



Sounds from the South

Newsletter of Rushen Silver Band

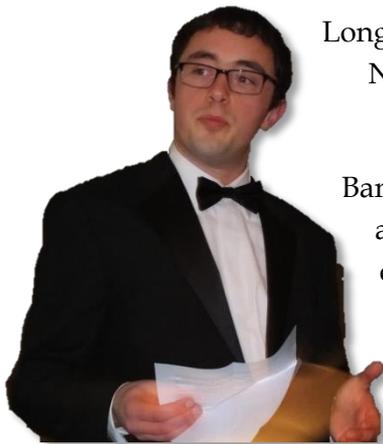
April 2015



Annual Dinner and Awards Evening 2015

The Band's Annual Dinner, Dance and Awards Ceremony took place on Saturday 7th March at the Bradda Glen Restaurant in Port Erin. This year's award winners were as follows:-

- Gilrea Corlett Trophy - for the best attendance with the main Band for players aged under 18 - Owen Williams;
- Preston Shield - for the best overall attendance with the main Band - Jim Crebbin;
- Ernie Broadbent Trophy - for the most improved player aged under 16 within the Band - Emma Parsons;
- Bandsman of the Year - for the person(s) the Band members felt had contributed the most over the last year - won jointly by Martha Sinden and Ian Bell;
- Dave Smith Memorial Shield - for his contribution and services to the Band - awarded to John Kinley, current Musical Director of the Band.



Long Service Awards were also presented to Ian Bell (10 years), Martin Norbury (10 years), Jonathan Young (10 years) and Robert Woodford (30 years).

Band Chairman, Tom Sinden, gave a summary of the Band's achievements over the past 12 months, and looked ahead to the opportunities for the upcoming year. The Band would like to thank the Bradda Glen Restaurant for their hospitality, excellent food and venue, for what was a great evening for all those in attendance. A special thanks should also go to Gill Weldon and Tom Sinden for organising the event.

Spring Concert - Sunday 19 April 2015

The Band will be performing a Spring Concert on Sunday 19th April at Rushen Primary School. The concert will start at 7.30pm and will feature not only a preview of the main Band's entry for this Manx Music Festival but also soloists and ensembles from the Band who will be taking part too. Admission to the concert is free of charge, with a retiring collection for Band funds.



Ascension Day in Andreas through the years...

Jim Crebbin, Conductor Emeritus of RSB and a member of the Band since 1946, takes us on a trip down memory lane, looking at the history of an event the Band have attended for many years; an event that continues to feature in today's Band calendar...

On the evening of Ascension Day each year, the Andreas Benevolent Society hold their Annual General Meeting. The Society is a very long standing local organisation, being formed on Ascension Day in 1812. It is a locally run charitable organisation whose members paid money into, in the event of need for family support in hard times. In some ways, it could be said this was a very early form of what became the National Health Service in 1948.

It is in the Society's constitution that after the business part of their meeting, the members, both senior and junior, will march to the Parish Church with a Band for their special Ascension Day service. After the service, the parade would return through the village to the hall opposite the local school where supper would be served by the 'Ladies'. One feature of the catering is it is served on crockery owned by the Society dating back to the 1800s which is similar to the 'Blue Willow' pattern but with its own historic background – very valuable indeed.



Whilst the food is being served, the Band would play background music, then the Band themselves would be fed; and after the marching and playing, it would be well received indeed.

One real hazard to note that the Band members face each year are the pot holes in the lanes to and from the Church, especially if it has been raining beforehand. They can be difficult to spot when you're playing and concentrating on the music!



(Rushen Silver Band circa 1966, photo taken at Happy Valley, PSM)



Being provided with transport to Andreas along with being fed was the deal for doing the engagement, which is the only one the Band has carried out in the 'North' for the majority of the last 50 years. Any time left before the coach headed back down south was termed 'own arrangement', usually necessitating a visit to the local hostelry, The Grosvenor, for one or two shandys!!

Ascension Day in Andreas has always been special historically for the village. In the past, it may even have been a general holiday in the village, with sports etc. taking place. It is said that the 100 yard race and certain cycle races could hold 'Island Champion' status for the year.

