



Paddy Dunn writes

## A busy and varied year

The Band has continued to enjoy a remarkably busy year. The principal theme would appear to be variety: variety in that we have been exploring pastures new; and variety in terms of the support we have received from serving members of the Band Service. Clearly we treasure the latter and in return, where we can help our serving colleagues, we promise to do just that.

The highlight of this summer was undoubtedly our open air concert at **Leeds Castle** in Kent, 'the loveliest castle in the world' to quote their advertising literature. Most of us would agree with that – not that we had much time to inspect the premises, as the boss had us working hard from the

moment we arrived until we climbed back onto the coach, exhausted, in the evening. And on a really hot August day too. No matter; there was a good crowd scattered across the grass in the arena where we played and most people had sensibly brought picnics. So a lovely relaxed atmosphere pervaded this historic setting and we were especially pleased that there were several members of today's youth in the audience, notably the head chorister of St Paul's Cathedral whose birthday outing this event was. Special mention must be made of our four soloists that day: Paul Coker (trombone) with *The Rose*, Elaine Ball's *Gabriel's Oboe*, and Steve Tanner (soprano) and Dave Clackett

(alto) who received considerable applause for their parts in *Robin Hood*, *Prince of Thieves*, a special arrangement by David Cole featuring *Everything I Do I Do It For You*. Pure magic.

Then to the **Lighthouse at Poole** again in early September. What an absolutely superb auditorium that is, acoustically speaking. Hardly surprising as it's the headquarters of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, so Jon Yates probably felt at home with his stunning composition *Adagio For Trumpet*, and Paul Coker's *Shadow of Your Smile* also came across brilliantly. The concert also gave us the opportunity to play Ray Woodfield's clever arrangement of *The Music of Michel Legrand*, Grainger's lovely *Londonderry Air* and Robert Farnon's sensitively constructed *Rhapsody on the Minstrel Boy*. Next to **Lympstone** for our biennial gig at the RMA Reunion weekend, this time magnificently supported by Plymouth Band's Corps of Drums who added panache, style, precision and colour to our presentation exactly as the RMA members always demand. And in between we managed to squeeze in yet another concert at our lovely home, the **Corps Museum at Eastney**. There was something about that gig that just seemed to click into place beautifully

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Leeds Castle, near Maidstone, the magnificent setting for our 21 August concert.





Photos: Charles Fox. www.charles-fox.com

on that occasion. Anyway, a full house with some outstanding solos by Messrs Yates (*Stanley's Trumpet Concerto*), Coker, Tanner, Flood, Clackett and others. Quite memorable really.

Since then we've been to **Margate's Winter Gardens** at the invitation of Mike Scurfield and his team at Cinque Port Music. A great gig but it was on probably one of the hottest autumn days in living memory and that made the long coach journey even more tiring and tedious than usual. Then most recently to the lovely **Octagon Theatre in Yeovil** where we were joined by the Corps of Drums from Portsmouth Band (Cpl Helen Annett) whose presence effortlessly swelled the audience by at least a hundred. Thank you so much: obviously the more seats we fill the more we are able to donate to the

RM Charitable Trust Fund's campaign appeal to raise £6M by the Corps' 350th anniversary in October 2014. We attach great importance to our year-round fund raising efforts for such an important Corps charity, and our programme that day, which included *Out of Africa*, *633 Squadron*, *Aces High*, *Bohemian Rhapsody*, *Twelfth Street Rag* and Eric Payne's beautiful alto solo *What Are You Doing with the Rest of Your Life*, all of which were roundly applauded, was particularly well received.

Finally, special thanks go to Capt Pete Curtis who stood in for David Cole at our Fareham, Lymstone and Margate gigs. What energy, what style. Thank you so much Pete for helping us out and for bringing a whole new meaning to our understanding of the word 'joke' and the Director

of Music's introductory remarks!

*Happy Christmas everyone!* Next year we will continue to explore pastures new such as **Cheltenham**, **Trowbridge**, **Horsham**, **Bognor Regis** and **Hedge End**: the programme is opposite. Additionally we have been invited to provide the music for a special TV programme marking the centenary of the *Titanic's* fateful maiden voyage from Southampton in 1912.

We will also be doing a schools concert in February at **Hayling Island** as our contribution to the Band Service's recruiting drive, and also because we readily acknowledge the need to do our bit for the local community, especially where it can bring Royal Marines music even more into contact with today's youth.

