

Mr New's Band in Ramsey

The Isle of Man's uneasy relationship with German bands has been examined in two previous articles,¹ but whereas groups of itinerant German musicians were generally regarded as a nuisance, along with hurdy-gurdy players and minstrel troupes, Herr Simon Wurm's Imperial Viennese Orchestra was highly successful at the Villa Marina Kursaal between 1912 and 1914 when it became a victim of anti-German feeling immediately after the start of World War I. Mr New's band,² however, enjoyed a much longer and closer relationship with the town of Ramsey and became something of a popular local institution until it, too, was forced to leave the Island in August 1914.

Mr New's band was often referred to as a 'string band' in local newspapers, but this probably indicated that the ensemble included some stringed instruments along with woodwind, brass and percussion, in order to distinguish it from a traditional brass band, a military band or one of the much-maligned itinerant street bands.³ In fact New's band had more in common with the small spa orchestras found in such towns as Harrogate, Bath and Buxton.⁴

We first hear of a 'First Class String Band' in connection with the small pleasure grounds at Glen Helen, and extensive wooded glen sometimes referred to as 'The Riviera of Manxland', in 1897, the year that the Band Committee of Ramsey Commissioners received letter from a Mr Joseph Cannell stating that the local band of which he was the conductor had 'taken steps to get instruments'. However, for whatever reason, the local band's terms for providing music in Ramsey's public areas during the summer season were not acceptable. Whether or not the Glen Helen band was indeed Mr New's band a year before it was engaged in Ramsey, it nevertheless played for dancing on the 'well-laid lawn', and 'discoursed music throughout Whit-week and the season'.⁵

In May 1898 the Finance Committee of Ramsey Town Commissioners met once again to discuss the provision of a band for the town for the forthcoming season, and resolved that the Town Clerk should write to the managers of the Glen Helen and Belle Vue Pleasure Grounds seeking information 'as to Mr T. (J) New's character, and performance of his band'. If satisfactory references could be obtained, a licence should be granted to Mr New for the coming season at a fee of £1 1s, 'and that it be a condition of this licence that his band commence playing in the town not later than the middle of June'. Two satisfactory testimonials were received⁶ and although there are very few references in the local newspapers to the band that first year, in August they played the National Anthem during the opening ceremony at a sale of work at St. Olave's Church.

New's band seems to have been a success as a report in the *Ramsey Courier* at the end of the summer season in September indicates:⁷

Mr New's popular little band left us this morning, thus betokening the end of a busy season . . . the band has pleased all classes of the community, residents and visitors alike.

At the band's final concert the High Bailiff, Mr J. Cruickshank, presented the band with the sum of £5 which had been donated 'by a number of those who appreciated the band's services in the town'. The band was congratulated on 'the excellent conduct of the men during their stay, and also to the excellent music which they had furnished . . .' Mr Hurlbach responded on the band's behalf and hoped they would have the pleasure of returning to Ramsey the following season. 'We are glad to add that

the band are thoroughly satisfied with their earnings in the town'. From these extracts we may conclude that Mr New either did not personally direct the band that first season, or possibly not all the time, and that Mr Hurlbach in the dual role of musician and deputy conductor was in charge. At Ramsey Town Commissioners' monthly meeting held on 20th Sept, 1898,⁸ the Finance Committee declared its satisfaction with the band, expressed the hope that the town would see them again the following year and hoped 'that they would increase the number of performers'. One Commissioner reported that he had heard 'nothing but good of them' and another cheekily enquired exactly how many tunes the band could play. All-in-all, it was an auspicious start to a long association between town and band.

The announcement that Mr New's band would indeed be returning for the 1899 summer season appeared in the *Ramsey Courier*⁹ in January:

It is true that they come from the 'happy Fatherland', but we in Ramsey do not hesitate to welcome them because without a doubt, Mr New's band is the best ever heard in Ramsey and we are sensible enough to show our appreciation of it, no matter whence its origin. In that respect we do not agree with Mr Grossmith,¹⁰ who sings of the German's thusly:

'Their music? Ah! The music of the future it will be;

They like it good, they like it long, and minus melody;

They won't permit loud, vulgar tunes, for nothing could be was –

That's why the happy Fatherland sends those German Bands to us'.

