

PENICUIK SILVER BAND

(Established 1835)



Friends of Penicuik Silver Band Newsletter ISSUE No 8 – November 2007

Welcome to our 8th Friends of Penicuik Silver Band Newsletter.

Firstly the Band would like to welcome our new “Friends” and say a big thank you to all our avid band supporters who continue to wait patiently for the next addition of the newsletter.

Summer has come and gone once more, with the Band completing its seasonal keep fit schedule clocking up some 10,000 strides of marching mileage at local gala events in and around Midlothian. This, I hastily add, is the only exercise some of our band members get all year!

The bass section has been known to increase their heart rates by picking up the pace and sprinting on occasion, but this is only to ensure that they’re first in line for the well deserved pie at the end of the Gorebridge

Marathon of a gala day march.

ANNUAL CONCERT

We hope that you all enjoyed our Annual Concert on Saturday 6th October in the North Kirk as much as we enjoyed entertaining you.

The Band has received many kind words of praise for its program of music, and in particular of our soloists who played flawlessly. I (Caren, Principal Cornet) particularly appreciated the warm response from the audience after nervously performing my first ever solo.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the “Guess the Baby” competition. I think that you will agree that it’s hard to believe that such cute innocent-looking babies grew up to be masochistic brass players!

JUNIORS

Mention has to be made of our talented and dedicated Junior Band members who have now all been promoted to the Senior Band. The trombone section is particularly happy to welcome Simba Ntuli to their ranks as he now lowers the section's average age from 60 to 45 years! That officially is the lowest age it has been for quite some while. Thank you Simba!

Thanks also to Ian Forrest, our Principal Trombone player who works so hard with the youngsters. The fruits of his labour of love were evident at our Annual Concert when the Juniors performed extremely well and musically.

Ian continues to tutor the Juniors and prepare them for their Trinity grade exams. We wish them all good luck for their coming exams;

Simba Ntuli	Grade 3
David Collin	Grade 5
Erin Wright	Grade 5
Stuart Wilson	Grade 6

PLAYER PROFILE Dougie Donnolly



In this newsletter we are featuring our Second Trombone player, Dougie Donnolly, who is one of the Band's most committed and dedicated members.

Dougie first took up the trombone at high school and had John Faulds as his tutor. It didn't take Dougie long to master the slide and to join the school orchestra.

After playing in the orchestra Dougie stopped playing and it was to be some 23 years before he would take up a trombone again. It was only after settling down and having a family that Dougie



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came along to Penicuik Silver Band with his kids and took up the trombone again. Twenty years later Dougie is still blowing the trombone!

Dougie had the privilege and pleasure of playing under George Johnstone – a renowned conductor.

Amongst Dougie's comrades in the trombone section were local boys Eric Tant, Brendan McGrory, Jim Peebles and Stewart Craig. Dougie's playing skill has seen him lead the section as principal trombone, as well as being a role model to our newest trombone player, Simba Ntuli.

Amongst Dougie's most memorable achievements with the Band is, being Principal Trombone when the Band won the 4th Section Scottish Championships in 1983. Dougie and the Band followed that by playing their way into the 3rd Section and represented Scotland at the National Championships in the Albert Hall, London, 3 years in succession.

Dougie has enjoyed his involvement with Penicuik's

twinned German band, Instrumentalverein Straeten, and played a key role in facilitating 2 band exchanges with them.

In 1985 Dougie assisted in the task of editing and updating the history of the Band, based on the memoirs of George Johnston. A booklet was produced and the information on the Band's history, conductors and members can be read on the Band's Web Site; www.penicuiksilverband.com

Dougie enjoys playing classical music from composers such as Wagner and Dvorak, but reckons that the sound of Bohemian Rhapsody coming from the bell of a trombone takes a lot of beating!

The Band would like to take this opportunity to thank Dougie for his years of dedication and his work on the Committee, and hope that Dougie can once again play his part in taking the Band back up to the 3rd Section.

Looking Ahead

The Band will soon be looking out the sleigh bells once more, and festively decorating our instruments with tinsel in preparation for another busy Christmas period. We will be out in force around Midlothian, giving concerts and raising much-needed funds for the upkeep of the Band, as we spread a little Christmas cheer.

Watch out for us particularly at the IKEA Winter Festival and at the Gyle Shopping Centre.

OUR DECEMBER DATES;

- Sat 1st IKEA and Penicuik Christmas Lights
- Sun 2nd IKEA
- Sat 8th Sainsburys, Straiton – 7pm
- Sat 15th Christmas Concert
- Mon 17th Gyle Shopping Centre – 7pm
- Sat 22nd Sainsburys, Straiton – 11am
- Sun 23rd Blackhall St Columba Church
- Mon 24th Sainsburys, Straiton – 2pm
Penicuik Carols - 7pm

Please spare a thought for us as we are out performing on these freezing winter days with our mouthpieces sticking to our lips and our fingers and toes going numb! As a friend of PSB, please don't pass us by without coming to say a hello and request a merry tune!

Dates for Your Diary

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

North Kirk, Penicuik on Saturday 15 December.

Our guests this year will be the Cuiken Primary School Choir. This will be the Choir's debut appearance, so come and join us for this special occasion.

Moving On

We have said our farewells to Lorna Bryce, our Principal Euphonium, who has now joined Dalkeith and Monktonhall Band. We wish Lorna well at Dalkeith.

Many of you will know Linda Forrest as our young, quiet, innocent percussionist. Well, things are about to change as Linda is heading west to take a degree in Business Management and Geography at Glasgow University. We wish Linda well in her studies and hope to soon have her back playing with us again.

The Band would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and to wish every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous 2008.