



Ted Whealing writes

Autumn concerts

The second half of 2008 saw a very successful series of concerts starting with a near capacity audience at the Ferneham Hall, **Fareham** in August – this was a return booking and the large audience ensured we will be back there on 16th August 2009. The performance was well received, not least the xylophone solo by Derek Vickers, which contained an extra element of surprise when his xylophone collapsed in the middle of the piece. Luckily nobody was hurt and the extra applause and laughter, plus the look on Derek's face, made it a special feature. Keep it up Derek!

Last August we were invited to supply music for the WRNS Reunion at **York University**. We arrived on the Friday evening and were greeted with refreshments, but only after we had found our rooms in the quite complicated accommodation area of a very large campus! We needed the coach to get to the bar and back, so it was not a late night. The next day we started early and, after breakfast, set up and rehearsed for the afternoon performance. The concert was everything we could have hoped for – a room full of ex-Wrens out to enjoy themselves and they raised the roof. After a most enjoyable performance we boarded the coach and, armed with some excellent bag rations, started the long journey home while watching old videos – what more could one wish for?!

The Band strikes up at the WRNS Reunion, York University



In early September we again played at the Lighthouse, **Poole** for the Friends of Dolphin, which is a charity dedicated to taking disabled people on boat trips at sea. At this concert Ted Whealing played his first saxophone solo with the RMA Concert Band which seemed to go down well as nobody threw anything!

18th September was the second of our bi-annual concerts at the **Royal Marines Museum**, which was completely sold out well in advance. These concerts have proved very popular and next year will be on 21st May and 17th September – you are advised to make an early booking!

Haslar Hospital commemoration CD

An unexpected challenge came our way in early October when we were invited by the Band Service to produce a CD commemorating the imminent closure of Haslar



Hospital, which has served both military and civilian patients since the middle of the 18th Century. The CD should be out in early 2009 and was a challenge in that it had to be recorded in just a day and a half – a very short time to produce some seventy minutes of music. However the Band rose to the task and we're confident it will result in a memorable album, a 'must' for band enthusiasts.

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The Editor, Concert Band Newsletter, Building 32, Whale Island, Portsmouth PO2 8ER (tel: 02392-651519)

Portsmouth Cathedral

Another new venue was **Portsmouth Cathedral** where we performed in aid of the Cathedral Development Trust. A near capacity audience included our President, Admiral Sir Jock Slater GCB LVO DL, who kindly introduced the Band after we had played *Fanfare for the First Sea Lord*. A magnificent venue with vibrant acoustics it was a great pleasure to play there and to be greeted so warmly. The Band is now preparing for our annual Christmas concert at the Strode Theatre, **Street**, Somerset, an intimate little theatre which is always well supported.



Future programme

Next year's diary is filling up nicely: we return to **Yeovil**, **Fareham** and **Poole** and twice to the **Royal Marines Museum**. In February there are concerts at the Anvil, **Basingstoke** and the Medina Theatre, **Isle of Wight**, and in March 2009 at the Orchard Theatre, **Dartford**. We have even pencilled in 19th December 2009 for a return visit to the Strode Theatre, Street! Other engagements for the remainder of the year will be notified as they are confirmed.

Date	Time	Venue	Box Office
Sun 15th February	3.00pm	Anvil Theatre, Basingstoke, Hants	01256-844244
Sun 22nd February	3.00pm	Medina Theatre, Newport, Isle of Wight	01983-527020
Sun 22nd March	3.00pm	Orchard Theatre, Dartford, Kent	01322-220000
Sun 19th April	3.00pm	Octagon Theatre, Yeovil, Somerset	01935-442884
Sun 17th May	3.00pm	The Guildhall, Portsmouth (with the Milton Glee Club)	02392-824355
Thurs 21st May	7.30pm	Royal Marines Museum, Eastney, Southsea, Hants	02392-819335
Sun 16th August	3.00pm	Ferneham Hall, Fareham, Hants	01329-231942
Thurs 17th September	7.30pm	Royal Marines Museum, Eastney, Southsea, Hants	02392-819335
Sun 20th September	3.00pm	The Lighthouse, Poole, Dorset	0844-406-8666
Sat 26th September	7.00 pm	RMA Reunion at CTCRM Lympstone, Devon	RMA members and families only

