

KELLSWATER BAND IN FINE FORM AT ANNUAL SPRING CONTEST IN SCOTLAND

Written by Ballymena Times
Tuesday, 17 April 2007 00:00 -

Kellswater Flute Band returned from Troon last weekend where they were competing against the cream of Scottish and Northern Irish Flute Bands in the Scottish Amateur Flute Band Association Contest.

Kellswater secured five trophies last year, to repeat that memorable achievement seemed a mammoth task for the local band, but unbelievably they returned with another collection of silverware winning the Open March, Best Percussion and Best Entertainment Sections and also gaining third place in the Grade 1 Section behind former World Champions Ballygowan and Scottish Champions, Carluke Primrose.

In addition Kellswater, under the baton of their conductor Mr Glen Houston, went on to win the Best Overall Band in the Competition.

This contest season has been the most successful ever in the Band's sixty year history, in October they were narrowly beaten by just one point in the Grade 2 Section of the NIBA Contest held at the Ulster Hall in Belfast, then in February they retained the FBA Grade 2 Championship, also collecting Best Interpretation, Best Percussion and the Best Conductor, making it a clean sweep of all the trophies on offer.

In April, at the FBA Solos and Small Ensembles Competition held in Ballygowan Co Down, the members from Kellswater had remarkable successes.

Shannon Mc Kay won the Under 13 G Treble Solo and also the prestigious Open Solo Concert Section, Matthew Mairs performed superbly to gain first prize in the highly competitive Under 16 Concert Section. Courtney Mc Kay came out top in the Under 10 Concert Solo and Craig Lutton won the Intermediate Side Drum Solo.

Other fine performances from Stephen Rankin, Gareth Houston, Adam Higginson, Laura Logan,

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Alice Irvine and Ross Houston in the flute sections and Stewart Clyde, percussion, enabled Kellswater to secure the Best Overall Band award for the fourth consecutive year in this Competition.

Throughout the year the band was also involved with Concerts and Charity events in addition to their commitment to the Royal British Legion, Church Organisations and the Loyal Orders making it a very busy but rewarding time.

To launch their 60th Anniversary Celebrations, Kellswater Flute Band will be holding a Dinner Dance on Friday 16th November 2007 in the Ross Park Hotel Kells, all ex-members and friends of the band are welcome and are asked to contact any Band member for more details, more events are to follow.

In the Band's recent Catchphrase Competition the winners were, 1st Lee Crawford, 2nd Erin Steel, 3rd Ashley Mc Crory, Kellswater Flute Band would like to thank all those who supported this fundraising event and other recent events so generously.

Ballymena Times April 2007.