



Sounds from the South

Rushen Silver Band Newsletter

July 2024



Prash Laxaa Festival 2024

On Sunday 5th May, the Band were pleased to be part of the Great Laxey Brass Band Festival or Prash Laxaa for 2024 which again, took place around a number of locations in the village of Laxey.

An inclement weather forecast was given for the day, and the Band's first short concert was held inside at the Laxey Glen Gardens Pavilion due to a little drizzle. However, it didn't take long to brighten up and was even quite warm by the time the events finale took place.



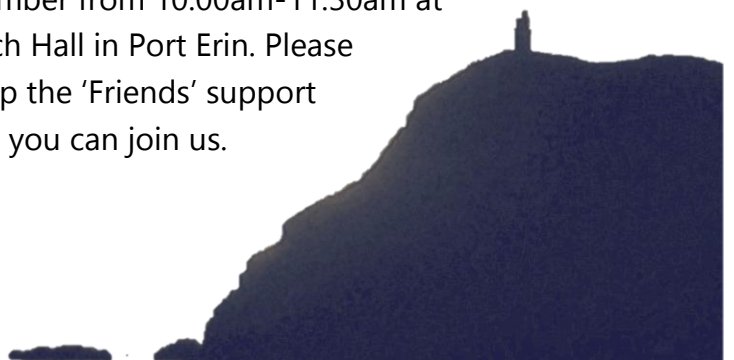
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Thanks to our Musical Director, John Kinley, for keeping us all in line on the day, and to Band Chairman Chris Weldon for organising all the logistics on the day.

Friends Coffee Morning

The Friends of Rushen Silver Band are holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday 14th September from 10.00am-11.30am at St Catherine's Church Hall in Port Erin. Please come along and help the 'Friends' support the Band – we hope you can join us.



Events in Port Erin during June

The Band were delighted to have again secured a slot for the Bandstand on Port Erin beach during the very busy TT week period. The Band provided an early evening concert on Monday 5th June, which was Port Erin Day during TT week. A really appreciative audience enjoyed a successful concert, and we look forward to the next bandstand concert over the late August Bank Holiday weekend.



The Band also participated in the Port Erin Brass Festival during the middle of the month. Similar to the format of the Laxey Festival, and along with three of the other local bands, each band provided a short programme of music to a good audience in the ground of St Catherine's Church in Port Erin. The event also finished with a massed band made up of players from the four bands and with the weather holding through the afternoon.

It was another successful event run by the Rotary Club of Rushen and Western Mann and supported by Santander International.

Mona's Queen III Memorial Service

The Mona's Queen III Memorial Service took place on the evening of Wednesday 29th May at Kallow Point, Port St Mary.

The Mona's Queen was one of the first vessels to make a successful round trip during the Dunkirk evacuation in 1940 but just two days later on the 29th May, the ship struck a magnetic sea mine outside Dunkirk harbour early in the morning, and sank in two minutes with the loss of 24 of the crew.

The service held each year on the same date is held in memory of those that lost their lives.

Unfortunately this year the weather was pretty awful but the Band played on in the wind and rain in what ended up being a shortened service for the benefit of all present.

Following the silence of remembrance, the Reveille was performed by steam powered ship's whistles!





Joint Concert with Ballafesson Brass

The senior Band will be performing a joint concert with the training Band, Ballafesson Brass, on the afternoon of Saturday 13th July. The concert due to start at 4pm will be taking place in the Main Sports Hall at Rushen Primary School. As in previous years, the concert will not only include the two bands playing separately, but will culminate with pieces played by both bands together, with around 50 players providing the music.

It is free admission to the concert with donations to Band funds, and there will also be refreshments available and of course a raffle too. We hope to see you there at what will be a memorable concert.

75th Anniversary Concert

The Band are pleased to announce that to celebrate the 75th anniversary of their change of name to Rushen Silver Band, the senior Band with guests Manx Concert Brass will be putting on a special concert to commemorate this special year. The concert will take place on Saturday 19th October at the Royal Hall, Villa Marina, Douglas, with a start time of 7.30pm.

