



# Sounds from the South

Newsletter of Rushen Silver Band

September 2011



## Rushen represented at the latest NYBBS Course

Steven Caley, Joe Callaghan and Mark Lean from Rushen Silver Band (pictured with Richard Evans, Sue Richards, and Reserve Band conductor John Boax) attended the week long National Youth Brass Band of Scotland (NYBBS) course at the beginning of August.

Guest of honour for the concert was Sue Richards, wife of the late Goff Richards, and the real highlight of the Reserve Band programme was a very moving performance of 'A Special Place', which Goff wrote in 2003 to help raise funds for the South West Children's Hospice.

At night the Senior Band performed a varied programme under Richard Evans, and guest trumpet soloist Rex Richardson wowed the St Andrews audience with his virtuosic jazz playing.



It was great to see our Rushen Silver Band members making valuable contributions to some taxing repertoire, and working with some of Britain's top tutors and performers as well as making many friendships with students on the course.

## Strength in numbers.... The Band's successful joint concerts in July

Rushen Silver Band has recently held two concerts, joining forces with other bands. The first was a visit from Campbeltown Brass Band from the Mull of Kintyre, on the West coast of Scotland. The concert at Rushen Primary School was very well received, and was a great opportunity for members of both bands to learn from each other and meet new friends within the Brass band world.



The second concert was a return visit for Rushen Silver Band to join forces again with Ramsey Town Band. The concert was held at Auldryn Infants' School in Ramsey and the audience was entertained by a varied and enjoyable programme.

The news from Ramsey is that this concert raised about £700 for Macmillan Cancer Support. A big thank you to everyone who supported the concert and helped us raise this money.

## Time to meet Joyce Corlett MBE...

Chairman of the 'Friends of Rushen Silver Band',  
former Band President, and life-long supporter of RSB...



### How did you become associated with Rushen Silver Band?

JC: I was brought up in Bradda with Jim and John (Crebbin) as my nearest neighbours. We were just all interested in the Band, we went to chapel on a Sunday afternoon and we were all the Band crowd. I started to sing with the Band... late 40s/early 50s, when they began to really start doing an odd concert. It would have been the Surby Band then... And when they really got underway, and were Rushen Silver Band and Lesley Cooil took over them, Lesley formed a male voice quartet. There was him, my father, Ronnie Hudson, and Henry Cregeen, two tenors and two basses. I used to go round playing for them. In fact I've sung the 'Bold Gendarmes' with my father at a Band concert because the tenor didn't turn up!

### You've learnt piano, and I know you're an accomplished vocalist, have you ever thought of taking up a brass instrument?

JC: Yes, I have! Its two different types of breathing; for singing and for brass playing, and I couldn't cope with them. When you're young and you start singing in the Guild, the thing in the distance that you pin your hopes on is winning a Cleveland medal. And I used to say, that if I ever win a medal I'll go back to brass, but I was 42 when I won a medal, so it was really a bit late to start! And I'd love to play percussion too, I've always fancied percussion!

For many, many years, I used to play (accompaniment) when there were first classes for the young fellas in the Guild. In those days, a lot of the test pieces were really transpositions of songs, like 'Bless This House', so the judges were always looking for the phrases in the words even though the words weren't being sung. Once it got into test pieces for the instrument I didn't have the same knowledge.

### What are your earliest memories of the Band?

JC: Surby Band, then Rushen Silver Band, always went out to Fleshwick on a Good Friday; they played for a service out there and then we had egg races down the Broughs afterwards, you can imagine the mess we were all in when we'd finished.

### So what's your fondest memory of the Band?

JC: When I was 60, I didn't have a party because Dougie had just died, but I invited all the neighbours to the Falcon's Nest for a supper because they'd all been so good to me when Dougie had been ill. Half the Band turned up and put a concert on in the middle. Well, I was in floods of tears...I don't know, you can walk in to anything the band is doing and there's always somebody there you know, there's always somebody you can talk to, there's always somebody there you can cross swords with at times, but the next time you see them it's gone.

