

# Friends of Penicuik Silver Band

## Issue No. 4

Issue three of the Friends saw us preparing for the annual autumn concert. This was a great success, with an audience of nearly 200 people coming along to the North Kirk's fine acoustics and warm welcome from the volunteers of the Kirk's 'Open Door' project. The band thanks all involved in making this evening a success, with special thanks to Jim Chamberlain of Whitburn band, our former conductor and guest soloist. His fine rendition of Aranjuez Mon Amour will remain long in the memory of all who heard it.



### Sad News.

Sadly, the Band lost two significant and long involved people this quarter, with the death of Mrs Johnstone, widow of our former conductor George Johnstone and great supporter of all the band's efforts and of Ben Mathew, former cornet player

## December 2004

with the Band until very recently.

Our sincere condolences go to both the family of Ben and to the Johnstone family who have lost their loved ones. Ben's good humour and gentle kindness made him a much respected and well liked member of the band.

Mrs Johnstone gave her support quietly and loyally to the band her husband loved, both before and after his death, contributing to fund raising, and more importantly keeping her wide network of family and friends involved in coming to concerts and events and ensuring the band remains a significant focus for the Penicuik community.

### Events Reports:

Sadly, the expected charity event at the Sheraton Hotel in Edinburgh was cancelled by the organisers.

Instead we prepared for, and took part in the autumn version of the Carnegie contest in Dunfermline.

This was an 'open' contest, in that bands from all divisions of the Scottish brass band association took part against

each other, Penicuik finished second of all the fourth division bands, but ahead of a number of third section bands. We were disappointed by the second place, but happy to have finished ahead of rivals ranked in higher divisions.

The band played a set of entertainment pieces,

A march – ‘Arnhem’, written to commemorate the airborne landings during the Second World War.

A hymn- ‘Mid all the traffic’, and arrangement of Shenandoah used by the Salvation Army, and finally;

A test piece, ‘Haselmere Suite’, which brought the band third place in the Scottish national championships three years ago.

The band were grateful for the assistance of guest players, covering second baritone, and fourth solo cornet, and for the last minute return of Lorna Bryce to play Euphonium with little rehearsal. Our thanks to Jane Culross of Tayport Instrumental band, and to ? of Peebles Silver band, both of whom have helped us out on more than one occasion.

## Player News

We welcome two new youngsters who are joining us from the Penicuik Youth Band, led by Ian Forrest., and hope that with their help the band will increase in membership to the point where they can play concerts in public. In the meantime those able to will be helping out the senior band at the various Christmas carol playing events in December.

With regret we have to announce the resignation of our Principal Euphonium player, Janice Fleming. Janice and her children Kirsty and Michael have played a central part in the band over the past decade, and the committee hope that this decision will be a short term rather than final one.

## What’s Next.

This year Penicuik Silver Band’s popular Christmas concert will again be held at the North Kirk in Penicuik, on Saturday 4th December, from 7.30pm. Tickets, £5.00 for adults, £3.00 concessions, (including refreshments) available from Band members (contact Penicuik 673651), and from Pen Y Coe Press.

Under the baton of our conductor, Dundonian Frank Culross, an evening of traditional and new Christmas music is being rehearsed, and audience participation is to be expected. It will be a busy day for the band, who appear at the annual Penicuik Christmas lights ceremony at 3.30pm in the precinct.

This concert opens the Christmas season for the Band each year, and we are then playing to fundraise outside Tesco in Penicuik on the evening of 10 December, Sainsburys in Loanhead on Saturday 11 December, and again on Friday evening 17 December, then again at Tesco on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December, with carols and Christmas music to entertain shoppers.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> December at Blackhall St. Columba's church, the band will provide the music for the service and incidental music to entertain the congregation. This is the fourth year the band has been invited back to Blackhall where we have become a regular festive feature.

On the evening of the 20<sup>th</sup> December the band will play at each of Penicuik's Old people's

residences, as we have for many years.

We will then end the season by playing at the town centre Christmas Eve carol and readings service in Penicuik Precinct, led by a local minister and open to all.

The Band is as ever grateful for the generous support shown by the people of Penicuik, and looks forward to entertaining you on these occasions, and again as the winter progresses. Lookout for details of future events in the newspapers and in local shops.



The post Christmas period is when we start the run up to the next Scottish Championships more of this in our next edition.

## Contact Numbers

If you want any information regarding the band, or wish to purchase tickets for the best show in town. Contact any of the people below who will be able to assist.

Tom Easton Chairman  
Tel 01968 675039.

Pam Spence Secretary  
Tel 0131 663 3086

Jack Forrest Treasurer  
Tel 01968 675300



*FRIENDS OF PENICUIK  
SILVER BAND*

Welcome to Penicuik Silver Band's latest idea.

As anyone who knows the band will already know, running any voluntary organisation costs great deal of effort by people who give up their time and energy freely. The band is very lucky in the support it receives from parents, families and friends. We are also lucky that we have good friends in other organisations such as the North Kirk, Penicuik High School, and 4<sup>th</sup> Penicuik Guides whose help keeps the band running by providing simple but important help in practical ways, such as occasional practice space, chairs for local outdoor events, catering support at concerts.

But even with this network of support, the band struggles to survive financially each year. It costs over £5,000 per year just to pay for normal running costs. We receive a grant of £1050.00 from Midlothian Council, for which we are very grateful, and in return for which we play at civic events free each year in Penicuik. This amount has not increased in the last eleven years.

The Membership fees for players bring in around another £1,800, and the remaining money is brought in by payments for playing at engagements across the Lothian's.

Despite the financial position, the band is committed to extending opportunity to local musicians of all ages. To do this, a junior band project funded by the lottery has brought in one-off cash for 6 new instruments and for additional teaching time in local primary schools. The success of this project places even more demand on the band to supply new music, further instruments and continued teaching. In addition, the Band requires to replace and add to its music library. This comes in sets varying in price from £30.00 to nearly £100.00 per set. The band also wants to replace instruments for the senior band.

To give an indication of the cost, a cornet (the smallest instrument), and costs around £1,000 – there are 10 in the band. A bass (there are 4) could cost £5,000.

If you feel that you could help the band, which is now a registered charity, then the information with this sets out our new scheme.

*Friend of the Band Scheme*

Friends of PSB is a scheme being set up to involve members of the public and supporters being more aware of the bands activities. All subscriptions made will be used to fund the band.

An annual subscription of £10 will get a “friend” a number of benefits, which will include:

A free ticket to the annual concert, plus discount on all others purchased by them.

This regular newsletter containing details of forthcoming engagements, contest results other newsworthy items and details of social events to which “friends” will be invited.

If you are interested in becoming a “friend” of Penicuik Silver Band, please complete the application form below: Thank you for considering this request.

I would like to apply for membership of the “Friends of Penicuik Silver Band Scheme”

Address:

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I would like to pay £10 by cash/cheque. Please make cheques payable to “Penicuik Silver Band”

Please send to Jack Forrest, 46 Cuiken Terrace, Penicuik, or hand to any member of the band.

Name:

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