



Ted Whealing writes

Winter and Spring Commitments

2009 has started well with a new CD which we have called *'That's Entertainment'* and sales are brilliant. John Perkins and Ken Peers did their usual excellent job of recording and mastering at Clovelly's studios in Dover. It is always hard work recording sixteen tracks in just two days but with good humour and skill on both sides I think the result is a credit to all – and well worth the price, if you are thinking of buying! This is the first of our CDs to be produced under the RMA's own label, so we are making history and hope for more in the future.

Our first concert of the year was at the Anvil Theatre, **Basingstoke**; I cannot think of a better venue to start the year. Audience attendance was pretty good considering it was our first appearance there and we were well received. Amongst the highlights Paul Coker provided a superb trombone solo with *Alfie*, Jon Yates again wowed the audience with his circular breathing demo and sheer brilliance in Koenig's famous *Post Horn Gallop*, and Derek Vickers had the audience in stitches with his exhilarating and amusing performance of *Gee Whizz*. On February 22nd we were invited back to the **Isle of Wight** by the Medina Marching Band. The concert was a complete sell-out and the Marching Band Corps of Drums joined us for a few pieces and gave an excellent performance. They really are a very talented young group. We are hoping to meet up with the Corps of Drums again on 12th September, this time at **Yarmouth**, Isle of Wight.

22nd March was our first appearance at the Orchard Theatre, **Dartford**, another outstanding hall and a prestigious venue. A large audience gave us a warm reception and Jon Yates again soloed, this time with his marvellous imitation of the legendary American trumpeter, Harry James, in *A Tribute to Harry James*. We look forward to returning to North Kent again next year. 19th April saw us performing once more at the Octagon, **Yeovil**. It is always gratifying to go back to a venue with a large and enthusiastic audience, as was the case here. This Concert was unique in that it provided the first public performances of solos from our latest CDs, namely Jon Yates playing *Sugar Blues*, Paul Coker performing *The Shadow of Your Smile*, both from the *'Haslar Farewell'* CD (see below), and David Smart with his exquisitely



Ted Whealing conducts the Band and Milton Glee Club Choir, Portsmouth Guildhall, 17th May 2009

sensitive interpretation of *The Watermill* from *'That's Entertainment'*. It was good to see members of the audience there from the **Street** and Glastonbury areas, who also attend our annual Christmas concert at the Strode Theatre. This, incidentally, is booked for 12th December.

More recently, 17th May, we performed with the 100 strong Milton Glee Club Choir in **Portsmouth Guildhall**. This was the MGC's first attempt at a Sunday afternoon Concert and the first time we have appeared with them. It was well attended and enjoyed by all. The

In this issue

<i>Ted Whealing writes</i>	1
<i>Future programme</i>	2
<i>Farewell and Hello</i>	2
<i>Profiles: Steve Tanner</i>	3
<i>David Smart</i>	4
<i>Ron Howell</i>	4
<i>Lancaster House</i>	5
<i>In short</i>	6
<i>Most recent CDs</i>	6
<i>Our thanks</i>	6

The RMA Concert Band Newsletter is published occasionally for friends and sponsors of the Band. News and views for inclusion may be sent to:
The Editor, Concert Band Newsletter, Building 32, Whale Island, Portsmouth PO2 8ER (tel: 02392-651519)

Band rose to the occasion and provided a sympathetic accompaniment to the Choir in addition to performing some pieces featured on our recent CDs, notably *Barwick Green*, the theme tune of 'The Archers', and, of course, *The Pompey Chimes*, both of which were incredibly well received. We have also performed the first of this year's two concerts in the **Royal Marines Museum**. A somewhat smaller audience this time, but still an enthusiastic response to a varied programme which included some new pieces, notably Shostakovich's *Festive Overture*, the clarinet trio *Busy Bodies* and a selection from the musical *West Side Story*. Our next Concert at the Museum is on 17th September.

