

# SIR GEORGE WHITE MEMORIAL F.B. BROUGHSHANE

Tel: 02825862810  
Mob: 07825223733  
email : [dblackjnr@aol.com](mailto:dblackjnr@aol.com)

Secretary: David Black  
27, The Knockans,  
Broughshane  
Co. Antrim  
BT43 7LQ

## **Launch of new Peter Worrell Flutes.**

The members of Sir George White Memorial FB, Broughshane gathered on Tues 4<sup>th</sup> 2008 March to unveil their newly Purchased Peter Worrell Flutes. In total 25 ‘B’ Flutes; 5 ‘F’ Flutes and 2 piccolos were on show, costing nearly £13,000.

The band’s President, David Black Snr welcomed all, saying that it was of great personal pride to him to see the band in such a strong position, he continued “ What we see here is a genuine first. The 1<sup>st</sup> set of Worrell Flutes to be manufactured and it’s a sign of how the band wants to progress and improve.”

The band secretary thanked everyone for attending and began thanking band member Brian Crossett, who was the driving force behind the idea for the new flutes.

“A year ago, when it became clear that our old Miller Wicks flutes were not going to last much longer, it was Brian who suggested sourcing a new manufacturer. Miller Wicks at that time were being taken over and with no outlet in the province, Brian contacted Peter Worrell in Suffolk. A renowned Oboe and Clarinet manufacturer, Peter had only been involved in making jigs, head-joints etc for flutes, but Brian convinced him that there was a market for these types of instruments and that Peter had the expertise to do it. Copies of the Crown A-Z and the Miller Wicks crown were sent as examples and we now see the end result. Peter has designed a beautiful set of Flutes and we are extremely proud to be the 1<sup>st</sup> band to have them.”

The secretary then talked about the financial help that secured purchase. “Once Peter and we were convinced, we then had to seek financial support. We knew that it would take time to raise the cash needed and time was the one thing we didn’t have. So we called out for help, and boy! Did it arrive in force?”

Addressing the invited guests, the Secretary continued,

”To the local business’s of the village for their financial assistance. James McNeill, Terry McAllister, Walter Young Ltd and the Thatch Inn. We have asked you here to publicly thank you for everything you have done in helping us purchase these flutes. I personally have been overwhelmed by the generosity and genuine interest shown by you all. It gives us great confidence as we enter our 30<sup>th</sup> year to know that we have you all behind us.

“Thanks must also go to Willy Thompson and his team at the County Antrim District LOL who came down over the last 2-3 years both to offer their help, and to ask for ours. It has been a good partnership and one which I’m sure will grow ever stronger. Their assistance pointed us in the direction of the Orange Community Network, marshaled at the time by William Leathem. They helped us with our grant application which resulted in £5,000 from the National Lottery via the Arts Council of N.I. Thanks must also go to Julie McBride and all at The Arts Council who were really helpful throughout.”

“Thanks to all of our band members, who have worked hard over the past years to make this all possible. Your persistence and dedication has been the cornerstone of everything we have achieved and will be the foundation of all we achieve from now.”

The band Conductor, Mr. Steven Wharry addressed the gathering, thanking all who had help the band obtain the flutes.

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“We are truly thankful to all who helped us in acquiring the new flutes. With them the band has at least given itself the opportunity to compete with the other bands within our Grade. As mentioned the flutes are a Peter Worrell design based on the old Crown AZ flutes, which are regarded as the best flutes ever made. The hard work and dedication of the members, together with the added bonus of these new flutes, enabled us to gain 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Melody Section of the NI Flute Band League Own Choice Contest on 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb. A fantastic result, considering the calibre of the bands we were competing against, proving that we can compete at this level. Although relatively inexperienced at this level, we aim to remedy this over the next few years. These contests, combined with concerts and outdoor parades, ensure that the outlook for the band remains optimistic long into the future”

Eric Russell, the Honorary President, applauded the band’s recent 2<sup>nd</sup> placing saying;

“I was really impressed with the tone and tuning of the new Worrell flutes when I attended the final rehearsal for the Own Choice. These were 2 things that the band always struggled to control, but as these flutes are blown in, I can confidently predict a bright future for the band. To have the support of these local men gathered here speaks volumes for the esteem that the Sir George White Mem are held in and I will always endeavour to give my full support when Steven calls”.

Willy Thompson, County Antrim Grand Secretary, spoke in praise of the members of the band.

“When we 1<sup>st</sup> came down to Broughshane to ask for the band’s help, we immediately were impressed with the drive and determination of the members. They attended courses within the Orange Community Network, but more importantly, acted upon it to secure the funding necessary to purchase the new flutes. I think it is tremendous to see the support of those from the business community, and I think you have in Sir George White Mem, a band in which the village can be proud. I know that we at County Grand Lodge are proud of them”.

Chairman of the band, Mr. Robert Gibson, summed up by saying;

“As we enter our 30<sup>th</sup> year, it is quite fitting that we have started a new chapter in the band. These are the 1<sup>st</sup> Peter Worrell Flutes ever manufactured, and these combined with the effort and skill of the members, enabled us to secure 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Melody Section at the FBL Own Choice Contest. On behalf of the members, I would personally like to thank our conductor Steven Wharry for his relentless work to the band. This result was no fluke, but the reward for hours of hard practice which we trust will act as motivation for us all, to continue to improve as a band. Thanks again to the local businesses for their support and kindness, which we are all extremely grateful for. We will continue to steer the band in the right direction and ensure that we can be a band that the whole village can be proud of. I know that under the watchful eyes of our President David Black and Honorary President Eric Russell, we have strong guidance and advice at hand whenever needed.”



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