



Sounds from the South

Newsletter of Rushen Silver Band

June 2015

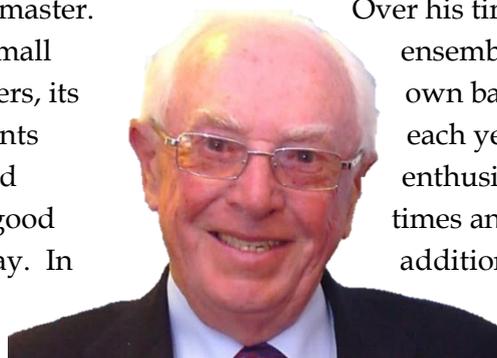


British Empire Medal for Jim Crebbin

Rushen Silver Band can trace its origins back to the 1930s when, in the small hamlet of Surby, near Port Erin, some of the residents came together to form a small band consisting of concertinas and mouth organs. The ensemble eventually changed to an all brass format to become the Surby Silver Band, and in 1949 changed its name to the Rushen Silver Band.



Jim Crebbin joined the band in 1944 aged 12, and became the band's bandmaster in the late fifties/early sixties. Jim remained in this role until November 2010 and has also served as Band Chairman and Assistant Bandmaster. Over his time as Bandmaster, Jim had seen the band evolve from a small ensemble through to the organisation it is today with over 60 members, its own bandroom in Ballafession, and performing over 45 engagements each year. It is down in no small part to Jim's commitment, time, and enthusiasm for the band that it has been able to survive through good times and bad to become the community asset that it is today. In addition to his work with Rushen Silver Band, Jim has also served over 20 years on the Manx Music Festival Committee.



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In the band today Jim now plays the cornet, having passed on the baton (in every sense) to John Kinley. Jim still helps teach those learning to play each Friday night, and from time to time takes on the conducting duties. In acknowledgement of his contribution to the band, shortly after stepping down as Bandmaster Jim was given the title of Band Conductor Emeritus. The extent of Jim's continuing commitment to the band can be demonstrated by his award in 2014 for the best attendance, an award that he has won 17 times in the last 25 years.



Jim's award of the British Empire Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours List is an extremely fitting reward and acknowledgement of his huge contribution to the community of the Isle of Man over 75 years. The band wish to publicly offer their heartfelt congratulations to Jim on his award, and hope that he continues to contribute for many years to come. Thanks, Jim, for all you have done for the band.

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Dance, Brass or Drama?...

Ailish Williams has recently joined the main band from Ballafesson Brass, and is one of our youngest members. We find out more about both her musical talents and her interests away from Band....



What made you decide to learn a brass instrument?

AW: Well, I loved hearing my big brother play in Ballafesson Brass. I thought that the Tenor Horns looked so cool, and I asked my Dad if I could have lessons. That was 5 years ago... I had lessons from the Band, then after a couple of years I got lessons with the music service at school as well.

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

AW: I really enjoy playing 'Coming to America' and the new piece 'Happy' by Pharrell Williams. I also like playing 'Just a closer walk'. But, I love listening to the solos that some of the band members play, because they do it so well. Outside of the Band, my music is a mix – I listen to classical sometimes because it helps me with my Dancing; but Owen, my big brother, is way into Folk music, so I listen to that too because it also helps me with my folk dancing. I do listen to pop and contemporary-style music because, again, I dance to that kind of music.

You've recently moved into the main Band, how have you found it?

AW: At first I thought that the music was hard; but now that I have got used to it, it's really interesting to play and lots of the music has bars rests in it, so I can listen to the music and it helps me understand that piece better.

What do you enjoy most about playing?

AW: I like it all really; but my favourite bits are playing new, upbeat pieces and playing in concerts.

What other hobbies do you have time for

AW: My main hobby is dancing. I do ballet, jazz, modern, contemporary, folk, and lyrical. I dance for about 6 hours a week for lessons. I sometimes dance at lunch with 2 of my friends at school in the drama rooms or any classroom. At the moment, my dance school has a show on the 19th & 20th June 2015, and I have been doing extra dancing for that. I also do drama at school and I am in the school choir.

What's it like being in the band with your big brother?

AW: It has its ups and downs. Owen sometimes helps me with things I don't understand, but other times he just ignores me! And on my first night at Band, it was nice that he was there to show me where to sit, but it's kind of annoying how he has so many instruments and I don't know whether he'll turn up with a Baritone or a Euphonium!

Manx Music Festival 2015

Following up on a successful Spring Concert for the Band, a fruitful 'Guild' was had by not only the main Band, but also by soloists and ensembles from the Band too.

