



Paddy Dunn writes

Glorious Greenwich

The Band was privileged to be asked to play in the Painted Hall of the Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich during the installation dinner of the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights on the occasion of HRH The Prince of Wales becoming its Prime Warden on 10 May. This invitation was extended to us by the Company's Deputy Prime Warden, our Band President Admiral Sir Jock Slater GCB LVO DL, and it goes without saying that we accepted with gratitude in the certain knowledge that it would, without doubt, be the finest occasion we have played at since the Band was founded five years ago. And in the event so it turned out.

Our task was relatively straight forward: to play appropriate introduction music and fanfares as the Royal Family, Court, Liverymen and their guests assembled; to provide music throughout the dinner; and then finally to perform the musical extra before the speeches. However, readers who know the Painted Hall will appreciate that the building presents something of a challenge acoustically speaking, therefore a great deal of care was taken to provide a small, balanced band yet one large enough to project sufficient power for the fanfares and finale. Eventually David Cole selected 29 players and of course he faced the dilemma of having to leave out many fine musicians who were anxious not to be omitted.



The Band travelled to Greenwich during the afternoon, set up and carried out a short rehearsal, then awaited the arrival of the guests just before 7pm. In addition to the Prince of Wales also attending that evening were HRH The Duke of Edinburgh (Shipwright's Permanent Master), HRH The Duke of York, HRH The Princess Royal and Vice Admiral Tim Laurence. Admiral Sir Mark Stanhope (First Sea Lord), Rear Admiral Sir Donald Gosling, the Band's principal benefactor, and some 300 other distinguished liverymen and their guests were also present. We opened with Paul Neville's *Selection of Sea Shanties* and then played Handel's *March from Scipio* and the Royal Marines regimental slow march, *Preobrajensky*, as the Court processions entered the hall. Finally the Permanent Master's procession,

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Upper: the scene at dinner in the Painted Hall of the Old Royal Naval College.

Centre: arrival of the guests.

Lower: the musical extra after dinner; the Corps of Drums, with principal trumpet Jon Yates, play the Post Horn Galop.

consisting of the Royal Family led by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, appeared accompanied by Admiral Slater who presented David Cole and the Band. They then played David's magnificent, *Fanfare for the First Sea Lord*, which was composed in honour of Sir Jock on his retirement from the Royal Navy in 1998. This is a stirring and powerful work which added emphasis to the pomp and splendour of a wholly unforgettable occasion and which complemented perfectly the exquisite ceiling and wall paintings decorated in the early eighteenth century by Sir James Thornhill in Sir Christopher Wren's masterpiece building.

During dinner, playing from beneath the Painted Hall near the King William Undercroft, the Band's music selection included Vaughan Williams' *Sea Songs*, Langford's *Fantasy on British Sea Songs*, Ronald Binge's *Sailing By* and John Perkins' beautiful arrangement of Morricone's classic *Gabriel's Oboe* – soloist Elaine Ball. After dinner the Band returned to the hall and stood to play at the far end firstly the National Anthem during the Loyal Toast, and then Sir Vivian Dunn's march *The Captain General* during which the Corps of Drums from Portsmouth Band (led by Sgt Bugler Phil Hawkins) marched up the stairs into the hall, passing through the Band to perform a superb display amongst the diners. On completion Jon Yates, principal trumpet, took up his post horn to play Koenig's famous *Post Horn Galop*. Many readers will have seen Jon's outstanding expertise with this instrument especially his brilliant cadenza which culminates in his circular breathing demonstration: the art of holding a single note for an extended period whilst Jon circled the hall including the upper hall and the top table, see photographs. It was no surprise therefore that when he finally returned to the Band without pausing for breath he received a standing ovation.

The Band finished its performance with *Heart of Oak* and *A Life on the Ocean Wave* before returning to the coach to travel home to Portsmouth. An exhausting but thoroughly rewarding day which we now treasure and will remember for years.

