



# Sounds from the South

Newsletter of Rushen Silver Band

February 2015



(Nativity Service at St Columba's Church)

## Looking back at the Festive Season...

The members of Rushen Silver Band would like to thank everyone who generously donated to the Band over the recent festive period. The Band would like to thank those supporters who helped collect money whilst the Band played carols, and their families for their support and patience.

The Band started their season on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2014 with another successful Christmas Concert. This year Jane Mayne and Paul Costain joined the Band for another fabulous concert and a great start to the festivities.



This year unfortunately the inclement weather prevented the Band from carrying out a significant proportion of their carolling and collecting around the streets of Port Erin & Port St Mary, but the Band still managed to turn out for 18 engagements in 25 days finishing with the traditional carol concert at Southlands on Christmas Day morning.

## Happy New Year

2015 is set to be a significant year for the Band as we have been invited by Culture Vannin to participate in this year's Inter Celtic Festival, taking place in Lorient, France, between the 7<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> August. Whilst the Band over the past few years have enjoyed trips to Yorkshire and the Borders region, this will be the first time we have ventured as far as Europe. There's still plenty of work to be done before we leave, but those members able to go are all looking forward to what will be an experience not to miss.

## From banking to her new role at Erin Arts Centre...

*Claire Norbury has been a member of Rushen Silver Band since her early teens, she tells us about some of her Band memories, eclectic musical tastes, and her new career challenge.*

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

CN: Well.....interestingly, I began learning the Trumpet to keep my primary school friend Anna company! The girl who had previously shared her lessons had moved to Scotland (no, it wasn't Jennifer Cook!) and Anna encouraged me to have a go so she wouldn't be on her own! I started on Trumpet with Steve Wortley who sat back and smoked during our lessons! I quickly moved to Trombone and started going along to RSB on a Tuesday night to learn with John "Watty" Watterson. I had to bin off the trombone however as Watty couldn't play it and it made things too complicated. The next best thing, not to mention only available instrument, was baritone; and there I have stayed. I stopped having school lessons when I moved to CRHS, not least because of the constraints of carrying a baritone on the bus. Back then girls and boys were segregated and girls had to sit upstairs on all the buses, so what with my PE kit, cookery stuff, all my books and a Baritone it was all too much! I carried on with Watty and never looked back.

### Who do you believe you got your musical talents from?

CN: I'm not really sure I have any! I think I just turn up and do my best to do all the right things in the right places. My mum, however modest, is a very good organist and pianist, and my dad has a fine singing voice, so I'm going to say it must be genetic!

### What do you enjoy most about Band?

CN: I enjoy the mutual respect and constant support across all the Band and I always feel like we're a team. Fall outs are very unusual. Over the years I've come to realise that this is exceptional and I am very proud to promote our ethos.

### Do you have any particular favourite types of music?

CN: I'm quite partial to an overture. You get all the best bits! Though basically I'm a sucker for anything with a good harmony or counter melody. Anyone who has ever accidentally looked at my playlists will know that my tastes are eclectic to say the least, everything from Shostakovich and Morriconi to Dolly Parton and Johnny Cash. I'm really not a fan of jazz however, though I guess most of the Band knows that already!

### What are your earliest Band memories?

CN: Learning with Watty and Band Camps! I was also fortunate to receive the wisdom of many during my earliest years and Will Qualtrough stands out in my mind as a very reassuring presence on 2<sup>nd</sup> Baritone - in fact I still ask Owen "what's fresh" in the same way he did me! Concert-wise my fondest memories are Mhelliachs - why don't we have them anymore? Others include of course Andreas, the Carolaires, Bradda Glen concerts and the Perwick, Ocean Castle, Imperial and Royal Hotels, all now sadly gone.



### What are your favourite memories of the Band?

CN: There are so many! Band camps were always hilarious; the second one I went to Robert's car was moved and hidden in the trees.....for a laugh. Another time we all had to sleep in a church hall all together because we were flooded out. Andreas had to be experienced to be believed; it was certainly an eye opener for a 12 year old. Watty teaching us first aid and practising marching around the Bandroom. I will always have a particular fondness for Band Summer fairs at Bradda Glen, I don't know if it was just my age, but the sun did always seem to shine and there is no better setting. The Point Hotel PSM – Rushen Silver Band Mecca of the 1990s! We were never out of the place! The tartan carpet, the lock-ins, the mustard leatherette seats! I learned pool, darts and cribbage and heard every yarn going. Lastly I always enjoy the welcome that we get at Christmas time when people stand on their doorsteps to listen to the carols and wish us a Happy Christmas as we go on our way.



### Can you tell us about your day job?

CN: My day job has recently changed. I worked in a bank for 20 years and in all that time I only ever met 2 other brass band players.

Luckily my work friends passed over my interest in brass bands and continued to be friends. I've recently taken up a completely different job, working for the Erin Arts Centre in Port Erin – I'm really enjoying the new challenge, with such a varied role and of course the opportunity to meet plenty of other musicians!

## Rushen Silver Band Annual Dinner & Awards Evening

### Starter

Manx Broth

Melon

Pate



### Main Course

Carvery (turkey, beef, ham)

Mushroom Wellington



### Dessert

Chocolate mousse

Fruit Gateaux

Ice Cream

For 2015, the Band will be holding their Annual Dinner and Awards Evening at a new venue and at a new time of the year.

The Bradda Glen Restaurant, Port Erin, will be the venue, and the event will be taking place on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March, with a start time of 7 for 7.30pm.

Tickets to the event are priced at £24, and can be obtained by contacting Gill Weldon on Tel: 472172 or at 8 Erin Lane, Ballahane Meadows, Port Erin, IM9 6FE.

We hope you can join us to celebrate the achievements of the Band over the past year. Please let Gill know your menu choices when booking your ticket.



## Dates for your Diary



Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Arbory Parish Commissioners Civic Service (Ballafesson Brass)</b> at Ballabeg Chapel	10.30am
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	<b>Friends of the Band Coffee Morning</b> at St Mary's Church Hall, Port St Mary	10.00am
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Parish of Rushen Cheese &amp; Wine Party (ensemble)</b> at St Catherine's Hall, Port Erin	8.00pm
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Annual Dinner &amp; Awards Ceremony</b> at Bradda Glen Pavilion, Port Erin	7.00pm for 7.30pm
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Peel Pensioners Association</b> at Philip Christian Centre, Peel	7.45pm
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Pre-Guild Concert</b> at Rushen Primary School	7.30pm
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Manx Music Festival - Brass Band Classes</b> at Villa Marina, Douglas	Evening

Details of concerts the Band have been asked to participate in from May onwards can be found on the Engagements page of the website ([www.rushensilverband.org.im/engagements](http://www.rushensilverband.org.im/engagements)).

## Friends Coffee Morning

The Friends of Rushen Silver Band are holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February, from 10.00am to 11.30am at St Catherine's Church Hall, Port Erin. Please come along, we hope you can join us.



## Obituary

The Band were sad to hear of the recent passing of Jack Lewis. Jack will be remembered best as a renowned compere of the Band during the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s when the Band used to play at such venues as The Royal Hotel and The Ocean Castle Hotel on the Promenade in Port Erin, as well as the Bradda Glen Café. But you may not know that Jack also served as Band President between 1988 and 1990, was a Band Trustee for many years and was over the moon when awarded an Honorary Life Membership of the Band. The way to sum up Jack, who was a friend to all, is by using the final lines of a well-known song - "If I can help somebody as I pass along, then my living has not been in vain." The members and Friends of the Band would like to pass on their condolences to Jack's family, as I'm sure those who knew Jack will always remember him with fond affection.



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)