Bugle via email, the less trees I need to chop down. Please let me know.

Wishing you all a lovely summer. Send me a postcard with an article for the Bugle!

Next issue September.

*Maggie*

## SUPPORTERS CLUB

The Supporters Club is well under way. Our last mammoth task was to provide the tea for the performers and players during the break between rehearsal and the performance at the joint concert at Stantonbury on 4th July, plus do FOH! We seemed to get it right and no-one went away lacking nourishment and a very good evening had by all (see Keith's report inside).

Eve, Gary's wife will need lots of donations for her kind offer to make chutney for the Supporters stall. Many thanks to Liz last week for her raspberry jam for the Bradwell School carnival. If perhaps when you go shopping, an extra bag of sugar in your basket, and likewise, start saving jars again! Also if you have any spare material for the tops of jars to decorate, that would be good. Next forays are the Drayton Parslow & Stony Stratford Fetes. Cakes needed for Stony please. Thank you in advance.

Thanks also to a new volunteer for the Supporters Club—Peter Blake. Thanks Peter—we will definitely be in touch!

## MESSAGE FROM BRIAN

Can I please pass on my thanks to all members of the band and supporters club for their efforts at the concert in Stantonbury Theatre on July 4th. I believe this is one of the most successful concerts we have held at Stantonbury both with audience size and quality of performance. I have received so many nice comments from audience members which is always good to hear. This event showed off the band's organisation to the fore and is something we should all be very proud of.

Brian Keech, Musical Director



## ***Engagement Reports —by Keith Jones***

### **LILLINGSTONE LOVELL GARDEN PARTY—SUNDAY 7TH JUNE**

*Lillingstone Lovell is a village and civil parish within the Aylesbury Vale district. It is about three and a half miles north of Buckingham, eight miles west of Milton Keynes and five miles south of Towcester. Lillingstone Lovell is adjacent to the village of Lillingstone Dayrell. The village name 'Lillingstone' is Anglo Saxon in origin, and means 'Lytel's boundary stone', referring to the proximity of both places to the border with Northamptonshire. At the time of the Domesday Book of 1086 both settlements were recorded jointly as Lillingestan though already at that time there were two manors owned respectively by the Dayrell and Lovell families.*

The weather over the weekend had been awful—very wet and windy, so as I looked out of the window at 10:00 a.m. it was still lashing down and the prospects for this engagement were looking bleak. However, the rain stopped, the clouds disappeared and the sun came out to make it a pleasant afternoon.

Held in the grounds of a private house, the event was a garden party for the villagers. Musical entertainment was provided by the band and there were organised games for those who attended.

Under the baton of our Musical Director Brian Keech, we had prepared a programme of over twenty items to be spread over the anticipated three sessions, the first of which opened with "When The Saints Go Marching In". The music played was all taken from our current repertoire and included the first public performance of "Rhythm of Life", a useful work out on a piece to be included in our concert with the Northampton Male Voice choir in July.

During the course of the afternoon we featured no less than five soloists, Keith with "Over The Rainbow", Vince with "The Acrobat", Adam with "Georgia On My Mind", Karen with "I Don't Know How to Love Him" and Fraser with "When I Fall In Love".

What made the playing all the more challenging was that the heavy rain over the week-end had made the ground very soft. We had been provided with chairs which had tubular legs. Those of us who are more generously proportioned were constantly re-positioning the chairs as the legs sank up to nine inches into the turf. Because some of us were on a slope it mean our chairs were tipping sideways at an acute angle so we got to know the person sitting next to us very well!

At the end of the first session the Band were invited to partake of the refreshments. Hugely enjoyable and tasty, the burgers and sausages were consumed with great gusto. It was all so civilised, sitting in a lovely garden on a sunny Sunday afternoon, eating great food and having a good old chinwag with friends. It was almost a shame to break the party up to start playing again!

At the end of the second session it was time for desserts. Sam, amongst others, tucked into her Pavlova with extra strawberries which wasn't the wisest thing to do for someone still hung-over after a heavy night out. As we played our final item the black clouds returned with a vengeance and there was just time to pack our equipment away before the heavy rain started again.

Non-availability of members meant we were extremely grateful for help given by our guest players. On cornet we had Adam Keech especially home from University in Huddersfield, Dave Johnson and Liz Bancroft from Milton Keynes Brass. We also had Lisa Huckle on tenor horn, Liz Keech on baritone and David Huckle on BBb bass. Without their help it would have made a long afternoon even harder work.

