



# Sounds from the South



Rushen Silver Band Newsletter

May 2023

## Manx Music, Speech and Dance Festival – April 2023

The 2023 "Guild" will be one that will live long in the memory of all the players who were part of the senior band at this year's Festival.

To begin with though, the Festival started on the Saturday morning with a number of the Band taking part in the solo classes. Lucas Roome, a member of Ballafesson Brass, got things going in the Promenade Suite and received a mark of 83 (Merit) for his performance in the Brass Solo (Up to Year 6) Class. Following him in the same class was Aelan Morgans, also a Ballafesson Brass player, who received a mark of 87 (Distinction) and received the 1<sup>st</sup> prize. Congratulations to Aelan for a great performance. RSB are very proud to see younger members success.



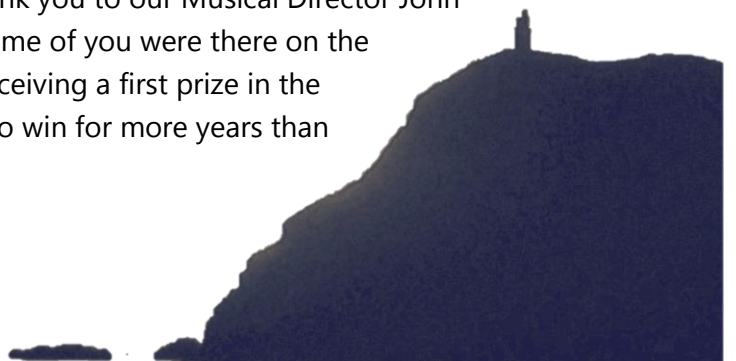
Following on from this, Kyla Williams performed in the Brass Solo (Years 11 to 13) and received a praiseworthy mark of 84 (Commended) and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in her class. In the Brass Solo (Adult), Ashley Cole received a mark of 91 (Outstanding) whilst Jonathan King was awarded 86 (Commended) for his performance. Congratulations to all our soloists for taking part and for the high standard of their performances.



On the Sunday night of the Festival week, six 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 87 (Distinction) for our march ("Richard Evans", composed by Alan Fernie) and joint 2<sup>nd</sup> place with a score of 89 (Distinction) for our hymn ("Stella" arr. Alan Fernie). The Band's concert programme consisted of Fanfare For A New Age, Stardust (solo by Principal Trombone player James Kinley), Crazy Little Thing Called Love, On the Track (Xylophone solo by Percussionist Ellie Matthews), and finished with "Going Home".

The Band were delighted to receive a mark of 91 (Outstanding) for their performance, and for the first time in the Band's history, won the Entertainment Class with what adjudicator Kathryn Page described as "a really high level performance".

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 receiving a first prize in the Entertainment Class that the Band have been trying to win for more years than most of us care to remember.





## Band Wedding No.1 for 2023

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2023 was a day to remember for all those closely associated with the Band, but especially for two of our players. Ashley Cole (Principal Cornet) and Naomi Longhurst (Percussion) who tied the knot at Castletown Methodist Church. The Band were delighted to be part of the service on their happy day, and would like to wish Mr and Mrs Cole every happiness for the future.

## Band Wedding No.2 for 2023

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023 was also a date to never forget for Chloe Irving, another member of the Band Percussion Section. Taking place in Paphos, Cyprus, Chloe and Catharine Potter tied the knot with family and friends in attendance. Chloe and Catharine celebrated the big event with their extended family and friends at an event on the Island in May too. Congratulations to you both, and maybe we'll see Catharine helping out as part of the Percussion section in the future too!!



## Mona's Queen III Memorial Service

The Mona's Queen III Memorial Service will this year take place on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm 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 29<sup>th</sup> May, the ship struck a magnetic sea mine outside Dunkirk harbour early in the morning, and sank in two minutes with the loss of twenty four of the crew.

The service held each year on the same date is held in memory of those that lost their lives, and we're hoping with the early afternoon start that the weather will be kind to us all whilst this is taking place.



*The TSS Mona's Queen III  
Anchor Memorial Service*

*Will be held at  
Kallow Point, Port St Mary,  
on  
Monday 29th May 2023  
At 2pm*

*All are Welcome to Attend*



## Prash Laxaa Festival 2023

On Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April, the Band were pleased to once again be part of the Great Laxey Brass Band Festival or 'Prash Laxa' for 2023 which, as in previous years, took place around a number of locations in the village of Laxey.



After an inclement weather forecast was

given for the day, and even though there was a little drizzle during the Band's first short concert at the Laxey Glen Gardens Pavilion, it didn't take long to brighten up and was even quite warm by the time the event finale took place. As well as the Pavilion, the Band also played a short set at the Mines Tavern pub and also the Village Square with a varied programme that included the march "Richard Evans", "Stardust", "Crazy Little Thing Called Love", "Bring Him Home", "On The Track", and "Going Home".

The Festival saw five bands playing at the three venues, changing every half an hour, and the afternoon culminated with all of the bands assembling as one massed band with each conductor taking the baton for one piece each.

Thanks to our Musical Director, John Kinley, for keeping us all in line, and to Band Chairman Chris Weldon for organising all the logistics on the day. A special thanks to Daniel Crompton for providing his minibus to enable a number of the Band to enjoy the social side of banding after the event had finished, and to Kevin Broadbent for driving the vehicle too.