The mild anti-German sentiments – and sly reference to Wagner - expressed above will have struck a chord with readers of the *Courier* for whom itinerant German Street bands were an ever-present nuisance between May and September each year. Such views would become increasing virulent as the Victorian era eased into the Edwardian age and the new Germany became a more dominant force in Europe.

The local newspapers were more forthcoming about the band's activities in 1899. The *Ramsey Courier*,¹¹ reporting on Ramsey Grammar School's sports day in July noted that Mr T. (J) New's string band 'won golden opinions but their excellent performances' and suggested that 'so excellent a combination of musicians deserve the consistent support of residents and visitors'. The band was present the following month at the Maughold Church Restoration Bazaar in the Pavilion, Ramsey: 'During the afternoon and evening Mr New's excellent band played selections of music'.¹² *Ramsey Weekly News* when reviewing the Ramsey Bay Regatta in mid-August, noted that Mr New's band played for a dance to conclude the event; the 'favourite band' also provided music at the end of the month for the Ramsey Golf Club Dance in the Pavilion, Ramsey, sharing the evening with Fred Buxton's Pierrots, and early in September¹³ gave a promenade concert at Peel Castle. *Ramsey Weekly News* paid tribute to 'Mr New's popular string band' who had 'daily discoursed sweet music in different parts of the town' and whose 'nightly performance on the promenade has been appreciated in no small

manner' in its end-of-season review, and expressed the hope that the band would return next Whitsuntide.

Discord among the Commissioners

In an article entitled 'The Town Commissioners and Sunday Music in Mooragh Park, the *Ramsey Courier*¹⁴ recorded the Commissioners' torturous deliberations that eventually resulted in the decision to issue an invitation to Mr New's band to provide music in the town for the summer season of 1900. In responding to a letter from the Commissioners dated 28th October, Mr Jacob New agreed to provide a band of twelve musicians if he were granted a performing licence, and if Mr J. C. Bridson¹⁵ of Glen Helen would pay the licence fee. Mr Bridson, who acted as the band's agent on the Island, agreed to these terms in a letter dated 25th November, and shortly afterwards Mr New himself wrote to the Commissioners Clerk as follows:

I tell you in these few lines that we play on the Mooragh Park each afternoon for to collect, and on Sunday for the Committee. On Sunday I am at your service.

The Commissioners agreed to grant the licence on the following terms: that Mr New pay the usual fee of 1 guinea for the season's licence to play in Mooragh Park every afternoon from 2-3 or from 3-4, the licence entitling the band to collect money from the public.

Needless to say, there was opposition – some of it quite vehement - to the idea of music on Sundays. Commissioner Mr P. Corlett felt it would constitute 'a great deal of nuisance in the town, and would pull a lot of children from the Sunday Schools . . .' Commissioner Teare said that the state should not tamper with the religious convictions of a large number of its members, and warned that 'the Sabbath would be desecrated' if the vote for Sunday music were carried: 'This is wrong . . . I believe it will be the beginning of worse days for us'. Commissioner Purcell earned himself a brief burst of laughter in an otherwise testy debate when he 'doubted that the residents of Ramsey even knew they had a Lake and a Park, as the majority had never been there to see', and warned that the facility was in danger of becoming a white elephant. Commissioner Corkhill reminded the meeting that whenever the volunteer corps had been on training exercises in and around the town, Sunday music in the park had always been specially organised and had been 'highly appreciated by our townspeople'. A regular Sunday band would be a great draw and 'an inducement to people to go over there and have a walk'.