## Follow the RMA Concert Band in 2012

The provisional list of public concerts arranged for 2012 is as follows:

Date	Time	Venue	Box Office
Sunday 5th February	3pm	Worthing, Assembly Hall	01903-206206
Sunday 18th March	3pm	Hedge End, Berry Theatre	01489-799499
Sunday 22nd April	3pm	Cheltenham, Town Hall	08445-762210
Sunday 13th May	3pm	Horsham, Capitol	01403-750220
Thursday 17th May	7.30pm	Southsea, Royal Marines Museum	02392-819385
Saturday 2nd June	9pm	Yeovil, Recreation Ground – ‘Music in the Park’	tbn
Sunday 1st July	5pm	Trowbridge, ‘Armed Forces Day’	tbn
Sunday 15th July	3pm	Bognor Regis, Alexandra Theatre	01243-861010
Saturday 25th August	7pm	Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, Victory Arena	tbn
Thursday 20th September	7.30pm	Southsea, Royal Marines Museum	02392-819385
Sunday 7th October	3pm	Margate, Winter Gardens	01843-292795
Sunday 28th October	3pm	Yeovil, Octagon Theatre	01935 422884

## PERSONALITY PROFILES

### Personality profile No.29: David Tremaine



**David Tremaine** (RMB 3928) writes: ‘I joined the Band Service in October 1962 at the age of 15 in New Entry Squad 6/62 with such luminaries as Dick Granger, Pedro Hewitt and Chris Brookbank. After completing basic training I started on the trombone under Bandmaster John

Smith and Bd Cpl Joe Kendrick, my professor at that time being Wally Hargreaves. During my time under training I represented Junior Wing at football, water polo and athletics. I passed for duty in July 1965 and was drafted to HMS *Excellent*, then the Band of C-in-C Portsmouth under Lt Roy Nash and Drum Major Matt Dillon.

Many were the freezing mornings spent at Divisions on the parade ground or on HMS *Belfast*. The voice of the Chief GI echoing across the ground can still be remembered. The highlight of being with this



band was playing for the 1966 World Cup Final. January 1967 saw me back at Deal forming up for the band of HMS *Eagle* which passed for duty in front of Lt Col Dunn in March that year. The next year was spent either in the Far East or cruising in ever decreasing circles around Aden. The *Eagle* eventually paid off in October 1998 after surviving a huge storm in the Arctic Ocean. I was then moved to HMS *Raleigh*, at that time not the most musically exciting band in the world – Divisions every day including Sunday! – but a great football team and I very quickly established myself as the No:1 goalkeeper. At this time I was also involved in canoeing for the Royal Navy, a sport I still take part in now.

A short stay at *Raleigh* followed by a move to Plymouth Group which was then still at Lympstone. It was there that I was invited by Captain Jim Pottle to become the band’s bass trombonist. This was the start of my bass trombone career and I have never regretted taking the offer. The band was then split and some moved back to Plymouth as the Commando Forces Band. I opted to make the move and stayed at Plymouth until drafted to the Staff Band in 1977. This was a move I very much enjoyed, playing alongside Mick Eastbrook and the late Dick Waterer and with Jon Yates on trumpet and David Lloyd on horn. Of course all good things must come to an end and I was then drafted to Chatham where Captain Terry Freestone was still in command. By now



canoeing had taken a back seat but I was representing various teams as a hockey goalkeeper and was also well established as a squash player. After the retirement of Terry Freestone a certain Captain Ted Whealing took over the band and it was not long before I had established my own style in the band. With Chatham closing a new home had to be found, preferably near London as the band was now the C-in-C Fleet band then based at Northwood in Middlesex. The band eventually moved to RAF Northolt and after some initial hic-cups the RAF began to understand RM Bandsmen and the way they worked. I was promoted to Sergeant and took on the role of band treasurer a position I held until I retired in 1988. Whilst at Northolt I was the first team hockey goalkeeper and also one of the station squash team both of which took me to games all over the country including Northern Ireland: it's easy when you have aircraft available to ferry the team!

January 1988, sitting in the Sergeants' Mess reading the *Daily Telegraph*, I saw an advert for a School Staff Instructor at the Haberdashers Aske's School at Elstree. Not having a clue what the title meant I decided that I could do all the things they were asking for and applied for the job. Two days later the job was mine so I informed my boss, Captain Mick Goss, that I was leaving. Being on extended service this was no problem and I took up my new post officially in March 1988. The job entailed looking after the administration for some 300 Combined Cadet Force cadets, running adventure training camps and various other tasks. At the same time I was quickly welcomed into the very fine music school and asked on numerous occasions to assist with orchestral and big band concerts. By now I had moved my family, Alison my wife and our three daughters, Emma, Kerenza and Sophie, to Buckingham where I continued to play on a freelance basis in and around Oxford and Milton Keynes. During this time I answered the call to play in the Royal Marines Association Concert Band and was at the very first rehearsal on Whale Island. In a way my RM life had gone full circle. Twenty years passed very quickly

at Haberdashers' and I eventually took early retirement in 2008.