Other news for the first part of this year is that the **'Haslar Farewell'** CD is now on sale and we hope that sales will really take off to support the Friends of Haslar Heritage Trust. Tracks include the *Haslar Farewell* and *QARNNS* marches and the booklet provides many photos and notes on the distinguished history of Haslar Hospital which served the Royal Navy for more than 250 years.

The complement of the Band remains strong and our normal 'turnout' for a public performance is around 40 to 45 players, which gives a good balanced sound. We are grateful for the continuing support of our many friends and look forward to seeing you at our remaining concerts during 2009.

Future programme

The list of scheduled concerts in our diary for the remainder of 2009 is as follows:

Date	Time	Venue	Box Office
Sun 21st June	3.00pm	Assembly Hall, Stoke Abbott Road, Worthing	01903-206206
Sun 16th August	3.00pm	Ferneham Hall, Fareham, Hants	01329-231942
Sat 12th September	7.30pm	Yarmouth, Isle of Wight	TBA
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	7.00pm	RMA Reunion at CTCRM, Lymptone, Devon	RMA members and their families only
Sun 18th October	3.00 pm	Pavilion Theatre, Weymouth, Dorset	01305-783225
Sat 12th December	7.30pm	Strode Theatre, Street, Somerset	01458-442846

Farewell and Hello



We send our best wishes to **Lt Col Chris Davis** OBE BA(Hons) MMus DMA LRAM RM on his retirement from the Corps as Principal Director of Music Royal Marines. Chris has moved the RM Band Service forward several notches during his appointment and his significant

achievements, not least a legacy of several stunning recordings particularly with the Massed Bands, will never be forgotten. We wish to pay a special tribute to him because it was Chris who in 2005 responded to the challenge from the RMA President, Brig Simon Hill: 'Why don't we form a RMA band from the retired Band Service community?' Chris's reply was unequivocal: 'You have my full support.' Subsequently Chris championed the Band's cause and helped to nurture its growth. We are most grateful and wish him well in his new career.



His successor is **Lt Col Nick Grace** BMus(Hons) FLCM LRSM RM. Those of us who attended this year's Beating Retreat by the Massed Bands on Horse Guards Parade have already identified in him those special qualities which have defined every PDM since Sir Vivian Dunn dominated the appointment

in the 1950s and 60s: musicianship, panache, flair and determined leadership. We welcome Nick as the head of the RM Band Service and look forward to working with him as Royal Marines musicians, past and present, continue to influence the world's military music scene. Nick and his wife Isobel live in Portsmouth with their son Ryan. We hope soon to introduce them to our expanding army of supporters at our future gigs.

Personality profile No. 11

Steve (Sid) Tanner

(RMB4175) was born in Portsmouth, the youngest of three children and the only child to take after his mother, musically speaking, who played piano. He joined the Marine



Cadets band at Eastney at the age of 8 inspired by Harold Price, a family friend who played trombone in the Royal Yacht Band. From that moment Steve dreamed of serving on the Royal Yacht too! He began playing the fife progressing to the piccolo at the age of 10. He received his early musical training in the cadets from Bugle-Major Waite. Indeed his memories of this time, when waiting to attend a lesson, were being fascinated by the sign on the door which read: "Knox and Waite" – Knox was the Drum Major! In the cadets Steve reached the rank of Bandmaster at the tender age of 12 but due to his size many remarked that he needed a wheel attached to the bottom of his sword!



In 1967 Steve joined the Royal Marines Band Service at Deal and retained his nickname, Sid, from the cadets. He was tutored on flute and tenor saxophone by Professor Harry Eden. Training was completed in 1970 and he was subsequently drafted to Plymouth Band, then stationed at Lympstone under Capt Jim 'Gin Bottle' Pottle, Director of Music, and later Capt Wally Shillitto. Whilst serving in this band Sid met characters such as Henry Monahan, Pedro Hewitt and Roy Hallin who made up the pop group *Feudal System*. Steve was invited to become their road manager for a visit to Belfast playing for the troops. It was here that he was to meet his future wife, Ann. They married the following year in 1971 in Belfast. Their first child, James, was born in Belfast in 1972 after which the family moved to Newton Abbott when the band moved back to its original home in Stonehouse Barracks, Plymouth and became the Commando Forces Band. Two years later Steve and Ann's second son, Colin, was born and 3 years later their daughter Claire.