It had been an extremely enjoyable afternoon and there was some talk about repeating the event next year.

## ***Engagement Reports ...continued***

### ***Stoke Hammond Church Fete—Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June***

*Stoke Hammond is another village and civil parish within Aylesbury Vale district, two and a half miles south of Fenny Stratford. The village was first recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 as Stoche: a common place name in England denoting an Anglo Saxon church or place of worship. The suffix Hammond was added later in manorial records though it refers to the family who owned the estate at the time of the Domesday survey. Hamon Brito, son of Mainfelin Brito, was the owner of the manor of Stoke in the 12th century.*

Stoke Hammond is also a 'A Thankful Village'. Of the 16,000 villages in England and Wales, Stoke Hammond is one of only 41 that share this title. It refers to the fact that there is no First World War memorial in the village because fortunately all the men resident in the village who went to fight in the war returned home safely at its end.

On a warm sunny afternoon (jackets off!) those members of the Band who were available were all set up and ready to play well before the appointed time. The occasion was the St Luke's Church fete and the event is not only designed to be a fun day but is also important in the church's fund-raising calendar. It was held in the community centre which was once the village school and there were stalls set up both inside and outside. There were tables and chairs set up outside and some people sat with their refreshments to listen to the Band.

There was no formal opening so we started the first of our two slots and all the music performed had been played the previous week with today's featured soloists being Keith, Jack, Karen and Fraser. We did have one break for refreshments before completing a shorter second session

Brian was pleased with the playing and complimented the Band on the level of performance. It was one of those engagements where the Band is positioned in a corner of a field and it was difficult to gauge public reaction to our playing.

Our thanks go to Lisa and David Huckle and also to Tug. We were also grateful for help from Mike Sanders and to Sue who switched to the back row to help provide a better balance with the players we had available.

It had been a pleasant afternoon and having plundered the Tombola stall, Joe went home with enough groceries to open up a corner shop. Brian won a bottle of wine and Rachel also went home with a bottle of something nice.

## *Engagement Reports continued..*

### *Great Linford Waterside Festival Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June*

An unusual but exciting event for the Band to be part of, the Great Linford Waterside Festival is a weekend of music and attractions suitable for the whole family. The annual event is held in the grounds of Great Linford Manor. Organised and run entirely by volunteers, this not-for-profit festival is put together every year with the help and assistance of various local bodies and organisations.



We were billed as the first act on the Main Stage but we were thoroughly entertained before our playing by the youngsters of St Andrews School, a local Infant School. They were full of enthusiasm as they sang they way through a medley of songs which included "Soldier, Soldier, Won't You Marry Me?" and "Sweet Molly Malone". As they were applauded off the stage they the announcer referred to them as the "St Andrew's School Choir". One of their teachers was quick to point out that that it had in fact been the entire school on stage!

For our thirty minute set starting at midday, Brian had prepared a carefully timed programme to cater for all tastes. Abandoning our normal seating arrangement, we took to the stage with just the basses sitting down at the front of the formation. The rest of the band stood throughout the performance. The front row cornets were to the right of the stage, the back row on the left with the horns behind them and the Baritone, Euphonium and Trombone behind the basses.

Our opener was "Raiders of the Lost Ark", and then Jack Wilson gave an accomplished performance of the cornet solo "Georgia On My Mind". The applause was deservedly long from the many people who stood in front of the stage to listen. We followed this with "Mama Mia", "She's The One", "The Lion Sleeps Tonight", "Rhythm of Life" and finished up with "New York, New York".

It had gone very well and I think we were all pleased with our playing with one of the off stage organisers full of praise for the variety of the music performed. This was a great opportunity for the Band to be doing something completely different from the normal type of engagement and we reached an audience who would in all likelihood rarely choose to listen to a brass band in action.

Our thanks go to Tug, Liz, Lisa and David for again helping us out.

So, this year Great Linford, next year Glastonbury!

## ***Engagement Reports***

### ***Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July - Stantonbury Theatre, Joint concert with the Northampton Male Voice Choir***

Bradwell Silver Band under their Musical Director Brian Keech started the evening with Sousa's rousing march, "Stars And Stripes Forever" which featured Ralph on soprano cornet in an excellent interpretation of the piccolo obbligato.

