



# Sounds from the South

Rushen Silver Band Newsletter  
August 2020



**We're back!!...**



After the experiences of three months of inactivity due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Band returned with their first post lockdown public performance on the Deep Blue South Festival band stand on Port Erin beach on the afternoon of Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July. With 26 of us on the stage, it was great to be back playing music to the public again, and to what was a really good audience. Not only was it a good day weather wise, the Friends of the Band also managed to collect £245 for Band funds which was really appreciated. With the event being such a success, a second gig was booked in for the afternoon of Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August, and we again played to a good audience with similar fine weather. Thanks to all who turned out, both Band and public.



Obviously, much as we are delighted that the Band are able to return to playing again, we appreciate the impact COVID-19 has had on our Island, especially in the South. The Band would like to pass on its thanks to all involved in helping the Island manage through these difficult times.





## .... But the music didn't stop!

During the lockdown, the music continued via the Band's Facebook page with 'virtual concerts' and a slow melody challenge.

The virtual concerts showed compilations of some of the Band's 'best bits' from recent years, ensuring that the Band wasn't missed even though it could not meet together in person. The slow melody challenge saw Band members uploading videos of their efforts, sharing the music.

Thank you to Tom Sinden and all others involved with ensuring the music continued even though the Band could not meet in person. It was a great way of keeping people connected and encouraging people to play.

## Friends Coffee Morning

The Friends of Rushen Silver Band are holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September from 10am to 11.30am at St Catherine's Church Hall, Port Erin. Please come along, we hope you can join us.

## Rushen Silver Band Annual Dinner & Awards Evening

The Band's Annual Dinner & Awards Evening has been re-booked this year for Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September, 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. As was planned originally for earlier in the year, 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](mailto: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.



### Starter

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



### Main Course

Carvery  
Mushroom and Stout Pie with Potato Biscuits



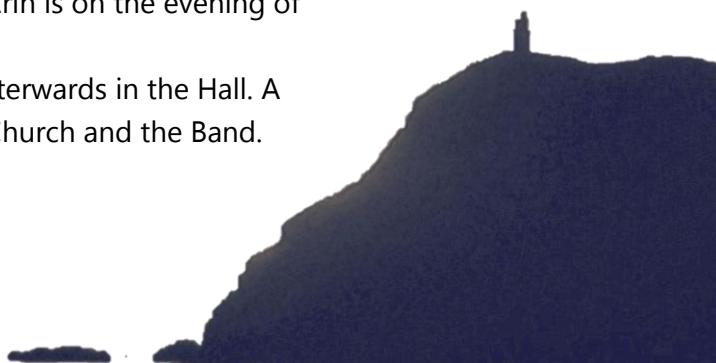
### Dessert

Raspberry Shortcake Crumble with Custard Lemon  
Whipped Vanilla Cheesecake with Shortbread  
Cheese and Biscuits

## Parish of Rushen Concert

The Band have again been invited to participate in the Parish of Rushen concert programme for 2020. Our second concert at St Catherine's Church in Port Erin is on the evening of Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September starting at 7.45pm.

Admission to the concert is free with refreshments afterwards in the Hall. A collection will also be taken to be split between the Church and the Band.





## Massed Bands Concert to raise money for the Friends of Noble’s Hospital

Brass bands from across the Isle of Man are joining together for what promises to be a spectacular evening of brass music at the Villa Marina on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August, supported by Zurich International.

Members of Castletown Metropolitan Silver, Douglas Town, Manx Concert Brass, Manx Youth, Onchan Silver, Rushen Silver and Ramsey Town Bands will combine to create a band of in the region of 100 – 120 players, presenting a programme of a wide range of music from all genres, with conductors from across the Bands taking the baton.

The event’s organiser, Chris Weldon (Chairman of Rushen Silver Band) explains:

*“The lockdown period was hard for everyone – it restricted everything we all do – so this is a great chance for the community to come together, play and hear some live music and celebrate the success we have had over COVID19. Music is a way make people feel good and this concert gives us a chance to all share the experience together. It is a chance to say thank you to our health service staff and raise some money for a well-known and respected local charity, the Friends of Noble’s Hospital in recognition of the work of the Island’s health services. I would like to thank all the bands for their support and thank Zurich International for invaluable help too.”*

Tickets for the concert, which starts at 7.30pm, are £10 (£1 for 18 and under), and are on sale now through the Villa Gaiety Box Office telephone 600555, online at [www.villagaiety.com](http://www.villagaiety.com) and from the IOM Welcome Centre, Sea Terminal, Douglas.

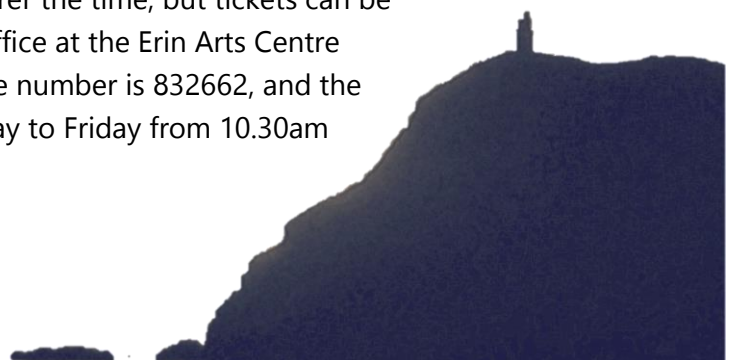
## Fundraising Concert for MCH



# MCH

Strength through Support

In association with Simcocks, a well-known IOM law firm, the Band is holding a concert on the evening of Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September. The concert which will be held at the Erin Arts Centre in Port Erin, is being held to raise funds for MCH (Manx Cancer Help), and will commence at 7.30pm. Further details will be available in the press nearer the time, but tickets can be obtained from the Box Office at the Erin Arts Centre shortly, contact telephone number is 832662, and the Box Office is open Monday to Friday from 10.30am to 4.30pm.



