

INTRODUCTION by Stephen Misson

Since my retirement from the Royal Marines Band Service, an incredible twenty one years ago, and as one who still plays regularly in The Marlowe Concert Band, the Railway Swing Band, the Folkestone and Hythe Symphony Orchestra, The St. Edmunds Community Wind Band, The All Stars Band, The Kent Concert Orchestra and the odd ensemble now and again, it was obvious that by looking at my fellow musicians there were quite a lot of ex Royal Marines musicians locally still making music and still able to hold their own in the civilian and professional world. So when the idea occurred to me to form a band consisting entirely of these musicians and to restrict it to those who still live in this area, it was quite easy to choose enough people to make up a good sized band of truly competent players. That was the easy part; in the weeks that followed I was inundated with ex Bandies wanting to play. It would be much more difficult to actually get these men together at the same time and place, and then find some place to rehearse. The answer therefore would be to present a concert without rehearsals – this would be a real test of whether our past training had stayed with us. The natural place to present such an event was on the Deal Memorial Bandstand with its obvious connections with our Royal Marines past. And so the stage was set and the date confirmed and all we would have to do is get there and play – just as we used to [for some] many years ago.

Can we do it? Naturally we can; the Royal Marines trained us for just such an event. The fact that some of us will be sight-reading the music will only add to the electric atmosphere – if you notice some musicians sitting on the edge of their seats you will know why; this is scary stuff! Don't expect the same sort of stand discipline that the Royal Marines Band exhibited two weeks ago; our adrenaline will be pumping far too much for that and you can well expect some "Whoopie"s or "Ye-haa"s at the end of the Shostakovich. Make no mistake, this is a totally unique event – never before attempted and you will probably never witness such an occasion again, so give us all the encouragement you can – you never know, you might persuade the band to do it again next year!

MUSICAL DIRECTOR – PHIL HUGHES

Phil has never lost his love of music since his first piano lesson at the age of five. It was his mother's idea to join the Royal Marines at the tender age of 14 when he left his home in Weymouth and joined the Depot at Deal.

During his 27 years service he has travelled to most parts of the globe but spent much of his time in either Plymouth or Deal. Whilst in the West Country he formed his own band and became quite well known at local gigs.

Promotion courses meant he made regular trips to Deal and it was during one such course that he had the misfortune to fall from a tree breaking both arms. He was told he would never play piano again but defied the experts by being back to playing within 20 weeks. Whilst stationed at Plymouth he gained a Licentiate of the Royal Academy of Music then spent a further year at the Academy studying advanced conducting under the renowned conducting expert, Maurice Miles.

He was drafted to Deal's Staff Band in 1973 as a Band Sergeant and rose through the ranks to become their WO2 Bandmaster and later was appointed as the Chief Instructor of Higher Training. His last rank before retiring was as WO1 Corp Bandmaster, a unique position, being the highest non-commissioned rank in the service.

He retired from the Band Service in 1983 and still lives in Walmer with his wife Joy who has learnt to live with the busy life of an active musician who teaches at Kings School, Canterbury and is musical director for the summer shows at the The Winter Gardens, Margate as well as fulfilling many gigging engagements. He is very well known in the area for his musical expertise.

Phil is very much looking forward to taking up the baton in front of his former colleagues and trust the audience will enjoy the concert as much as he will.

THE MUSICIANS PERFORMING FOR YOU TODAY

Flute:	Pete Selby, Rosemary Rathbone
Oboe:	Wally Walters
Clarinets:	Andy Cunningham Freddie Flux, Alan Shankland, George Simpson, Vicky O'Neil, Ian Clarkson, Bob Gill, Bob Graham, Ben Finney
Bass Clarinet/Bari Sax:	Pete Rose
Alto Sax:	Mike Brodie, Mick Murray, Brian Tupper
Tenor Sax:	Jay O'Neil
Bassoon:	Brian Smith
Horns:	Benny Goodman, Taph Ward, Andrew Berridge
Cornet/Trumpet:	Steve Misson, Keith Davies, Bert Nicholls, Trevor Attwood, Aggie Willis, Alan Adshead, Derek Lindars, Mike Scurfield, Pete Worsfold, Dougie Powell
Trombone:	Mick Eastbrook, Paul Coker, Joe Kendrick, Len Ingram,
Euphonium:	David Burridge
Basses:	Andy Wall, Riggo Richardson
Percussion:	Brian Short and Malcolm Belcher

THE NEXT CONCERT ON THE DEAL MEMORIAL BANDSTAND:

The next concert will be on **Sunday 28th August** when the Invicta Concert Band will be performing.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of **HUTCHINGS MOTORCYCLES** of South Street, Deal and suggest that he would be a trustworthy person to visit should you need his services for cycle or motor cycle repairs/purchase. **JUST IN:** the new electric bike with a twenty mile range, front and rear baskets: come and see it!

