



# Sounds from the South

Newsletter of Rushen Silver Band

November 2015



## Good Evans, its Childs Play for Rushen!

Rushen Silver Band has just enjoyed a workshop weekend with their charismatic Musical Advisor, Richard Evans, and guest euphonium soloist, David Childs. The Band began rehearsals with Richard on Thursday evening, tackling a variety of new repertoire. Rehearsals continued on the Friday evening with more new music to challenge the Band, including the solo items that they would accompany David Childs. Saturday afternoon saw the Band set up at Castle Rushen High School in preparation for that evening's concert, and their introductory rehearsal with their guest soloist.



Saturday night's concert got underway in true brass band tradition with Alford's rousing 'Army of the Nile'. Richard Evans compered the concert in his own inimitable style of wit and knowledge. The Band continued with Carl Gottlieb 'Reissiger's Die Felsenmuhle' (The Mill on the Cliff) overture.

David Childs' first piece was Peter Graham's 'Brillante' and it certainly lived up to its title! David gave some background to the piece, which was originally written for his Uncle Nick & father Bob Childs, who are both internationally renowned euphonium soloists and conductors in their own rights (see picture on page 4). By means of a complete contrast, David chose as his next solo the extremely beautiful 'Benedictus' from the Armed Man by fellow Welshman Karl Jenkins. This piece fully demonstrated David's true musicianship. To close the first half, the Band played Alan Fernie's adrenaline charged pastiche piece, 'Prismatic Light'.

In the second half, the Band's principal euphonium Martin Norbury joined David to perform the famous operatic duet 'Deep Inside the Sacred Temple' from Bizet's 'The Pearl Fishers'. As his encore, David wowed the audience once again with his own arrangement of the Paul Nero piece 'The Hot Canary'. In his foreword to the piece, David mentioned that it was a relatively unknown piece until it was set to words and recorded by Ella Fitzgerald.



Band Chairman Tom Sinden came forward to give his vote of thanks along with presenting some gifts to David, Richard, and Richard's partner Pam. He also thanked the Isle of Man Arts Council for their support of the workshop and concert; and the continued legacy of the Alistair Drinkwater Memorial Trust, which was set up to undertake study weekends such as this. It was particularly fitting that Alistair's parents Eric and Barbara were both present at the concert.

For the Band's finale they turned to the music of Bill Whelan who penned the Irish Dance sensation

'Riverdance'. Richard Evans, in his preface to the piece, paid tribute to the progress that the Band had made in recent years as this music was virtually unplayable five years ago! The concert closed in true Manx style with the Manx National Anthem and the customary 'Oie Vie' salutation.

**As ever, the Band are extremely appreciative of Richard's input over the weekend - his knowledge and wisdom are invaluable - thank you for another fantastic weekend!**

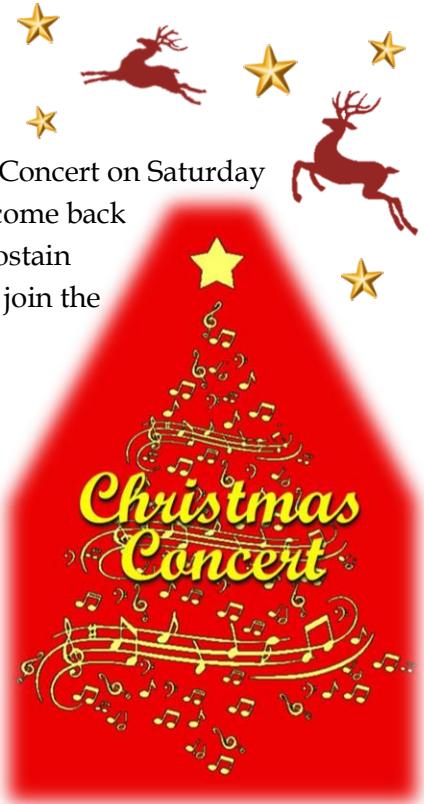


## Band Christmas Concert

Rushen Primary School will be the venue for the Band's Christmas Concert on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November. This year, the Band are delighted to be able to welcome back well-known local singers Jane Mayne (Mezzo Soprano) and Paul Costain (Bass) to not only perform individual pieces in the concert, but also join the Band in what will no doubt be another special evening for all.

Tom Sinden, Band Chairman, said: "The Band was delighted when both Jane & Paul accepted our invitation to join us again for our Christmas Concert. Similarly to previous years, I'm sure the audience will have a thoroughly enjoyable evening and will leave with a feeling of Christmas to start the festive season. The concert will be the start of a very busy few weeks for the members of the Band who will be playing at eighteen events through December".