How were we invited to play at this very special event in the first place you might well ask? My theory – not too far away from the actual, I'll bet. One of our members at the time, William Qualtrough, was an official of the 'sheep dog trial' scene, which was very active Island-wide at

that time. I'm sure the initial approach came from that direction. The year was 1966 – the Band 'new' in Island-band terms, and from the very beginning, ambitious to spread its wings and progress.

We need to remember that nearly 50 years ago, there were not so many bands actually fully active on the Island. Ramsey were reforming, Laxey and Crosby bands were basically just ticking over, and I'm not sure how Sulby were at the time. Castletown were fully active though.

When we first went, the routine was slightly different than it is now. On the way to Church, the Band would play a hymn on the vicarage lawn, quite near the village hall, then march on to the church with the Vicar joining the parade. An interesting fact of the Diocese then, was that the appointment of Archdeacon of Mann meant he was also Vicar of Andreas for his 'term of office'. Things have changed of course as the vicarage is no longer there.

Thursday 19th May; Ascension Day in 1966 was, and I hope will always be, a memorable date in the history of Rushen Silver Band for more than one reason. For a young Band, less than 20 years old, to take on an Island traditional event with an Island-wide audience from scratch, was a special challenge which we achieved.

That same afternoon, the Band actually played at the funeral of one of our members who had tragically lost his life in an accident with the Harbour Board at Port Erin. The Band played from Port St Mary to Rushen Parish Church (in the rain). Then it was a case of drying out, some tea, followed by the coach to Andreas, and the Ascension Day event.

When recalling events from the past, we mostly read and think of them as history, which is really true, but when you actually know and have experienced the event, it means something special, and that is why we should all pass on our experiences. It's not fiction; it's what actually happened, and something to be proud of. It must be increasingly difficult to keep up the traditions of Ascension Day financially.



Since 1966, we have missed only a couple of years, with last year being one. Ascension Day 2014 fell within TT Practice week and roads closing at 6pm. There was no way the Band could get through the course before the roads closed. However, we're making a return in 2015 with everything already booked and the Band looking forward again to a trip 'down North'.



The Band have always been honoured to be invited to take part in the Ascension Day tradition, and we hope it will continue for many years to come.

Thank you to Jim Crebbin for giving us another insight into the history of Rushen Silver Band.

Dates for your Diary



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|---------------------------------|--|------------------|
| Sunday 19 th April | RSB Spring Concert at Rushen Primary School | 7.30pm |
| Saturday 25 th April | Manx Music Festival – Soloist/Ensemble Classes at Villa Marina, Douglas | Morning |
| Sunday 26 th April | Manx Music Festival – Brass Band Classes at Villa Marina, Douglas | Evening |
| Friday 8 th May | Ballafesson Brass at Chapel Concert at Ballabeg Chapel | 7.30pm |
| Thursday 14 th May | Andreas Benevolent Society for Ascension Day at Andreas | 7.30pm |
| Thursday 21 st May | IOM Arts Council Summer Season Concert at Villa Marina Arcade, Douglas | 8.00pm |
| Tuesday 26 th May | Friends of the Band Meeting at Station Hotel, Port Erin | 7.30pm |
| Friday 29 th May | Mona’s Queen Memorial Service at Kallow Point, Port St Mary | 6.30pm |
| Friday 19 th June | Ballafesson Brass at Youth Concert at Howe Chapel | 7.00pm |
| Sunday 21 st June | Ballakilpheric Chapel Open Air Anniversary Service | 3.00pm |
| Saturday 27 th June | Friends of the Band Coffee Morning at Reayrt-y-Chrink, Four Roads, Port St Mary | 10.00am |
| Sunday 28 th June | Armed Forces Day Parade along Douglas Promenade Band Concert in Villa Marina, Douglas | 3.00pm 5.30pm |

Details of concerts the Band and Ballafesson Brass have been asked to participate in from July onwards can be found on the website (www.rushensilverband.org.im/engagements)



And finally....Caption anyone?!



Picture of our Band President taken at the Annual Awards Dinner, looking very regal!.... 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.
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