



Sounds from the South

Newsletter of Rushen Silver Band

April 2011



Happy Easter from everyone in the Band



News from the 'Guild'

During the 2nd and 3rd April, the Brass Band classes of the Manx Music Festival took place and Rushen Silver Band were pleased to have entries into various Brass Band categories – this included a number of soloists, a couple of quartets, and the full band itself.

Congratulations to all who took part; Rushen Silver Band were very proud of the excellent standard achieved by all its representatives.

A special mention must go to the Band's Principal Tenor Horn Bobby Corkish, who won his solo class. Bobby is pictured here being presented with the Alistair Drinkwater Trophy by Eric & Barbara Drinkwater as a result of his achievement.



In the full band categories on Sunday evening, the Band put in very good performances of their March, Hymn and Entertainment Programme, including a superb solo from the Band's Principal Euphonium Martin Norbury.

Special thanks should go to the Band's Conductor John Kinley, Principal Cornet Jennifer Cook, and to Solo Cornet player/Accompanist Jill Collings for the long hours of preparation that they each put in.

And of course, thank you to everyone who was involved generally in the Band's contribution to the Guild. The hours of practice and time away from family & friends are always a heavy commitment on the lead up to the Festival. Well done to all!



For all the latest news visit www.rushensilverband.org.im

Finding out more about our Principal Euphonium... Martin Norbury



What brought you into the world of music?

MN: My primary school teacher Mrs Nield. Starting on the recorder, and having done my worst over several years on the violin, I began cornet lessons at primary school with an inspiring Salvation Army player.

So from then on it was Brass?

MN: My elder brother had already migrated towards Bb bass at secondary school, there was a vacancy for a euphonium player in the school wind band (compared to an endless waiting list for cornets and flutes) and I even got an instrument, I said I'd give it a go and haven't looked back since.

And I hear you have an extensive CV of Brass Bands?

MN: I first signed up to Farndon Brass Band as there were several other members at my school – coincidentally a band that John Kinley was to go on to conduct! From there I joined Ellesmere Port Silver Band (a 4th section band) – where we seemed to be contesting every other Sunday from October to March in every conceivable town across NW England. I was also involved in Cheshire County Youth Brass Band, which gave me great experience of concerts ranging from the Royal Albert Hall with 1,000 Welsh Male Voices and tours across Europe and twice to the east coast of America – including concerts at the United Nations Building in New York.

After Ellesmere Port, I joined City of Chester (1st section) where I stayed until I left school. I passed my Grade 8 when I was 18 and just after that was asked to dep with Brighthouse & Rastrick on a tour to Switzerland – sadly I had to turn it down as it meant missing one of my A level exams – but I did get to play the Floral Dance with them in the rehearsal!

And this is all before leaving school! Did you decide to study music after your A levels?

MN: Having got a distinction in my Grade 8 there was the possibility I could have gone on a scholarship to music college, but at that time there were no courses for euphonium – so the advice was to audition for the world's first and only brass band degree course at Salford Technical College, with the option also to learn about arts administration.

I started there in the September after my A levels and had an incredible 6 months playing euphonium from dawn until dusk at college, but I couldn't work out how I might be employable 3 years later so I went off and did a Business Studies Degree instead. I continued my interest in arts management and, through some work experience at the BBC Philharmonic in Manchester met John Bethell who invited me to the Island to help with the Mananan Festival and the Erin Arts Centre – and here I still am!

How often do you practice?

MN: Pretty much every day. Nick Childs taught me: if you miss one day's practice, you know; if you miss two days' practice, your teacher knows; if you miss three days' practice, everybody knows! Even if it's 10 minutes it can make all the difference...

Memorising music – do you have a secret?

MN: No secret – practice! Obviously you need to make sure you can play the dots first, then try without and you'll be surprised how far you can get. Then, visualize the music in your head (not forgetting to learn the rests as well as the notes!) and keep practicing. If anyone ever has any questions about playing/music please do ask me – I can't promise I'll have an answer but I'd be happy to help if I can.

Must go . . . back to the garage with my practice mute – roll on the warmer weather!

Rushen Silver Band in concert with
World Class Entertainers in Brass
Leyland Band

John Doyle - conductor

Saturday 14 May 2011, 8pm
Gaiety Theatre, Douglas



Supported by



Tickets £12.50 (£10) / £16 (£12.50) (concessions 18 and under)
Ticket hotline tel 600555, online at www.villagaiety.com
and from the IOM Welcome Centre, Sea Terminal, Douglas

Dates for your Diary



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| Saturday 14 th May | Gala Concert with Leyland Band at Gaiety Theatre, Douglas | 8.00pm |
| Thursday 26 th May | Brass Band Summer Season Concert at the Villa Marina Arcade, Douglas | 8.00pm |
| Thursday 16 th June | Brass Band Summer Season Concert at the Villa Marina Arcade, Douglas | 8.00pm |
| Sunday 19 th June | Port Erin Royal British Legion Poppy Party Time at Ballachurry Orchard, Ballafession | 2.00pm |
| Sunday 26 th June | Armed Forces Day Concert at the Villa Marina, Douglas | 5.30pm |
| Tuesday 28 th June | Summer Season Concert at Peel Cathedral | 7.45pm |
| Sunday 3 rd June | Joint Concert with Campbeltown Brass at Rushen Primary School | Evening |

News from the Friends of Rushen Silver Band

Thanks for everyone who came to the coffee morning at St Catherine's Church Hall on Saturday 12th March. The Friends were able to raise a fantastic £585 at the event. The Friends support the Band financially, helping with the various costs associated with running the Band – we are always grateful for their continued support. We hope you can support their next coffee morning on Saturday 2nd July!

And the winner is...

In the last newsletter, we were encouraging you to sign up to receive your Sounds of the South newsletter via email, to save on printing and postage costs, and put you in a draw to win a Rushen Silver Band goody bag. Congratulations to Betty Dow who was drawn as the winner.

Its not too late to choose the email version of the newsletter – just send a message to the Band Secretary (secretary@rushensilverband.org.im) and you can be added to the email circulation list.



For more information about Rushen Silver Band
or suggestions for the Sounds from the South newsletter,
please contact the Band Secretary – Peter Faragher, 28 Paik Beg, Port Erin, IM9 6NQ.
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