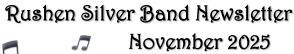


# Sounds from the South



## **Band Christmas Concerts**

For 2025, the Band will be holding their greatly anticipated Christmas Concerts on **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November** at the Erin Arts Centre. The concert start times will be **3pm** and **7.30pm**.

This year's programme will once again be full of popular festival tunes and singalong carols, and with guest artist Ruth Tickle, the current Cleveland Medal winner, joining us, we believe the event is guaranteed entertainment for all the family.

Tickets are still available for both concerts, priced at £12 (£3 for under 18s), and available from

www.ticketsource.co.uk/erinrtscentre/ or via the EAC box office.





## **Carol Train**

Tickets for this year's Carol Train are now on sale but are going very quickly! To book email Graeme on <a href="mailto:gme@manx.net">gme@manx.net</a>.

Taking place on **Saturday 6<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!!



## **Ballafesson Brass Christmas Concert**

Our Training Band, Ballafesson Brass, will be holding their Christmas Concert on **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November**, starting at 7:30pm at the Erin Arts Centre. This short, informal concert gives our players receiving tuition a great chance to showcase their talents. Please come along to support them if you can.

**FREE ADMISSION** 

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

## **Concert to celebrate the life of Joyce Corlett MBE**

The Band were delighted to be invited to participate in a concert to celebrate the life of Joyce Corlett MBE, who passed away earlier this year. Joyce was a massive supporter of the arts in general and Rushen Silver Band and the Erin Arts Centre in particular.

The music for the concert Music was chosen from some of Joyce's favourite pieces, and we were delighted to participate with

special guests, organist Gareth Moore, and soprano Christine Teare.

Among Joyce's music achievements as a contralto singer, were winning the Cleveland Medal at the Manx Music

Festival, and the Blackpool Rosebowl. She was also a keen organist at, amongst other places, St Catherine's Church (Port Erin), and St Peter's Church (Cregneash).

A Concert
To Celebrate The Life of
Joyce Corlett MBE

Rushen Silver Band
with special guests
Gareth Moore & Christine Teare

2pm Sunday 28th Sept.
Erin Arts Centre
Tickets £12.50 / Under 16s £5
All proceeds to Rushen Silver Band & Erin Arts Centre

Drop into the EAC or buy tickets online:
www.ticketsource.co.uk/ErinArtsCentre

As a founder member of the Friends of Rushen Silver Band, former President of the Band, and Compere at many concerts, Joyce was at the heart of the Band for many years, despite not actually playing a brass instrument! Joyce was involved in the creation of the Erin Arts Centre and was one

of the founding Trustees for the organisation, and was involved for nearly 50 years.

From the feedback the Band members have received from the concert, many people have said it was one of the best concerts they have been to, and a very fitting tribute to such a wonderful person who contributed so much over many years.



# **Friends of the Band Christmas Coffee Morning**



The Friends of the Band will be holding a Christmas Coffee Morning on **Saturday 13<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 some seasonal music during the event to get everyone in the festive spirit.

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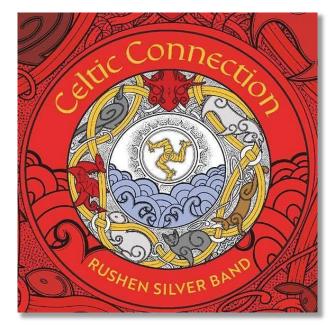
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## The Band's 4th Album "Celtic Connection"

Back in March, along with our good friend Keith Farrington from Music House Productions, the Band recorded their fourth CD. Following on from "*Diamond Celebration*" in 2009, "*Sounds of the South*" in 2013, and of course "*Christmas*" in 2019, the fourth CD entitled "*Celtic Connection*" is a CD full of music with a Celtic connection.

The tracks on the CD includes not only well known pieces such as 'Little Red Bird', 'Men Of Harlech' and 'Highland Cathedral', but also some not so well known but Band regulars, 'Mona's Delight', 'Newlyn to Niarbyl' and 'Going Home'.



The launch of the CD took place at our concert with Alan Fernie on the 18<sup>th</sup> October, and is priced at £12.50. The CDs will be on sale at most of our concerts over the coming months, or also available from the Bridge Bookshop and the Manx Museum. We hope you would like to support the Band by purchasing one of these fantastic CDs, that show the ability and musicality of the Band in 2025. Digital downloads are also now available, please contact the Secretary for further details. All of the Band's three other CDs are still available too for information. A huge thank you to Culture Vannin and Jan & Bob Allison for their support with this project.

## National Youth Brass Bands of Scotland 2025 – by Matthew Coates



I attended the National Youth Brass Bands of Scotland (NYBBS) summer school in Perthshire, Scotland during the first week of the summer holidays after taking my GCSE exams. To put it frankly, it was one of the best experiences of my life. Being involved with so many likeminded people was amazing. We were all there for the same purpose: to do what we love most, create amazing music.

I travelled over to Scotland with my great friend and fellow brass bander Henry Dormer from Ramsey and his lovely

family. We hopped on the ferry to Heysham and after a quick pitstop overnight in a Travelodge on the M6 we began our journey northwards.

