



# Sounds from the South

Newsletter of Rushen Silver Band

July 2013



## New Band CD is Launched...Sounds of the South

Rushen Silver Band's new CD 'Sounds of the South' will be officially launched at their concert at St Catherine's Church, Port Erin, on 10<sup>th</sup> July.

Under the baton of Musical Director John Kinley and Assistant Musical Director John Collings the disc, recorded in March this year at Castle Rushen High School by Music House Productions (Producer Keith Farrington), has been kindly supported by the Gough Ritchie Charitable Trust.

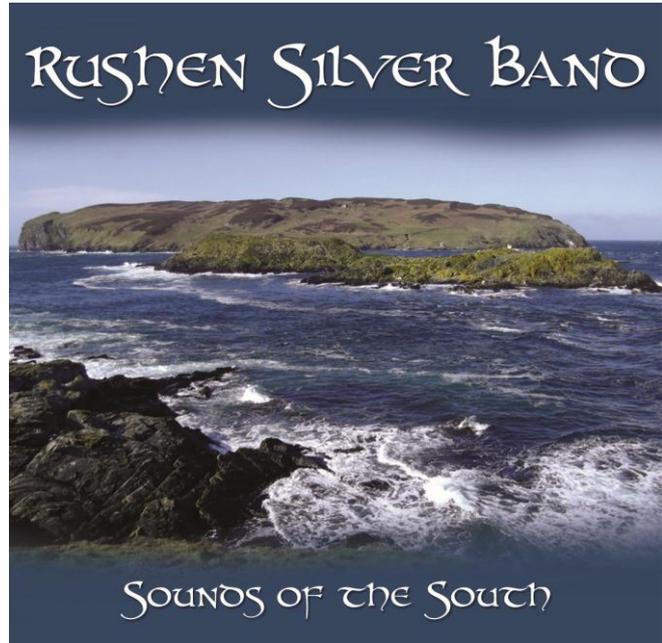
The CD includes a range of musical styles - marches, hymns, film music and Beatles - just some of the featured genres in this the Band's third recording in its 64 year history.

Alan Crebbin, Chairman: "The recording weekend was a great focus for the band and another opportunity to continue to develop as a group. Special thanks must go to the Band's Musical Director, John Kinley, for all his hard work in making this CD happen, to the band members for their commitment and, of course, to the producer, Keith Farrington, for keeping us on the straight and narrow!

"We are most appreciative of the help of the Gough Ritchie Charitable Trust - all proceeds from the CD will help the Band continue its invaluable community work; and, thanks to Island Express for their support in transporting the CDs to the Island.

"With less than six months until Christmas they're the perfect gift as well as perfect everyday listening - but buy early - when they're gone, they're gone!"

CDs, priced at £10, will be on sale at all band events from 10<sup>th</sup> July onwards, and available from the Secretary: [secretary@rushensilverband.org.im](mailto:secretary@rushensilverband.org.im), telephone 493193, or and via the Band's website [www.rushensilverband.org.im](http://www.rushensilverband.org.im)



## Robert Owen House Concert - June 2013

The Band played at a joint concert with choir Musicale in aid of Robert Owen House on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. The evening was entitled 'Music from Stage and Screen', and included a varied selection of music with individual items from the Band and the choir, as well as many joint items. An enthusiastic audience resulted in a fantastic £950 being raised for the charity.



## Catching up with Mr President on his return from his cruise...

*Known to many as 'Didds', we talk to John Crebbin about his memories of the Band...*

### **How did you get involved in the Band?**

**JC:** I joined the band in 1945 it was the Surby Band at that time, and had just been reformed again after the war. I was only 10 and Jim was 12.

At the time Ballafesson had a wonderful Sunday School and Youth Club. Bobby Bridson was involved with the chapel and also with the formation of the Band. Bobby had been a member of Castletown Band, so he was able to play and teach, you were given a tutor book and an instrument and told to get on with it, not like today!

Around that time in 1945, the likes of Ted Clague, Jackie Maddrell, Jock Potts, Willie Corrin and others were recruited. At that time the band room was a room above the Bakehouse in Billy Cregeen's, which is the last house on the right at the end of Qualtrough's Lane.