As it was the 4<sup>th</sup> July, Brian had chosen an American theme for our first set and in contrast to the opening number, we followed with the much quieter "Colors of the Wind". With music composed by Alan Menken and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz, this was the 1995 Oscar-winner for Best Original Song from the Disney animated feature film Pocahontas. It also won the Golden Globe in the same category as well as the Grammy Award for Best Song Written for a Movie. The song poetically presents the native American viewpoint that the earth is a living entity where humankind is connected to everything in nature.

"Breezin' Down Broadway" arranged by Goff Richards followed. This is a lively and relentlessly up-tempo medley of show tunes includes *Another Opening - Another Show, There's No Business Like Show Business, Get Me To the Church on Time, Oklahoma, That's Entertainment and 76 Trombones*.

We closed our first set with the toe-tapping "New York, New York", the theme song from the 1977 Martin Scorsese film of the same name. Composed by John Kander, with lyrics by Fred Ebb, it was performed in the film by Liza Minnelli, and she also sang it in the Olympic stadium during the 1984 Summer Olympics.

Our guests for the evening were the Northampton Male Voice Choir and under the directorship of Mike Davis they started with "*Be Still My Soul*", a hymn with original words by Katharina von Schlegel and translated from German to English by Jane L Borthwick in *Hymns from the Land of Luther*. These words were later set to Sibelius's *Finlandia*, a piece of music very familiar in brass band circles.

Next came "*The Rose*", originally a pop song written by Amanda McBroom and made famous by Bette Midler in the 1979 movie *The Rose*. Since then it has been covered by a variety of artists. The song is encouragement for people who are so afraid of failing (in love, among other things) that they do not even try, as illustrated by the lyric "*And the soul, afraid of dying, that never learns to live...*"

Their third item was another favourite hymn. Written by Isaac Watts with the opening line "*When I Survey The Wondrous Cross*" it was sung to the excellent alternative tune of "Morte Criste" written by Emrys Jones.

The Band and choir, both now being conducted by Brian, united for "Stout-Hearted Men". From the operetta 'New Moon' by Sigmund Romberg, Frank Mandel, Laurence Schwab and Oscar Hammerstein II, it was originally recorded by Nelson Eddy. The show was the third and last in a string of Broadway hits for Romberg.

The last item in the first half was "When The Saints Go Marching In", a song that most people would easily recognize. This arrangement is by Denys Hood, the choral equivalent of Goff Richards, such are his prolific contributions to this form of music making. It starts with a staccato unison verse and develops with answering parts and change of key making for a very enjoyable piece.

A surprise addendum to the programme was the playing and singing of "Happy Birthday To You" for a member of the choir.

The Band opened the second half "High On A Hill" which featured the whole of the cornet section. Some stood at the back of the theatre with the others facing them from the front of the stage. The music depicts bugles playing in the distance and is often performed by military bands with the buglers arranged in an elevated position. This effect worked well in the theatre.

"The Lion Sleeps Tonight" followed with augmented percussion from Luke, Jack and Rachel and a curious selection of furry animals supplied by Sam popping up in some funny places! This was followed by the Robbie Williams's hit song "She's The One" and the Band finished its featured playing with the selection from "West Side Story". This is a medley of some of the show's more memorable songs including *Maria, I Feel Pretty, Tonight* and *America*.

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## ***Engagement Reports... continued***

The spotlight was then switched to the choir who sang "Silver Bird" and followed this with "Nice'n Easy", a Perry Como collection, featuring *Magic Moments, And I Love Her So, Catch a Falling Star and Try to Remember*.

The choir's final solo item was "You'll Never Walk Alone" from the 1945 Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, *Carousel*. The Band and Choir then combined to present "Rhythm of Life" from the 1966 hit Broadway musical *Sweet Charity* written by Cy Coleman / Dorothy Fields and arranged by Richard Barnes. This a real test of stamina for both singers and players as there are so many notes in it!

The finale was "An American Trilogy", an item that is currently in both the band and choir's repertoire. "American Trilogy" is arranged by country songwriter Mickey Newbury and was made popular by Elvis Presley. It is a medley of three 19th century songs—"Dixie", a minstrel song that became the unofficial anthem of the Confederacy since the Civil War, "All My Trials", originally a Bahamian lullaby, but closely related to African American spirituals, and "The Battle Hymn of the Republic", the marching song of the Union Army during the Civil War.

After acknowledging the applause, the Band and Choir performed "When The Saints" as an encore.

