



Sounds from the South

Rushen Silver Band Newsletter

April 2021



2020 was a very different year!...

But the Band were still able to get out in between lockdowns



Band nominated for IOM Awards of Excellence

You'll be very pleased to know that the Band have been nominated and are a finalist in the Nurturing our Arts, Culture and Heritage section of the 2021 IOM Awards for Excellence. The results will be announced on Thursday 18th November at the Gala Night and we hope to be able to provide you some photos and an article in a future newsletter.



IOM Arts Council Summer Season

The Band have again been invited to participate in the IOM Arts Council summer season for 2021. Our first concert at the Villa Marina Arcade in Douglas is on the evening of Tuesday 1st June starting at 8.00pm. Admission to the concert is free, with a collection being taken for Band funds.

Rushen Silver Band Annual Dinner & Awards Evening

The Band's Annual Dinner & Awards Evening will take place this year on Saturday 15th May, 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. Similarly to the past couple of years, 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.

🎵 Menu 🎵

Starter:

Leek and Potato Soup / Paddy's Smoked Salmon / Crispy Fried Chicken

Main Course

Carvery / Vegetarian Option – Sweet Potato and Mushroom Cannelloni

Dessert:

Lemon Meringue Pie / Sticky Toffee Pudding / Fresh fruit, Manx cheeses and Bonnag

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.



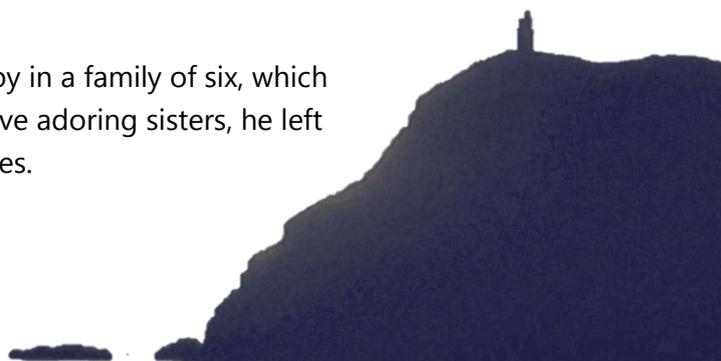
The Dave Smith Memorial Shield

Over the past few years, we have had a number of articles about the current Band members and a bit of background about each of them. As a change for 2021, we're going to look at each of the trophies that are awarded annually to members of the Band at the Annual Dinner that takes place at this time of year, and to start with we're going to look at the Dave Smith Memorial Shield.

The Dave Smith Memorial Shield has been awarded annually since 1991 (the year Dave sadly passed away) to an organisation, group or individual for services to Rushen Silver Band. Helen Smith, Dave Smith's daughter in law tells us more about the man behind the Shield.

There are still a good few people about who will know this, but for those who don't, Dave Smith was a retired Royal Marine Sergeant Bandmaster who devoted his entire life to music.

Born in Bristol, he was the only boy in a family of six, which may be why, despite being thoroughly spoilt by his five adoring sisters, he left home at the tender age of 14 to join the Royal Marines.



In due course this took him to the Isle of Man where he was stationed at the former Howstrake Holiday Camp which became, in July 1941, the Royal Naval School of Music with its boy musicians of the Royal Marine Bands. Here he met Mona, a Manx born WREN, who later became his wife and mother of his son Robin. Whilst there, he served alongside Jon Pertwee, later to become known for The Navy Lark and his portrayals of Doctor Who and Worzel Gummidge.

Dave's career then led him to the Royal Marine School of Music at Deal where he became a Sergeant Bandmaster. He was by then an accomplished musician and at one time had his own Swing Band in which he played the double bass. Whilst stationed at Deal he was posted to Singapore for a number of years, served on HMS Belfast and took part in what is known as the Yangtze Incident.

When in 1955 Mona was expecting, they wanted their baby to have British nationality so Dave was transferred back to the Fair Maid of Kent Hotel base in Deal so that the baby, Robin, could be born at Dover's Buckland Hospital.

As is often the case with service life, Mona wanted to return home to the Isle of Man with her family. Dave left the Marines and they took up residence in Onchan, where Robin's grandparents lived. Dave worked as an engineer at what was then Martin Bakers (also known as Ronaldsway Aircraft Company), and he soon became involved with Onchan Silver Band where ultimately, he became Bandmaster. Robin had also inherited his father's love of music so joined the band and learned to play the cornet.