In the late 60s, we all used to go away to the Open Championships at 'old' Belle Vue at Manchester, and it was absolutely marvellous. With going to them, and getting to meet so many of the brass people, I did come to understand brass music a lot better. I've become, over the years, great friends with Richard Evans; I knew Richard long before he came here through John (Kinley), in fact many moons ago I sang on BBC television on a programme where Richard had one of his bands playing!

### **Tell me about the 'Friends of the Band'...**

JC: It started as the Ladies Committee... I think Bette (Crebbin) found something that confirmed that it started in 1981? I was president for 6 years and that's when the current bandroom was built, so it could've been late 70s when the Ladies Committee began.

They'd been talking for so long about building a bandroom, and the land suddenly became available through the Radcliffe family. First of all it was a struggle to buy the land, and in the end, Tom Radcliffe gave it to the Band. In those days, there were Jim and John, Cyril Watterson, Ernie Broadbent - all sorts of fellas that were tradesmen, so they did do a lot of it themselves. We got Keith McArd involved, he bought the materials at cost and most of it was built by the Band lads with just a bit of overseeing from Keith. That's when we started raising money, and it's just gone on since.

We used to have jumble sales as the big thing to start with, and coffee mornings. In those days you were lucky if you made £120 at a coffee morning whereas now you can go well up into the hundreds at a coffee morning. By degrees, the older generation came off the committee, which is when we changed its name to the 'Friends of Rushen Silver Band' and we got some fellas involved!

### **What is your proudest moment for the 'Friends of the Band'?**

JC: The bandroom opening - I've got a video of the whole afternoon. The day that happened, the Band set off from the old bandroom at the former St Mary's Hall in Port St Mary and they went up to Rushen Vicarage and stopped there, because the coach house at the back of the Vicarage had been a former bandroom; and then they came on through to the Barracks, and up to the new bandroom.

Ronnie Aldrich opened it for us; he was very interested in the band. Ronnie was a war time band leader - every time you switched the radio on it was Ronnie Aldrich and the Squadronaires, and he used to play a lot at the Palace and the Villa Marina in the years after the war; eventually he retired to the Island to live. He was very interested in the band and very good to us. It was a wonderful afternoon and it was packed to the doors.

### **Is there any advice to anyone new to, or thinking of joining, the Band world?**

JC: Well if anyone came to me, I'd say go for it; let's face it, even the camaraderie is worth it, if you never become a soloist. I would hate not to have anything to do with the Band. They make you feel like we're all one big family.



**Join the 'Friends of Rushen Silver Band' for a coffee...**

**...on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October, at 10am**

**at St Catherine's Church Hall, Port Erin**

### **The Band socially...**

Rushen Silver Band and the 'Friends' of the Band both value the social aspect of being involved with the Band. Over the summer, we were able to get everyone together for a 'family fun day' (pictured, right), where, thanks to the good weather, we were able to enjoy ice cream and bouncy castles along with the good company!





## Dates for your Diary



Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	<b>Harvest Service</b> at Ballakilpheric Chapel	3.00pm
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	<b>Castletown Royal British Legion 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert</b> at Castle Rushen High School	7.30pm
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>Friends of the Band Coffee Morning</b> at St Catherine's Church Hall	10.00am
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	<b>Friends of the Band Annual General Meeting</b> at the Bandroom	7.30pm
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	<b>Rushen Silver Band Annual General Meeting</b> at the Bandroom	7.45pm
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	<b>Rushen Silver Band Christmas Celebration</b> at Living Hope Church, Port St Mary	7.30pm
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	<b>Friends of the Band Christmas Coffee Morning</b> at St Catherine's Church Hall	10.00am
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Annual Band Dinner</b> at the Falcon's Nest, Port Erin	Evening

### Getting ready for Christmas... (Already?!)

The nights are drawing in, the summer sun seems to be slipping away, and we're faced with the dreaded thought of Christmas getting closer. Make sure you've got this year's Christmas 'must-have' - the Rushen Silver Band Christmas cards!



The photos were taken by Graeme Easton and Matthew Callister. They are being sold in packs of 10 for a bargain price of £4.

To get hold of your Band Christmas cards, please contact Bette Crebbin on 834345 or pick them up at the Friends coffee morning on the 8<sup>th</sup> October.



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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