Our thanks go to guest players Adam Keech, Tug Wilson, Lucy Bedford and Ron Snape. Also to regular helpers Lisa and David Huckle. Liz Keech and Steve Osborne. We are extremely grateful to the Friends of the Band who organised front of house and refreshments.

It had been a thoroughly enjoyable evening under some testing conditions for Band, Choir and audience alike. The recent spell of very hot weather made it too warm for comfort in the theatre, particularly for those on stage under the spotlights. An early decision was made to dispense with uniform jackets. This meant a visibly less colourful on-stage appearance but the comfort of the performers was the prime consideration.

It was good for the Band to share the stage with a different musical group and we know some of the choir expressed a similar sentiment. As far as we are aware, this was the first time Bradwell Band had performed a concert with a Male Voice Choir which is a surprise considering the similarities in the history and traditions of brass bands and male voice choirs.

At the end of the 19th century, male voice choirs first became popular with the coal miners of South Wales. With their natural love for singing nurtured in the non-conformist chapels, the initial repertoire would have been mainly religious with a few national and traditional songs.

Industrial areas in Cornwall and the North of England followed suit and the popularity spread throughout the country. Despite the subsequent decline of the coal and other traditional manufacturing industries, many of these choirs still flourish and are a source of great local pride for their respective towns and villages.

The Band have received many compliments about the concert, the standard of performance, the choice and variety of music and the contrast provided by our special guest the Northampton Male Voice Choir. We look forward to future collaborations.

### ***Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July - New Bradwell School Carnival***

New Bradwell School is a large combined school with just over 400 pupils ranging in age from Nursery to Year 6. Each year they organise a carnival procession round the streets of New Bradwell. The children are all colorfully dressed and sit on the back of lorries under the watchful eyes of their teachers and helpers.

It had rained earlier in the morning but thankfully this had cleared to become a warm and mostly sunny afternoon. With a couple of vintage cars leading the procession, the Band with eighteen players on the march stepped off with "Raiders Of The Lost Ark".

Leaving the school playground we went straight down Church Street then made a right turn at The Cuba into Newport Road. We processed along Thomson Street, Harwood Street, Bradwell Road and then into the High Street. We reached The Cuba again and this time turned left towards the clock tower. There was a brief pause in proceedings as we waited for the lorries to catch up after negotiating a passage through the narrow streets. Other marches played during the course of this marathon were "True and Trusty", "Slaidburn", "Standard of St. George", "CIV" and "The Middy".

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## Engagement Reports



(Photograph taken by Lorraine Bruce)

It had been a long and tiring march and after some much needed refreshments, we were joined by another seven members as we played for around 45 minutes with items chosen from our current repertoire. "When The Saints", "Colors Of The Wind", "Mama Mia", "She's The One", "New York, New York", "Rhythm Of Life", "Swing Low Michael", "Ticket To Ride", "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" and "S'Wonderful".

Our thanks go to Jeff Ginn from Wolverton Town Band, Tug Wilson and George Bruce from Stantonbury and Bob Wills from Bedford Town who all played with us both on the march and for the sitting down session. Also to Musical Director Brian Keech who in addition to his conducting duties also played the bass drum on the march.

### **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July - New Bradwell Community Music Festival**

Held at the School, this was an evening of musical entertainment involving many of the children from the school, local group The Zeroes and the Bradwell Silver Band.

The main hall was packed to capacity; demand for tickets was so great that they had to be allocated by ballot.

After an introduction from the school's head teacher, the Bradwell Band began proceedings with "Raiders Of The Lost Ark" followed by "She's The One".

The first of the school groups was Handbell Heaven. Comprising pupils from Year 1, they gave a delightful rendition of *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*.

The school choir sang *Nanuma* a traditional African song. It means 'Welcome to the land of spiders' and was accompanied by various percussion instruments.

The Recorder Rockers from year 3 played *Stardom Waltz* and a recorder trio from Year 2 with added percussion performed *Hairy Scary*.

There followed a recorder Duet by a pupil and a teacher again with percussion accompaniment with two items, *Chilly Tuesday* and *Wednesday at William's*.

The Zeroes group were then introduced. A locally based band, they describe their music as Latino Punk Rock with a mix of original and cover songs. They are regulars in the rock pub and festival circuit in Beds Bucks and Northants and performed at the BradFest last week-end.

After two songs from the group a pupil from the school performed the first of two keyboard solos with *Home-spun*.

