

PENICUIK SILVER BAND

(Established 1835)



Issue Number 10 - September 2008

Friends of Penicuik Silver Band Newsletter

Welcome Friends!

Now that the rain has stopped pouring down and the puddles are slowly turning to ice, we can safely assume summer has once again left us.

As always, the band has had a busy summer calendar, performing in and around the Lothians.

This year's Penicuik on Parade was a particular highlight for the Band, with the streets lined three deep with cheering 'Penicuikians'. The weather too did us proud, so much so that the band adopted the fashionable sleeves rolled up, sunglasses look. By the end of the scorching parade, as you can imagine, the Band was eager to sample the complimentary refreshments in the tent in the park, but as always, even after leading the parade, the Pipe Band still managed to beat us in there and empty the bar!

The band was invited to participate in a new gala event this year at Bridgend, West Lothian. The sun gods were once again shining down on us and the band managed to finish their gala summer season as they started – red faced and perspiring profusely.

Surprise Surprise Jack!



Once again the band would like to congratulate Jack Forrest on the event of his recent 80th Birthday. The Bandmembers were becoming anxious that perhaps Jack had got wind of the surprise concert that we were presenting in his honour, but it was clear by

Scottish Charity Number – SC 031142

Supported by Midlothian Council and the Scottish Arts Council

his bemused face as he was ushered into the North Kirk by his cunning family and wife Jean, that he didn't have a clue! Many thanks must go once more to everyone who participated in the evening and made it a memorable occasion for both Jack and the bandmembers. We hope that all those present enjoyed the musical evening as much as we did.



The message of birthday congratulations to Jack that were projected onto the wall of the church by the North Kirk Events Team wonderfully sum up Jack....."One of life's Gentlemen".

A specially commissioned CD of the evening is available to purchase for only £6. See the back page for details of how to order your copy.

Player Profile JOHN CULBERTSON



John's story, as told by the man himself:

"I'm an Edinburgh lad, born in Gorgie in the late 1920's within light and sound of Hearts football ground, making it a really atmospheric start to life and place to grow up.

I left my local school at age 13 not because I particularly wanted to but because my mother needed the extra money that my labouring job would provide. We were a poor family but no poorer than others under the same

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circumstances.

My first proper job was working at Princes Street Station as a railway ticket officer, but a few years before our good friend Jim Peebles! I eventually finished my service at Leith Station some time after World War II.

In this point in my life I began working for Edinburgh Merchant Company Schools and did so for the next 30 years until I retired. Within this I was responsible for teacher's salaries and pensions.

But all work and no play makes John a boring boy.....at the age of 16 I asked my mum to buy me a trumpet after being inspired by the great American Trumpeter Harry James, who had just been voted the best trumpeter in the world.

By the age of 18 I had to put down my trumpet while I served with the Army Air Movements Control in Egypt. I was lucky enough to see this part of the world and experience the grandeur of the pyramids but I did miss playing my trumpet, as it lay gathering dust under my bed.

But I soon got my lips back on the mouth piece and from then I have never put it down. Back then I played in 5-piece bands with saxophones, drums and piano and on few occasions played with the Clyde Valley Stampers, a real jazz experience! I have performed in music halls across the country and even in Edinburgh's Fat Sam's.

Today I still play lead trumpet with Esk valley Swing band, rehearsing every Wednesday in Bonnyrigg and have had 20 swinging years with them. But of course I also play Cornet with PSB, joining in November of 1984."



John is a true musician. He has a song for every occasion and a tune for every moment. The Band would like to acknowledge John's committed years of service and hope to hear him swingin' for many more.

Jim Peebles

Jim, our recently profiled Eb bass player, was honoured to accept his 50 years Golden Medal for his service and commitment to the band. Jim joins a prestigious list of band members who have already received their SBBA medal, including Jack Forrest and Rinty Monaghan. I myself have only another 35 years of tooting

Welcome Back

Returning to the band are some familiar faces – Catherine and Peter Hawkins, and Julie Watson. Catherine has picked up a cornet again after a 25-year sabbatical, and husband Peter has become our Principal Euphonium player. Peter is no stranger to the pressures and challenges of sitting in the principal seat as he once confidently lead the cornet section to many contests and championships. Julie too has been thrown in at the deep end of the proverbial musical pool, now leading the horn section as principal. A warm welcome back to you all.

Farewell

We would like to wish Daniel Williamson good luck in his transfer back to his home band

of Peebles. Daniel has been playing Solo Cornet with us for the past few years and has been a committed bandsman for Penicuik. Daniel is taking up the challenge of Solo Horn with Peebles Burgh Silver Band, but we are sure that with his intelligence he will soon work out which end to blow into. Penicuik's loss is Peebles' gain – all the best Daniel!

Dates for your Diary

- 1 November 2008
Borders Entertainment Contest
- 7 December 2008
Blackhall St Columba Church
- 15 December 2008
Carols at Old People's Homes
- 18 & 19 December 2008
Queensferry Parish Church
- 20 December 2008
Carol Playing - Sainsburys
- 24 December 2008
Carols at Penicuik Town Centre

If you would like to continue to be a Friend of Penicuik Silver Band, or if you would like to purchase a copy of Jack's Surprise Concert CD, please send a cheque made payable to "Penicuik Silver Band" to –

Caren Bryce
2/4 East Kilngate Wynd
Edinburgh EH17 8UQ