As well as spending time in Malta, Norway and Northern

Ireland, the band was given the opportunity in 1976 to tour North America with the Black Watch for three months. The following year Steve was drafted to Portsmouth which led to him achieving his life-long ambition of serving on the Royal Yacht. During this time he enjoyed tours to the South Pacific, Galapagos Islands, Hawaii and the Far East as well as numerous visits to Australia and New Zealand. He was also a member of the band aboard Britannia for two Royal honeymoons! His Directors of Music then were Capts Jim Mason, Graham Hoskins and Ted Whealing.

In 1989 Steve became volunteer band instructor for HMS *Nelson*, a post he held until leaving the service in 1992 after 25 years service. During this period he took up the appointment of Musical Director of Highbury Area Band, a local youth wind band, and continues to hold this post today. Since leaving the Royal Marines he took his teaching diploma and has been working full-time as a peripatetic woodwind teacher with Hampshire Music Service. He is a founder member and conductor of the Solent Symphony Orchestra, works for Portsmouth Music Service as Musical Director for Portsmouth Junior and Senior Wind Bands and also directs school bands and orchestras in the Portsmouth and Gosport areas. With all this teaching Steve still finds time to play flute, clarinet and saxophones in function bands, holiday camps, pit orchestras etc. He was MD for productions of *Chess* and *Oliver* and has been MD for Humdrum Am dram productions of *Children of Eden*, *Titanic the Musical*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Full Monty*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* and *Seussical the Musical*. Steve has played Malcolm Arnold's *Concerto for Flute and Strings* with the Portsmouth New Music Orchestra, and in recent years plays first flute for the Petersfield Orchestra. For around 10 years Steve has been 'Woodwind Head of Section' for the Portsmouth Music Festival. Away from music Steve likes to relax on his boat fishing in Langstone Harbour, spends time with his five Shih Tzu dogs Millie,

Steve as conductor of the Highbury Area Community Band



Molly, Bonnie, Charlie and Marley, and enjoys swimming and going to the gym!

On leaving the Band Service Steve claimed he would never wear a uniform again and yet here he is playing his flute and very much enjoying the time he spends in the newly formed RMA Concert Band – in uniform!

[Steve is the Band's principal flautist. His brilliant piccolo solo, 'The Shanghai Sailor', is featured on our first CD 'Once A Marine.....' Ed]

Personality profile No. 12

David Smart started his musical life at 13 as a trombonist in his school orchestra. On leaving school at 16 he then played Bass Trombone for Barnstaple Town Military Band and eventually 1st Trombone for Bideford Town Brass Band, a championship section band at that



time. In July 1987 he joined the Army and did his basic training at the Prince of Wales' Division training depot in Tamworth, Staffordshire. After eight weeks he was posted to the Band of the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment (WFR's) in Cyprus, who were there as part of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force. In January 1988 David was posted to the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall for two years, where he took a change of course and studied flute and classical piano. In 1990, David re-joined the band in Northern Ireland and just missed the ambulance drivers' strike! During this time the band experienced luxury travel in either a helicopter or the back of a covert Pentac, getting to and from mess nights all over the province! The Regiment then moved back to Dhekelia in Cyprus in 1991.

1992 saw another career move for David when he successfully passed an audition for the Life Guards Band of the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment. He underwent the statutory six months equitation course and passed out at Windsor. During a series of summer concerts that year David was persuaded by the Director of Music to take another 'musical change' and he became the principal oboist of the Band, a position he held until he left the army in 1998. During his



service, David has performed all around the world, playing for all the members of the Royal Family, the Lord Mayor of London and many ambassadors and diplomats and has many donkey walloper sandbag tales to tell.