The Band gave a spirited rendition of "Mama Mia" followed by the second keyboard solo *The Can Can*.

Bradwell Band's Development Group under the capable leadership of Clive Keech performed a couple of items which were well received. Clive took the opportunity to tell the audience that the Band was very happy to welcome new learners of any age and that an instrument and tuition would be provided free of charge.

The School Orchestra comprising violins, cellos, flutes, clarinets, percussion and a tenor horn brought the first half to a conclusion with *Dan The Man*.  
/continued.....

## ***Engagement Reports***

There was then an interval with refreshments prepared by the children of Year 6. The second half commenced with a Samba type percussion group from year 5. They performed a piece called *Pizza* with great enthusiasm.

Then it was the turn for Strings Group from Year 4 who gave us two contrasting pieces, *Cowboy Chorus*, and *German Dance*.

Two of the more experienced pupils then played the Violin Duet *Toodle Pip*. The final contribution from the string group was a very confident solo *Dance to your Daddy* played by a pupil who only began to learn the violin last October.

The percussion and string groups are tutored by Milton Keynes Music Services – Wider Opportunity Groups. The Government has allocated a grant to each Local Authority, to allow all schools to take part in this ever expanding and exciting way of teaching music at KS2. All the Primary and Junior Schools in Milton Keynes have been offered the opportunity for classes in year 3 & 4 to have something like recorders, guitar, percussion, keyboard etc as a whole class experience for a year.

They are hoping that many of the children who had this opportunity last year will choose to continue to learn to play, and the early signs are very encouraging. In a recent survey over 70% of the current group of children said they wished to carry on learning an instrument!

The Zeroes returned and invited a young man from the audience to join them on stage. Apparently he had appeared with them at the recent BradFest. The Zeroes recently represented the Bradwells in the MonKey Vision song contest and performed the song they wrote especially for that. This was all very entertaining and a good example of other musical activity in the locality. For more information on the group visit their website, <http://www.thezeroes.net/>.

The school Choir gave us *The Lord Is My Shepherd* as used in the theme music for Vicar of Dibley, which was followed by the Band with *The Lion Sleeps Tonight*.

The School Orchestra returned with *Jive* before the Band and entire cast combined for a rousing finale with *When The Saints Go Marching In*.

There were words of thanks from the head teacher for all the performers, the teachers and the audience for turning up to support the school.

The Band played "New York, New York" as the other performers and audience made their way out.

The evening had been an excellent showcase of local music making, with the emphasis quite rightly on the school pupils own efforts. It is to be hoped that these youngsters will have enjoyed performing in front of a packed audience and by featuring the group and the band they will be inspired to continue with their musical activities.

## ***Keith***

*(I think a big thank you ought to go to Keith for his excellent engagement reports—they are both entertaining and informative and gives us all a really good view of what happened. If any one would like to give him a rest an write the occasional report, I'm sure he'd be more than happy to spread the load...!! M.)*



## *Memories by John Gentles*

Please find below a transcript of an email sent to Robin from John Gentles, who has long associations with the Band:

Dear Robin

I chanced upon the band website a year or two ago. It has prompted quite a few memories, and when I saw that Rod Pakes had retired, and Nick Dytham and Harold Sapwell had died, I thought I would put my memories down on paper. Please do what you wish with them, you can archive them or bin them, as the pleasure has been in trying to recall events from 50+ years ago. You will gather that I have lived in East Sussex for the last 28 years, and my parents, who lived in Bradwell, died in 1989 and 1991, so I visit the area very rarely

You might want to check some of the names with Rod Pakes, or one of the other members from that time, and if you do please pass on my regards.

Best Regards

John Gentles

### *Memories*

I joined the group of learners in Bradwell Band at the age of 9 in 1955. My initial teacher was Bill Walters, the then secretary. I remember my early lessons in the front room of Bill's house in St Mary's St, and my first dreadful attempts at playing Aurelia. After a short time I was allowed to join the junior band. Harold Walters, who was Bill's son and was himself secretary later on, then ran the junior band. The junior band flourished under Harold, who was something of a disciplinarian. When I was 11 or 12 years old we won the local septet competition at Heath & Reach playing, as I remember, Deep Harmony. The septet was:

Rob Campbell - Solo Cornet

Rod Turvey - Cornet

John Gentles - Cornet

Keith Mason - Cornet

Pete Doddington - Tenor Horn

Roy Savage - Baritone

Rod Pakes - Trombone

Chris Bissell was the conductor at this time and I have a photo that included Chris, Harold, and the septet taken to celebrate the win. Rob Campbell was the fourth of five brothers who played in the band with their father Bill. Rob was a very talented player but gave up very early on, which was a great loss. Of the other members of the septet Rod Turvey moved away, Keith gave up when he joined the navy, and Roy was killed on his motorbike when he was about 18. Pete Doddington played for quite a few years, and I played on and off for 23 years. Rod Pakes (Ginger) outlasted us all.

