

PENICUIK SILVER BAND

(Established 1835)

Friends of Penicuik Silver Band Newsletter
ISSUE No 7 – June 2007



Photograph by R&P Photographic Service

Welcome to the seventh edition of the Friends of Penicuik Silver Band Newsletter.

It's that special time of year again when the band members smarten up, polish our shoes and put on our bow ties.....yes, you've guessed it.....it's Gala Season again!

The season was kicked off by the Band leading the "Penicuik on Parade" and the yearly tradition of dodging those horse parcels whilst playing our favourite marches!

Time has flown by since our last newsletter, so it's time for us to update you on the past 6 months.

New Conductor

Terry Johns was appointed as our new Musical Director in October 2006, to get us into shape and to give the Band new direction. Terry has settled well into the Band and has successfully led us in three contests. He is currently putting us through our paces for forthcoming performances. Read on to discover more about Terry and his remarkable life in the Band Member's Profile section.

Contests

So far this year the Band has taken part in two contests.

Firstly, we entered the Scottish Championships at the Caird Hall in Dundee, playing the set piece of music "The Seasons" by Philip Wilby. Both Terry and the Band were very pleased with the performance, believing that our months of hard work and practice had paid off. However, we received a disappointing 6th place, due to the adjudicators' opinion

that we played the first two of the three movements too slowly. (Their judgement being contrary to the composer's markings and to the listening public's opinion!) At least they liked the third movement and had nothing but praise for our rendition of that!

The second contest that we competed in was the Fife Brass Band Festival at Carnegie Hall, Dunfermline in April of this year. We played a 20-minute selection of tunes including "Men of Harlech" and the cornet solo "In the Love of Jesus". This time we received a much better second place with which both the Band and MD were very happy.

Engagements

Our summer engagements began with our duties at the "Hunter and Lass" and the "Penicuik on Parade" ceremonies on 24th and 26th May. As previously mentioned, we took our place at the head of Penicuik on Parade.



However, without doubt our most notable achievement was the completion of a massed bands item with Penicuik Pipe Band who, as those who read the Town Crier will know, are our “arch enemies!”

The month of June saw us playing at the “Friends of the Pentland Hills” annual BBQ (Our Baritone player, Victor, is a member of this group who seek to promote the conservation, protection and enhancement of the Pentland Hills).

Our next engagement was Gorebridge Gala Day on 16 June. Unfortunately, due to our usual “summer” weather the Crowning Ceremony took place inside Greenhall Centre.

Winchburgh Gala, which is one of our favourites,

completed our gala season. At the conclusion of the march we played to the residents of a local care home who were unable to watch us take part in the parade.

Within the band we have also had our annual slow melody contest which encourages our players to choose their favourite slow piece and perform for the band and guests.

Winning the Seniors Trophy this year was Harold Wells, our principal solo cornet at the time, whilst Stuart Wilson (pictured below) won the Junior Trophy.



The Duet Trophy was won by Erin Wright and David Collin.

This year we decided to follow on from the contest with some wine and mince pies.

This was a great success, so those of you who missed out this year are very welcome

to come along next year to enjoy some of our favourite tunes. We'll let you know as soon as the date has been set.

Band Personnel

Although the band has attracted some new faces, unfortunately we have also lost some of our members.

Firstly, our euphonium player Andrew Gerrard moved house and is now playing with his new local band in Bathgate.

Also, Harold Wells our Principal Cornet has signed with Newtongrange Silver Band, playing the flugel horn, trying his hand at competing amongst the "big boys" in the Championship Section. We wish him great success and a speedy return back to his friends at Penicuik!

Currently we have some vacancies within the band. Although all players are welcome to come and join us, we are still seeking a baritone and cornet players, especially in the front row. If any of you have been players

in the past, or know of anybody who may be interested in playing with us, our rehearsals are from 7.30 to 9.30 on Monday and Friday evenings, in Penicuik High School.

Member's Profile

Terry Johns, our new Musical Director, has had time to settle into the band, so it's time he was introduced to our "Friends of PSB". Terry has had an illustrious past and we feel lucky and honoured to have such a respected musician working with us.



At the age of ten Terry joined Tower Colliery Band in South Wales where he learned the basics of brass playing, and due to his hours of practice achieved a scholarship from his grammar school to play at the Royal Academy of Music



In London. From that point onwards Terry has carved himself a highly successful career and has become a well respected musician, both in the avenues of playing and composing.

Although Terry has an impressive, long list of achievements, we only have room to highlight a few for you here.

Terry has spent 20 years playing with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, as well as composing music for their brass section, and he also regularly performs with the London Symphony Orchestra where he also takes an active role in composition and arrangement of music.

Although not one for name-dropping, Terry continually astounds us with his experiences and stories about the fantastic people he has worked with. As a respected arranger, Terry had the privilege, in 1984, of arranging the final hymn for actor Richard Burton's memorial service at

St Martin-in-the-Fields

Terry has also played on the sound-tracks of many major Hollywood motion pictures including Indiana Jones, Superman, the James Bond films Octopussy and On Her Majesty's Secret Service. He has also achieved "cult" status by playing the horn solo for the music accompanying Darth Vader's funeral in Star Wars!

Finally, Terry has also worked with many great musicians in popular music, amongst them the all time greats Tony Bennett, Barbara Streisand and Peggy Lee.

We hope that Terry feels at home at Penicuik and we look forward to him leading us in many more concerts and contests, whilst reaping the benefits of his vast experience.

Watch out for Terry performing at the Proms later this year, as well as on the radio with Philharmonic Orchestra

Forthcoming Events

Our annual summer holidays are fast approaching, however after a brief break the band will be getting stuck into rehearsals for our Annual Concert which has been provisionally booked in the North Kirk on 29 September. (Again, we'll keep you updated with confirmation of this date).

Some tunes which have emerged as favourites to be on the concert programme, are tunes from "Fiddler on the Roof" and "Mary Poppins". We will also be featuring our players in an array of solos (with a surprise guest solo too!)

Furthermore, following the great success of our Music Quiz last year, we will be organising another social event to which all our Friends are invited, so watch out for your invitations in the post!



Finally, the Band's website which is run by Harold, our former principal cornet, has been nominated as website of the month on "the MouthPiece" website. So please help to raise the Band's profile by logging on to www.themouthpiece.com and, after a quick registration, casting your vote.

Voting is open until 11:00am on 1 July.

Watch out too for a new section soon to appear on our web site encouraging readers to enrol as "Friends of PSB" so spread the word!

We hope you have found this issue of "Friends of PSB" full of interesting articles and would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continuing support of our Band, it really is much appreciated!

If you would like to get in touch with the band for any information, or to pass on your comments, feel free to email Caren or Lorna (our secretaries) at LJBryce@hotmail.com or call 07932984378.

Our Web Site:

www.penicuiksilverband.com