



Sounds from the South

Rushen Silver Band Newsletter
March 2020



Joint concert with Cameragyl Wind Symphony

The Band will be performing a joint concert with the Cameragyl Wind Symphony, who are based in Sydney, Australia.

The Wind Symphony comprises a group of approximately 50 enthusiastic woodwind, brass and percussion adult players.

Many of you may remember John and Sue Bowring from the Island, and it is their daughter Sarah (now Hobson) who has been the link in helping to organise the visit.

The concert will be taking place on Monday 20th April at 8pm at Rushen Primary School. Doors will open at 7.30pm, and admission is on the door, price £5 (under 18s £1).



**CAMERAYGAL
TOURING BAND
APRIL 2020**
Isle of Man Liverpool Manchester

Parish of Rushen Concert

The Band have again been invited to participate in the Parish of Rushen concert programme for 2020. Our first concert at St Catherine's Church in Port Erin on the evening of Thursday 12th March. Admission to the concert is free with refreshments afterwards in the Hall. A collection will be taken to be split between the Church and the Band.



Starter

Roasted Tomato & Sweet Pepper Soup
Kipper Pate
with Warm Sourdough Bread
Fanned Melon
with Minted Feta and Oranges



Main Course

Carvery
Mushroom & Stout Pie
with Potato Biscuits



Dessert

Raspberry Shortcake Crumble
with Custard
Whipped Vanilla Cheesecake
with Shortbread
Cheese & Biscuits

Rushen Silver Band Annual Dinner & Awards Evening

The Band's Annual Dinner & Awards Evening will take place this year on Saturday 28th March, 7.30pm for an 8.00pm start.

Similar to 2019, this year's dinner will be taking place at the Bradda Glen Restaurant. 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.

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.



Jay Young....

Our resident percussion player for many years, Jay Young, is moving on to other projects. We felt it was about time we grabbed him for a newsletter article, as a thank you for all he has done for the Band over many years. You will still see Jay at some of our concerts in the future though as he's agreed to step in if we're short...

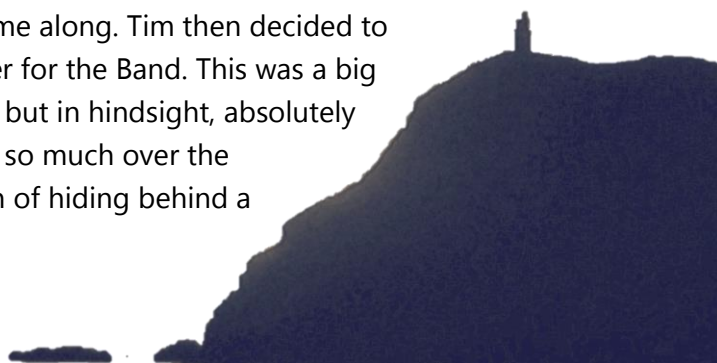


Q: What brought you into the world of music and brass bands in particular?

A: I am not sure what drew me towards playing the percussion, I just remember being in Year 7 at Castle Rushen High School and deciding that I fancied having a go. My parents told me that I had to attend the school orchestra for a year before getting my own drum kit. Whilst it was a difficult year going to all these rehearsals with very little musical knowledge, I learnt a lot along the way.

Q: Who did you learn from as you started to develop as a drummer?

A: During the first year of school I managed to sort out drum lessons with the our very own John Kinley. This helped me progress and make more sense of what I was seeing on the bits of paper in front of me. After a while John asked me to join Rushen Silver Band. This was whilst Tim Benson was still playing kit, so I had someone there helping me along. Tim then decided to move on to other things and I had to be the drummer for the Band. This was a big step up for me as I was still new to the playing music but in hindsight, absolutely the best thing that could have happened. I improved so much over the following years because I had to; there was no option of hiding behind a



better player or letting someone else do the tricky parts, I just had to play everything as best I could and learn from my mistakes.

Q: What do you enjoy about Band?

A: I've enjoyed the opportunities Band has given me. Had I not joined the Band, the chances are I wouldn't have made such a go at music. I've been able to meet great people, travel, play in incredible venues (the Lorient Stadium springs to mind!) and play the drums whilst doing it. It also gave me a foot in the door with playing musical theatre and now I do the majority of shows each year, which I'm really pleased about. The main thing I enjoy at actually being in the Band is the concerts. Music can have such an impact on people and bring people from all walks of life together and I'm glad to have been a small part of that.

Q: What are your earliest Band memories?

