



# Sounds from the South



Rushen Silver Band Newsletter  
February 2019

## Saying 'Bye Bye' to 2018! We look back at another busy festive period....

The Band's Christmas Concert for 2018 took place at the Erin Arts Centre in Port Erin for the first time. Whilst the Band have played at this venue numerous times before, this was the first time we had held what is one of our main fundraising concerts during the year here. In addition to the Band, we also had a choir group organised by Band member Jonathan King to both support the audience singing the carols but also performing some numbers of their own. The concert was an overwhelming success – thank you to all who were involved in its organisation.



After starting the festive season in style, the Band played at numerous events during the month of December - in fact, they squeezed in 16 concerts over 25 days! This included Christmas concerts for Port Erin Commissioners, Ballafesson Chapel, Ballasalla School, Arbory Village Hall, Rowany Golf Club, and played carols for the residents of Southlands Resource Centre on Christmas Day morning. The Band also played for the first time at a Manx Nativity, 'Ballabethlehem', at Moorhouse Farm on Christmas Eve.



The weather was also very mild for the time of year, and all the carolling events went to plan, apart from those of the Band attending the Friends Coffee Morning who were subjected to a deluge of rain when they ventured outside for 10 minutes to play some carols at the Railway Station in Port Erin.

The members of the Band would again like to thank everyone who generously made a donation during December, and to those supporters who gave their time to help collect money whilst the Band played carols. Finally, a special thank you should be extended to the families of the Band members for their support and patience during this very busy time.



## 2019: Starting the New Year strong...

There was no rest for the Band as December turned to January. The first (chilly) performance of 2019 featured a group from the Band providing the soundtrack for the New Year's Dip in Port Erin. This was well received by all those there and maybe something we will do again in the future.



The Band also played at Kerrowkeil Chapel on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> January for Oie'll Verree, or Old Christmas Eve. There was a full house for what could likely be the last of these services to be held at the Chapel due to falling attendances at services during the rest of the year. Those associated with the Chapel are extremely appreciative of the Band's support over the many years of concerts. We hope that a service next year will be a possibility – we will keep you updated if it does!



Whilst the weather outside was appallingly bad, the music inside St Columba's Church on the evening of Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January warmed the audience. The third engagement of 2019 was chance for the Band to give the carol books a rest and choose the tunes that they enjoy playing. The programme, as picked by the members of the Band featured some well-known pieces such as 'Ballafesson March', 'Just A Closer Walk', 'In Christ Alone', and 'Mack & Mabel'. The concert was well received by a good audience on the night, and the Band were pleased to note that a retiring collection for Graih, the Manx Homeless Charity, raised a fantastic amount of £423.



### **Back to the Carol Books in February?!**

Although there will be no concerts during February, the Band have had a very busy weekend over 8<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> February where we recorded our 3<sup>rd</sup> CD. Following on from those we recorded in 2009 & 2013, this new CD will feature a compilation of Christmas music. We're hoping to have the CD on sale from November, but we have a lot of work to do to get to then never mind the first steps of recording the music this weekend.

#### **Starter**

Leek & Potato Soup

Prawn Cocktail

Pate

❖ ❖

#### **Main Course**

Carvery of Turkey, Ham & Lamb

Vegetarian Options

❖ ❖

#### **Dessert**

Apple Crumble & Custard

Lemon Meringue Pie

### **Rushen Silver Band Annual Dinner & Awards Evening**

The Band's Annual Dinner & Awards Evening will take place this year on **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**, 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start.

This year the event will be taking place at the Bradda Glen Restaurant which will be re-opening under new management just prior to this event.

Tickets to the event are priced at £25, and can be obtained by contacting Chris Weldon on telephone 471166 or by email [chrisandgill@manx.net](mailto:chrisandgill@manx.net). Please let Chris know your menu choices when booking your tickets.

We hope you can join us to celebrate the achievements of the Band over the past year.





