

Jan 2008

Well ! A very, very Happy New Year – ‘hope you all had a great Christmas too!

The annual Carol Concert held on 23rd December at Christ Church, Rhyl (behind the town hall) went very well, again, and was well received. It’s something the players enjoy too. The bands’ players (and non-players) were out and about on the weekends in the run up to Christmas busy playing and collecting at the stores again.

It was nice to have Val & Derek back, even if only for a short while ! Chairman Peter Jones’ son, J.P was also helping out on cornet at a couple of functions before Christmas as well – ‘nice to see him back in the line-up again.

The bands’ Christmas party was held in the Rhyl Silver Band Social Club. In previous years it had been held between Christmas & New Year at places like Caskeys, and the Westminster Hotel, Rhyl, but it was thought that, as we now have a great little club available why not have our party in our own club...??

The Newsletter is now 1 year old and there are lots of things that we hope to be bringing you during the year. We would like any helpful hints, or stories, or pictures you might take at band engagements during this coming year, also birthdays, anniversaries, retirements – you name it.

Speaking of announcements.....a number of players have recently joined the band. Jenny (Tenor Horn) and Claire (Percussion) joined a few months ago (but I forgot to mention them, for which heinous crime I am grovellingly apologetic!!). Some more names to mention are Joel Gonzaga on Cornet and Hilary Durkin on Baritone, and someone who has made a return to RSB on Euphonium, Jamie Jones. They all played at the North Wales Brass Band Competition in November . A huge welcome to all of you!!



Birthday Wishes:

- 11th Jan Margaret Gausden (Cornet)
19th Jan Geoff Lewis (Tuba)
24th Mar Steve Hoyle (Cornet)
25th Mar Hilary Durkin (Baritone)

It would be great to be able to add a few more names to our birthdays & anniversaries lists. Re. Birthdays...I only want the date...I don't need the year !!!! and for anniversaries both names would be handy to have...! Ok, if you want to tell everyone how many years you've been married, or want to let us know how many times you've been 21 that's fine too ! Drop me a line, ring me or show off your computer skills and send me an e-mail.

On a sad note, in December Stuart Mitchell passed away after a lengthy illness. He had been a stalwart of the administration side of the band for many years, most recently as treasurer.

The band played at his service at the crematorium in Colwyn Bay. Our condolences are extended to his widow, Joan, who was until recently a percussionist with RSB and to his daughter, Val Hughes, who until she emigrated to France played Flugel horn with RSB.

Something a bit different for you for this issue. It's an article on John Dutton who some of the newer members of the band may not know so we decided to put that right!

A few years ago, John was elected Composer-in-Residence for the band and when I saw him recently, at the Pontins' contest, I asked if he wouldn't mind telling us a little about himself...a lot of us know him but are not fully aware of the extent of his musical talent.

He was born in Ruthin, but moved to Rhyl with his parents fifty years ago. He now lives with his wife, Blanche, in Westminster Ave. She likes light classical music but not to the extent that John does!

He says " My Father always liked brass and military bands, and marches in particular since he served in the First World War, and I have probably inherited that interest from him. My Mother played the piano and my maternal Grandparents were musical, playing the cello and the violin. An uncle, F. W. Watsham was Band Master of the Alresford Silver Band in the 1930's, sadly the band is no longer in existence. I had passed examinations for piano playing when I was much younger, but taught myself composition many years later in 1989, writing light music for piano, such as rags and marches, etc".

He likes the marches of the American and Australasian composers such as Edwin Goldman, Henry Fillmore, Karl King, Fred Jewell, Alex F Lithgow, etc and is a member of the British Academy of Composers and Songwriters some of his marches Rhyl Band have in their musical library, like 'South Coast', 'Eastwards' and 'Presentation Day' which has been recorded by the Tilbury Band.

Another Piece 'The Old Tower' won the Best Youth Band Competition in the Northop Composers Competition in 2005 and was recorded at a concert held in the Northop Silver Bands' bandroom.

He says "I have recently written ten unaccompanied duets for brass and orchestral instruments, and arranged the march 'Invercargill' by Alex. F Lithgow, which was originally dedicated to the southernmost city on South Island, New Zealand. I have also arranged for band the carol 'St Louis' by Lewis H. Redner, the American tune to 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' which Pennine Music Publishing released a few weeks ago"

He says he has plans for some more compositions and arrangements in 2008.



John Dutton

Composer-in-Residence

Rhyl Silver Band

Here's a little bit of fun to pass a few moments on a rainy afternoon.....how many football teams in the Football Association can you think of that begin and end with the same letter....(ie. LiverpoolL , Aston VillA...)

As before...the next issue will be out on 1st April....TTFN !!

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