In addition, renowned tenor horn player Sheona Wade will be the guest soloist and something we are all looking forward to.

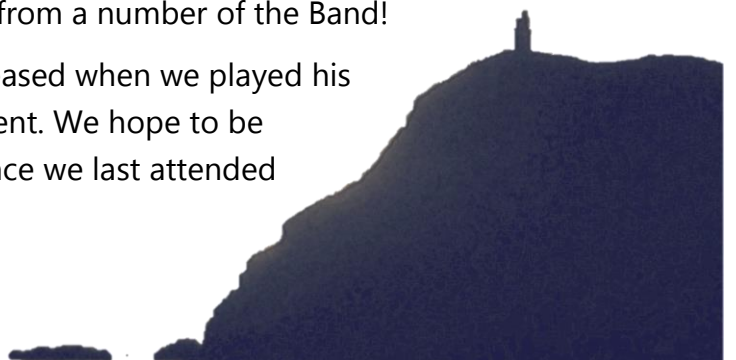
Tickets are now on sale priced at £15 for adults (£5 under 18s) and available from the Villa Gaiety Box Office on telephone 600555, at www.villagaiety.com, or from the Welcome Centre at the Sea Terminal in Douglas.



Tynwald Garden Party

The Band had the honour of providing the musical accompaniment to this year's Tynwald Garden Party at Government House on the last day of June. The weather played ball in terms of being dry and sunny, but the wind made for some lightning quick stand and music saving moves from a number of the Band!

His Excellency shared that he was particularly pleased when we played his former Regimental March, The Parachute Regiment. We hope to be invited back again as it has been eleven years since we last attended this annual event.



Manx Music, Speech and Dance Festival – April 2024



It took nearly 50 years for the Band to win the Entertainment Class at the Festival, but just like buses, you wait for one and then two turn up almost at once! Following a successful Festival for all the Band members who participated in the solo classes on the Saturday, the band classes took place on the Sunday evening of the event schedule. Four of the Island's brass bands took to the stage in the Royal Hall at the Villa Marina, Douglas. RSB played extremely well, and were pleased to receive a score of 90 (Distinction) for the march ("Sons Of The Brave" composed by Alan Fernie) for 2nd place, and also 2nd place with a score of 90 (Distinction) for the hymn

("Eventide" arr. John Kinley). The Band's concert programme consisted of "Prismatic Light", "Rainforest" from Windows of the World, "Blaydon Races" (solo played by Principal Euphonium Martin Norbury), "Hunt The Wren" and finished with "American Trilogy". The Band were delighted to receive a mark of 91 (Outstanding) for their performance, and for the second time in the Band's history, won the Entertainment Class. In addition, Martin also won the best soloist in the class trophy which followed on from percussionist Ellie Matthews winning it last year.

The Band would like to thank compere for the night, Mike Kewley, who skilfully guided the Band's programme, and a big thank you to our Musical Director John Kinley for all his hard work and patience. We hope some of you were there on the night to hear the band play and also enjoy with us again receiving first prize in the Entertainment Class.



Dates for your diary...

Saturday 13 th July	Joint Concert with Ballafesson Brass (at Rushen Primary School)	4.00pm
Saturday 3 rd August	150 years of Douglas to PE railway line (at Port Erin Railway Station)	10.30am
Sunday 25 th August	Afternoon Concert (on Bandstand, Port Erin beach)	3.00pm
Saturday 14 th September	Friends of the Band Coffee Morning (at St Catherine's Church Hall, Port Erin)	10.00am
Thursday 19 st September	Parish of Rushen Concert (at Erin Arts Centre, Port Erin)	7.30pm
Saturday 19 th October	75th Anniversary Concert (at Royal Hall, Villa Marina, Douglas)	7.30pm

All events are subject to change. Details of other planned events for the Band and Ballafesson Brass can be found on the Band website:

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 via enquiries@rushensilverband.org.im

