



Sounds from the South

Newsletter of Rushen Silver Band

June 2012



Ascension Day Parade, Andreas

Rushen Silver Band competes in 'The Guild'...

The brass section of the annual Manx Music Festival this year took place over the weekend of 27-29th April. The Band took part in the test piece, march and hymn, and concert classes on the Sunday afternoon.

For the test piece, the Band played the piece 'Anglian Dances' arranged by Alan Fernie. The adjudicator awarded the performance 3rd place overall with a score of 86 marks (commended); commenting "*Much to commend, thank you*".

In the march & hymn class, the Band played the march 'The New Colonial' and hymn 'Eventide'. The adjudicator described the march as "*an enjoyable opener*", awarding the performance 2nd place with a score of 89 marks (distinction). However, the Band were delighted to be awarded the prize for 1st place for the best hymn performance with their recital of 'Eventide' which also scored 89 marks (distinction). The arrangement of the hymn was written by our Musical Director John Kinley in memory of his late father Captain Brian Kinley.

In the concert class, Bobby Corkish was praised for his confident approach to the tenor horn solo, as the Band performed a varied programme featuring pieces from around the British Isles. The Band received a score of 87 marks (distinction) and 4th place overall.

Rushen Silver Band were also proud to have a large number of soloists/ensembles performing in the various competition classes. A special thanks to Jennifer Cook for all her work preparing the soloists, and also to Jill Collings for accompanying the solos on the piano. Well done to all our soloists and ensembles.

Getting to know Chris Weldon...

Chris Weldon has been a member of RSB for over 20 years, playing a number of different instruments during that time - here, pictured at the Band camp back in the early 90s! We find out more about Chris...



What brought you into the world of brass music?

CW: Music was not in the family, but growing up in Yorkshire you cannot avoid the odd brass band or two around the place! My musical story began at primary school at age 9 when the school band came recruiting for new players. I don't know how other people chose their first instrument, but mine chose me - I was the only person big enough to carry the tuba case.

How did you make it over to the Isle of Man?

CW: My move to the Island happened over 20 years ago when my parents visited on holiday and on the boat on the way back home decided to relocate the family here. It took a little while for my father to find suitable work, during which time we visited regularly at different times of the year and so saw the Island at its best and it's wettest, but we still decided to come.

From starting tuba at school, how has your musical CV developed?

CW: As I have since discovered, once you begin to play the tuba it's hard to stop as there aren't many of us around; so from the school band I quickly graduated to Haworth Band, a move that was as good for the body as it was for the soul given the band room was up two flights of stairs. I joined RSB when I moved to the Island, as well as Castle Rushen High School Wind Band and Blues Band, and the Manx Youth Orchestra. All pursuits I continued with until my education moved me to the midlands in 1994 when I gained a place at Warwick University.

University was a busy time for me (outside of my academic pursuits obviously!), as the only tuba player in my year I was involved in two wind bands, a brass band, a big band, symphony orchestra and various brass ensembles.

What is the best part of being involved in a band or orchestra?

CW: One area which I have enjoyed immensely with all the music groups I have been involved with is touring, whether that was to Hattingen with the Manx Youth Wind Orchestra, to Munich and Venice with the Manx Youth Orchestra; or Prague, Bratislava, Vienna, Brno and Budapest with the University of Warwick Symphony Orchestra. I enjoyed revisiting Prague with the IOM Wind Orchestra in 2002 – how many people (apart from everyone on the Prague tour) can say an ex-Russian President has been to one of their concerts! I am particularly proud of the Wind Orchestra, as along with Paul Dunderdale and Henry Teare, I was involved in founding the group back in 1997 upon my return to the Island from university.

And how do you balance work, having two children and playing in the Band?

CW: After a very busy period musically I am now taking things more sedately, concentrating my playing with RSB. A combination of a busy work travel schedule and a young family means I don't have as much time as I would like to focus on other activities, music included. Indeed the model railway I started 18 months ago is still only in its early stages.

It is still good to be able to help out where I can, which is one of the reasons I volunteered to take the role of Contest Secretary for the band's forthcoming trip to Selkirk for the Borders entertainment contest as it is something I can do around my other commitments.

Music Marathon - Sunday 22nd July

Ever fancied a go at conducting the Band? Or maybe playing the big bass drum? Come along to the 'Music Marathon' and you may get your chance!