The majority of Commissioners approved of the idea of music on Sundays as many visitors found Sunday 'a blank day'. On balance it was decided that Mr New's band 'discouraging sacred music in the Park would prove a great benefit and an attraction', after all, bands in parks on Sundays were common and acceptable in England and the Isle of Man might be danger of being thought 'narrow minded'. The dissenters were accused of being 'jumped up' and 'pious' and talking 'rot' and there was further acrimony and a certain amount of chaos at the vote; it was eventually moved that the band should make itself available for sacred music in the Park for an hour on Sundays, afternoon or evening, at the behest of the Commissioners.

However, a last minute hitch occurred in April 1900, just weeks before the season was about to get underway, in the shape of a deputation from Ramsey Town Band.¹⁶ The Town Board had re-examined the correspondence from Mr New and discovered that the sole right of New's band to play in Ramsey had not actually been granted. That being the case, the town band, in an effort to secure some engagements for itself suggested a compromise: they would provide a band of twenty-one players that would perform two or three nights each week during the season from 7.30 until 10.00 at the entrance to the Queen's Pier, South Promenade, then moving on to the Court House and finally to Mooragh Promenade and the Park. The band sought permission to make collections and agreed to pay a minimum license fee of 5s, and would also make themselves available to play Sunday on afternoons for 1 ½ hours without a collection being taken. The town band further suggested that they might alternate with Mr New's band for Sunday performances.

It was resolved, however, that the town band's application to play in the Park on Sundays would be opposed as the Board 'did not think a town the size of Ramsey required anything of the sort. The Board took the view that 'as Douglas didn't require a band on Sundays, why should we?' The question of Sunday concerts was therefore left open until further negotiations with Mr New had taken place. The decision to grant 'Mr New's German Band' the monopoly of performing in the town during the summer was announced by the Chairman of the Board and reported in the *Manx Sun*.¹⁷

These negotiations presumably continued by letter until mid- May when the *Ramsey Weekly News*¹⁸ recorded the results of the Board's further deliberations. The motion: 'That we recommend the Board to require Mr New to give selections of music in Mooragh Park on Sunday afternoons from 4.00pm to 5.00 pm', was lost by three votes to two. Then having considered representations from several local churches, all of whom were vehemently against Mr New's band playing in the Park on Sundays, a second motion was carried by three votes to two.

A last-minute amendment to the motion was introduced maintaining that as Mr New's band was NOT a street band 'and will play the finest sacred music in the Park', the people of Ramsey should be given the opportunity of hearing their performances. This was strongly countered by the view that visitors come to Ramsey for 'quietness', and that the Park would degenerate into a 'terrible place' with children climbing and romping about if music were permitted. The amendment was lost.

The *Ramsey Weekly News* had the last word on the subject of Sunday music for the time being in a mildly tongue-in-cheek report entitled 'Sacred Entertainments'.¹⁹ The Ramsey Town Commissioners had 'waxed warm' over the question of Sunday music and perhaps now 'they should have a little sacred music to soothe their ruffled and unholy feelings'. Hypocrites on both sides of the argument 'profess a desire to uphold all that is 'sacred.' " and it was hoped that the 'Commissioners will look at this matter thoughtfully before introducing a 'New' order of things'. There was one last whimper of opposition to Sunday music from the Primitive Methodists in the form of a letter from one Reverend Tinn. The Board, however, re-emphasised their view that a band playing on Sundays 'would not injure Sunday School activities'.

Proof that the Ramsey Town Commissioners could be decisive in the matter of granting public performance licences came in an amusing address to the Chairman from one Thomas Cain, known as 'Tommy the trump', who wished to be immediately granted a licence to perform as he had played for four days in London and seven in Douglas. He was instructed to apply the following morning, to which

he replied: 'Bur I want it now. I want ter play moosic in the morning'. He was told once again to apply in the morning, to which he responded with a grudging: 'Aw right, aw right'.