Tickets are £6 (£3 for under 18s) from Peter Faragher, Band Secretary, on 493193, or email [secretary@rushensilverband.org.im](mailto:secretary@rushensilverband.org.im).





# Rushen Silver Band



*with guests  
Jane Mayne*

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>  & Paul Costain  
November   
7.30pm 

at Rushen  
Primary  
School

## *Christmas Concert*

For tickets, please contact  
Peter Faragher (Secretary) on  
493193 or [secretary@rushensilverband.org.im](mailto:secretary@rushensilverband.org.im)

**Tickets £6**  
**(under 18 £3)**

## David Childs' Masterclass

Having not only been treated to the opportunity of hearing David Childs in concert, he kindly agreed to hold a masterclass for local brass musicians on the Sunday morning before he made his return trip back to London Stansted and on to Newport!

David opened by discussing the importance of breathing in brass playing and emphasized how fundamental this is to performing on a brass instrument. He went on to discuss the idea that effective breathing exercises should relate to actually playing your instrument. He continued by talking



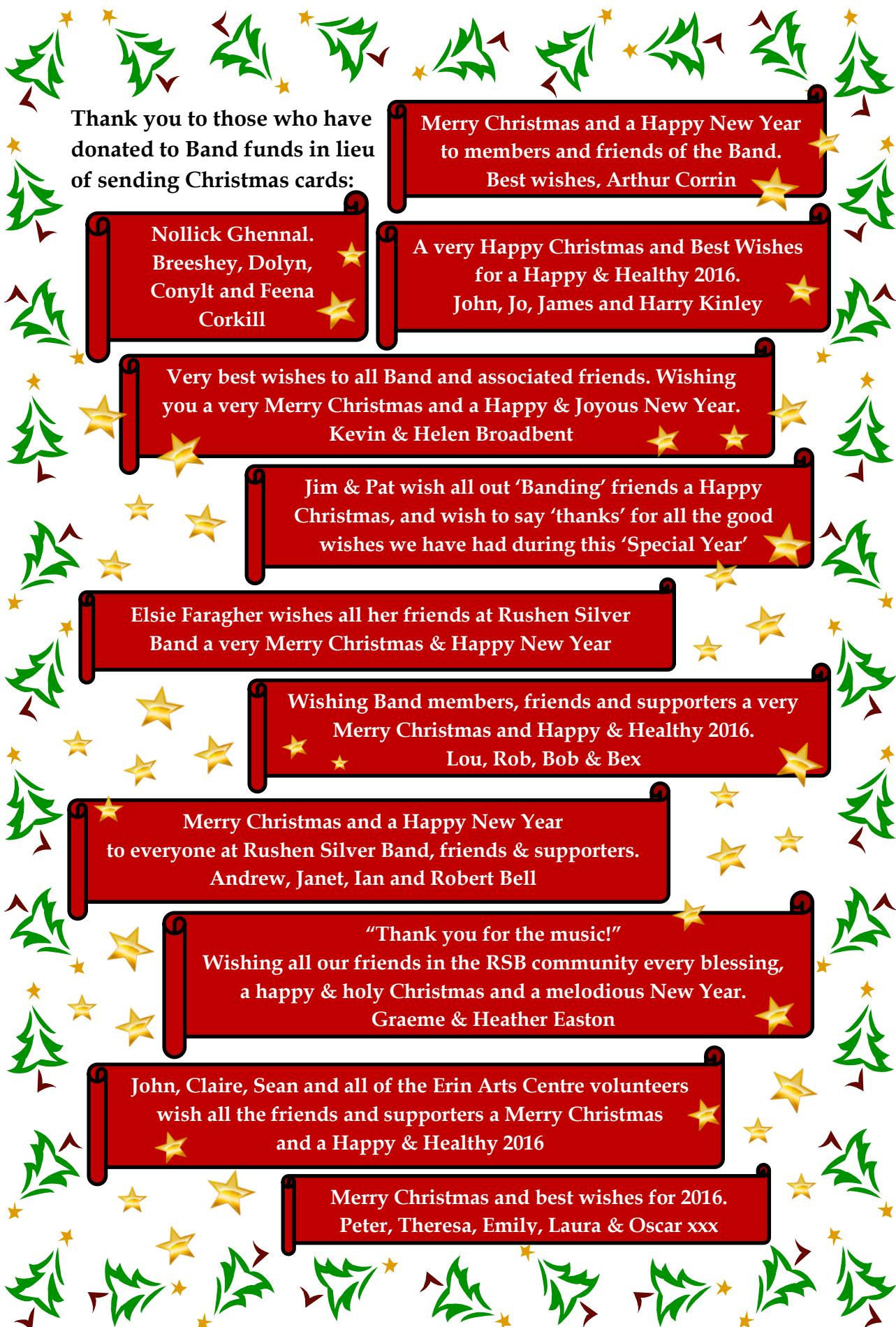
about sound; emphasizing the importance of listening to other players whilst not losing sight of our own individual sound. He gave examples of his own influences during his childhood including both his father and uncle (David photographed in Bandroom with the picture of his father & uncle!).