A: Some of my earliest memories are either playing at the Royal Hotel in Port Erin. I can remember one of the nights picking up the clash cymbals thinking I knew where I was in the music, looking up to check, missing the moment and just putting them down again. I was mortified at the time but as I've mentioned earlier, it was a good way to learn and I didn't do it again!

Q: Can you tell us a bit about what you do from a work perspective, or perhaps, other organisations you are involved with?

A: I attended the Bristol Institute of Modern Music and left with a degree in Professional Musicianship. I was incredibly lucky back then to have some world-famous musicians come and give us masterclasses each week. It was only a very small institution so these events only had 20 to 30 people attend but I got to see Karl Brazil (Feeder, Robbie Williams, James Blunt, Ed Sheeran), Ralph Salmins (Paul McCartney, Elton John, ABBA, Aretha Franklin) and alongside them our regular tutors were out there playing for the likes of Reef, The Prodigy, Cars on Fire, Bullet for my Valentine.

Studying here opened lots of doors for me and I was offered jobs to play in hotels and on cruise ships – this didn't happen unfortunately due to the commitment of other band members. Whilst it was difficult to accept this at the time, it all played out well. I went on to play in Maida Vale studio with the BBC Concert Band a number of times, but couldn't be a full-time member due to the time required to travel from Bristol to London each week.

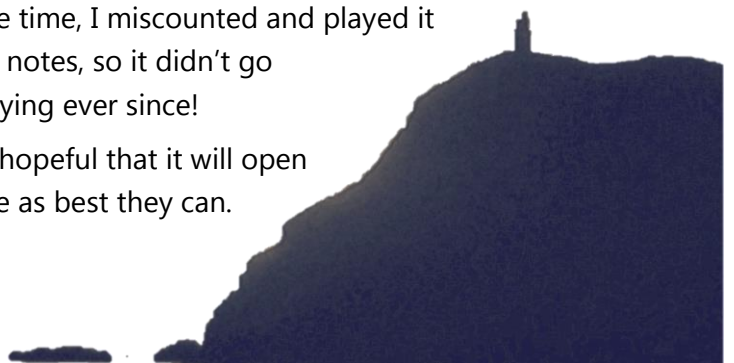
I am extremely lucky as I work for the Isle of Man Music Service as the only percussion teacher. I'm in my 6th year of the job and I am now a fully qualified teacher. It's a very rewarding role, especially when it comes to concerts and you hear you students playing to the best of their abilities and entertaining the audience.

Alongside this I am lucky to be asked to be part of the pit band for shows in the Gaiety Theatre. This year I have been involved with Les Miserables, Spamalot, Singin' In the Rain and The Addams Family. I've already been booked for Ghost and The School of Rock for 2020 which is a bonus for me.

Q: Any particular stories or anecdotes you would like to add?

A: I recall in my very early days in the Band, possibly my first ever guild competition, being tasked with playing the triangle – I can't remember the piece, possibly Shepherds Song, and having a very exposed note. Nerves got the better of me at the time, I miscounted and played it at the wrong time. It was written on the adjudicator's notes, so it didn't go unnoticed! I've been very careful with my triangle playing ever since!

It's a shame to be moving on from the Band, but I'm hopeful that it will open a door for another young player and drive them to be as best they can.



Dates for your diary...



Thursday 12 th March	Parish of Rushen Concert (at St Catherine's Church, Port Erin)	7.45pm
Saturday 14 th March	Friends of the Band Coffee Morning (at St Catherine's Church Hall, Port Erin)	10.00am
Saturday 28 th March	Annual Dinner & Awards Ceremony (at Bradda Glen Restaurant, Port Erin)	7.30pm for 8.00pm
Monday 20 th April	Joint Concert with Cameragyl Wind Symphony (at Rushen Primary School)	8.00pm
Sunday 10 th May	Prash Laxaa Brass Band Festival (in Laxey)	1.00pm
Thursday 21 st May	Andreas Benevolent Society (Parade & Service) (in Andreas)	7.30pm
Friday 29 th May	Mona's Queen III Anchor Memorial Service (at Kallow Point, Port St Mary)	7.30pm
Tuesday 23 rd June	Family Friendly Concert (at Rushen Primary School)	6.30pm
Saturday 27 th June	Friends of the Band Coffee Morning (at Ballafesson Chapel Hall)	10.30am

Details of concerts the Band and Ballafesson Brass have been asked to participate in from June 2020 onwards can be found on the website (www.rushensilverband.org.im/engagements).



Friends Coffee Morning

The Friends of Rushen Silver Band are holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday 14th March from 10am to 11.30am at St Catherine's Church Hall, Port Erin. Please come along we hope you can join us.



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

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