HMS *Illustrious*

In November we performed at a venue which will probably never be repeated as it was a reception on board **HMS *Illustrious*** on the Thames at **Greenwich** in honour of the 50th Anniversary of the White Ensign Association. Embarking and disembarking a warship at anchor is something most of us had experienced before; however for some of our number this was a first and unique experience. The reception was attended by some four hundred invited guests and hosted by the Ship's Captain, and Commodore Sir Donald Gosling KCVO RNR, the Association's President and one of our benefactors. Also present were Admiral the Lord Boyce GCB OBE DL and the Commander in Chief Fleet, Admiral Sir Mark Stanhope KCB OBE. The Band was very well received, particularly when they accompanied the



Sunset Ceremony which the Ship's Guard of Honour performed perfectly under great pressure. At the end of the reception we played Ted's new march *Leander* for Sir Donald and presented him with a leather-bound copy of the score and a specially made recording of the march on compact disc.



[We begin our personality profiles in this edition with one of our husband and wife teams - we have more than one! Jon Yates will be known to many of our readers for his exquisite performances as a trumpet soloist at the Mountbatten Festival of Music and elsewhere, notably on our CDs and those of the Band Service. Not so well known is the fact that he is also a composer and arranger with several titles to his name, Adagio For Trumpet (see 'Once A Marine...') being perhaps his best known. His wife Wendy, also an accomplished player in our trumpet section, joins him in this profile sequence - Ed]

Personality profile No. 6

Jonathan Yates was born in Shanklin, Isle of Wight, the second son of Alan and Lily Yates, in April 1948. He was educated at the Sandown C of E. School and the Fairway Secondary Modern School. He joined the Royal Marines as a violin and cornet player in 4/62 Squad in June 1962. During training, he represented the training wing at rugby, boxing, diving and water polo. He also gained the education prize and the cornet progress prize. During his four years at the School of Music, he gave up the violin to concentrate on cornet/trumpet, encouraged by Captain Peter Sumner.



Jon circa 1996

In 1966, he joined the Home Fleet Band at HMS Pembroke, Chatham, visiting Russia, Finland, Poland and Sweden on HM Ships Devonshire and London. Over the following seven years he served with the Bands of 43 Cdo RM (for the youth activities tour), HMSs Victorious, Hermes, Excellent, Daedalus and Eagle, during which time he travelled to North America, The Mediterranean, North Africa, France and Spain.

In 1973, he moved to the Staff Band at the School of Music in Deal where he met his wife to be, Wendy, who was studying at the Teacher Training College, Nonnington. In 1974, he was appointed as the Principal Trumpet/Cornet of the Staff Band, a position he held until the closure of the Barracks in 1996. His time in the Staff Band was completely varied involving major state ceremonial, broadcasting, recording, even giving away large chunks of the Empire! He is indebted to Princess Margaret for her help on several of these occasions.

The relatively stable time that Jon had at Deal gave him time to bring up his family; Daniel, Joanna and Natalie, free from the turbulence that a life in the service generally has to offer. It also gave him the opportunity to develop

as a musician at the highest level available to service musicians. He is indebted to Lt Col Paul Neville for giving him these opportunities and to Warrant Officer Bandmaster Sidney Rose for his encouragement at a time when he was not as confident as he may have looked.



Jon today, the Band's principal trumpet

On reflection, Jon feels very privileged to have been so stimulated throughout his career, also to have the opportunity to work with such an interesting and talented group of people. He still manages to enjoy himself in the company of these special people in the RMA Concert Band, where he is able to play with his wife in public, as she is also a member (see below).