The masterclass continued with young trombonist Owen Williams playing the opening slow section of the Vittorio Monti's 'Czardas', with David noting the importance of warming up effectively before

performing. The discussion continued with the difference between tonguing on Trombone and Euphonium and good slide technique. David also talked about the need for a good single tonguing technique and suggested that playing studies and exercises with dotted rhythms helps to develop this. The next section of the masterclass consisted of David discussing and demonstrating various aspects of brass playing that people attending the masterclass were keen to improve. These included developing your high register. David talked about the significance of air support and the importance of a secure low register. He made reference to a book of Lip Flexibilities by Dr Charles Colin and how this can help develop your inner and outer embouchures. Quiet playing was the next topic and the need to practice at quieter dynamics, as a common mistake is that people only practice at the same dynamic all the time.

David concluded by talking performance nerves, and shared with the audience his experience of preparing for his concerto performance as part of his 'Young Musician of the Year' Final. As this event was to be televised he arranged for fellow students to video him in his rehearsals. He put Vaseline on his lips to recreate the situation of sweating under television lighting and to emulate the effect of his pulse racing on stage for the actual performance he ran up and down the stairs several times before the rehearsal!







## Free donations to the Band

Did you know that you can raise funds for Rushen Silver Band when shopping online and it won't cost you anything extra?! Shop online visiting the easyfundraising website first ([www.easyfundraising.org.uk/rushensilverband](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/rushensilverband)) and they will give a percentage donation to the Band for any purchase made through one of their partner shops.

We've already raised over £300 in this way for Band funds so please join in and help the Band.



## Rushen Silver Band AGM - Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November

Rushen Silver Band will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm at the Bandroom.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.



**Feeling a bit chilly?....**

## Warm up at the Christmas Coffee Morning

The Friends of the Band are holding a Christmas Coffee Morning on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December from 10am to 11.30am at St Catherine's Church Hall, Port Erin.

Members of the Band will be playing some carols to get everyone in the festive spirit. We hope you can join us.

## Annual Dinner, Dance and Awards Evening

The Band's Annual Dinner will be taking place on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at the Bradda Glen Restaurant and Tea Rooms in Port Erin. Further details for the event will be confirmed shortly, but we wanted to make sure the date was in your diary early. It would be really nice to see as many of the Band's members, friends and supporters as possible at the Dinner.



## Oie'll Verree Service

The New Year will only be a few days old when the Band are back performing again! The Oie'll Verree Service will be taking place at Kerrowkeil Chapel, Grenaby, on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016 (Old Christmas Eve), with the service starting at 7.30pm. If you are looking to attend, we would suggest getting there early as seats are at a definite premium. However, the service is a great way to welcome in both Old Christmas Day and the New Year.

## Looking back on an exciting 2015

A few snapshots (in no particular order!) of some of the events the Band have been involved in over a busy, challenging and exciting year:



Villa Marina  
Arcade  
- July 2015



Guild featured in the Examiner  
- April 2015



Lorient Inter-Celtic Festival – August 2015



Hitting the right note at The Guild

Rushen Silver Band were one of the first class winners at this year's Manx Music, Speech and Dance Festival. Owen Williams, Toby Crossley, William King, Heather Parsons and Ailish Williams are pictured at the Villa Marina with the F.B. McCormick Cup on Saturday after winning the Brass Ensemble (Up to Year 10) class. The Guild's 176 classes continue all this week, building up to the Cleveland Medal Test on Saturday.

For more pictures and all the results from Friday to Sunday, turn to page 28. (MW150425-27)

Spring Concert - April 2015



Mona Queen Memorial Service - May 2015



★ ★  
Andreas  
- May 2015



★ ★  
Richard Evans & David Childs  
Workshop weekend - October 2015  
★ ★



### Looking forward to more fun during 2016...

The Band are delighted to be performing at the first Parish of Rushen Concert for 2016. The Concert will be taking place on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at St Catherine's Church, Port Erin, starting at 7.45pm. The concert should enable the Band to put away their carol books and look to play some new music for both them and the audience in what should be a great follow-up on the service at Kerrowkeil Chapel. For the other dates upcoming for the Band in 2016, watch this space!



Thank you to Phil Woodford for another fabulous cartoon to make us smile! ☺

**Rushen Silver Band would like to send their  
best wishes for the Festive Season and wish everyone a Happy New Year!**



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)

Reindeer images courtesy of [www.freepik.com](http://www.freepik.com)