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

**JC:** With very few televisions about, almost all of the churches and chapels had church halls, and all winter there was always a tea fight in one of the halls, just like the one we have at Andreas on Ascension Day, i.e. concert and supper. Jim has told you about the Good Friday service at Fleshwick. In the early days we were limited as to what we could play and we were also limited as to where we could play.

### **What are your fondest memories of the Band?**

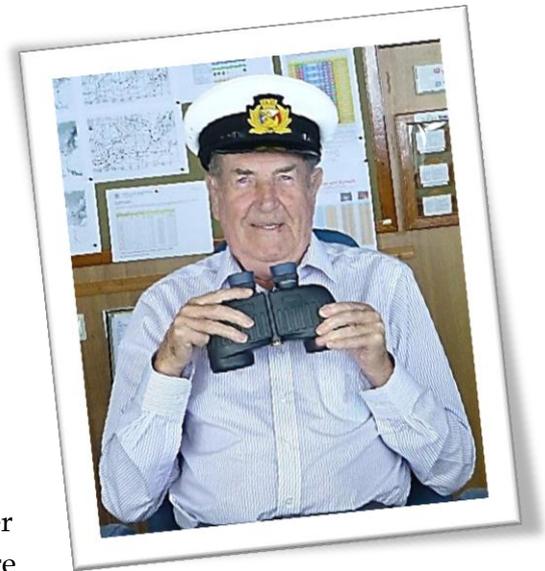
**JC:** I feel very lucky to have been a member of our Band from the start. The Band was always full of characters such as Billy the Oil, the Mayor of Bradda, Ernie Broadbent, Dick the Drum, and Bo on kettledrum, I could go on forever...

The Band played at the Port Erin and Port St Mary Regattas. For Port Erin regatta, we met at the Quarter Deck by the beach at 8pm; we would then march to Bradda Glen with people in fancy dress, where there was a dance. At midnight, we would meet at Spaldrick and march back to the beach, or at least try to march... after 4 hours in the pub, some of us were a little the worse for wear, and we would be covered in candle wax from the torches by the end of the evening.

For Port St Mary Regatta, we would march from the Point to the Town Hall, where they would judge the fancy dress competition. One year at Port St Mary, I won the Knobbly Knees competition and have a certificate to prove it!

We still play at the Oie'll Verree service at Kerrokeil Chapel, and we used to travel in Morris Duggan's coach. One year we got stuck at Grenaby Bridge because of snow and had to walk to the chapel.

*This article will continue in the next edition of Sounds of the South newsletter, as Didds tells us more about his Band memories.*



## Memories of times gone by...

*Jim Crebbin, Conductor Emeritus of RSB and a member of the Band since 1946, takes us on a trip down memory lane, remembering a significant event in the Band's history...*

On a sunny Saturday in the summer of 1987, a very special occasion occurred in Surby. A plaque which had been placed on the home of Thomsie & Jamesie Clague was unveiled and dedicated by the Reverend Hinton Bird, Vicar of Rushen at the time. Thomsie & Jamesie Clague were the founders of the Surby Band, from which Rushen Silver Band developed.

Of those attending, there were past members of the Surby Concertina Band, Surby Silver Band, and Mr Willie Mylcraine, a cousin of the Clague brothers, who in his own right, wrote a considerable amount of music, some of which can be found in the Island's 'National Song Book'.

Possibly many readers, even players in the Band, may never have seen this plaque. You might like to pay a visit and acknowledge the ambition these 'Surby Men' had.

The house, or rather a cottage, itself is situated 50 yards west from 'Surby Bridge', and is one of a terrace of three with wonderful views over Ballafesson and beyond. Prior to the bandroom we now have in Ballafesson, this was the location for many a Band practice.