## **Band Service for Good Friday**

As a historic nod to Good Fridays in the late 1940s, when the Band traditionally held a service at Fleshwick Beach; and to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Band being renamed the Rushen Silver Band, we are going to hold a similar service this year on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April, Good Friday 2019. Arrangements to travel by minibus should be put in place to avoid parking issues ahead of a short service on the beach at 3pm. In the past, the Band would march from the Bandroom to Fleshwick beach for the service, and then back again afterwards – about 2 miles of hills in total! Band members will be pleased to hear that this is not expected this year! Look out for further information to follow and let's pray for good weather.

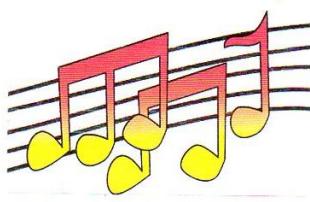
**ROWANY GOLF CLUB**

**FUNDRAISING EVENING**

**In aid of**

**THE RUSHEN ENDOWMENT FUND**

**FRIDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 7.30 p.m.**



**Music by**

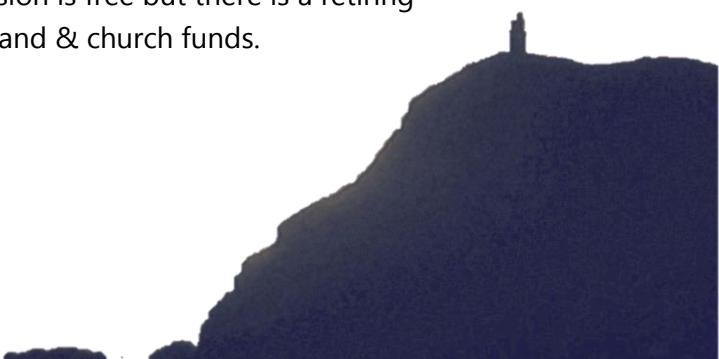
**RUSHEN SILVER BAND**

Refreshments : Light finger buffet. Entry £7.50  
Tickets available from committee members  
Shirley: 455012 Sue: 421319 Claire: 832932

## **Concerts in March**

The Band will be performing a fundraising concert for Rowany Ladies on the evening of Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March. The concert will take place at Rowany Golf Club with a 7.30pm for 8pm start. Please see the poster for contact details and ticket price.

Also taking place in the same month, the Band will be playing at a Parish of Rushen Concert on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March. The concert will be taking place at St Catherine's Church, Port Erin and will start at 7.45pm. Admission is free but there is a retiring collection for Band & church funds.





The Band is celebrating 70 years since changing its name to Rushen Silver Band; and of course, the Band was in existence prior to the name change. This means that there is a rich history associated with the Band....

It is always fascinating to look back at the pictures of the Band over the years. The changing faces, and fashions; the families associated with the Band, and the community..... Lots of memories....



**But what are your memories of the Band?**

**We want to hear about what Rushen Silver Band means to you?**

Whether you are a Band member or friend of the Band, we would love to hear how the Band is important to you, and what you love about it most! Tell us your story....

Email: [enquiries@rushensilverband.org.im](mailto:enquiries@rushensilverband.org.im)



## **Thank you for the music, Martha Sinden!**

*One of the lesser recognised roles on the committee, we catch up with the Band librarian Martha Sinden about her connections to the Band and keeping all that music organised....*



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

**MS:** When I lived in Bristol, I joined a junior marching band as a majorette. However, I'm very clumsy and kept dropping the flags, so I switched to tuned percussion. One practice, none of the brass section turned up, so they asked all of the percussionists to try playing a brass instrument. I was able to play it straight away, so they swapped me to cornet. My family moved to the Isle of Man in November 1999, when I was 10. On the day we moved to the Isle of Man, my parents went to the village to buy groceries, and saw a poster for the RSB Christmas Coffee Evening, which was happening that evening. We spent our very first evening on the Island watching the Band, and I was signed up by the end of the night!

### **How have you found switching instruments?**

**MS:** I played tenor horn for about 15 years, and love the instrument. I swapped to cornet 18 months ago for the band's second trip to Lorient, and have stayed on it ever since. To start with I really missed playing tenor horn, and struggled to adjust. However, I've enjoyed the challenge of playing something different, and my trip to Brass Band Summer School last summer really helped build my confidence in my cornet playing. I'm very happy playing cornet now, and it's nice to get to play the tune more!