David demobbed out of Windsor and promptly relocated to Aldershot! Since leaving the Army David has played for various local ensembles and orchestras and in 2003 he was invited to become the Director of Music of the Farnborough Concert Band of the Royal British Legion as the band's second conductor. David enjoys conducting as much as playing

and writing, and recently became the musical director of the Odiham District Scout Fellowship Pantomime, which successfully gained the coveted Ralph Reader red neckerchief. This is believed to be the first and only Scout Panto to receive the award, since it is usually reserved for 'Gang Shows'.

[David is the Band's principal oboist. His extensive experience and talent can be heard in his skilful and sensitive performance of 'The Watermill' which is featured in our new CD 'That's Entertainment', and we congratulate him on his recent LCM award for conducting – Ed]

Personality profile No. 13

Ron Howell (Trombone). 'Sign here' said the Chief Petty Officer in the Ipswich recruiting office. 'And when you get to Deal tell them you want to join the Band.' In July 1961 17-year old Ron Howell arrived at Deal and, along with 34 other recruits, was crammed into a single barrack room behind the Church. He was assigned a number, RM20678, and issued with khaki battle dress, all kinds of other strange kit and a self loading rifle. At this stage Ron sensed something amiss and explained to his squad sergeant that he had come to join the band, as he had played a trombone for some years in the Salvation Army. The Sergeant, Roger Tyack, kindly



arranged a visit to the School of Music for an audition, where Ron was loaned a trombone and some music which looked kind of strange! The Professor explained that it was something called 'bass clef' and was one of the differences between brass bands and military bands. On discovering Ron's age he announced that all of his boys joined the band service at 14 and Ron was much too old to be taught from scratch. So it was back to Recruit Wing where Sgt Tyack welcomed him back with: 'You've joined the real Marines.' Nine months later Ron passed for duty at Lympstone, proudly marching behind the band, wearing a green beret.

There then followed a signals course at Eastney after which he was drafted to 45 Commando in Aden. Ron was intrigued by what went on inside the radios he operated and in his spare time



Cpl Ron during his service

went along to the Radio Technician's workshop and learnt more. In early 1964, while he was serving with 41 Commando in East Africa, a notice was issued requesting volunteers for training as Radio Technicians. Ron applied and was accepted. 41 Commando returned to the UK in time to perform the Tercentenary duties in London after which Ron went to Catterick for 12 months training with the Royal Signals. Subsequently he was drafted to 43 Commando in Plymouth but three months later he was moved to HQ 3 Commando Brigade in Singapore. Having been engaged for 7 months Ron decided to marry Sylvia and they set off for their 'Government sponsored honeymoon' in Singapore in January 1966 returning to Eastney in September 1968.

In May 1969 a son, Kevin, was born in St Mary's Portsmouth, with further care at Emsworth nursing home, where Sylvia was in the next bed to Mrs Annie Dunn, wife of RMA Concert Band chairman Maj Paddy Dunn! Before completing his service engagement in February 1971 Ron spent an interesting six months attached to the SBS on a 'secret' mission with an underwater Swimmer Delivery Vehicle (midget submarine) doing trials in Malta and Gibraltar. This was so secret that while the trials were still on-going the SDV featured on Blue Peter! After discharge Ron trained as a mainframe computer engineer and for 25 years, travelled all over the world in various support capacities. In December 1971 Sylvia gave birth to their daughter, Sarita.

He has continued playing trombone in brass bands and

Sylvia, Ron and Jon Yates after the Lancaster House reception in London



this led to a chance encounter when his band, Watership Brass, was short of a bass player for a tour to South Africa in 2001. Someone had a contact in Newbury who played bass: this was Michael Hutton a former RM Bandmaster who is also now a member of the Concert Band. He and Ron got talking during the tour and later on Mike arranged for Ron to take part in the Royal Marines All Stars concerts in Margate. He started to learn bass clef! Then a few years later an invitation arrived to join the RMA Concert Band. In fear and trepidation but with encouragement from Sylvia Ron went along to the inaugural meeting and joined. 'I thoroughly enjoy playing with the Band and taking part in the camaraderie of the Band Service', says Ron. 'Although some 45 years late I feel I have achieved my ambition of playing in an RM Band. My special thanks to the trombone section members who are so patient, supportive and encouraging.' Ron and Sylvia live in Newbury close to their children, who are both married, and their four grandchildren.