In the event Mr New's string band arrived in Ramsey in June without Mr Jacob New as its director, and with many musicians new to the Island. Nevertheless, the *Manxman* was at pains to point out that the band had been coached by Mr New, and would be presenting 'a new and thoroughly up-to-date programme'.²⁰ The band would play in Mooragh Park from 2nd July to the end of the season on Mondays, Wednesdays and Friday evenings from 7.30 – 8.30 pm and on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday afternoons from 3.00 pm 'on such stand (*sic* temporary platform) as may be fixed upon the Park Committee'.

'Music hath charms to sooth'.

New's band – sometimes referred to as 'Mr New's Hungarian Band' or 'The Hungarian Orchestral Band' - maintained its position as the main provider of music in Ramsey during the summer with little opposition or competition between 1901 and 1910. The *Manx Sun*²¹ noted the eagerly anticipated arrival of the band in June 1901, along with Fred Buxton's Pierrots from Douglas, who were to perform on the Promenade. Ramsey Town Band remained disgruntled because they were offered no opportunity to perform in the town, even during May and June before New's band arrived for the season. At a monthly meeting of the town commissioners at the end of the season, New sought the sole rights to perform on the Promenade opposite the Imperial Hotel – next to the present day lifeboat station – for the following season, which prompted some lively proceedings.

The band arrived for the 1902 season in June, but according to the *Manx Sun*²² Mr New's Hungarian Band was 'not doing so well this summer as a result of competition from the Ramsey (Buxton's) Pierrots'. In August 'Mr New's String Band' played selections throughout the day at the St. Paul's Church Restoration Fund Garden Fete, and the following month the band could be heard around the town during the Coronation celebrations when King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra stepped ashore from Ramsey Pier.

A number of regular fixtures for the band began to emerge during this period culminating each season with an annual benefit concert in the Ramsey Pavilion. In 1903 the band was assisted by Fred Buxton's Pierrots, and played an overture and selections in a programme which also included songs from the operettas of Gilbert and Sullivan and Edward German, vocal imitations of famous variety stars, a recitation and instrumental solos. Afterwards, the band played for dancing.

By 1904 the question of Sunday music seems finally to have been resolved²³ and in August Mr New's string band gave a substantial programme before a large crowd in Mooragh Park which included Mendelssohn's *War March of the Priests*, a selection from Wallace's *Maritana*, a cornet solo, Sullivan's *The Lost Chord* and a selection from Wagner's *Tannhauser*. However, the sacred concert in the Pavilion that evening was not well attended. That month the band received a fee of £2 for playing during the Ramsey Bay Regatta and at the Fancy Dress Ball that followed. It was decided to extend the season in Ramsey for a fortnight and an additional £5 was raised by subscription in an effort to induce the band to stay on. The new initiative seems to have been successful as a Sacred Concert in Mooragh Park

attracted a large number of people who heard the band play a march, *Onward Christian Soldiers*, the overture to Verdi's *Nabucco* and selections from the music of Gounod, Haydn and Handel.

In July 1905 New's band appeared at Ramsey Grammar School's annual sports day for the first time, and later that month at the 6th Grand Aquatic Carnival on Mooragh Park Lake – 'the Henley of Mona' as one reporter enthusiastically described the event – when hundreds of visitors enjoyed the glorious weather and the band's selections throughout the afternoon, and at the 4th annual Ramsey Horticultural Society show held in the park. At the end of the month both New's band and the Ramsey Town Band were asked by the Commissioners²⁴ to consider playing music on the Queen's Pier some evenings as the steamers arrived, and collect enough from the disembarking passengers to make the venture worthwhile financially. It was anticipated that the Harbour Commissioners would assist in some way. In the event the town band declined to participate and it is not known if New's band were able to respond to the new venture that season.

