



# Sounds from the South

Rushen Silver Band Newsletter  
December 2024

## Band Christmas Concerts

The Band will once again be holding their greatly anticipated Christmas Concerts at the Erin Arts Centre with two concerts on the same day on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November. The start time for the concerts will be 3pm and 7.30pm. Full of popular festive tunes and singalong carols, the event is guaranteed entertainment for all the family.

Tickets are still available for both concerts, priced at £12 and £3 for under 18s and available from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/erinartscentre/](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/erinartscentre/) or via the EAC box office. Bring your Christmas jumper and hat!

**Rushen Silver Band**  
**Christmas Concert**

at Erin Arts Centre  
Port Erin

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November**  
**3.00pm & 7.30pm**

For tickets, please contact the Erin Arts Centre on 835858 or [info@erinartscentre.com](mailto:info@erinartscentre.com)  
Manx Registered Charity 274

**Tickets £12**  
(under 18 £3)  
[www.rushensilverband.org.im](http://www.rushensilverband.org.im)

Rushen Silver Band  
**Christmas Carol Train**

**Saturday 7 December**  
Departing Port Erin Railway Station at 12.30pm  
Returns 2:15pm

With carols and festive music from the band on the trip!  
Tea, coffee and mince pies served on arrival back in Port Erin

**Tickets**  
£15 adults  
£5 children (18 & under)  
or an 8 person compartment for £100  
To book call Graeme Easton 435056 or email [gme@manx.net](mailto:gme@manx.net)

Patronised by Rushen Silver Band [www.rushensilverband.org.im](http://www.rushensilverband.org.im) Charity number: 274

## Carol Train

Tickets for this year's Carol Train are now on sale but are going very quickly. Taking place on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December, the train will be leaving at 12.30pm, returning at around 2.15pm after stops at Port St Mary, Colby and Castletown. The Band will also provide festive music both before and after the train journey at the Railway Station in Port Erin. Be quick though, it won't be long before they are all sold!!



## 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert

The Band hosted a concert in October at the Villa Marina to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of changing their name to Rushen Silver Band.



Attended by a good audience in the Royal Hall, the evening saw a wide variety of music with performances from both the Band and Manx Concert Brass, culminating with the bands joining together to close out the show.

As part of the evening's entertainment, international tenor horn soloist Sheona White performed beautiful solos with each band. Sheona also provided a free workshop, earlier in the day, for any brass players on the Island to attend. The Band's Musical Director, John Kinley said:

*"It was such a pleasure to work with such an experienced soloist, and her wonderful playing was a great demonstration to younger players of what they can achieve with practice, using many of Sheona's methods she taught at the workshop she presented."*

Since 1949, when the Band changed from Surby Silver Band to Rushen Silver Band, the Band has grown in size and developed musically. We now have the successful training band, Ballafesson Brass, with about 30 players, in addition to the 35 playing regularly in the senior Band.

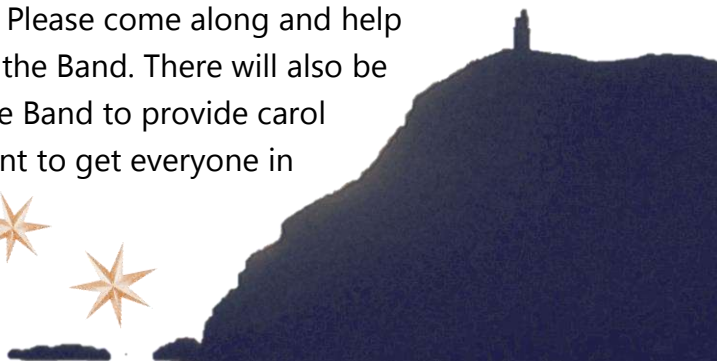


Band Chairman, Chris Weldon, added: *"The weekend was a fantastic way to celebrate the Band's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with everyone able to learn something and a great musical concert too. We look forward to working with Sheona again in the future, and are hugely grateful for the support we received which allowed the weekend to happen."*



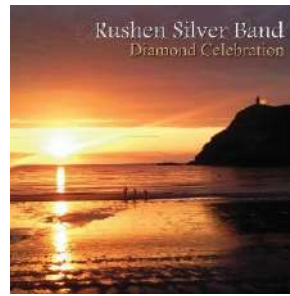
## Friends Coffee Morning

The Friends of the Band will be holding a Christmas Coffee Morning on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December at St Catherine's Church Hall in Port Erin from 10.00am to 11.30am. Please come along and help the 'Friends' support the Band. There will also be an ensemble from the Band to provide carol music during the event to get everyone in the festive spirit.



## Band CDs

The Band's three CDs are all still available if anybody would like one, and they are especially easy to wrap as Christmas presents too!! Diamond Celebration (released in 2009),



Sounds of the South (released in 2013), and our Christmas CD (released in 2019) are all still available from the Band. Priced at £10 each or £15 for two, they are an excellent and worthy addition to any music collection. Please contact the Secretary if looking to purchase any of them.

## A Year of Celebrations – 75 years and still going strong...

The Band have had numerous concerts over the past few months to celebrate reaching this special year. Following on from our bandstand concert on Port Erin beach in TT Week, and the Port Erin Brass Band Festival in the middle of June, the Band were delighted to be invited to play at this year's Tynwald Garden Party at Government House. This was followed in the middle of July with the senior Band performing a joint concert in conjunction with the training Band, Ballafesson Brass. With both Bands performed individually to start with and the concert culminated with all 50 players performing a number of items as one band, a real treat for an appreciative audience.

At the start of August, the Band provided music at Port Erin Railway Station to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Douglas to Port Erin line. In mid-August, the Band had a trip to Scotland to perform a set as part of the celebration concert held in memory of Richard Evans. It was lovely to be invited to join the concert in memory of Richard, who was the Band's musical advisor for many years. The concert was organised by NYBBS, the National Youth Brass Band of Scotland. The four day Scotland trip also included a concert on a bandstand in Edinburgh, time for a bit of shopping in the capital, a couple of practices, and a good time socialising. It was an enjoyable time for all who went, and it is hoped something similar can take place again sometime soon.

In September the Band were pleased to be invited to provide a programme of music for the final Parish of Rushen concert at St Catherine's Church. A good audience heard the Band provide a varied programme and we're looking forward to provide similar concerts in 2025.

To close the year, the weather held for the Band to lead the Remembrance Sunday parade. Now the carol books have been dusted off, the Band have been spending the past few weeks getting ready for the busy festive season. We hope we might see many of the Band's supporters at the events we are attending during December as shown on the enclosed schedule.



## Dates for your 2025 diary...



Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Manx Family Concerts</b> (at PSM Town Hall)	1pm and 3pm
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Joint Concert with Ballafesson Brass</b> (at Peel Cathedral)	7.30pm
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>175th Anniversary Church Service</b> (at Ballakilpheric Chapel)	3.00pm
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>Cliff Top Concert</b> (at Groudle Glen Railway Cafe)	1.00pm

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](http://www.rushensilverband.org.im/engagements)



Thank you to Phil Woodford for the fabulous Christmas cartoon 😊

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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