



Sounds from the South

Newsletter of Rushen Silver Band

February 2014



Love is in the air...

Saturday 28th December 2013 was a day to remember for all those closely associated with the Band, but especially for two of our players.

Matthew Callister (Soprano Cornet) and Charlotte Bell (2nd Cornet) tied the knot at Rushen Parish Church. The Band were delighted to play the bride in, and the happy couple out; as well as putting some incidental music on at the start and during the signing of the registry.

Rushen Silver Band would like to wish Mr & Mrs Callister every happiness for the future.



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Happy New Year

Happy New Year from Rushen Silver Band - 2014 is set to include a number of interesting projects for the Band.



In connection with the Island of Culture being marked on the Isle of Man, we have commissioned Alan Fernie to compose a new work inspired by the island. It is hoped that Alan will be able to visit the island in July and conduct the first performance by the Band of the new work. At the present time, it is intended for this to take place during a joint concert by the Full Band and Ballafession Brass.



Later in the year, in October, we are also looking forward to welcoming Richard Evans once again to the Island for a workshop weekend.



Fundraising Coffee Morning

The Friends of Rushen Silver Band are holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday 22 February, from 10am to 11.30am, at St Catherine's Church Hall, Port Erin. We hope you can join us.

Tin whistle, Accordion, or Cornet?

Owen Williams has recently joined the main Band from Ballafesson Brass, and is one of our youngest member at age 12. We find out more about his musical talents...



What made you decide to learn a brass instrument?

OW: I decided to learn a brass instrument after I learnt that my dad had played the trumpet when he was in school. I was inspired at an RSB concert and started having lessons with Paul Hamilton in school. Soon after, I started lessons on a Friday night with the band's tutors. Later, I progressed to Ballafesson Brass, where I now have the chance to play flugelhorn.

Who do you think you got your musical talents from?

OW: I get my musical talents from my mum mainly, as she played clarinet and piano in her youth, and sings. Although my dad used to play the trumpet, he didn't keep it up. I also have music in my extended family, as my granddad (mums side) sings, and my great-granddad was involved in Meadowside choir and Castletown Band. Unfortunately whilst talking about singing my dad couldn't carry a tune even if it had handles on it!

What are your favourite types of music (both within band and outside?)

OW: I don't really have a favourite type of music, as I play a wide range of musical styles. At school I play with the Wind Band and the CRHS Big Band – both great fun. Outside of school I play in the Manx Youth Orchestra and also Bree, (a Manx traditional folk group). I love the versatility of jazz and swing.

You've just started with the main Band, how have you found it?

OW: I've enjoyed the challenge of the main Band very much, as it has given me a lot of experience and helped me improve my playing in general. All the Band members are very supportive and helpful, and willing to encourage me to improve. Joining band has been a great experience for me.

What do you enjoy most about playing?

OW: For me, the most enjoyable aspect of playing is the way that I can always improve. I love a challenge; and my favourite type of music is difficult music, because it pushes me to improve my skills. I enjoy playing the variety of music that the Band has to offer, and I'm always willing to try new genres.

What other hobbies do you have time for?

OW: I have many hobbies, most of which involve music in some form. I play rugby at school, although I miss lunchtime training in favour of music that is on offer. I sail at the weekend and compete in my boat. I also play folk music with Bree, The Tarroo Maroo Ceili Band (occasional appearances!) and play for the Perree Bane traditional dancers. Over time, I have acquired a large array of instruments. I play the tin whistle, accordion and mandolin regularly. I have tried other instruments like the banjo and concertina, but I wouldn't have any room left in my bedroom! I learnt most of my folk music with Bree, the tutors there are very supportive and run great workshops. I would recommend this to any young band members who would like to learn traditional music; it has helped me with aural, improvisation and sight-reading skills. I also find the time to take piano lessons.

Rushen Silver Band Annual Dinner and Awards Evening

The Band's Annual Dinner, Dance and Awards Ceremony took place on Saturday 25th January 2014 at the Falcon's Nest Hotel in Port Erin.

This year's award winners were as follows:-

- Gilrea Corlett Trophy, for the best attendance for person aged under 18 - **Hazel Matthews**
- Preston Shield, for the best attendance overall - **Mark Faragher**
- Ernie Broadbent Trophy, for the most improved player aged under 16 - **Owen Williams**
- Dave Smith Memorial Shield, for services to the Band - Awarded jointly to **Joyce Corlett & Bette Crebbin**, for their work with the Friends of the Band for over 30 years each.
- Bandsman of the Year, for the person the Band members felt had contributed the most over the last year - **Matthew Callister**.



Long Service Awards were also presented to Martha Sinden (10 years), Mark Faragher (30 years), Peter Faragher (35 years) and Alan Crebbin (35 years).

It is wonderful to be able to get together to celebrate the work of the Band and recognise all the time and effort put into the Band by its members and friends. A big thank you also to Gill Weldon for organising the event.

Brass 'n Voices



IOM Fun for the Blind

Rushen Silver Band will be performing with Lhon Dhoo Choir, on Saturday 8th March at 7.30pm, at Bemahague School in Onchan. Tickets are £7.50 and are available by contacting 674727. The concert is raising money for the IOM Fund for the Blind.

Looking back at a successful Christmas

The members of Rushen Silver Band would like to thank everyone who generously donated monies to the Band over the recent festive period, a total of over £4,500.

The band started the Christmas season with another successful Christmas Concert at the end of November and finished with a Carol Concert at Southlands on Christmas Day. In all, the Band carried out 21 engagements in 25 days which included a number of formal concerts as well as carolling around the streets of Port Erin and Port St Mary; unfortunately a combination of concert commitments and poor weather meant it wasn't quite possible to cover all areas.

The band members would also like to thank those supporters who helped collect money whilst the Band played carols and their families for their support and patience during the month of December.



Dates for your Diary



Saturday 22 nd February	Friends of the Band Coffee Morning (at St Catherine's Church Hall, Port Erin)	10.00am
Saturday 8 th March	Concert for Manx Blind Welfare (at Lower Bemahague School, Onchan)	7.30pm
Wednesday 19 th March	Peel Pensioners (at Philip Christian Centre, Peel)	7.45pm
Saturday 29 th March	Ballafesson Brass (at Colby Methodist Chapel)	Evening
Sunday 6 th April	Spring Concert (at Rushen Primary School, Port Erin)	8.00pm
Sunday 27 th April	Manx Music Festival – Brass Band Classes (at Villa Marina, Douglas)	Evening
Saturday 10 th May	Fundraising Concert for the Salvation Army (at Salvation Army Citadel, Lord St, Douglas)	7.30pm
Sunday 11 th May	Ballafesson Brass (at Southlands Resource Centre)	2.30pm
Thursday 22 nd May	Church Fundraising Concert (at Castletown Methodist Church)	8.00pm
Friday 23 rd May	Ballafesson Brass (at The Howe Chapel)	Evening
Friday 13 th June	Kerrowkeil Chapel 200th Anniversary Concert (at Kerrowkeil Chapel)	8.00pm
Saturday 28 th June	Friends of the Band Coffee Morning (at St Mary's Church Hall, Port St Mary)	10.00am



And finally....Caption anyone?!

Thanks to Graeme Easton for this great picture of soloist Martin Norbury from the Band's Christmas concert.

Email your captions to

secretary@rushensilverband.org.im and we'll try to include the best one in the next edition of Sounds of the South ☺



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