

The Bradwell Bugle



Newsletter of the Bradwell Silver Band

March 2010

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From the Editor

Hello everyone

Thank you to all of you who've made splendid contributions this month—I really do appreciate it.

Lots of things happening and lots to look forward to, which is good. See inside for details!

Maggie

Supporters' Club Update



Now that engagements are starting to come in, we will start to become more active again.

Please can you think about donating some raffle prizes everyone? I'm sure that there are one or two bath sets (I don't mean a loo brush etc!) that you may have been given for Christmas that you could spare, or indeed some wine or a homemade cake? Will leave the choice up to you!

We are looking into the feasibility of band merchandise which may include sweatshirts/polo shirts and baseball caps. Let us know if these would be something you or your family and friends would wear.

Yve's chutneys and Liz's jams were a great hit last year—thanks very much to those who donated ingredients -if anyone else can donate the odd bag of sugar or spices and fruit, so much the better!

We will be running our stall at the 3rd May at the Mill, so volunteers needed for the stall please! Many thanks.



Area Contest Information –by Keith Jones

The 2010 contest for the London and Southern Counties Region of The National Brass Band Championship of Great Britain will be taking place at the Stevenage Arts and Leisure Centre over the weekend of March 20th and 21st. It has been decided that our section will be on the Saturday afternoon with the draw being held at 1.30 pm and the playing will commence after the results and prize giving ceremony for the third section.

We will again be playing in the Main Hall which as you will all know by now is actually a huge multi-purpose sports hall. The acoustics are not particularly good and it can be on the chilly side.

There are seventeen bands declared as entries in our section which is one more than last year. There are three from Buckinghamshire, two each from Sussex, Surrey, Suffolk, Hertfordshire and Norfolk, and one each from Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Kent and London.

Like ourselves, all of these bands currently suffer from a shortage of experienced players and will have had some disappointing attendances at rehearsal. I have no doubt many of them will eventually be able to field a full complement of players on the day as they persuade unattached players to sign up especially for the contest. The aim of all bands will be to try and impress the adjudicator with their performance. A full report and results from the contest will appear in next month's edition of The Bugle.

The full entries for the Fourth Section are:

Amersham Band	Battle Town
Bletchington Silver	Bradwell Silver
Charles Church Camberley Band	Cobham Band
Cold Ash Brass	E.P.B Brass
Great Yarmouth Brass	Harwich R.B.L Brass Band
King's Lynn Town	L.G.B Brass
Letchworth Garden City Band	M.K Development Band
Newmarket Town Band	Royston Town Band
Snowdown Colliery	

As a bit of fun, several of the websites dedicated to brass bands likes to play the prediction game. They use recent form to try and pick the qualifiers from each section. One of them has even gone to the trouble of publishing odds, as used in horse racing! Its good to see our odds have shortened a bit, I wonder if they have been given some inside information?

My tip? Keep your money in your pocket!

Fourth Section

Battle Town - 11/2 fav	King's Lynn - 9/1 (from 10/1)	Harwich RBL - 9/1 (10/1)
Cold Ash Brass - 11/1 (12/1)	Bletchington Silver - 11/1 (12/1)	Amersham - 14/1 (16/1)
LGB Brass - 16/1 (18/1)	Royston - 16/1 (18/1)	Letchworth Garden City - 18/1 (20/1)
Great Yarmouth Brass - 22/1	EPB Brass - 22/1 (25/1)	Charles Church Camberley - 25/1 (28/1)
Cobham - 33/1	Milton Keynes Development - 33/1	
Bradwell Silver - 33/1 (40/1)		
Snowdown Colliery Welfare - 40/1 (50/1)	Newmarket Town - 66/1	
The Fancys - 15/8	From the Pack - 8/13	An Outsider - 25/1

Area Contest Information—continued

The Test Piece

After the excitement of a busy Christmas period, the New Year for Bradwell Silver Band traditionally starts off with rehearsing the test piece chosen for our section at the area contest. This year the panel that selects the music for the different sections has come up with Philip Sparke's Saint-Saëns Variations - *A Symphonic Metamorphosis of Themes from the 'Organ' Symphony*. The prolific pen (or more likely computer) of Mr. Sparke has come up with his usual skilful mix of nice melodies with some tricky time signatures and subtle key changes.