Finally, we were thrilled to receive from Sir Jock the following message addressed to David Cole: 'Our Band was absolutely outstanding on Tuesday evening and I am most

grateful for all you did to make it so. The Musical Extra was exactly what I wanted and needless to say Jon Yates stole the show. We were all particularly impressed how you integrated the Corps of Drums and their performance was second to none. All in all a great night which certainly raised the profile of the RMA Concert Band. Please pass on my great thanks and congratulations to all our bandsmen.'



The musical extra after dinner, the *Post Horn Galop*, was played by principal trumpet Jon Yates.



HRH The Prince Philip, Captain General Royal Marines, accompanied by Deputy Prime Warden Admiral Sir Jock Slater, met members of the Band.



TED RETIRES



It is with considerable regret that we announce the retirement of Ted Whealing our founding Director of Music. We owe him a huge debt of gratitude for all he did in establishing the Band in 2006; and from every point of view there's no doubt whatever that the

solid foundations he established, coupled with a rapidly rising reputation for musical excellence, has been almost entirely due to Ted's enthusiasm, energy and drive plus a great deal of faith in what he believed was possible with a band drawn from the retired Band Service community. But sadly all good things must eventually come to an end and it only remains for us to wish Ted a long and happy retirement after an outstanding career in the Corps, as Director of Music of the Royal British Legion for fifteen years and then finally as our first Director.

As one of the most experienced wind band directors of music in the country, if not the world, Ted is an extremely hard act to follow. He gained his musical education on joining the Royal Marines as a boy musician from which he retired in 1991 after 36 years service. In the

1970s he attended the advanced conducting course at the Royal Academy of Music, and also studied under John Dankworth. He is the holder of the silver medal of the Worshipful Company of Musicians and his service career culminated in his appointment as Director of Music of the Royal Yacht *Britannia* following which HM The Queen honoured him with membership of the Royal Victorian Order (MVO). In 1991 he was appointed Director of Music of the Royal British Legion and directed the Central Band for 15 years. He was also assistant producer of the annual Festival of Remembrance service at the Royal Albert Hall, a major national broadcast on television and radio. Ted's wide experience ranged from dance bands to wind bands and concert orchestras with an emphasis on musical comedy and light concert productions, to much public and artistic acclaim. He worked with a number of top presenters: household names such as Sir Harry Secombe, Dame Vera Lynn, Max Bygraves, the Moriston Orpheus Choir and many others. In addition he conducted the London Bach orchestra; and in 1996 was invited to conduct the Russian Admiralty Band in the St Petersburg Philharmonia at a concert to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the Russian Navy. In short an outstanding career by a Royal Marines musician who achieved a great deal and was widely respected. We are most grateful to him.

DAVID COLE APPOINTED



We are delighted to announce the appointment of Captain David Cole MVO MMus ARAM RM as Ted's successor. He took over on 24 March and in short order set about

preparing the Band for its demanding schedule of Spring and Summer concerts. David, like Ted, needs little introduction to the majority of readers who will be familiar with his distinguished reputation as a most successful Royal Marines director of music particularly as a conductor, composer, arranger and producer of high quality recordings. It goes without saying that we count ourselves fortunate to have persuaded him to accept this appointment and we look forward to working with him for many future years.

David received his early musical training with the Salvation Army and playing tuba in the London Schools Symphony Orchestra. He joined the Royal Marines in

1967 from which he retired as a director of music after 32 years service. Like Ted he studied conducting at the Royal Academy of Music and was also a silver medallist of the Worshipful Company of Musicians and a director of music of the Royal Yacht, in fact the last Director before *Britannia* was decommissioned in 1997 for which he was also appointed MVO. On retirement from the Royal Marines Band Service David became head of music at a leading independent school in Kent before relieving Ted as Director of Music of the Royal British Legion in 2006. He also has wide experience in music ranging from symphony and concert orchestras, wind and brass bands to choral conducting, big bands and dance bands. He is a pianist, organist, tuba and string bass player and has worked with many top ensembles and household names. He has already demonstrated considerable expertise as a demanding and thorough band trainer with an easy, relaxed style. And as noted above his presentation of the music for the installation dinner at Greenwich in May was not only successful but masterful.