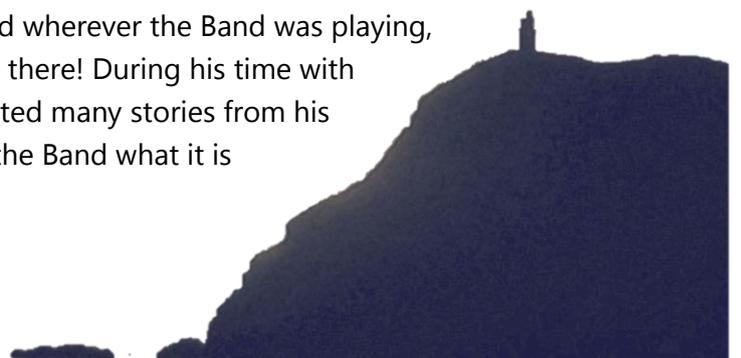
Dave played with Rushen Silver Band for over 10 years and during that time became Assistant Bandmaster at Rushen Silver Band before moving on to become Bandmaster at Crosby Band in the late 1980s. His second wife Betty was a staunch supporter of the Band and active member of the Friends of Rushen Silver Band for many years.

For those who were in the Band at the time, I think many people's memories will be watching and listening to Dave conduct on piece in particular, "Victoria Cross", something that he really enjoyed doing, as well as passing his wealth of knowledge onto the Band.



Band Secretary, Peter Faragher, reflects on his time playing bass alongside Dave. "At Bradda Glen Café, to finish before the interval, the Band played 'America Patrol' where Band members walked off at different points in the piece and eventually leaving just one bass player to play until the end. I regularly was the last bass player left whilst the other Band members headed to the bar. I distinctly remember that night back in 1982 where Dave turned around to me and said "Don't worry, I'll stay to the end tonight". Great! I thought, I'll have a chance to leave the stage early tonight... but blow me, we got about 16 bars in and Dave puts his instrument down, walks off and heads to the bar to get a drink in, the first person to leave the stage! The irony of it was that Dave was tee-total so all he had even though he was first to the bar, was just a lemonade or orange juice, and nothing more than that!!

In the end though, and needless to say, whenever and wherever the Band was playing, in rain or shine, Dave could always be relied on to be there! During his time with the Band, Dave passed on his knowledge and recounted many stories from his experiences, and certainly played his part in making the Band what it is today."



Dates for your diary...



Saturday 15 th May	Annual Band Dinner and Awards Ceremony (at Bradda Glen Restaurant, Port Erin)	7.45pm
Saturday 29 th May	Mona's Queen Anchor Memorial Service (at Kallow Point, Port St Mary)	4.00pm
Tuesday 1 st June	IOM Arts Council Summer Season Concert (at Villa Marina Arcade, Douglas)	8.00pm
Sunday 20 th June	Open Air Service (at Ballakilpheric Chapel)	3.00pm
Saturday 26 th June	Afternoon Concert (at Band Stand, PE beach at Bay Hotel)	3.00pm
Tuesday 1 st July	Ballafesson Brass (at St Catherine's Church, Port Erin)	7.45pm
Saturday 3 rd July	Friends of the Band Coffee Morning (at Ballafesson Methodist Church Hall)	10.00am
Saturday 17 th July	Port Erin Brass Band Festival (around the village of Port Erin)	Afternoon
Tuesday 3 rd August	IOM Arts Council Summer Season Concert (at Villa Marina Arcade, Douglas)	8.00pm
Sunday 22 nd August	IOM Arts Council Summer Season Concert (at Villa Marina Arcade, Douglas)	8.00pm

All events are subject to change. Details of other planned events for the Band and Ballafesson Brass are included in a separate flyer, and further information on other dates can be found on the Band website: www.rushensilverband.org.im/engagements



Friends of the Band Coffee Morning

The Friends of Rushen Silver Band are holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday 3rd July from 10am to 11.30am at Ballafesson Methodist Church Hall. 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, contact the Band Secretary: Peter Faragher, 16 Close Cam, Port Erin, IM9 6NB. Tel: 493193. Email: enquiries@rushensilverband.org.im

please

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