Lancaster House

Lancaster House is an imposing building located at the end of the Mall in London adjacent to Buckingham Palace. The Band was invited to play there for the Corps reception after the Massed Bands beat retreat on Horse Guards Parade on 11th June. Some 550 serving and former Royal Marines attended with their families as did HRH The Prince Philip, Captain General Royal Marines.



In short

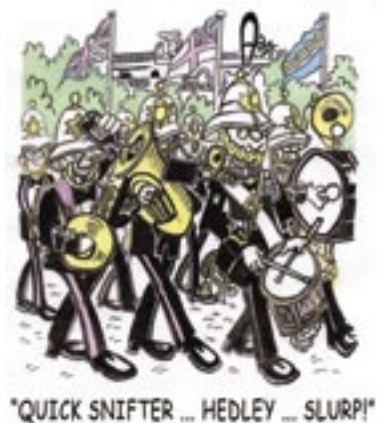
Welcome Back Amy

It is a pleasure to welcome back to the Band **Amy Rushton**, one of our four horn players. Amy, who is a former member of the RM Band Service (about which more later), joined the Band in its first year but was posted away to Plymouth in 2007 with husband John, who studied trumpet with Jon Yates. John has now been drafted back to Portsmouth to serve with Royal Band thus enabling Amy to rejoin us. We congratulate them both on the recent birth of their son and thank them for continuing to support us.



Remembering Hedley

Readers will doubtless remember the sad loss last year of one of our euphonium players, Hedley Lock, who died at the relatively young age of 67. As well as being a fine musician, particularly as a 'cellist, Hedley was an irrepressible character who enlivened the RM Band Service during his career with his talent, wit and humorous approach to life. We still miss him and will never forget him, as this cartoon from his service career emphasises.



PR and Fan Club

We were astonished and delighted when we spotted this lovely chap at one of our recent gigs in Portsmouth. He had gone to the trouble of publicising all our concerts this year on his T-shirt in a personal way. Thank you, Anthony Combs: we can now save on advertising material!



Most Recent Compact Discs

£12- each incl p+p

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

Under the White Ensign, Leander March, The Watermill (Oboe: David Smart), *Barwick Green* (the theme tune of 'The Archers'), *The Fairest of the Fair, Swing's the Thing, Cavalry of the Clouds, Florentina March, Rhapsody on the Minstrel Boy, Pirates of the Caribbean, El Capitan, Memories of You* (Trumpets: Jon Yates and Alan Flood), *Les Miserables, Bugler's Holiday* (Trumpets: Jon Yates, Alan Flood and Roger Hammond), *Ukrainian Bell Carol, That's Entertainment*.
16 tracks, 71 minutes



HASLAR FAREWELL

Haslar Farewell, Trafalgar March, Salute to Bob Hope, QARNNS March, Where E're You Walk, Sousa!, Orpheus in the Underworld, War on the Big Screen, The Shadow of your Smile (Trombone: Paul Coker), *Mountbatten March, Jolly Roger, On the Quarterdeck, Sugar Blues* (Trumpet: Jon Yates), *The Longest Day, Viscount Nelson, Evening hymn 'Crimond', Sunset, Regimental March Selection*.
18 tracks, 74 minutes



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 continue to sponsor our concert programme.



The RMA Concert Band Newsletter is published by:
RMA Concert Band
Building 32, Whale Island,
Portsmouth, Hants PO2 8ER
Tel: 02392-651519
www.rmacb.org.uk
Email: dom@rmacb.org.uk