[Jon's modesty above doesn't reveal that he is Professor of Trumpet at the RM School of Music and undoubtedly one of the finest players in this country, certainly considerably in demand. He is an ARCM and was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal in 1996 - Ed]

Personality profile No. 7

Wendy Yates was born in Cheam, Surrey, June 1953. She was educated at Gosford Hill Comprehensive School in Kidlington, Oxford. Her interest in music began from the age of about eight when she joined the Wimbledon Girls Choir continuing in secondary school, when at the age of eleven she took up the trumpet. As a member of the Oxford Music School, she spent many a Saturday playing her trumpet with the Oxford Youth Orchestra. Wendy was introduced into brass bands at the Bletchington Brass Band.



Wendy decided that teaching was the career for her and went to Nonnington College of Physical Education in 1972, to train as a P.E. teacher. While there she joined the local Brass Band at Snowdown Colliery where she met her future husband, Jonathan. After a very unfortunate accident while playing hockey Wendy had to give up her dream of teaching P.E.

Later that year she and Jon were married. They both continued to play at Snowdown Colliery Band, and even

after the children were born, Wendy and Jon would take them with them as often as was possible. By the time number three arrived, Wendy decided that maybe it was time for a rest, so her playing came to a halt, for a while.

After a break of about 10 years, Wendy was persuaded by a family friend, Richard Baker, to join the TA Band in Canterbury, so she joined the Queens' Regiment and rekindled her playing. When the regiment was amalgamated with the Royal Hampshires she was privileged to play for the Princess of Wales when the Regiment was renamed The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. Wendy also began playing in the Broadstairs and St Peters Band, and The Railway Swing Band. Wendy was given a chance to pick up her dream of working in school, when the local junior school, The Downs, offered her a job as a teaching assistant.

In 1996, the family moved to Lee-on-the-Solent when the School of Music moved to Portsmouth. Continuing to work as a teaching assistant, Wendy now works at her local Junior School where she also teaches music. Wendy is also a member of HMS *Collingwood* Volunteer Band.

Wendy and Jon have three wonderful children Daniel, a Fireman at Deal; Joanna, a Solicitor in Gosport; and Natalie, a member of the Royal Marines Band in Scotland.

Wendy joined The RMA Concert Band soon after its formation and thoroughly enjoys playing with her husband, his many friends and ex-colleagues.

Personality profile No. 8

Bill Callow joined the Royal Marines Band Service on 7th January 1964 at the tender age of 14 years and 18 days! He survived quite well and was drafted to HMS *Drake*.

Such was the excellence of his viola playing that he found himself on the way to Scotland within three short months, where his talents were exploited at HMS *Condor* for the next three and a half years. While serving at *Condor* he was 'spotted' by the Principal Director of Music, Lt Col Paul Neville, on a band inspection and, as a result, passed the next nine and a half years as principal violist to the RM School of Music.

In 1981 there was a requirement in Her Majesty's Fleet Air Arm for a principal violist and Bill was selected



Bill Callow, Band Secretary

without question. He duly arrived at HMS *Heron*, loaded down with resin, etudes and the 'George Simpson Guide to Safe String Editing', only to be divested of these essentials and issued, in their stead, with a 'Teach Yourself Typewriting' manual. He remained as Band Secretary until the Band of the Flag Officer Naval Air Command disbanded. It was, in fact, Bill who turned the lights out and locked up. His new appointment as the Secretary to the Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command Band in Portsmouth saw him serve onboard HMY *Britannia* for three and a half months, which was to be his only 'sea time' during his career. Bill continued in Portsmouth until his retirement with the rank of Bd CSgt in December 1989.

On leaving he decided he would take time off to adjust to civvie street, but after two weeks found himself bored; so he joined the Post Office as a stop-gap. He has been there ever since.

Bill left music alone for almost 18 years until invited to be part of the RMA Concert Band. But without an instrument he offered himself in an administrative role and was asked to be band Secretary (again). After a year of attending rehearsals, he got itchy fingers and his wife Carol, as a surprise, bought him a bass clarinet, and he has not looked back since.

Bill currently resides in Portsmouth with his wife and daughter Sally; his son Darren lives in Wales.