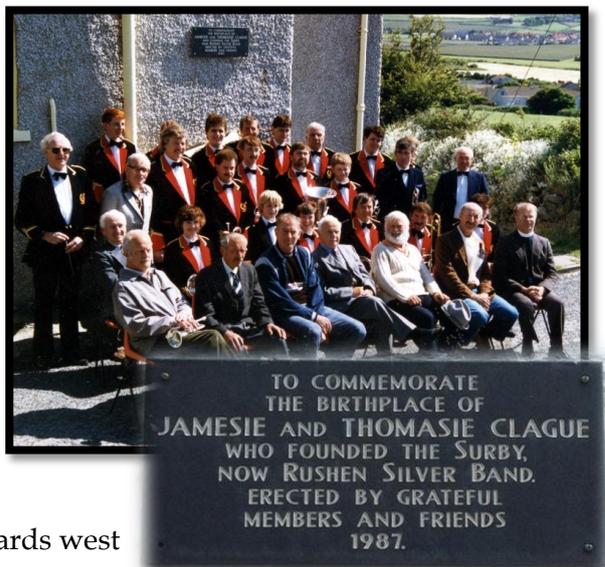
The house at the opposite end of the terrace was known as 'Liverpool Cottage', and owned by the Liverpool Workman's Mission, South Liverpool, and run by Mr Tom Hughes of Mill Street, Dingle. From 1946 onwards, the work of the Mission was to bring children from South Liverpool to the cottage on holiday. Parties came on weekly visits for most of the summer, seeing most of the Island by train. After their war time experiences, this would be comparable to a modern-day visit to Disneyland! The children were so grateful for the lovely countryside and fresh clean air. The difference in the young people at the end of their break was obvious, and they didn't want to go back home again!

The regular work of the mission in Liverpool had practical support from Dingle Silver Prize Band.

This is when Good Friday, Fleshwick and Easter in general, as reported upon in the last newsletter, became special for us locals and the south of the Island in general. The Dingle Band would visit over that period and the Fleshwick Service was a regular part of their programme.

One of the main reasons for recalling these memories is to pass on my belief that Thomsie & Jamesie Clague must have been heavily influenced, maybe unintentionally, by having the visiting band staying almost next door. It was a big move from accordions to brass instruments, but it was a significant step in the history of the Band we now call Rushen Silver Band.

*Jim Crebbin would like to thank George Makin for the Liverpool-related information, whose grandfather was in fact Mr Tom Hughes.*



## Dates for your Diary



Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Port Erin Commissioners Summer Season Concert</b> at St Catherine's Church, Port Erin	8.00pm
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	<b>Villa-Gaiety Summer Season Concert</b> at Villa Marina Arcade, Douglas	8.00pm
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Port St Mary RNLI Lifeboat Day</b> at PSM Lifeboat House & Pier	1.30pm
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>Ballakilpheric Chapel Open Air Service</b> at Ballakilpheric Chapel	3.00pm
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>Crossroads Care Garden Party</b> at Crogga House, Santon	1.30pm
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>Coffee Morning for Band Funds</b> at Winsford, Castletown Road, Port Erin	10.00am
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>Villa-Gaiety Summer Season Concert</b> at Villa Marina Arcade, Douglas	8.00pm
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Gala Concert with Richard Evans</b> at Castle Rushen High School, Castletown	7.30pm
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Port Erin Commissioners Summer Season Concert</b> at St Catherine's Church, Port Erin	8.00pm
Sunday 15 September	<b>Chapel Service</b> at Ballafesson Chapel	6.30pm
Saturday 21 September	<b>Friends of the Band Coffee Morning</b> at St Catherine's Church Hall, Port Erin	10.00am
Tuesday 24 September	<b>Peel Cathedral Summer Season Concert</b> at Peel Cathedral	7.45pm

## Richard Evans Weekend...keep the date free



The brass band luminary and our Band's musical adviser, Richard Evans, will be making another trip over to the Island later in the year. The Band will be performing a Gala Concert at Castle Rushen High School on the evening of **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September**. The concert will be raising money for the Goff Richards Memorial Fund, another well know brass band figure, and a close friend of Richard, who sadly passed away two years ago. Tickets will likely go on sale in early August so please look out for posters nearer the time for further information.



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](mailto:secretary@rushensilverband.org.im)