Retirement is supposed to be a time of slowing down but as I found out, there aren't enough days in the week. I was invited by the music department of Stowe School to take on the trombone teaching and also to assist their CCF with canoeing and First Aid. I am heavily involved with the CCF (RN) on a National basis being the head of Paddlesports and also an RYA First Aid Instructor and Yacht Master. I regularly play with the orchestras in Milton Keynes and Oxford including the very fine University orchestra. I very much enjoy being in the RMA Concert Band and, even though I sometimes find it difficult to travel down to Portsmouth, I hope to have many more years playing with the band.'



### Personality profile No.30: Alan Howard

RMB 3587 **Alan Howard** writes: 'My name is Alan Howard, I am 70 years young and have been married to my wife Ann for 48 years. We live in a little village called Elvington just outside Dover in Kent. My musical life began when I was five years old at the Southend-on-sea Salvation Army when the Bandmaster, Ray Gilson, put a cornet in my hand; I later joined the young people's band moving to tenor horn at eight and later to euphonium.

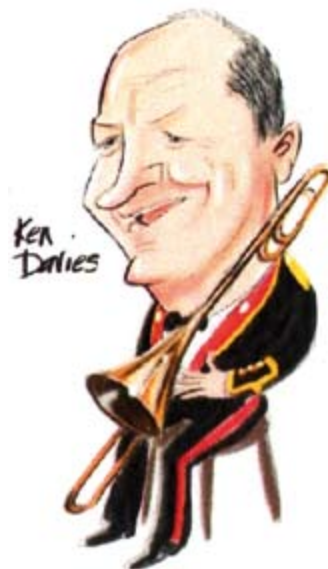
I enlisted into the Royal Marines School of Music in Deal as a euphonium player in 1956 but was told I had to learn the trombone. After leaving the School of Music I was posted to HMS *Drake* in Plymouth and later served on the aircraft carrier HMS *Centaur*. While on the *Centaur* we were diverted through the Suez Canal





## Personality profile No.31: Ken Davies

**Ken Davies**, trombone, writes: I was born on 21st June, the longest day of the year and, as my Mum would have it, the longest day of her life. The year was 1954. I started learning to play the trombone during my first year at senior school, 1965-66, the year that Alf Ramsey's lions raised the Jules Rimet trophy at Wembley and the year of World Cup Willie – a phrase that an eleven year old boy will always find amusing!



to the Persian Gulf for the very first Iraq/Kuwait threat. Once on station they transferred the band by Jackstay to a destroyer and put us ashore to beat retreat for the Army; but on coming back from the smaller ship to our carrier we had to jump for the scramble nets and climb up the side, and if you have never done it it's an experience! We visited the usual places Gibraltar, Malta, Messina, Barcelona, Aden and Hong Kong to name just a few.

I later left the Band Service but did not like Civvy Street much so re-enlisted into the Army who said I was too small for the Guards, so I was sent to the Alamein Staff Band in Germany for six years. I then transferred to the Corps of Drums 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards and served in North Germany with tours of Northern Ireland in plain clothes. In addition to being a Cpl side drummer I was given the position of Bugle Instructor.

On returning to London and public duties I was invited by the Director of Music, Major Peter Parkes, to join the Band of the Grenadier Guards. During my time with the band we visited Hong Kong, America, Canada, Denmark, Colombo, Sri Lanka, and the Middle East. Now I am with the Royal Marines Association Concert Band one could say back where I started but enjoying every minute. It has all been a wonderful experience and I would do it all again.'



The choice of instrument was determined for me by the music teacher who caught me, during a particular lunchtime, unsupervised and larking around in the music room, with a trombone in my hand. He gave me a choice: "Learn to play the trombone or visit the headmaster for six of the best!" I'm eternally grateful to Mr Scholar for catching me on that fateful day as music has given me no end of opportunities and enjoyment.

My musical education began in earnest when I was introduced to the school's peripatetic teacher Mr Gilbert Hall, a Welshman from a talented musical family with a big heart and a sense of humour: after all he named his trumpet-playing, session musician son, Albert, after a famous London landmark! Mr Hall was a wonderful teacher, communicator and facilitator who presided over halcyon days at the school. By the time I was in my mid teens I was playing with championship section brass bands in the Greater London area. I played with Watney's Silver Band in Mortlake and Hanwell Band in Greenford and Hayes. I was also playing with function bands and small ensembles throughout this time.

After leaving school and whilst deciding on a career I continued playing music for a meagre income but that had to be supplemented by working as a labourer on building sites. In 1976 I managed to wangle an invitation, through a very good friend of mine, Stan Tamplin of the RAF Central Band, to tour part of the Mid West of America with the British Airways Silver Wing Band. It was at this stage that my Dad told me there was no money in music and that I should get a proper job. I had always had an interest in architecture and the built environment so I soon found myself working for one of the London Boroughs as a trainee architect, studying on a day release basis. It became apparent to me that this

type of study should be undertaken on a fulltime basis so I left work to study architecture at Thames Polytechnic. Times were hard as a student and eventually I sold all my instruments; but after what seemed like an inordinate amount of time I qualified as a chartered architect and spent the following years in private practice and lecturing at South Bank Polytechnic (now University).

