



# Sounds from the South

Newsletter of Rushen Silver Band

March 2013



## Christmas Time for Rushen Silver Band

On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2012, the Band held their second Christmas Concert, at Rushen Primary School. A large audience enjoyed a rousing start to the Christmas festivities.

The Band were joined by the Meadowside Choral Society, who not only performed their own programme, but also joined with the Band in a couple of pieces to finish the evening. A significant amount of money was raised for band funds, and it is hoped we can continue with something similar to start of the 2013 festivities.

Even though the wet and inclement weather affected a number of planned events during December 2012, a considerable amount of money was raised for Band funds which will go towards keeping the Band running for another year. Thank you to all those who supported the Band during this busy month.

## Rushen Silver Band Annual Dinner and Awards Evening 2013

An enjoyable evening was had by all on Saturday 26 January, when the Band's Annual Dinner & Awards Evening was again held at the Falcon's Nest Hotel in Port Erin. The Band would like to thank Gill Weldon for her help in arranging the event.

The awards were presented to the following players:-

- Dave Smith Memorial Shield - Jennifer Cook
- Preston Shield - Jim Crebbin
- Gilrea Corlett Trophy - Ashley Cole
- Ernie Broadbent Trophy - Hazel Matthews
- Bandsman of the Year - Matthew Callister
- Long Service Awards - 10 years - Charlotte Bell, Gill Lowey, George Bell
- Long Service Awards - 15 years - Matthew Callister, Tom Sinden
- Long Service Awards - 20 years - Eric Drinkwater
- Long Service Awards - 25 years - Claire Norbury



## Taking on the challenge of joining the Band Committee...

*Moving from Ballafesson Brass to the main Band recently, Kevin Broadbent has also decided to join the Band Committee. We find out more about Kevin...*



### What brought you into the world of brass bands?

**KB:** I have always enjoyed listening to brass bands from the days when the Urmston & Davyhulme, Flixton and Eccles bands used to play in a bandstand in our local park in Manchester. I never dreamed in those days that I would be playing in a band myself one day. My cousin, Andrew Hindley was in RSB some 20+ years ago but I had never done anything remotely musical in my life so I was quite taken aback when, one wine fuelled night in a bar on the remote windswept Isle of Barra, Mike Bowles, with whom I was sailing at the time, suggested that I should try playing Tuba. A few months later, I decided to give it a go and under the very patient tuition of Tom Sinden, started out on a what was a very steep learning curve (there's still some distance to go!) but now here I am.

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

**KB:** I first visited on a school trip in 1972 - we stayed in the Windsor House hotel (latterly the International School of Hotel Management) now sadly demolished. A year later my Aunt and her family moved over and ran a guest house next door to St. Catherine's Church and were followed very quickly by my Grandparents, so we had regular family holidays over here during my teenage years. When I met Helen, I brought her over to visit and she too fell in love with the island. We finally moved over in the summer of 1994.

### You've recently moved into the main Band, how have you found it?

**KB:** Challenging but very rewarding. It was a little scary at first but I have been made to feel very welcome and given plenty of encouragement. The opportunity to play with Ballafesson Brass first made the transition much easier too. It's not just the playing side of the band that I enjoy though - there's a great social side to it too and it's good to be involved in local community events.

### For the interest of our readers, can you explain a bit about your day job?

**KB:** I am the Head Teacher of the Visual Impairment Support Service of the Department of Education and Children. We support blind and visually impaired students in mainstream schools so that they can fully access the curriculum. This is done through a mixture of direct support and teaching of specialist techniques such as Braille and through advice and training for Teachers and support staff. Prior to this I taught Maths and Physics at Castle Rushen High School and so have taught many of the younger band members both past and present.

### As the latest recruit to the Band Committee, how are you finding it?

**KB:** There's only been a couple of meetings since I joined the Committee but again I've been made very welcome and look forward to putting something back into the Band from which I have gained so much. Without the Committee and the invaluable support of the Friends and the local community there would be no band so I'm very happy to be able to 'do my bit'.