Welcome aboard David!

CAPTAINS CRAIG BURNS AND PETE CURTIS



There was the inevitable short gap between Ted leaving and David taking over. This was filled most ably by Capt Craig Burns, *Blue Band* Editor and Supply Officer (Music) in Headquarters, Royal Marines Band Service, who gallantly agreed to step

into the appointment for six weeks. Craig brought to our palatial band room in the Royal Marines Museum considerable precision and panache, and it was a joy working with him during that period – not least to experience his special brand of humour but equally to have our abilities comprehensively put through their paces by a demanding band trainer. Craig's short period with us culminated with our concert at Weymouth on 20 March which, judging by their reaction, was a terrific

success with the audience that day. Even his jokes went down well! We offer Craig considerable thanks for the time he spent with us and we look forward to seeing him again as a most valuable stand-in director of music, whenever a need arises (in September and October for the Lymptone and Margate gigs respectively). Our special thanks also go to PDM, Lt Col Nick Grace, for kindly making available to us one of his band officers to cover a key period this year.

Also helping us out this year is SO3 (Band) Capt Pete Curtis who will similarly stand in as Director of Music in June and July for the Dartford and Fareham gigs during David's further absence on duty elsewhere. We welcome him most warmly to the Band.



PERSONALITY PROFILES

Personality profile No.26: Roger Hammond



Roger Hammond (RMB 3412) writes: I was born on 3 August 1940 (as those you came to my 70th birthday party last year will know!) on the Isle of Sheppey. Music was a fairly early part of my life as I had an uncle who conducted the local

brass band. The band was a breeding ground for the RM Band Service and by the time I joined up in May 1955 the likes of Dave Stockham, Noddy Kyle and Bert Nichols were already in Deal. Originally a tenor horn player I changed to cornet on joining and was introduced to this strange looking thing called a viola which I came to know and love (sort of!). I had some wonderful tuition on my instruments from Joe Dudley and Joe Caruana which helped me survive the strictures of various DIs, First Drills etc. I managed to achieve the bronze medal in the 1957 Cassel Prize. After that competition I was approached by Capt 'Dizzy' Lang of the Plymouth Group Band who invited me to join his band as solo cornet – but withdrew his offer when he found out I also played the viola!

I did, however, enjoy a short period in Plymouth: at HMS *Drake* where my first experience was to act as prisoner escort with Keith Whittle to accompany a certain Jack Beardmore to the cells. Apparently Jack had been charged for trying to dance with the Commodore and insisted on his right to have a Royal Marines escort! Plymouth was a short but happy experience followed by another with the Staff Band in Deal under Lt Col F Vivian Dunn which included a trip to Vancouver for a joint services tattoo. I then joined the band on HMS *Tiger* for her first commission. We had a very enjoyable two years cruising the Med and Baltic and became the first British warship to go behind the iron curtain since the war when we visited Gdynia in Poland.

The remaining years of my service were spent serving on board HMY *Britannia*. We completed the first circumnavigation in 1963 for Her Majesty's tour of Australia and New Zealand after which half the band flew back to play in the Cup Final,



'Hot Lips' Hammond at a Junior Band concert in Margate – Staff Bandmaster Winchester conducting

and the other half, including me, remained on board for a month's 'bronzy bronzy' before arriving home. It was on this trip that Prince Philip christened me 'Hot Lips' after hearing me play *Post Horn Galop*, a title that I happily now bequeath to Jon Yates! During this period in the Royal Yacht Band I was also part of the massed bands that performed at the Corps Tercentenary in 1964, and for the World Cup Final in 1966. For most of my time on *Britannia* the Director of Music was Paul Neville and I have to say that my memories of Paul are that he did a demanding job very well whilst still remaining popular with his musicians. It's just a pity he had to be a Spurs fan!



Great haircut Roger – those were the days!

