



# Sounds from the South

Newsletter of Rushen Silver Band

January 2011



**Happy New Year  
from Rushen Silver Band**



## **Wintry weather adds drama to December for the Band**

Due to the wintry weather the Island has experienced this December, the usual schedule for the Band didn't always go ahead as planned. Two formal engagements and numerous dates for carolling around the streets had to be cancelled. However even with the weather disruptions, thanks to the hard work from all the players and especially the collectors braving the conditions, the Band managed to raise over £2,600!

## **Successful Christmas Fayre for the Friends of the Band**

Despite the inclement weather, there was a good turn for the Friends of the Band Christmas Fayre on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December. With entertainment from the full Band and Ballafesson Brass, and a wide range of festive stalls, the Friends were able to raise a fantastic £854. Thanks to everyone who was involved in making this event possible.

## **New Year, New Focus, New Challenges**

Now the carol books have been put away until next December, the Band are already making strides into 2011. The Bandroom has been given a new lick of paint inside and a good tidy-up; the Guild and the concert with Leyland Band have been highlighted in the diary; and practice of the new music has already started. No time to rest, the New Year has lots in store for Rushen Silver Band.



## **'10 Minutes with the Conductor'**

### **Interview with John Kinley**

Highlights taken from article in National Association of Brass Band Conductors magazine

#### **What brought you into the world of brass bands?**

**JK:** I became involved with banding through a friend of mine at primary school. He'd already started learning with Onchan Silver Band and said it was fun so I decided to join the band and learn an instrument myself.

#### **From initially playing the cornet, you then worked your way down to the euphonium, what prompted you to give that up and take on the percussion section?**

**JK:** To be honest, I'd always wanted to play percussion from an early age and apparently I drove my family mad with a tin drum my godmother gave me when I was about 4! When I joined Onchan, I mentioned playing drums to my friend who said 'start on brass - maybe they'll move you to percussion later' so I joined anyway ever hopeful of a move!

#### **From being a percussion player how did you become involved as a conductor, was it something that you always intended to happen at some stage?**

**JK:** I hadn't really ever thought about it but I suppose I started to develop my conducting skills through being principal percussionist in various orchestras and running sectional rehearsals. One day, one of my fellow percussionists (who happened to be an excellent conductor) suggested to me that I ought to branch out from percussion and audition to take one of the university ensembles, which I subsequently did.

#### **Can you still remember that feeling you had the very first time you stood in front of a band - how did the band react to you as the 'new man in the middle'?**

**JK:** Yes - I remember feeling extremely nervous as the university band had some great players amongst their ranks. However, I just decided to just 'get on with it' and give it my best shot. Fortunately, the band members were so encouraging and they enjoyed my rehearsals so we had a great time together and put on some super concerts.

#### **Who are the conductors who inspire you?**

**JK:** I was really lucky to play under two inspirational conductors, Alan Pickard and Steve Wortley, when I was still at school who both instilled in me a passion for music that is still with me today. Within the banding world, Richard Evans has really been my mentor from when I first met him in about 1992. Richard has a superb understanding of all genres of music and there is no one better in my opinion at getting a band to play in the right 'style' for the music they are tackling. He also knows exactly how bands 'tick' and knows just what to do or say to bring out a superb performance from his players whatever their ability.

#### **and finally - what is your favourite piece of music to conduct?**

**JK:** My favourite test piece is 'Year of the Dragon' by Philip Sparke. I also love 'Elsa's Procession to the Cathedral' which I conducted at my wedding (!) just before my wife-to-be walked up the aisle. Apparently the best man and I nearly gave the verger heart failure, as he didn't know that we would both disappear to perform with the band. He thought we'd done a runner....



Joint Concert  
with



# Leyland Band

Saturday 14 May 2011

8pm

Gaiety Theatre, Douglas

This concert will feature individual performances by Leyland Band and Rushen Silver Band, culminating in a massed band performance.

The Leyland Band was established in 1946 in the heart of industrial Lancashire as the Leyland Motors Band, taking its name from the world famous truck and bus company.

Now an independent group of some thirty musicians, the Band has retained its local connection and now proudly bears the name of its home town.

Leyland Band has a wonderful reputation both on the concert and contesting stage, and are regular fixtures at all the major Championship Section contests.

**Tickets - Stalls £12.50 (£10) / Dress Circle £16 (£12.50) (concessions)**

Tickets available through Villa-Gaiety Box Office  
Telephone 600555 or online at [www.villagaiety.com](http://www.villagaiety.com)  
and from the IOM Welcome Centre, Sea Terminal, Douglas

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## Rushen Silver Band doing their bit for the Environment (and saving a few pennies too!)



The Sounds of the South newsletter is now available via email rather than the usual printed version. To save on paper, printing and postage, if you would be happy to receive your copy of the newsletter direct by email, please send an email to the Band Secretary ([secretary@rushensilverband.org.im](mailto:secretary@rushensilverband.org.im)).

Those willing to receive Sounds of the South by email will have their names entered into a draw to receive a Rushen Silver Band goody bag. The winner will be announced in the next issue.

## Dates for your Diary



Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>RSB Annual Band Dinner</b> at Falcon's Nest Hotel, Port Erin	7.00pm
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Peel Pensioners Concert</b> at the Philip Christian Centre, Peel	7.45pm
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Friends of the Band Coffee Morning</b> at St Catherine's Church Hall, Port Erin	10.00am
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Pre-Guild Concert</b> Venue to be arranged	TBA
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> & Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	<b>Manx Music Festival Brass Weekend</b> (The Guild) at the Villa Marina (Brass Band Competition is on Sunday evening)	All day
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Gala Concert with Leyland Band</b> at the Gaiety Theatre	8pm

## Becoming a Friend of Rushen Silver Band

Rushen Silver Band is supported by the excellent work of the Friends of the Band. They help raise funds to keep the Band going - for example, providing the Band with a new van to transport instruments and equipment to and from engagements.

The Friends organise a variety of events, including the Summer Fayre, Christmas Concert, and numerous coffee mornings. They also attend most engagements and sell Band-related merchandise.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Friends of the Band, please complete your details on the enclosed flyer and return it to the Band Secretary.



For more information about Rushen Silver Band  
or suggestions for the Sounds from the South newsletter,  
please contact the Band Secretary - Peter Faragher, 28 Pairk Beg, Port Erin, IM9 6NQ.  
Tel 832644/493193. Email [secretary@rushensilverband.org.im](mailto:secretary@rushensilverband.org.im)