NYBBS is held at Strathallan School near Perth. Upon arrival we were directed to Ruthven house for registration. The team at NYBBS made me feel like part of the family from day one. The whole community was so lovely and welcoming. After registration we were sent straight to Senior Band auditions. I could feel the nerves from my fellow trombonists as we were warming up, although I felt nothing but excitement before playing my piece – 'Morceau Symphonique'. After a short break to consider

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placement in the section the seating order was announced. I was given the first trombone seat! One down from the Principal, I was so pleased. The trombone tutor Ryan Richards from the great Tradegar Town Band was so encouraging and a real role model to all ten trombonists in the senior band.

Each day at NYBBS roughly involved three, two hour rehearsals broken up by meals and activities. A ceilidh, silent disco in the sports hall, the great "NYBBS Got Talent" and the battle of the sections. Solo competitions were also held in the chapel for those brave enough to perform by themselves. I entered and played 'The Acrobat'. Judged by world famous composer Paul Lovatt-Cooper; he said "Maybe it was a little too forte!" I may have gotten a little bit too excited!.

The pieces that we played were really difficult, the most challenging music that I have ever come across. 'A London Overture' by Phillip Sparke and 'Spectrum' by Gilbert Vinter, to name a few. These pieces have previously been Championship test pieces so you know before you start playing that they are difficult. However, we rose to the occasion, and performed all of our pieces to an incredible standard. The NYBBS Senior Band of 2025 contained some of the best musicians I have ever seen.

After a week of intense rehearsal and sectionals we got on a bus north to Perth to perform at the end of course concert which was held in Perth Concert Hall, a beautiful building with amazing acoustics. We were lucky enough to sit and watch the Children's and Reserves band play their concerts prior to ours. They were fantastic and after a short changeover we made our way to the stage. The senior band opened with the fantastic Paul Lovatt-Cooper's "Enter the Galaxies" - what a piece.

Unfortunately, to the dismay of the Manx contingent the concert ran over by 45 minutes which meant that we missed the overnight boat home as we were due to leave straight after the concert for the long drive back to Heysham. However, it was for the best as I got to say a proper goodbye to my new friends and give well needed hugs and handshakes.



I had an absolutely phenomenal time in Scotland and met friends I will keep for life. I actually travelled back alone to meet up with them a few weeks ago and we had a great time gallivanting around Edinburgh and Glasgow.

I would like to thank Ian Porthouse, the conductor of NYBBS for his expert management of the band. Carrie Boax, Director of SBBA for organising the summer course. And the tutors and house staff for looking after us all and making me feel so welcome. I feel like a better musician after one week at NYBBS; in fact I played so much my teeth started to rattle!

I also want to add a heartfelt thank you to the Friends of Rushen Silver Band for helping to fund this trip to NYBBS. I really could not have done it without the support from the Band and I really do appreciate it. Thank you.

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## **Joint Concert with Alan Fernie**

Under the inspirational guidance of the wonderful Alan Fernie, Rushen Silver Band and Ballafesson Brass performed to a large and appreciative audience at Rushen Primary School on the afternoon of Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October.

Both bands always enjoy working with Alan, and it was a huge pleasure to present him with an Honorary Life Membership of Rushen Silver Band in recognition of the huge contribution he has made towards the development of both bands over a significant number of years. Alan received a commemorative certificate and a Band polo shirt to mark the occasion.



The bands received a lot of great feedback from what was a superb concert, and the encouragement from all given to the young musicians was fantastic to see. Alan, we hope to see you and Brenda back again on the Island in the near future.





#### **Phil Woodford**

The Band were extremely sorry to hear about the passing of former Band member and great friend, Phil Woodford. Phil was a well-known figure across the Island thanks to his amazing talent for creating satirical cartoons which depicted various aspects of Manx life.





Phil played with the Band many years ago, but more recently he had been kind enough to supply some of his cartoons for inclusion in our band newsletters. He had a wonder ability to bring a smile to people's faces by creating cartoons which often which reflected the often less glamorous aspects of brass banding!

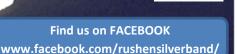
Phil was a true gentleman and a stalwart of the local community, and he will be sadly missed.

Our thoughts go out to his wife Irene and his family at this sad time.

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 $Email: \underline{enquiries@rushensilverband.org.im}\\$ 











Thursday 4th Dec

Sunday 7th Dec

**Band Christmas Concert** 3.00pm and 7.30pm (at the Erin Arts Centre, Port Erin)

Carols around Droghadfayle/Erin Way 7.15pm

Port St Mary Christmas Market 7.15pm (at Port St Mary Town Hall)

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> Dec Carol Train 12.00 – 3.00pm (contact Graeme Easton 435056 for tickets)

Port St Mary RNLI Carol Service 3.00pm (at Lifeboat Boathouse, Port St Mary)

Tuesday 9th Dec Port St Mary Commissioners Christmas 7.30pm
Carol Service (at St Mary's Church, Port St Mary)

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> Dec Friends of the Band Coffee Morning 10.00am (at St Catherine's Church Hall, Port Erin)

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> Dec **Nativity Service** 3.00pm (at St Columba's Church, Port Erin)

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> Dec Ballasalla School Christmas Concert 7.15pm (Ticket Only – Contact School for details)

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec **Port Erin Commissioners Carol Service** 7.00pm (at St Catherine's Church, Port Erin)

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> Dec Carols outside shops in Port Erin 10.30am - 12pm

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec Carols around Bay View Road 7.15pm ★

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec Carols outside Tesco, Port Erin 10.30am – 12pm

Christmas Day Carols for residents at Southlands 11.00am

For more information about Rushen Silver Band, visit our website www.rushensilverband.org.im, sign up to the Band's Facebook messages, or contact Peter on 493193