Since leaving the Band Service in 1967 I have had a

successful career in banking, working for both Barclays and, later, Abbey National. Playing, however, has always been a priority and I somehow managed to hold down the day job whilst playing professionally with some very fine bands, including Jack Hawkins, Ray McVay, Chrissy Lee and, locally, Arthur Ward. In 1979 I won the prize for outstanding soloist on flugelhorn whilst playing in the BBC rehearsal band contest. I am still busy on the local music scene playing for musicals and orchestras. I have played in the pit at the Kings Theatre, Southsea more than any other musician I know! Now retired I have great pleasure in spending time with my three children and seven grandchildren who all live in Kent, as well as supporting Arsenal of course!

Like everyone else who contributes to the Band Newsletters I have to say what pleasure it gives me now to be a part of this great band. I pay tribute to Ted, who joined up with me all those years ago, for doing such a great job leading us. And I'm sure that David Cole will carry on Ted's great work.

Personality profile No. 27: Alan Ham

Alan Ham (RMB 4226) writes:

1968 – joined up at the Depot RM Deal, 3rd of Sept. Terrified!!

1971 – first draft Chatham to become a legendary 'Dog End'. Grew up quickly there with the likes of Tad Marriot, Blue Taylor, Stan Matthews, Swede Moyle, Taff Kinsey, Taff



Cox, Hookey Walker, Shiner and Dennis Rumming as my mentors/room mates (up in the loft).

1972-74 – HMS *Ark Royal* with Pete Westaway and Dave Hough.what an interesting combination? Alan Privett, Alan Flook, Nick Davies, Haggis Graydon, Shiner Wright (euph and cello) and Jock Paighton ("hold me pint Hammy whilst I knuckle that Bootneck Sgt" "Sit down Jock you're p....d"!!) just to name a few. Visited Artic Circle, Finland, Sweden, the Caribbean, Med etc,etc.

1974-76 – FOSNI Band up in Rosyth dockyard: band room the old nissen church! Good times and lots of golf.

1976-82 – CINCNVHOME, Pompey. Many good trips onboard HMY *Britannia* including Charles and Di's honeymoon around the Med.

1983-86 – Staff Band Deal. Lived in H house before it became a victim of collateral damage courtesy of the IRA! Portsmouth.

VBI (Volunteer Band Instructor) HMS *Invincible*. VBI HMS *Daedalus* NAS. HMY again to conclude an 8 year period onboard. VBI HMS *Daedalus* NAS. RAF Northolt (old Chatham band); First Gulf war. 6 months onboard RFA *Argus*. Pompey again.

1992 July – Left Band Service. FINE AND LOVED EVERY MOMENT!!

(Crisp and to the point! – Ed)

Later we asked Alan if he had anything to add, and what he did after his service. He replied:

'If I could turn the clock back I would honestly do it all again. Sorry the above seems a little dry but it seemed easier to sum up 24 years like that. After my Service I spent 17 years as a self-employed peripatetic music teacher going around 8 schools in Southampton teaching children brass instruments and running Southampton youth junior brass band with, at its peak, 92 members, average age 9 years. Also worked six nights a week at Sinah Warren on Hayling Island as a player in the house band for the last two and a half years. Took early retirement last August and am loving it. Hobbies: golf, gardening, fishing and holidaying.'



Alan on Bass Guitar – or was he sound asleep?

Derek Usher

(RMB 3645) writes:
In 1956 when the RM recruiting unit paid my school in Bude Cornwall a visit I was sold. From the age of 8 my Dad had taken me every year to Navy Days in Plymouth and I had watched the RM Band beat retreat. I think I



was the only pupil serious enough to gather up all of the RM information leaflets required to convince Mum and Dad where my future lay. From then on a battle raged: I was determined, Dad was keen – but not at 14 yrs of age – with poor Mum breaking her heart at the thought of losing her son so young! Following entrance exams in April 1957 a letter arrived to say that I'd been accepted for enlistment into the RM Band Service. I was then 14 years and 77 days old. When I left on the train bound for Deal on 30 April, I saw my Mum cry for the first time as she and Dad waved me goodbye. On arrival at Deal I found I was with many similar new recruits. Our greeting by a very loud Cpl Hatton was not quite what we were expecting when he screamed out our names and made us 'Fall In'. 6 weeks of his enjoyable company was enough as he set about moulding us into some semblance of a military outfit. By the end of initial training we all wanted to go home, but were determined not to let anyone get to us, despite being so young. As Junior Musicians, life was always going to be tough, but cushioned by learning to play music. It's what we'd joined up to do.