I was looking at the photograph on the website. I don't believe it was taken in the 1930's. I suspect it is late 1940's or early 1950's. The individual named as E Campbell (first on the left in the second row) is I am sure Roy Campbell, and he was born in the late 1930's or maybe 1940. I played with a lot of the people in that photograph. Sid Eldred was a first class solo cornet player who lived in Wolverton but chose to play with us. He gave up shortly after he had to have dentures, as he could not play to the level that he wanted.

Bill Frost was a bass player when I knew him and he carried on for years. As I recall he lived in Queen Anne St.

Harold Walters was a euphonium player in my time, and a very able one. He was another Queen Anne Street resident.

## *Memories continued...*

Ron Smart moved from the tenor horn to trombone, which he loved. For years he performed "The Acrobat" as his solo. He lived across the street from the side club in St Giles St. Bert Breeden lived over the road from my parents in Bradwell Road. He suffered a brain tumour, which was removed, but he was never able to play again and although he had a go at conducting it was not that successful. Chris Bissell was the conductor for a number of years. He was another St Giles St resident. His son did not play, but his grandson Johnny played with me and went on to become an army band french horn player.

The Campbells were the core of the band, and in the late 50's we could not start until the Campbells arrived. Bill was the father, a good solo cornet player and dance band trumpet player who played out of the side of his mouth. Alan and Pete played baritone and tenor horns, Roy and Rob played cornets, and young Graham was a horn player. They all lived in the first house on the left as you enter Abbey Way.

Other notable players included Bert Tilley, who could be a wonderful solo cornet and soprano cornet player but was famously unreliable. I assume the current Tilleys are related. Bert Jenkins was another competent cornet player who gave up far too early. Tom Axtell was a cornet player who moved from Wolverton Band to Bradwell in the early 1970's. He was fun to play with. John Sprittles, who went on to become headmaster of a local school, also played cornet for a while. Len Bowler, who was Bill Campbell's great friend, played drums with considerable flair. Harold Sapwell, who recently died, was on B flat Bass alongside Bill Frost, and Bill Teagle was another bass player. Reg Thompson (I may have that wrong) was another Wolverton resident who played tenor horn. The 1976 photograph has Bert Tilley and Bert Jenkins on solo cornet, with Roy Campbell on Flugel. Bill Teagle, Bill Frost, and Harold Sapwell are three of the four bass players, and Ron Smart and Rod Pakes are two of the trombone players. I am afraid that my memory fails with the rest.

I played cornet for most of my time, and moved up to solo alongside Bert Jenkins, Bert Tilley, and Roy Campbell. I did have occasional changes to Flugel and even Euphonium, but drifted back to the cornet every time.

I went from New Bradwell Junior School to Wolverton Grammar School in 1956, and played trumpet in the orchestra there as well until I left in 1964. I then went off to University in Leeds for three years and worked away from the area for most of my twenties. I did have a period from 1971 to 1973 when I was living with my parents and played on a regular basis. I spent a lot of the 70's in the USA, Middle East, and South Africa, but I still played on an occasional basis until 1979, and last played on Christmas Day in 1978. I think Arthur Nightingale was the conductor in the early 1970's, but may have left by the time I finished.

I played every year from about 1960 to 1979 in the orchestra for Harold Nutt's Christmas Concert, which was held originally at the canteen in Wolverton Works, and later at the College of Further Education as it was then. Harold was the Head of Music at the Grammar School and then the Radcliffe School, and he gathered together an orchestra (led by Louis Smart as lead violin) and singers every year with a total of around 60 to 80 people involved. Only one rehearsal was held in the afternoon prior to the concert, but it was great fun and it worked because the programme never changed. Nick Dytham used to play either double bass or trombone in the orchestra. I played with most of the Dythams at one time or another. In those days they were the Wolverton equivalent of the Campbells in Bradwell Band. Sid Dytham (Nick's uncle I believe) used to do a splendid performance of the post horn gallop played on a proper post horn. Sid was a showman, and his dance band, the Rhythm Aces, kept going until he was in his 70's. Nick was a lovely man, and was a delight to play with. News of his passing was a real shock.

