



Sounds from the South



Newsletter of Rushen Silver Band

November 2012



Gala Concert with Richard Evans and Kirsty Abbotts

Rushen Silver Band performed a hugely successful Gala Concert on 13th October in aid of the Alistair Drinkwater Memorial Fund.

The Fund was set up by Eric and Barbara Drinkwater over ten years ago following the loss of their son Alistair Drinkwater to cancer aged just 14 years old. Alistair was a hugely popular member of the Band, and is still much missed. The Fund was set up to help provide musical education to the young people of the south of the island through workshop weekends and concerts undertaken by professional musicians.

In the course of providing funding for these concerts and workshops, Alistair's Fund has enabled the Band to raise a large amount of money for cancer charities both on and off island including Isle of Man Anti-Cancer Association, Claire House Children's Hospice and CLIC Sargent amongst others.

The concert on 13th October at Castle Rushen High School saw the Band conducted by their Musical Advisor Richard Evans, and also featured Kirsty Abbotts as guest soloist on Cornet. Richard Evans is one of the most charismatic figures in the brass band world at present, while Kirsty is the current principal cornet at championship section Carlton Main Frickley Colliery Band. Both enjoyed success at last year's Brass in Concert Championship; with Kirsty picking up the award for Best Soloist, while Richard won the overall contest conducting the Leyland Band.

Over 160 people turned out to hear the varied programme performed by the Band, which featured four solo features by Kirsty and also a duet with the band's own principal cornet Jennifer Cook.



The event raised nearly £1,500 in aid of Alistair's Fund; everyone at Rushen Silver Band hopes that such a positive memorial is one with which Alistair would approve and be very proud.

Spend a little time with Mike Kewley...

You may know Mike from his work as Clerk to Port Erin Commissioners, or have seen him acting as compere at a Band concert; but did you also know he is a Trustee of the Band and the Vice-Chairman of the 'Friends of the Band'? Mike tells us more about his relationship with the Band...



How did you become associated with the Band?

MK: When my eldest son, John, joined about 20 years ago; James also subsequently joined. I have always tended to become involved with any organisation in which the family participated.

Do you have a musical background?

MK: Most definitely not! As was usually the case at school you started on the recorder. Unfortunately I did not have a very pleasant music teacher and wrong notes were usually rewarded with a size 12 gym shoe on the anatomy! Not a good way of encouragement! I graduated to a penny whistle in more recent times, and can play a few Manx tunes and carols, but not for public consumption! I was also involved in a play, which turned out to be a musical - The Fantasticks - (I wasn't told when asked) and I had to open with a solo! Worryingly I think Joyce Corlett still has a tape!

What's your favourite memory associated with the Band?

MK: Difficult to pinpoint a specific occasion, but if I had to pick one it would be involved with the concert with Leyland Band and reading the narrative for the 1812 Overture.

Collecting in the snow a couple of years ago was also fairly memorable, and arriving at Andreas with the band van with a leaking radiator, must also rate quite high up in memorable occasions!

What is it like to be involved in the Guild as compere?

MK: I feel very honoured to be trusted with compering the Guild programme, and have enjoyed the experience more as the years have gone by. The commitment by the musical director and players is exceptional in the months and weeks leading up to the competition. I just turn up two or three times during the week before.

What do you enjoy most about being associated with the Band?

MK: Being part of the Band family. It is pleasing to see how the younger members are encouraged by the senior members and so nice to see so many young people participate. It is also very enjoyable participating in community events.

What would you say the Band brings to the local community?

MK: The Band is a real asset to the community and has always been very willing to assist with local events. It also has an excellent reputation Island wide. Their involvement in national events such as Armed Forces Day and Remembrance Day brings them to the notice of the Island community as a whole.





Rushen Silver Band

Christmas Concert

**with
Meadowside Choral Society**

Saturday 1st December

7.30pm

**at Rushen
Junior School**

**Tickets £5
(under 18) £3**

For tickets, please
contact the
Band Secretary
on 493193 or
secretary@rushensilverband.org.im



Rushen Silver Band AGM - Wednesday 21st November

Rushen Silver Band will be holding their Annual General Meeting on
Wednesday 21st November at 7.45pm at the Bandroom.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

**Annual
General
Meeting**



Oiel Verrey at Kerrowkeil Chapel

Jim Crebbin tells us about the history of behind this long standing Band engagement...



Without any doubt, the Oiel Verrey Service at Kerrowkeil Chapel holds the record for the Band's longest standing annual engagement.

Oiel Verrey, or the eve of the Feast of Mary, is a Manx traditional celebration of 'Old Christmas Eve' on the 4th January. This takes the form of a church service followed by in times past, items from the members of the congregation, which they had written, been given or basically anything within reason. Nowadays, the items are usually pre-planned, but input by those present is still encouraged. On a few occasions, I can remember the preacher reciting the Lord's Prayer in Manx.

Mrs Florrie Kinvig, who still attends each year, can remember the Band coming for the first time in 1947, when the band was still at that time called the Surby Silver Band. January 2012 was the 65th consecutive time the band has played at this annual service. In effect, Rushen Silver Band has attended for its entire existence, 1949 right through!



There have been many changes and memories over the years, but the evening itself is still a special time in so many ways; not only the service, but the sharing of the start of a New Year with friends old and new.

The chapel itself is practically the same as it was back in 1947, apart from the recent addition of a kitchen and toilet. Initially lighting was provided by oil lamps suspended from the ceiling, and on the wall behind the pulpit. Heating was courtesy of a stove situated at the front in the centre. Evidence of the flue can still be seen in the ceiling today. Being anywhere near the stove was a 'no-go' area, as at the start of the evening it was literally 'red hot'!