Personality profile No. 9

Malcolm Kennard RVM (RMB 3562, Principal Clarinet) writes: "There it was on the telly, in glorious black and white, the 1954 Greyhound Derby from London's White City Stadium with



Malcolm Kennard, solo clarinet, Royal Yacht Band, 1968

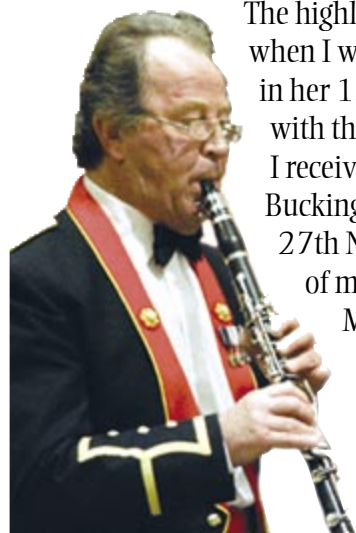
the Massed Bands of HM Royal Marines beating retreat. "That's what I want to be," I said, a 14 year old pupil of the Portsmouth Building School, studying carpentry, bricklaying, plumbing, painting and decorating (favourite subject music!)

I joined the RM School of Music at Deal in 1955 and studied the clarinet with Mike Thatcher. Training was completed in 1958 and travels began in HMS *Victory II* (now HMS *Nelson*) under the direction of Commissioned

Bandmaster Jim Pottle. This was followed by a move to HMS *Pembroke* in Chatham, where amongst other things I learned to play cards. Then on to HMS *St Vincent* to join the newly formed training band of young musicians.

I married in 1960 and a draft to the aircraft carrier HMS *Centaur* soon followed in early 1961! In June 1961, after runs-ashore in Gibraltar, Malta and Sicily *Centaur* was due to turn right out of the Mediterranean for a Summer cruise of the North Atlantic and visits to Norfolk, Virginia, Boston and Quebec. Unfortunately one of Saddam Hussein's predecessors declared that as Kuwait was a province of Basrah it belonged to Iraq. The first oil crisis then ensued and *Centaur* was ordered to turn left through the Suez Canal to the Persian Gulf. The band then transferred to a frigate via a jackstay transfer to go ashore and entertain the troops at the front line. A very eventful commission finished in May 1963; I was then drafted to Deal where I completed my Cpl and Sgt's courses then continued as a solo clarinet in Lt Col Vivian Dunn's Staff Band.

I joined the Royal Yacht Band in 1967 and enjoyed three world tours including Royal visits to such exotic places as Easter and Pitcairn Islands, Tonga, Samoa, Fiji, Hawaii, New Guinea and the Galapagos, Cook and Solomon Islands (rough, eh?!). I left the Royal Yacht in 1980 having served under three directors of music: Tom Lambert, Jim Mason and Graham Hoskins.



Malcolm, Portsmouth Cathedral, November 2008

The highlight of my career came when I was honoured by The Queen in her 1979 Birthday Honours list with the Royal Victorian Medal. I received it from The Queen at Buckingham Palace on my birthday, 27th November, the proudest day of my career. I left the Royal Marines in 1980 and joined the staff of the *Portsmouth News* whilst continuing to teach clarinet and saxophone privately. I took early retirement in 1994 and took up instrumental teaching in several private schools in Hampshire and Wiltshire. When the RM School of Music moved to Portsmouth in 1996 I was invited to become Professor of Clarinet at the new school in HMS *Nelson*. I spent 8 very pleasant years in the post; however I was retired in 2003 and went back to teaching privately. I joined the RMA Concert Band in 2006, a band I very much enjoy playing in: long may it continue.'

Personality profile No. 10

RMACB Trombonist,
Rt Revd Dr J Barry Shucksmith BA MA PhD

was born at South Ferriby 25th November 1937. By the age of eleven he was the euphonium player in the Barton upon Humber Brass Band, now one of the leading Brass Bands in North Lincs. He joined the Band Service in 1952, and served as a boy musician for three years at Deal. Unfortunately, his professor thought his fingers were too short for the 'cello, so he graduated on the trombone. His first draft as a fully-fledged musician was to HMS *Drake*, Plymouth, in the summer of 1955. After about six months, he was recalled to Deal for staff Band duties until the end of 1956. January 1957 proved to be a life-changing experience. He joined HMS *Ceylon* for service in the East Indies and managed to take in almost 35 countries in eleven and a half months – "showing the flag, beating retreat, and giving away large chunks of the Empire". On return he was appointed to HMS *Ganges* in Suffolk, which he describes as the easiest job in the world for a bandsman, although not for the boys under training!