## *Memories ...continued*

I was always home for Christmas, and Christmas Day, which I did every year from 1956 to 1978, still holds happy memories, starting with "Christians Awake" in Caledonian Road at 6 am, after minimal sleep and a long walk from the other end of the village. We wore clothes that were comfortable and warm (including for some WWII army great coats), and there were some really ingenious lighting arrangements. In the early days we played four times before stopping at Lionel Turvey's barbers shop on Newport Road for whisky or sherry. Lionel was the president at the time. We finished outside the Bradville pub, as it was then, which was next door to my parents' house. After breakfast we came out for the second time at 10.30, this time in uniform. We only did the west end streets finishing in Bounty Street opposite where the current band room is. I remember one year standing in King Edward Street playing a carol with about ten others, while the rest of the band (about 12 of them) were spread out along the street with drinks and cigarettes in their hands. No wonder we were then known as "The beer and baccy band". In those days a good proportion of the money collected went to the junior players for each carolling session they attended, and the money (which was probably around £3 maximum) came in very handy.

I got married in 1980, and moved from London to Sussex, so that was the end of that.

I still play occasionally. I have my original trumpet, which is a pre war John Grey dance band narrow bore trumpet with short bottom sprung valves and an A/B flat changer. I bought it from a man in Hanslope in 1960. I think I paid £25 for it, half of which came from my paper round and farm labouring earnings and half from my father. It still works but I have a more modern B&H trumpet that I use now. My last formal performance was a few years ago in an orchestra playing the Messiah, but every Christmas we hold a party at home for 40 or 50 friends. I have a neighbour who has five children. Four have played in the National Youth Orchestra, and each year some of them join me to play Christmas Carols. For the last few years it has been the two youngest. One of them, who attended the Yehudi Menuhin School, is now a concert cellist. For some reason he is quite happy to play with lesser mortals, and so he and his younger brother just turn up on the night and play with me. It may not be that demanding but it does give me the incentive to start practicing in late October so that I don't look too much of a fool.

Thank you for the Bugle, which brings back many happy memories.

*John Gentles*

# PICTURES!



**Ladies who Lunch!!**  
Just some of the helpers at the Stantonbury Concert



Thanks to Alison Drury for the pics and those who kindly donated food!

## Engagements



<b>August</b>		
15th	Drayton Parslow Fete	2pm
31st	Stony Stratford	1pm
<b>September</b>		
5th	Newport Pagnell Show	Around midday ish
6th	Tin Hats	TBC
19th	St Mary & St Giles, Stony Stratford	
<b>October</b>		
10th	St James, New Bradwell	7.30pm
PLEASE NOTE DATES AND/OR TIMES MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE—ROBIN WILL NOTIFY YOU AT REHEARSALS OF ANY CHANGES IN BETWEEN ISSUES		
<b>December</b>		
4th	Carols and Christmas Songs Wing Village Hall	8.30pm





# Bradwell Silver Band Membership List

## Committee

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

### Playing Positions

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

### Non Committee Positions

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

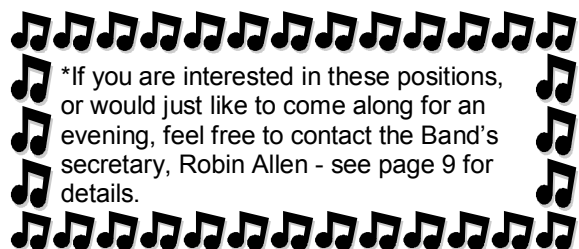
### Honorary Members

Chris Coull	Brian Keech
Malcolm Hills	David Wilson
Jim Whyte	

### Development Group

Jack Wilson	Jez Billingham
Orla Howell	Luke Wilson
James Fosch	Kay White
Lewis Wilson	Jack Nicholls
Steph Chappell	Rachel Griffith
Adam Chappell	Lucas Chappell

*The Development Group is open to everyone, irrespective of age. So if you know anyone who's been thinking of taking up a brass instrument, get them to come along. No experience necessary.*



*\*If you are interested in these positions, or would just like to come along for an evening, feel free to contact the Band's secretary, Robin Allen - see page 9 for details.*