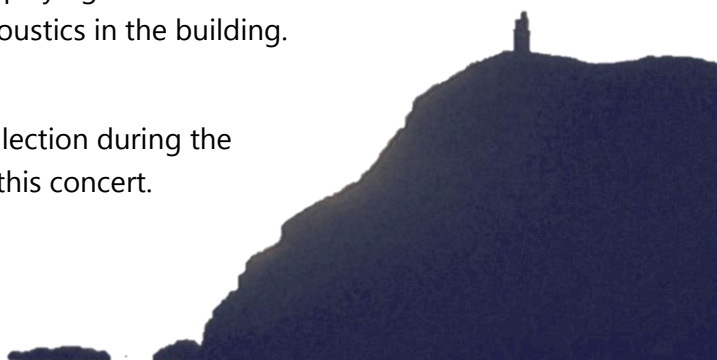
## RSB back in the Villa Marina

The Band are pleased to be back playing again in the Villa Marina Arcade in Douglas. Due to the Band's busy calendar in 2022, we just couldn't find a date to suit, but we have been able to fit one in this year.

We'll be providing a musical concert as part of the IOM Arts Council Summer Season on the evening of Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June starting at 8pm.

The Band enjoy playing music at the Arcade due to the excellent acoustics in the building.

The concert has free admission but there will be a collection during the concert for Band funds. We hope you can join us for this concert.



## Annual Dinner and Awards Evening 2023

The Band's Annual Dinner and Awards Ceremony took place on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March at the Bradda Glen in Port Erin. The award winners for 2022 were as follows:-

- Gilrea Corlett Trophy – for the best attendance with the senior band for players aged under 18 – Finlay Helliwell;
- Preston Shield – for the best overall attendance with the senior band – Peter Faragher & Chris Weldon;
- John Crebbin Trophy (or "The Didds") – for showing outstanding dedication, commitment or playing ability at both concerts and practices as a member of the training band – Matthew Coates;
- Keith McArd Trophy – for showing outstanding dedication, commitment or playing ability at both concerts and practices as a member of the senior band – Ian Bell;
- Jim Crebbin Trophy – for the most improved player under 16 in the training band – Imogen Butler;
- Ernie Broadbent Trophy – for the most improved player aged under 16 in the senior band – Finlay Helliwell & Alex Norbury
- Bandsman of the Year – for the person(s) the Band members believe had contributed the most over the past year – Chris Weldon;
- Dave Smith Memorial Shield – for their contribution and services to the Band – Martha Sinden.

Long Service Awards were also presented to Robert Bell (15 years), Charlotte Callister (20 years), Matthew Callister (25 years), Tom Sinden (25 years), Eric Drinkwater (30 years) and Helen Cole (45 years). So for just these six players we have a total service of 160 years' service to the Band. It really is amazing to see the length of time members have been part of the Band family.

Band Chairman, Chris Weldon, also provided a brief summary of the Band's activities during 2022, and looked ahead to what was taking place in 2023.

The Band would like to thank the Bradda Glen Restaurant for their hospitality, excellent food and venue for what was a great evening for everybody present. Thanks should also be extended to Chris Weldon for organising the event, and for friends and supporters for joining us to celebrate all the Band had achieved over the past twelve months.



## Events in Port Erin during June

The Band are delighted to have secured a slot for the Bandstand on Port Erin beach during the very busy TT week period. The Band will provide an early evening concert at 6pm on Monday 5th June, which is Port Erin Day during TT week. We hope you'll be able to pop down for a listen where we're planning on playing some appropriate music bearing in mind it is TT week.





### Rushen Silver Band *Bandstand Concert*



**6.00pm**  
**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June**  
**at Bandstand on Port Erin Beach**  
Donations to Band Funds

Manx Registered Charity 274 [www.rushensilverband.org.im](http://www.rushensilverband.org.im)

In addition, the Rotary Club of Rushen and Western Mann are holding a Brass Band festival in the village on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June similar to the event that took place in 2021. The event will be based around St Catherine's Church and it is hoped that Church Road will also be closed to accommodate pop up food, drink and retail providers. The senior band are currently due to be playing at around 2.15pm, whilst the Band's training band, Ballafesson Brass, will open the event at 12.15pm.

### \*\*\* News Flash \*\*\*

Renowned composer/arranger/conductor Alan Fernie will be making another visit to the Island in July, and this time his wife Brenda, a bass player, will be travelling with him. His time here will culminate with a concert that will involve both the senior band and the training band, Ballafesson Brass, taking place at Rushen Primary School at 4pm on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July.

Keep an eye out for further details via posters around the south of the Island or on the Band's social media pages.

## Friends Coffee Morning

The Friends of Rushen Silver Band are holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July from 10am to 11.30am at the Methodist Church Hall in Port Erin. Please come along and help the 'Friends' support the Band – we hope you can join us.



## Dates for your diary...



Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Mona's Queen III Memorial Service</b> (at Kallow Point, Port St Mary)	2.00pm
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Early Evening Concert</b> (at Bandstand, Port Erin beach)	6.00pm
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Brass Band Festival</b> (at St Catherine's Church, Port Erin)	12.15pm to 5.00pm
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Arts Council Summer Season</b> (at Villa Marina Arcade, Douglas)	8.00pm
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	<b>Friends of the Band Coffee Morning</b> (at Methodist Church Hall, Port Erin)	10.00am
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	<b>150 years of Steam Celebration</b> (at Port Erin Railway Station)	10.30am – 12.30pm
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Joint Concert with Alan Fernie</b> (at Rushen Primary School)	4.00pm
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	<b>Afternoon Concert</b> (at Bandstand, Port Erin beach)	3.00pm
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>Cliff Top Concert</b> (at Groudle Glen)	2.00pm
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>Afternoon Concert</b> (at Bandstand, Port Erin beach)	3.00pm
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Friends of the Band Coffee Morning</b> (at St Catherine's Church Hall, Port Erin)	10.00am
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> September	<b>Parish of Rushen Concert</b> (at St Catherine's Church, Port Erin)	7.45pm

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:

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