The work has its origins in 2006 when Philip Sparke was commissioned by the Sierra Vista High School Symphonic Band, Las Vegas, Nevada, to write a piece for performance during a visit to the school by the composer in March of the following year. A free brief was given and Philip Sparke took the opportunity to fulfill a long-held ambition to write a set of variations, which he called *Symphonic Metamorphosis*, on the famous chorale from Saint-Saëns' 'Organ' Symphony. However, things changed during the composition process; the composer writes:-

'I had for about 15 years wanted to write a set of variations on the famous chorale from the 'Organ' Symphony, but revisiting the work reminded me what a remarkable piece it is. Saint-Saëns was criticised by his peers for being too reactionary, and while it is true that much of the symphony looks back to baroque and classical techniques, there are startling moments of power and originality in the work, especially in terms of harmony and orchestration. Even Saint-Saëns' greatest admirers would find it hard to deny that, even though it is extremely tightly constructed, the symphony has some less-inspired passages, but I was so moved by the work's highlights that I decided to include more than just the chorale melody in my new work.

So Symphonic Metamorphosis started out as an original set of variations for band but this ambition was gradually subsumed by the power of Saint-Saëns' music, particularly the slow movement, and the piece closes with a finale which has been reorganised and rescored from the majestic closing pages of the symphony'.

In 2009 the composer reworked the piece for brass band. The resulting Saint-Saëns Variations has been simplified, shortened and in many places completely recomposed, to distil the essence of the symphony even further and allow lower section bands to enjoy the power of Saint-Saëns' masterpiece in an approachable, yet essentially faithful, work.

Many people hearing this for the first time will probably recognise the main theme as being the one used in the film *Babe*, a 1995 family film that tells the story of a pig who wants to be a sheep dog.

In *Babe*, the theme appears throughout the movie, but it is showcased in a scene that, like the entrance of the organ in Saint-Saëns' symphony, also brings tears to my eyes. It is in the scene when Farmer Hoggett, desperately afraid that his pig, whom he adores, is going to die, sings him a song set to the Saint-Saëns theme:

*If I had words to make a day for you,
I'd sing you a morning golden and true,
I would make this day last for all time,
Then fill the night deep in moonshine.*

Many thanks Keith for such an informative piece—Ed.

Are you ready for this?!

This is a trip down memory lane—not just about the band but check out the hairstyles and the youthful complexions of our gentlemen! (The ladies of course haven't changed a bit!)



L to R

Back Row; Lyndon Reeve, Tug Wilson, Graham Huckle, Karen Wilson, Eddie Childs

**Middle Row: Steve Osborne, David Brooks, Brian Keech, Chris Coulls, Cheryl Atkinson,
Andrea Whyte, Edward Battams**

**Front Row: David Sanderson, Rod Pakes, Jonathan Battams, Clive Keech, Liz Keech,
Perry Harris, Robin Allen**

Dates from around 1989 and taken at the Methodist Chapel on the corner of Thomson Street. A lovely venue sadly now disused, the shortage of space meant it was the custom not to take a full band.

Thanks from a newcomer's point of view—Stephanie Chappell

When my 8 year old son came home from school one day and announced he wanted to play the cornet I certainly didn't imagine that just over a year later my house would be full of brass instruments and I'd be quite happy to stand outside in the bitter cold collecting money for hours. That one little statement of intent has certainly made the lives of the Chappell family far more interesting and has led us know some of the friendliest and dedicated people I've ever met.

As those of you who have come to know Adam you'll realise he's a very tenacious little boy and he was quite determined to learn the cornet. My only experience of brass bands was following them on Whitsunday church parades as a child so I was no help. Fortunately, once again the phrase 'It's not what you know but who you know' was proven true and luckily my good friend just happens to be Brin Carstens' daughter. With Brin's help Adam was soon blowing random notes to his heart's content and I had been given Robin's contact details.

To be honest I was a little sceptical of the 'Bradwell Silver Band have instruments to spare and will teach you for free policy'. In this day and age it is very rare to find a group who will commit resources, time and effort to helping anyone with enthusiasm, without charging a fee. We are so grateful for the opportunities this service has given us so thanks guys – we really appreciate it.

Within a couple of weeks of Adam learning to play with Sam we had added to the development team's burden by bringing along Orla and then Lucas. After listening to lessons for a few weeks I came to appreciate Sam, Robin and the teaching team a lot more - believe me, my troupe can try the patience of saints! A few months later my 45 mins a week of listening to the development band whilst pretending to read a book were taken away and replaced by a tenor horn – thanks Robin.

Nearly a year later Adam and Orla are winning competitions, pushing themselves to play better and gaining extra praise in school. Lucas is trying out other brass instruments and happy to be growing tall enough to carry his euphonium. I'm still trying to play that high F and am failing miserably - I think I'm better at helping out by selling cakes and holding a collection bucket myself.

I hope you all realise just how much the Band as a group and as individuals can affect people's lives. My children's ability to read music and be part of a team will stay with them and show up in many different ways. Adam's enthusiasm is infectious and I know Bradwell Silver Band has highlighted a potential talent which will hopefully be a major part of his life.