Bishop Barry in his day uniform

As a result of the influence of several RN Chaplains, not least Revd Lovell Pocock, three-times appointed Chaplain of RM Deal, Barry felt a call to Christian service. He left the Band Service to train for Christian ministry. There followed four years residential training at Oak Hill Theological College in London, ordination in Southwark Cathedral 29th September 1968, and a curacy at Tooting Parish Church. Over the following forty years, subsequent appointments included: Rector St Andrew's, Cape Town, Lecturer at the Bible Institute Kalk Bay, Vicar of Christ Church, Norris Green, Liverpool, Rector of St Mary's Broughton, Lincoln Diocese, and Rector of Emmanuel Church, Farnham

Contrary to all expectations, at the age of 48 years, he was invited by the Chaplain of the Fleet, Archdeacon (and green beret!) Noel Jones – later Bishop of Sodor and Man – to join the RN Chaplaincy team. After a short period as the number two chaplain, Naval Dockyard, Portsmouth, he was appointed Chaplain to the 1st Frigate Squadron. These were mainly new ships which replaced those lost in the Falklands War: HMS *Beaver*, *Boxer*, *Brave*, *Sheffield* and *Coventry*. On returning from sea time, he was appointed Chaplain HMS *Dolphin* and

the 1st Submarine Squadron, before returning to parish ministry in 1991.

Although late in the day for him, Barry has greatly enjoyed his time with the newly-formed RMACB. Having blown the cobwebs out of his rusty old trombone he has managed to re-learn old latin musical



Bishop Barry in his band uniform – unrivalled concentration!

designations, a few new skills and, hopefully, considerable humility regarding his own technical limitations! It has been a privilege to be under the able and experienced directorship of Ted Whealing, and on the trombone stand with such an exemplary brass perfectionist as Doc Paul Coker. He expresses real pleasure and the privilege of being on the Band Committee, under the inspiring leadership of Major Paddy Dunn. He believes the RMACB is on the road to national, perhaps even international fame, and he wishes this splendid 'band of brothers and sisters' all the very best for the future.

Barry sails into the sunset, with his wife Janet, who has just retired from the NHS, after almost 50 years as a District Nurse and midwife, for retirement in Barton upon Humber – the quiet retreat of his home county, Lincolnshire. He is already the author of several published works and hopes to continue writing, including a personal history, and some biblical and theological analysis of the present state of "Great Britain and the way back." As far as ordination is concerned, he highly recommends seven years with the RM Band Service – the finest pre-College course available. He concludes, "I might just re-join the Brass Band where I started in Barton, if they'll have me, slushpump,warts, and all!"

Behind the scenes

Our Finance Team



Linda Tellick (clarinet) and **Michael Rice** (Hon Treasurer, also clarinet) scrutinise the band's annual accounts during the interval at the Portsmouth Music Festival earlier in the year. It's true to say that we would be nowhere without them and we take this opportunity to offer them our sincere thanks for the hard work they put in to keep the band running on a sound financial footing.

Our Critical Support Team

It goes without saying that the band's success depends entirely on the hard work that is put into its weekly rehearsals. These are always enjoyable but in large part only because we can rely on **Jan** (First Lady of the Urn!) to provide much needed refreshments at half time. She's always there – up to her armpits in soapsuds – with delicious hot drinks and a ready smile. Jan is married to Michael Blandford, yet another clarinet player.



Our thanks

We wish to record our thanks again to the Director and Staff of the Royal Marines Museum; and also to the Partners of Biscoes (Solicitors) who have kindly sponsored our concert programme.



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