## Lockdown and the challenge of a xylophone duet....

*Ellie Matthews and Ian Bell recently rose to prominence via an article on the Culture Vannin Facebook page during lockdown about their efforts at a xylophone duet. From that, we decided to find out a bit more about their backgrounds.*

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

**Ellie:** When I was 15 years old, all my family were out on Monday nights, including my Dad and sister who were already in the Band at the time. Once John Kinley found out I was sitting around with nothing to do (except watching multiple episodes of Father Ted), he invited me to play percussion.

**Ian:** My older brother and sister were already in the Band by the time I joined so I obviously decided to fall in line and do my duty. I started on the cornet and still play the cornet.

### Who do you believe you got your musical talents from?

**Ellie:** Talent is a generous word. Thank you. Most of my family are involved in music in some way or other. My sister, Hazel, who played Cornet in the Band is far more musically talented than I am. However, if you ask where I got the ability to hit things in time from – Jill Collings certainly helped me as she taught me the piano from an early age.

**Ian:** My mum played the violin and sang with the Youth Choir so I guess I may have got some inspiration there. I also sang and played piano before joining the Band and all my siblings have played in brass bands.



### What do you enjoy about Band?

**Ellie:** I absolutely love the music and the challenge of learning something new. There are so many different percussion instruments to learn and it's so much fun being introduced to a new one. This year saw me play the drum kit in a concert for the very first time. I never had the opportunity to do this before because the Band had very good drummers previously. Now I have a drum kit at home so be prepared for more Ellie on drums! I also can't fail to mention how nice the people are of course. The diversity of the characters makes the group more interesting and fun to be part of. I like the fact that everyone is welcome and there is no room for musical snobbery.

**Ian:** The best thing about the Band is what it does for the community. I enjoy being out and about providing entertainment and raising money for people in need across the south of the Island. Carolling at Christmas is fun because of the atmosphere and the generosity of the people.

### Do you have any particular favourite types of music?

**Ellie:** I particularly enjoy the pieces we play for the Richard Evans weekends simply because they are challenging. Away from the world of brass bands I enjoy listening to all sorts; rap, country, pop – anything! I'm a bit obsessed with a folk/pop band from the Highlands of Scotland called Tide Lines. In fact, they were playing in



Lorient at the same time as Rushen in 2017. Hazel and I recently featured in one of their music videos (for about 3 seconds!).

**Ian:** Anything with a good tune, even if I can't play it!

### **What are your earliest Band memories?**

**Ian:** My earliest Band memory is sitting at the Royal Hotel watching my brother and sister play. The guest performances were 'Renditions of Kathleen Faragher' and Jack and Peggy playing the saw. Because there was a bar at the hotel, many Band members had pints which they were drinking between pieces. How times have changed!

**Ellie:** I do remember meeting Richard Evans for the first time a fair while ago. His first words to me were: 'I like you' (in a strong Lancashire accent). I also remember one of my first concerts being with Meadowside Choral Society at Christmas. One of the ladies in the choir told me they liked watching me run around at the back of the Band. I was probably trying to play three parts at once.

### **How did you cope in lockdown without Band?**

**Ellie:** During the weeks of lockdown, Ian and I learnt a xylophone duet. He bought me an Adams Soloist Xylophone for my birthday – I understand that may sound like a strange present. However, we've had a lot of fun learning and we can nearly go at the same speed as HM Royal Marines without too many mistakes after two weeks' practice.

**Ian:** Can I join percussion now?

## **Prash Laxaa**

The Band are pleased to be taking part in the 2020 Prash Laxaa which will be held on the revised date of Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August as the original date in early May was during the lockdown period.

For the event, there will be six sessions at 30minute intervals starting at 1pm. Each of the bands will perform three

times on the day, and there will be a final session from 4pm in the Village Square where all the bands will combine for a massed bands finish.

Just so you know, RSB are due to perform at the Miner's statue (opposite Mines Road) at 1pm, at Laxey Garden Pavilion at 2pm, and at the Mines Tavern at 3pm. In the event of poor weather on the day, alternative venues have been identified, and we'll endeavour to get this information circulated before the day itself if required.

We hope to see many of our supporters at this event which we hope will be just as successful as last year.



The poster for the Prash Laxaa! festival features a central illustration of a large industrial building with a prominent dome and a tall chimney, with a fish swimming below it. The text on the poster includes: 'Garff Commissioners Proudly Present!', 'Prash Laxaa!', 'The Great Laxey BRASS BAND FESTIVAL', and 'Laxey Village Sunday August 30<sup>th</sup>'. The background is dark blue with yellow text and a yellow border.



## Dates for your diary...



Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>Massed Bands Concert</b> (at Villa Marina, Douglas)	7.30pm
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>Prash Laxaa event</b> (around Laxey village)	1.00pm
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Friends of the Band Coffee Morning</b> (at St Catherine's Church Hall, Port Erin)	10.00am
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Annual Dinner &amp; Awards Ceremony</b> (at Bradda Glen Restaurant, Port Erin)	7.00pm for 7.30pm
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Fundraising Concert for MCH</b> (at Erin Arts Centre, Port Erin)	7.30pm
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Parish of Rushen Concert</b> (at St Catherine's Church, Port Erin)	7.45pm
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>Concert with Ballafesson Brass</b> (at Rushen Primary School)	TBC
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	<b>Ballafesson Brass at Colby RBL Poppy Concert</b> (at Colby Football Clubhouse)	7.30pm
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Band Christmas Concert</b> (at Erin Arts Centre, Port Erin)	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](http://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: 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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