



Sounds from the South

Newsletter of Rushen Silver Band

June 2013



Recording the new Band CD

The Band recorded their second CD over the weekend of 15th – 17th March at Castle Rushen High School.

Sessions took place on Friday night, Saturday from 9.45am until 5pm and on Sunday from 9.45am until 3pm. The Band worked hard and applied themselves well over the weekend. A special thanks to Musical Director, John Kinley, for his efforts (and patience!) over the weekend.

Thanks also to Band Secretary, Peter Faragher, for his work making the arrangements for the weekend; and to all those that undertook babysitting duties to allow band members to attend all the sessions!

The Band hope to be able to launch the new CD at one of our concerts in the early part of the summer season. Watch this space!



Manx Music Festival 2013

The full Band did not enter the brass classes at this year's Manx Music Festival, however we were very proud to see plenty of our younger players entered in the individual and ensemble classes.

Well done to all those who took part – it is fantastic to see the talent we have with our younger members.

Notable mentions from 'the Guild' include Toby Crossley (2nd in the solo class for Year 6 & under), Owen Williams (winner of the solo class for Years 7 & 8), and to the 'Top Trumps' quartet (Emma Parsons, Hazel Matthews, Becky Corkish & Owen Williams – pictured) who won the class for Brass Quartets up to Year 10.



Cycling, chiropody, and that missing hymn book...

We talk with Robert Woodford, Band member for nearly 30 years, committee member, teacher in Ballafesson Brass, and Band van driver – just a few of his roles in life...



What brought you into the world of brass bands and music in general?

RW: I started to learn the clarinet at the age of 11 at Castle Rushen High School, but that only lasted a few months. I then moved on to trumpet and had lessons with Steve Wortley, who at the time was the peripatetic brass teacher for the Island schools.

Not long afterwards, I joined both the School Junior Orchestra and the Wind Band, and as a consequence, managed to go on tour with the Wind Band to Reddish Vale School in Manchester in 1983.

I joined Rushen Silver Band when I was 16, at the time when the band room was still in Port St Mary. I remember only too well going upstairs for a game of pool after practice, in the building that was on Gelling's Avenue. I still think it would be a good idea to have a folding pool table in the current band room!

For the interest of our readers, can you tell us more about the variety of jobs you've had?

RW: I started working at the age of 15 at a boat chandlers in Port St Mary, helping to rebuild boat engines, but since then, I have worked in a variety of roles – selling ice cream in Port Erin, refuse collector in Port St Mary, green keeper at PSM Golf Club, gardener, meal delivery driver, waiter, qualified chef, youth worker, bar tender, gate opener on the steam railway, B&B owner and operator, shoe shop worker (but just for a day!), lifeguard, working in the Rates Department, bed spring and shock absorber spring maker in Australia, qualified chiropodist, qualified massage therapist - I think that is it!

Rather a varied career I know, but very enjoyable along the way all the same.

You've also had a varied career playing in the band, how has that been for you?

RW: I have enjoyed my time so far in the band having started playing on cornet, then moving to play tenor horn, then to E flat bass, and now B flat bass. I have thoroughly enjoyed the challenge that trying different instruments has brought, and my latest challenge is learning trombone (a plastic one at that!!) and playing it in our training band, Ballafesson Brass.

And where do you think you got your musical talents from?

RW: My dad (Phil), who some of the readers may know, played drums in Rushen Silver Band for some time in the 1970s. Not only that, but also my Grandfather on my Dad's side was a music teacher, so perhaps it comes from that side of the family.

Have you any particular favourite types of music?

RW: I like most of the music that is put out at band practice, but for me, film music is great. I also enjoy a good well written march and hymn tune, but I wouldn't say I was a fan of military band music rewritten for brass band.

What do you enjoy most about playing?

RW: I like the challenge of trying new music, and the end product – performing to the listening public. To have a warm round of applause after playing a piece makes it all worth the effort and very rewarding.

I also enjoy teaching and playing with Ballafesson Brass. It's a great feeling when a young person who you have helped to teach, can play along in the training Band, and move on to be a member of the senior Band. They are the future of RSB so it is great that we are investing in our future.

What other hobbies do you have time for?

RW: Cycling as much as possible at the moment. I enjoy touring on my bike, so hope to get to as many places as I can over the coming years. I also love to kayak and fish - yes the kayak does have an electric motor, but I still like to paddle!

We couldn't finish without mentioning the fantastic quote that recently appeared on Robert's Facebook page:

"Some what bigger sound now that I have found the missing B flat bass hymn book that has been down my tuba bell for the last 6 months"

Thanks to Phil Woodford for the fabulous cartoon of Robert.



Concert at Salvation Army Citadel



On the evening of Saturday 18th May, the Band performed a concert at the Salvation Army Citadel in Douglas, in aid of the Army's work on the Island.

The concert was extremely well attended, with additional seating having to be put out prior to the start of the performance. The Band played a wide variety of music including items from the recent CD recording, new pieces that have been worked on during the spring, and many pieces with a Salvation Army link.

Over £400 was raised to support the Salvation Army's work, and it's hoped the evening can be repeated again in the near future.

Armed Forces Day & the Tynwald Garden Party 2013

Rushen Silver Band players will this year be leading the parade on Armed Forces Day on Sunday 30th June. The parade leaves the end of Regent Street at 3pm and the Band will lead the march, along with representatives from the other bands on the Island, over to the Villa Marina where the parade will receive a salute from the Lieutenant Governor.

It's likely that the Band will also play a few 'tunes' prior to the march, but if you like to see RSB on parade, this is a good opportunity to hear the Band in the open air.

The Band has also been asked to play at this year's Tynwald Garden Party taking place at The Nunnery on the afternoon of Sunday 7th July. For those lucky to have been invited by the Governor, you'll see and hopefully hear us there.

Dates for your Diary



Tuesday 11 th June	Villa-Gaiety Summer Season Concert at Villa Marina Arcade Douglas	8.00pm
Saturday 15 th June	Ballafesson Brass at Rushen Rotary Garden Party at Liverpool House, Surby	2.30pm
Saturday 22 nd June	Concert for Robert Owen House with Musicale at Castle Rushen High School	7.30pm
Wednesday 26 th June	Ballafesson Brass Summer Season at St Catherine's Church, Port Erin	8.00pm
Sunday 30 th June	Armed Forces Day March along Douglas Promenade	3.00pm
Thursday 4 th July	Ballafesson Chapel 60th Anniversary Concert at Ballafesson Chapel	7.45pm

Concert for Robert Owen House

The Band, in conjunction with the choir 'Musicale', will be participating in a concert on Saturday 22nd June in aid of the Friends of Robert Owen House.

The concert, which is at Castle Rushen High School and will start at 7.30pm, will be based around music from stage and screen.

Tickets are now available by calling either 834205 or 622314.

Further information about Robert Owen House can be found at www.robertowenhouse.org

And a final note.....

Just to let everybody know, the Band Secretary (and his family too, of course!!) has recently moved house. The new address for any future correspondence can be seen below.



For more information about Rushen Silver Band or suggestions for the Sounds from the South newsletter, please contact the Band Secretary – Peter Faragher, Kinvara, 16 Close Cam, Port Erin, IM9 6NB. Tel: 493193. Email: secretary@rushensilverband.org.im