To my surprise I was also given a violin to learn under the tutorship of Professor Whitford and I really enjoyed grabbing the rudiments of the instrument. In fact it wasn't long before I made it into the RM School of Music Orchestra under Capt Ernie Ough. My cornet professor was Joe Dudley (ex lead trumpet in the BBC Philharmonic). It took



HRH, Derek and Professor Joe Dudley, Deal 1959

time before I could make a reasonable sound on the instrument. A special highlight was being chosen to meet HRH The Prince Phillip (Captain General Royal Marines) who paid a visit to the RM School of Music. Just a year or so later I joined up with the Junior Band and went on a northern concert tour with them. I still have the Programme with my name featured among the trio to perform both *Buglers Holiday* and *Cornet Carillon*. In my last year at Deal, I managed to be selected for the coveted Cassel Prize on both instruments. Although I didn't come anywhere near winning, it felt good to be recognized for my efforts at the end of training!

My first draft in Jan 1960 was to HMS *Drake* in Plymouth. It was here that I had first seen an RM Band perform at Navy Days. Now I found myself regularly parading up and down the very same barrack square! -Great times though and great 'oggies'. However, I found myself back in Deal that summer to join a brand new ship's band, HMS *Blake*, under Bandmaster Vince Harris's direction (Vince was 80 this year). We later joined the ship for its maiden voyage and exercise work ups with NATO forces in the UK, and then over to Rotterdam – my first trip abroad. Our home port was Plymouth but it wasn't long before we set sail for the Med on a flag-waving mission. This included continuing NATO forces exercises, sandwiched with rescuing bodies from a sunken cargo vessel off Tunisia in a Force 12: not nice as we lost many liferafts, including the ship's Landrover.

Action stations saw me locking on the forward 6" Guns to target in the Gun Direction Room. God help the enemy with 'Bandy' in charge of a gun! *Blake* took us to many Med ports including Gib, Malta (our main port), Crete, Athens, Sardinia, Corsica, Toulon, Cannes, Villefranche, Livorno etc. Livorno (Leghorn) has a special memory, for it was here that I received the best news from my

girlfriend, now my wife Pauline, on 18 April 1962 that she'd given us our daughter Karen. But such were times then however, that I was refused compassionate leave! This meant being patient until we returned to UK the following October. Fortunately, this wouldn't happen today.

(or would it? – Ed)

Subsequently a visit to Haifa was aborted



Tropical Derek



Dance Band Derek

when the ship was seconded to the West Indies to escort Princess Margaret, for Jamaica's independence celebrations, and later Trinidad and Tobago. Both were historical occasions, our band being the very first to play both new national anthems. An amazing experience, if only to witness the celebrations and see the joy on people's faces. Whilst in the W.I. we had to visit some other ports including Caracas, Venezuela, St Lucia, St Vincent, Bermuda and Barbados – a tough call, but one of the ships had to do it! We'd bought a set of steel drums in Jamaica and learned to play them sufficiently on returning to Grand Harbour Malta! September '62 saw us back to Gib again before returning to Plymouth in October to complete 13 months away from home. Great times and not a bad cruise, as Michael Rice (current RMACB deputy lead clarinet and hon. treasurer – my Band Corporal on board at the time) will agree!