Catering, as we all know by attending the service, is something else that is traditional. If you leave for home hungry, then you have nobody but yourself to blame.

An important part of earlier Oiel Verrey's was the provision of hot water for the making of the tea and washing the dishes. On the grass banks outside the Chapel, one of the men was situated in charge of quite a large boiler, heated by fire underneath. He was an important part of the Chapel Team – how much we still take for granted.

Let's have a quick glance back to times past, and to start with, think of where Kerrowkeil Chapel is situated and how you get there. In the early days when the Band attended, there was not an abundance of cars around, so the Band initially travelled by a 'charabanc' (small coach). Maurice Duggan, a Band member at the time, owned one, and members paid individually to travel to such engagements.

The preacher, congregation and any visitors would probably have to walk to the Chapel. I can still remember a preacher, a Mr Kermode, who lived in Ballakilpheric, who would set out in the afternoon to get there in time for the start of the service. He would also walk home after the service too, no doubt well fed!

There is no doubt the chance of having to deal with snow or frost in past years was definitely more likely. On one occasion, the Band coach broadsided in snow on Grenaby Bridge on the way to the Service. Helped by passengers, the coach was rescued, and even managed to arrive on time! In fact, I don't remember through the years, the Band *never* getting there.



The continued support of generations of local families and their friends has without doubt over many years ensured the continuation of this special Manx event. It is of course something which I and the Band are proud to be allowed to share with so many friends. Long may it continue...

As a foot note to this article, I was once asked what is Oiel Verrey like? How do you describe it? I think it is something you definitely have to experience yourself.

It seemed at the time these events were insignificant; however, now looking back, they are part of our history. So in future years, remember that today's events will also be part of the Band and the Island's history. Make it memorable! We have come a long way, our 'Founders' would be so proud.



We need you!...

Every year members of Rushen Silver Band give up their time to play carols around Port Erin and Port St Mary during December. For the Band, this is an essential time of year, not only to promote itself locally, but it is also the way that the Band raises funds to keep itself going.

The Band are once again looking for willing volunteers who would be able to help collect while the Band play carols to the general public in Port Erin and Port St Mary on certain nights in December.

If you could spare an hour or two to help with this important fundraising role, please contact Graeme Easton on 834147 or easton@manx.net.





Breaking news.... Breaking news....

The Band have recently returned from their trip to Selkirk in the Scottish Borders where they took part in the Borders Entertainment Contest.

This was the first time that the Band has competed in a contest in the UK!



The Band's competition programme included Hunt the Wren, Varied Mood, Eventide and I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel To Be Free.

The Band acquitted themselves very well. They were placed 2nd in the Fourth Section; and 15th place overall. This is a fantastic overall position in the contest given the standard of other bands entered; they were competing against bands from the second, third and fourth sections.



Everyone that travelled with the Band was made to feel extremely welcome at the contest, and in the town of Selkirk in general. In particular, we would like to thank the staff of the Philipburn Country House Hotel for their superb hospitality over the weekend.

Thanks also to Graeme and Heather Easton for their help with the van over the weekend; thanks also to all the members of the Band who helped to arrange and run the trip, and for everyone who helped us raise funds to make the trip possible.

Annual Band Dinner, Dance and Awards Evening 2013

The Annual Band Dinner will take place on Saturday 26th January.

Details on the event will be confirmed shortly, but we wanted to make sure the date is in the your diary. It would be great to see as many of the Band's members, friends and supporters as possible at the evening.

Keep an eye on the Band website (www.rushensilverband.org.im), or talk to a committee member at our Christmas concert for more information



Thanks to Phil Woodford for the fantastic cartoon

'Friends of the Band' Christmas Coffee Morning



Please join us on **Saturday 8th December** at 10am at St Catherine's Church Hall, for a nice warming cup of coffee.

The Friends will have their usual festive stalls and of course the raffle; and you'll also be treated to a few carols from the Band.



Dates for your Diary



Saturday 1 st December	Rushen Silver Band Christmas Concert at Rushen Junior School	7.30pm
Monday 3 rd December	Ballabeg Christmas Tree Lights Switch On at the Village Hall, Ballabeg	6.30pm
Monday 3 rd December	Ballabeg WI Christmas Concert at the Village Hall, Ballabeg	8.00pm
Wed. 5 th December	Ballafesson Chapel Christmas Concert at Ballafesson Chapel	7.30pm
Friday 7 th December	Port St Mary Commissioners Carol Service at Town Hall, Port St Mary	7.30pm
Saturday 8 th December	Friends of the Band Christmas Coffee Morning at St Catherine's Church Hall	10.00am
Saturday 8 th December	Port Erin Christmas Tree Festival at Port Erin Railway Station	5.45pm
Sunday 16 th December	St Columba's Nativity Service at St Columba's Church, Port Erin	3.00pm
Monday 17 th December	Ballasalla School Christmas Concert at Ballasalla School	7.15pm
Thurs. 20 th December	Port Erin Commissioners Carol Service at St Catherine's Church, Port Erin	7.00pm
Sunday 23 rd December	Port St Mary RNLI Carol Service at Port St Mary RNLI Lifeboat House	3.00pm
Friday 4 th January	Kerrowkeil Oiel Voirrey Service at Kerrowkeil Chapel	7.30pm
Saturday 26 th January	Annual Band Dinner venue to be confirmed	TBC



Rushen Silver Band
would like to send their best wishes for the Festive Season
and wish everyone a Happy New Year!



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