To start of the Sunday evening, the main Band achieved Merit performances in the March & Hymn Class receiving 81 marks for both 'National Emblem' and 'Stella'. Positive comments were received from the adjudicator for the Band to take forward.

In the Entertainment Class, the Band received 85 points (Commended) for their performance programme of 'Coming to America', 'Iona' (performed by our Solo Horn player Emma Parsons), 'A Little Prayer' and 'An American Trilogy'. The band were positioned 2nd in this Class for the fourth consecutive year and can take a lot of positive comments from the adjudicator and especially a very receptive audience who really appreciated our performance on the night.

Earlier in the weekend, there were a number of notable successes for band members. These included a second prize for Toby Crossley in the Years 7-8 brass solo class, and also a second prize for Emma Parsons in the Years 11-13 brass solo classes. All of the entrants in the solo classes represented the Band in a very good light.

Following on from the solo classes, there was also successes in the ensemble classes. In the brass ensemble class (up to year 10), the Band's entry of Toby Crossley, Heather Parsons, Ailish Williams, Owen Williams and William King won the class and took home the F B McCormick Cup. Thanks to Juan Wright, our 1st Trombone player, for his hard work and efforts bringing this reward. In addition the ensemble from Ballafesson Brass performed really well and achieved a Merit marking, a good result for all their hard work too. Thanks also to Jonathan King and

Hazel Matthews who prepared the ensemble for their performance.

All in all a successful Guild was achieved this year, and the thanks of the players go to our MD John Kinley for his tireless work in preparing the main band, to Jill Collings, Jo Kinley, Ruth Crossley and Jonathan King for accompanying the soloists during the weekend, and to Michal Kewley for compering the main band's concert programme.

Concert at St Columba's Church

The Band will be playing at St Columba's Church in Port Erin on Friday 3rd July at 8pm. Admission is free, however the concert will be raising funds for 'Brass for Africa' with a retiring collection.



CONCERT BY

RUSHEN SILVER BAND

8.00 pm Friday 3rd July

St. Columba's Church
Port Erin

All Welcome - Free Admission



**There will be a
collection
in aid of
Brass for Africa**



Refreshments will be served
afterwards in the Church Hall


MEADOWSIDE CHORAL SOCIETY


invites you to a

CONCERT

with guest artists


RUSHEN SILVER BAND


SATURDAY 18 JULY 2015, 7.30 P.M.
RUSHEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

TICKETS £6.00
(Children under 18 £3.00)
available from
Hospice Shop, Port Erin
or telephone 834601 or 438462
Numbers are limited. Please book early!

RAFFLE




Joint Concert with Meadowside Choral Society

On the evening of Saturday 18th July, the Band will be the guest artists at a concert by the Meadowside Choral Society.

The two groups have done many concerts together over the years, including more recently two of the Band's Christmas Concerts where the Choral Society were the Band's guests.

The concert will be taking place at Rushen Primary School, starting at 7.30pm. Admission will be £6 (£3 for children under 18), and can be obtained from the Hospice Shop in Port Erin, or by contacting telephone number 834601 or 438462.

Numbers are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Friends Coffee Morning

The Friends of Rushen Silver Band are holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday 27 June, from 10.00am to 11.30am at Reayrt y Chrink, Four Roads, Port St Mary. Please come along and support the Friends, we hope you can join us.



*Friends of
Rushen Silver
Band*

COFFEE MORNING

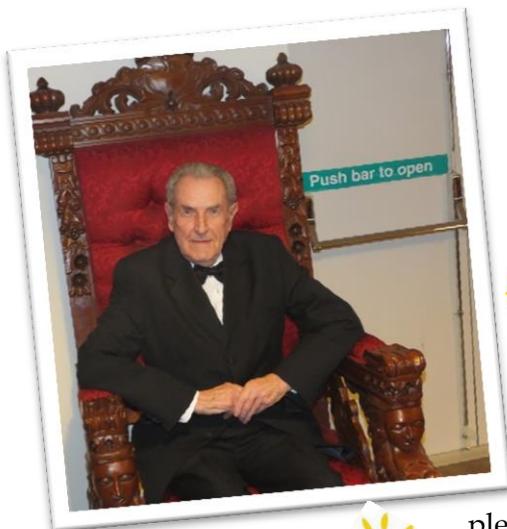
at
Reayrt y Chrink,
Four Roads
Saturday 27th June
10.00 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.
Cake stall - Raffle - Bric-a-Brac



Admission £1

Caption competition...

Thank you to those who sent in captions for the photo of 'Didds' in the last newsletter.



These included:

"Who's been sitting in my chair" said Daddy bear!"
and

"Now you young ones may not believe this....."
but the best one received was:

"I'll sit here so I can make a sharp exit when dear brother stands up to speak!!"



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