To cut a long story short, following the death of my Mum in 2004, I was left part of her estate and decided

to fritter some away on a new trombone. The last instrument I had to sell as a student was a Conn 8H so I ordered one from the US and waited with baited breath for it to arrive. The day it reached me I went for a 'blow' with a local brass band. I realised immediately what I had been missing and from that moment on I've been trying to strengthen my chops and learning to read bass clef without transposing.

## PRESIDENT'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



This has been a tremendous year for our Band with several outstanding triumphs on the concert platform. However, we were all very sad to see the retirement of our founding Director of Music, Ted Whealing, who has done so much to establish the Band in its early

years and bring it so successfully to such a high standard of musical excellence. He is greatly missed by us all and indeed by concert goers across the country who have followed him faithfully for many years. We wish him and Glo a long and happy retirement.

I am delighted that we were awarded the RMA President's Prize in September for our outstanding contribution to the Association's work in general and particularly for our successful fundraising efforts throughout the year.

I am extremely pleased that my old friend, Captain David Cole, has agreed to succeed Ted as our Director of Music; he is a busy man and we are very lucky to have "hooked" him.

The past year has been fuller than ever with a memorable performance in the Painted Hall at Greenwich in May and a Summer Open Air Concert at Leeds Castle in August not to forget all the other commitments we have fulfilled at

*Paddy Dunn receives the RMA President's Award on behalf of the Band from Brigadier Simon Hill.*



Worthing, Folkestone, Dartford, Poole, Fareham, Yeovil, Margate, Weymouth, Lymington and Epsom. Furthermore, the two concerts at the Royal Marines Museum at Eastney were a huge success; indeed David Cole's masterful programme selection resulted in a number of letters from the audience congratulating the Band and especially the soloists, Messrs Yates, Coker, Flood, Clackett and Tanner and our talented oboist, Elaine Ball.

I am extremely grateful to the Band for supporting the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights' Installation Dinner at Greenwich when the Permanent Master, Prince Philip, installed the Prince of Wales as my successor as Prime Warden. David Cole and all the players that evening excelled themselves not least Jon Yates, whose classic demonstration on the Post Horn of circular breathing will long be remembered by all those present including five members of the Royal Family. Moreover, the Corps of Drums of the Portsmouth Band made a major impact in the finale.

This year we have been most fortunate that three serving Directors of Music, Andy Gregory, Craig Burns and Pete Curtis, have stepped in to help us either during rehearsals or at concerts when David Cole was not available. Their support has been invaluable and hugely appreciated and I hope that they have enjoyed the experience.

The coming year promises to be equally demanding, packed with interesting new commitments including a special production for television to mark the centenary of the loss of the *Titanic* in 1912 and an open air evening concert in the *Victory* Arena in the Historic Dockyard at Portsmouth. Additionally, the Band will be involved in several other celebration events marking the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Many congratulations on all that you have achieved this year and I hope that you all have a very Happy Christmas and great success in 2012.



'ROYAL MARINES ASSOCIATION CONCERT BAND 2006-2011'

Caricatures by Rick (Rick Coleman) – www.caricature.co.uk Tel: 01707-695296

## IN SHORT

### The New Timpanis

Percussionist Helen Saunders shows off the pair of tuned Premier timpanis which we have recently bought, thanks to the generosity of our supporters many of whom have made donations to the Band since its formation in 2006. We thought you would like to see one example of how your gifts have been spent, but if you would like to hear these timpani in action come to one of our concerts and Helen will be only too thrilled to demonstrate them to you. "They're a brilliant stress reliever", she says!



### Wedding Bells

Congratulations are in order for trumpeter Greg Morgan who has recently taken the plunge and got married. We wish him and his bride every good wish for a long and happy marriage.



## Please visit these websites

**The Royal Marines Charitable Trust Fund**  
[www.rmctf.org.uk](http://www.rmctf.org.uk)



**ROYAL MARINES CHARITABLE TRUST FUND**

This recently launched RM charity is run by Royal Marines for Royal Marines particularly those seriously wounded on current operations in Afghanistan. It aims to raise £6M by 28th October 2014 to ensure proper support can be provided to them and their beneficiaries in the short, medium and long term.



**The Royal Marines Museum**  
[www.royalmarinesmuseum.co.uk](http://www.royalmarinesmuseum.co.uk)

The home of the Royal Marines Association Concert Band which provides us with the world's finest band room!

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