I'm sure you hear thank you a lot (and if you don't – you should). So - Thanks for putting up with us, teaching us and letting us be a part of band life. I'll stop now...it's starting to get a bit sentimental!

Stephanie Chappell

Glad you didn't live in the 1500s?

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be. Here are some facts about the 1500s, courtesy of Clive Keech:

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married. Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, Don't throw the baby out with the Bath water..

Houses had thatched roofs-thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying .. It's raining cats and dogs. There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house.. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence. The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, Dirt poor. The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entranceway. Hence the saying a thresh hold. (Getting quite an education, aren't you? Ed)

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme, Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old.. Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could, bring home the bacon. They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and chew the fat..

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous. Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or the upper crust. Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a wake.

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house, and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift.) to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be, saved by the bell or was considered a ...dead ringer..

And that's the truth...Now, whoever said History was boring!!!

Member News

News of Adam—by Brian Keech

The article below has just appeared on the Brass Band Website 4 bars rest:

"Double triumph for Keech"

The Yorkshire Co-op Band recently gave out its annual awards whilst away on a rehearsal weekend in the middle of the Yorkshire Dales.

The "Music Director's Award" was presented by MD Simon Kerwin to talented Flugel horn player Adam Keech, a student at Huddersfield University. The "Player's Award", which is voted for by all the members of the band, was also awarded to Adam.

Band Manager Tabby Clegg told 4BR: "I'm delighted that Adam received both awards. It's a testament to the ever-increasing standard of his performances and the nature of his character that he was awarded them both. Adam is one of a group of several students who are wholly committed to the band, its activities and stabilising and cultivating its future."

Liz & I went to the concert by the Yorkshire Co-op band where the awards will were presented. See below a picture of Adam being presented with his award.

Brian



More Member News!

*WE ARE DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE THE ENGAGEMENT OF
CLIVE KEECH TO WENDY GEORGE*

MANY CONGRATULATIONS AND LOVE FROM US ALL!!

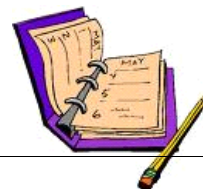
STEPH CHAPPELL IS 40 ON 22ND MARCH!

WHO'D BELIEVE IT!!

CONGRATULATIONS

HAVE A GREAT BIRTHDAY STEPH

Engagements



March

20th	Area Contest Stevenage	All day
April		
24th	St James Concert	7.30pm
25th	Scout Parade—TBC	
May		
3rd	May Day—The Mill Bradwell	
29th	Wedding—Marston Moretaine	
June		
6th	New Bradwell—Picnic in the Park	
12th	Stony Stratford Riverside Fair	
27th	Leighton Buzzard Bandstand	
July		
17th	Bradwell School Carnival	



Bradwell Silver Band Membership List

Committee

Chairperson:	Mike Sanders	Playing Members:	Karen Wilson, Gary Morris , Luke Colvin, Luke Wilson
Secretary:	Robin Allen	Junior Rep:	Sam White
Treasurer:	Dave Sanderson	Non Playing:	Michael White
Quartermaster:	Vincent Jarjadian		
Librarian:	Sam White		

Playing Positions

Principal Cornet:	Position Vacant*
Solo Cornets:	Jack Wilson
	Gary Morris
Soprano Cornet:	Ralph Tatam
Repiano Cornet:	Clive Keech
2nd Cornet:	Sam White
	Brin Carstens
	Mike Sanders
3rd Cornet:	Alison Drury
	Rachel Griffith
	Abi Mills
Flugel Horn:	Karen Wilson
Solo Horn:	Keith Jones
1st Horn:	Byron Cox
2nd Horn:	Luke Wilson
1st Baritone:	Lucy Bedford
2nd Baritone:	Pat Checkley
Euphonium:	Fraser Cousins
	Luke Colvin
1st Trombone:	Vincent Jarjadian
2nd Trombone:	Lawrence Matthews
Bass Trombone:	Position Vacant*
E♭ Basses:	Dave Sanderson
	Joe Hillyer
B♭ Bass:	Robin Allen
	Position Vacant*
Percussion	Steve Osborne

Non Committee Positions

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

Honorary Members

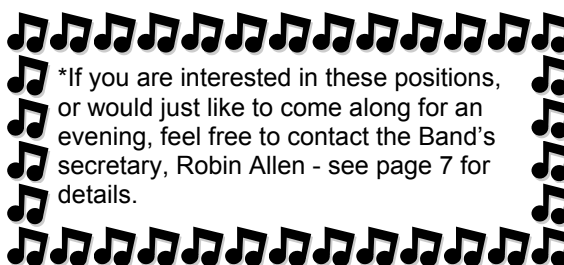
Chris Coull	Brian Keech
Malcolm Hills	David Wilson
Jim Whyte	

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 7 for details.