The 'Music Marathon' is taking place on Sunday 22nd July from 2pm - 6pm at St Columba's Church in Port Erin, in order to raise funds for the proposed trip to the Borders Entertainment Contest in November. As the Band take on playing for four hours, supporters will have the chance to request specific pieces of music, play percussion, or even conduct the Band.

This is a fun event for all ages, and we are hoping as many people as possible will support our efforts during the course of the afternoon. Admission is free. We would also very much encourage people young and old who would not normally listen or who perhaps have never heard a brass band to come along.



Generous Donation to the Band by Jim & Pat Crebbin

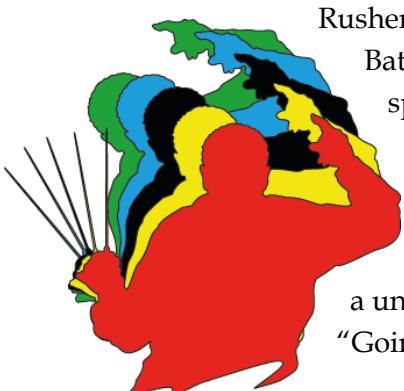
Band President and Conductor Emeritus, Jim Crebbin, recently celebrated his 80th birthday. Jim and Pat decided that instead of people buying him birthday presents, they would request donations to the Band.

Jim and Pat are pictured with John Kinley, presenting a cheque for £565 to the Band at the Spring Concert – thank you to Jim and Pat for this very generous gesture.



'Brass the Baton' for the Olympics

Rushen Silver Band is extremely pleased to be taking part in 'Brass the Baton', the only London 2012 Cultural Olympiad project designed specifically for Brass Bands.



The project provides a unique opportunity for brass band musicians, and conductors, of all ages and abilities, to link up and participate in a huge relay race involving 5 conductor's batons and a unique new music commission from Paul Lovatt-Cooper entitled "Going the Distance".

Brass The Baton Relay With over 150 brass bands/ensembles and over 7,000 brass band musicians set to take part in 'Brass the Baton' this summer, Rushen Silver Band will be "Going the Distance" for the Red Baton Relay when they play at St Catherine's Church, Port Erin, as part of Port Erin

Commissioners Summer Season of Concerts, on Wednesday 20 June 2012 at 8pm. The concert will also likely include other musical items with a reference to the Olympics in general.

If you would like to see what else is happening during the 'Brass the Baton' relay then please check out the website www.brasssthebaton.com where an interactive map will show you what's happening where and when at events across the UK.

Dates for your Diary



Tuesday 12 th June	Summer Season Concert at Villa Marina Arcade, Douglas	8.00pm
Saturday 16 th June	Friends of the Band Coffee Morning at St Catherine's Church Hall, Port Erin	10.00am
Wednesday 20 th June	Port Erin Commissioners Summer Season Concert at St Catherine's Church, Port Erin	8.00pm
Tuesday 26 th June	Castletown & District Over 60s Club at Morton Hall, Castletown	7.45pm
Tuesday 3 rd July	Summer Season Concert at Peel Cathedral	7.45pm
Sunday 15 th July	Chapel Anniversary Service at Ballakilpheric Chapel	3.00pm
Sunday 22 nd July	Music Marathon at St Columba's Church Hall	2.00pm
Tuesday 24 th July	Summer Season Concert at Villa Marina Arcade, Douglas	8.00pm
Sunday 5 th August	Port St Mary RNLI Lifeboat Day at the Lifeboat House & Quay area	1.30pm
Tuesday 7 th August	Summer Season Concert at Villa Marina Arcade, Douglas	8.00pm
Sunday 12 th August	Songs of Praise Service at Ballafesson Chapel	6.30pm
Tuesday 21 st August	Summer Season Concert at Villa Marina Arcade, Douglas	8.00pm
Sunday 2 nd September	Band Bowls Afternoon at Breagle Glen, Port Erin	Afternoon

Just before we go...

A quick reminder, not to miss the 'Friends' fundraising coffee morning on **Saturday 16th June** at 10am.



For more information about Rushen Silver Band or suggestions for the Sounds from the South newsletter, please contact the Band Secretary – Peter Faragher, 28 Pairk Beg, Port Erin, IM9 6NQ. Tel: 493193. Email: secretary@rushensilverband.org.im