### **What do you enjoy about Band?**

**MS:** I really like Band practices where we play lots of different music. Playing concerts always gives me a buzz, particularly when we play a piece really well, and we've got an enthusiastic audience. I also enjoy the social side of Band; chatting to people in the Bandroom, as well as at the pub. Many of my closest friends are people from the Band.

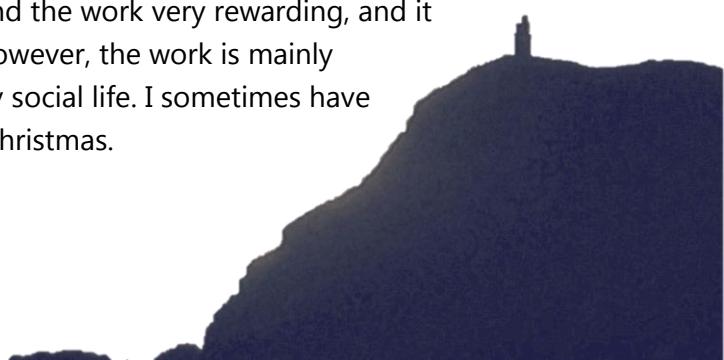


### **What are your earliest Band memories?**

**MS:** I remember playing my first concert, which was at Peel Pensioners. I think I played about 3 notes all concert, but it got easier after that. And while I don't remember it, my earliest experience with Rushen Silver Band was at the age of 4. We came on holiday to the Isle of Man, and whilst here went to a summer concert at the Sea Terminal. During the concert, I conducted the Band for a piece. It was years later that we looked back at the photos, and realised it was Rushen Silver Band!

### **Can you tell us a bit about your day job?**

**MS:** I'm a self-employed Science Tutor. I help students who are working towards GCSE, A-level and IB qualifications, mainly in Chemistry. I find the work very rewarding, and it has a lot more freedom than working for a school. However, the work is mainly evenings and weekends, which can be difficult for my social life. I sometimes have to rearrange work for Band concerts, particularly at Christmas.



**You've been part of the Band Committee now for a few years, can you tell us about the roles you carry out as a Committee member?**

**MS:** My main committee role is Librarian, which means I'm in charge of sorting the music. This involves regular discussions with John about what music needs to be in the folders, going to the Bandroom (sometimes several times a week) to make sure it's all sorted, and finding/making copies when specific pieces of music go missing (this often happens!). In addition to this, I'm also Assistant Secretary, which just means I write the minutes after the monthly committee meetings.

**How do you find being part of the Band with your husband (Tom) who is currently Chairman of the Band and a player on the bass line?**

**MS:** Tom and I have been together for about 8 years, so I'm used to it by now! On a practical level it makes life a lot easier, as I have someone to share lifts with, and Tom's a lot more organised than me! Band is how we met, and it's nice to have something like that in common. As we play different instruments, we don't sit together at practice/concerts. We quite often end up talking about band at home!

**Dates for your diary...**



Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	<b>Rowany Ladies Fundraising Concert</b> (at Rowany Golf Club, Port Erin)	8.00pm
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Parish of Rushen Concert</b> (at St Catherine's Church, Port Erin)	7.45pm
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	<b>Annual Dinner &amp; Awards Ceremony</b> (at Bradda Glen Restaurant, Port Erin)	7.00pm for 7.30pm
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Good Friday Service</b> (at Fleshwick, Rushen)	3.00pm
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Laxey Festival</b> (at Laxey Village)	TBC
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Ballafesson Brass Concert</b> (at Castletown Methodist Church)	TBC
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Friends of the Band Coffee Morning</b> (at Ballafesson Chapel Hall)	10.00am
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Ballakilpheric Open Air Anniversary Service</b> (at Ballakilpheric Chapel)	3.00pm
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Ballafesson Chapel Anniversary Concert</b> (at Ballafesson Chapel)	8.00pm

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

For more information about Rushen Silver Band or suggestions for the Sounds from the South newsletter, please contact the Band Secretary: Peter Faragher, 16 Close Cam, Port Erin, IM9 6NB. Tel: 493193.

Email: [enquiries@rushensilverband.org.im](mailto:enquiries@rushensilverband.org.im)

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