## Memories of Surby Silver Band...

### Good Friday march to Fleshwick

With Easter coming shortly, we thought we'd look back at a memorable event from the Band archives, which took place each Good Friday, with a service down on the beach at Fleshwick.

The Band would meet at the green by Surby Bridge, and march through to Fleshwick, where a service would be held near a large boulder. A short address would be given by an invited 'local preacher', and of course the people gathered would join in with the hymns. Funny looking back, the weather always seemed to be fine every time a Good Friday came around!



After the service, the Band would march back to Surby, but would stop playing on reaching 'Grampa's Hill', and start playing again on the flat before Ballachrink Farm. Brian Rae, the current Chairman of Arbory Commissioners, once told me that as a lad, he lived in Surby, and was always asking 'why has the band stopped playing?'.

Anyone not familiar with the Surby to Fleshwick road, can I suggest on a fine day, you park at Surby Bridge, and take a stroll to the beach and back again. Don't bother with an instrument; just whistle a favourite march tune. You will definitely appreciate what was entailed by a band of about 15-18 players!

That was not the end of the work for the Band though. We would then board Maurice Duggan's coach, and head to Lower Foxdale, where the Sunday School children would march behind the Band down the village for a reasonable short distance, and back for tea. This would be followed by a prize giving and concert. Needless to say, the Band would all have a good appetite by this time.

The Sunday School had a special banner, carried by two of the older scholars on the short parade. It was obviously a long standing tradition which meant a lot to the village. The Band's long association with John Kennaugh started there when he was a scholar following the banner! The Lower Foxdale Methodist Church is no longer there. It was where the Ballanass Road joins the main road through to St Johns.

Good Friday was a real family afternoon down at Fleshwick. There was a tradition that after the Service, children would have plenty of excitement rolling their hard boiled eggs down the steep banks on the right hand side on the way down to the beach. In the days leading up to Easter, we would all be busy collecting 'gorse flowers' in order to dye the eggs when boiling.

It's all change at Fleshwick now. There were Tea Rooms at the top of the hill, just before you drop down to the beach. All appears to be run down today, but of course, we are talking 60 years ago.

I've enjoyed the invitation to contribute the earlier experiences of an unbelievable story. And there is one more 'Surby connected' story to appear soon which I have no doubt has had an unintentional influence on our Surby story.

Happy Easter all,  
Jim Crebbin

## Dates for your Diary



Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Friends of RSB Coffee Morning</b> at St Mary's Hall, Port St Mary	10.00am
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Spring Concert</b> at Town Hall, PSM	8.00pm
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Peel Pensioners</b> at Philip Christian Centre, Peel	7.45pm
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Andreas Benevolent Society</b> at Andreas Village	7.30pm
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Concert with Salvation Army Band</b> at Citadel, Lord Street, Douglas	Evening
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Ballafesson Brass at a Summer Garden Party</b> at Liverpool House, Surby	Afternoon
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	<b>Concert for Robert Owen House</b> at Castle Rushen High School	Evening
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Ballafesson Brass Summer Concert</b> at St Catherine's Church, Port Erin	8.00pm
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Armed Forces Day</b> March along Douglas Promenade	Afternoon

## Fundraising Coffee Morning

The Friends of Rushen Silver Band are holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March, from 10am to 11.30am at **St Mary's Hall**, Port St Mary. We hope you can join us.



## Spring Concert

The Band will be holding a Spring Concert on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 8pm at Port St Mary Town Hall. Admission for the event is free, however there will be a retiring collection towards the fundraising efforts for the Band's second CD recording.

At the concert, the band will be previewing a number of pieces for the planned CD recording, along with a selection of the Band's soloists and ensembles performing their pieces for the Manx Music Festival.



For more information about Rushen Silver Band  
or suggestions for the Sounds from the South newsletter,  
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