Soon after leave and meeting my daughter for the first time it was back to Deal again for a couple of months to join up with the Staff Band and those lovely Friday Night Concerts with our chairman's Dad (Sir Vivian Dunn) directing! Superb experience to play in either orchestra or band however. I also found myself playing in an augmented Deal Staff Band at the London Lord Mayor's Show around that time. Wearing blue capes for the first time proved a big mistake, as it rained continually, causing blanco to drip down liberally from our helmets all over the cape. Plastic paint was introduced after that! My Cornish accent must have persuaded the Drafting Officer to send me West once more, to arrive at HMS *Raleigh*, Torpoint for 2½ good years. Sandwiched between was an NCO's course at Deal and ITCRM for a couple of months, May–July '63. The whole band ensconced to Deal in May '64 to join up with a Massed Band of 300 for rehearsals to perform and celebrate 300

Glorious RM Years on Horse Guards Parade a week or so later. We'd already pre-planned our wedding day for 23 May, but I could not be spared leave, apart from the wedding day itself. A glorious Deal honeymoon for us followed!

One year later, my son Ian was born and by Aug. '65 I was then off to HMS *Terror* in Singapore for a married accompanied draft. Doug Haig was the D of M until being relieved by Ray Woodfield – a breath of fresh air for us all. It turned out to be the very best of my time in the Corps: we thoroughly enjoyed every moment there. Memorable trips, good social life, great dance band gigs, including Singapore TV – and particularly a Malaysian rubber plantation

dance that went on all night – and many Cat 4s for the band with good pay. Visits included a dodgy Beverley flight to Japan via Saigon, due to a typhoon. Vivid memories of waiting it out in a makeshift hospital hangar. A stop-off then to a US Rest Camp in Okinawa for two days and a rig up with a USMC band to send their lads crazy with pleasure! A week in Japan doing all the usual beat retreats and concerts at assorted venues and even two dance band gigs in the Ginza. Later we visited Jakarta, Indonesia and Malaysia; and as for Hong Kong it became a second home we went there so often!

Apr '68 saw my return, firstly to RMB Eastney for 3 months and then to HMS *Excellent* for a further 18 months before deciding to end my Band Service career on completion of my allotted time. We really needed settled schooling for my children, so I seized upon a career in sales, going on to enjoy over 35 successful years on the road which included running sales teams as a regional sales manager. I entered the jewellery trade for the last 12 years before retiring in 2005 as a self-employed jewellery sales agent in the South. Having regularly driven about 50,000 miles each year it's a pleasure to motor only 6,000 these days.

Sadly I retired both of my instruments on leaving the Service and only decided to try the trumpet again 34 years later in 2004! I'm still trying but there are signs of improvement. (Those that sit next to me may argue that one!) But thanks to Ted Whealing for giving me the opportunity to play again when the RMACB was formed. I was about to give it up again, but for his and others encouragement I now sit on the 3rd trumpet desk and enjoy playing very much. Unfortunately, I'm not so sure that I'll ever regain the competence I once had, after such a long time out. It's always difficult for brass players! But it's good to be a part of such a great band, to play alongside so many fine musicians again.

(Great article Derek. You should write your memoirs! – Ed)



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Available from RMA Central Office (Bldg 32, Whale Island, Portsmouth, Hants PO2 8ER, tel: 02392-651519)

Future programme

The list of our scheduled concerts for the remainder of 2011 is as follows:

Date	Time	Venue	Box Office
Sunday 3rd July	3pm	Fareham, Ferneham Hall	01329-824864
* Sunday 21st August	3pm	Leeds Castle, Maidstone, Kent	01622-765400
Sunday 4th September	3pm	Poole, Lighthouse Theatre	08700-668701
Thursday 8th September	7.30 pm	Southsea, Royal Marines Museum	02392-819385
Saturday 24th September	7pm	Commando Training Centre Royal Marines – RMA members only	02392-651519
Sunday 2nd October	3pm	Margate, Winter Gardens	01843-296111
Sunday 6th November	3pm	Yeovil, Octagon Theatre	01935-422884

* Please note the open air concert on **Sunday 21st August**, at the prestigious Leeds Castle. Open air, bring a picnic.

Websites to bookmark

The Royal Marines Charitable Trust Fund

www.rmctf.org.uk

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.



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News and views for inclusion may be sent to The Editor, Concert Band Newsletter, at the above address.