In August the band played for a dance at the Ramsey Pavilion attended by 150 visitors and local residents. The grounds were illuminated for the occasion and the evening was a success: '... a deserved compliment is due to Mr New's band for the delightful music rendered'. The band gave its services free of charge later that month when it contributed 'tasteful selections' during the Annual Lifeboat Demonstration, helping to raise the not inconsiderable sum of £22 3s 5d, and assisted at the anniversary of Albert Road Sunday School. The season ended with the annual benefit concert for the band at the Pavilion followed by dancing, and with the band appearing at the benefit concert for Buxton's Pierrots for which they also waved their fee. Finally, in early September New's band played for dancing following the town band's concert at the Pavilion.

From a series of advertisements in the Ramsey Courier between 1905 and 1907 we learn a little more about how Mr New financed his stay in Ramsey during the summer seasons:

Mr New's Band begs to intimate to Visitors and Residents of Ramsey that he is NOT PAID by the Town for the Services of his Band, but is entirely dependent upon visitors and others for their support. He therefore, confidently appeals to them for the same Generous Support and Good will which have been extended to him to former years.

New paid a fee of 1 guinea for a licence granting him the right to play in public in Ramsey and collect money from his audiences, and the band received a fee for playing at various events, such as the £1 the band received from the Commissioners for providing dance music at Ramsey Bay Regatta concert in 1905. The band was gaining popularity in the town especially amongst the visitors, as a letter to the editor of the *Ramsey Courier* dated 26th August on behalf of a group of holiday makers staying at the Mona Ville boarding house testifies to. The group had enjoyed the band's concerts so much that they donated the sum of £1 16s to help deflect the financial losses incurred by the band due to unseasonably poor weather. The letter, signed John Wilson, Birmingham, further asked the Commissioners to consider allowing the band to use the Palace, Ramsey, in poor weather.

Terms were agreed between the Finance Committee and the band for the 1906 season at a meeting held on 8th September 1905 at which Mr D. New and Mr Pfeiffer²⁵ were present:

The band would pay the usual licence fee of 1 guinea.

The band would consist of not less than 12 players.

Playing in the town must commence not later than last week of June and continue until the end of first week in September.

The season could be extended by a further week if the weather remained fine.

The band would play in the Park on Sundays if requested by the Commissioners for an additional fee not exceeding 1 guinea but no collections were to be made.

A permit to accept private evening engagements had to be obtained from the Finance Committee.

Although not mentioned at the meeting, it seems that the Finance Committee normally awarded the band an *ex gratia* gratuity of £10 at the end of each season - although this was to become a controversial matter in August 1914. Because the largest portion of the band's earnings came from collections at concerts it is difficult to estimate what New's band's average income for a summer in Ramsey might have been.

It appears that the Commissioners had taken soundings from visitors and residents alike concerning the lack of suitable arrangements for the band when the weather was poor, and following negotiations with the manager of the Electric Railway Company who owned the Ramsey Palace, it was agreed that from 1906 the band would be able to play inside the Palace on wet evenings. The question of music on the Queen's Pier was also discussed further as it appeared that Mr New was willing to augment his band sufficiently so that half of his musicians could play at the Pier and half in the town. The Committee was certainly anxious to make the Pier more attractive as complaints about lack of entertainment in that area of the town had been voiced by visitors. The pier, it was suggested, was in danger of being regarded as a white elephant if it continued to be under-used. Perhaps the Harbour Board would assist financially in enabling Mr New to bring a larger band to the town?

Say 'cheese' gentlemen . . . please?

An intriguing photograph from c. 1905 exists which may be of Mr New's band in Ramsey.²⁶ It shows a group of rather serious looking musicians posing outside Balmoral House on Queen's Promenade, now Prince of Wales Court, eleven of whom are dressed in typical German band uniforms with high-collared tunics buttoned up the front and peaked caps; a twelfth player, a clarinettist, is attired in a dark jacket, waistcoat and bowler hat and may be the band director. Seven of the players are sporting the luxurious 'teutonic' moustaches that were fashionable at the time.

The evidence that this could be Mr New's band is circumstantial, but nevertheless compelling. Twelve is the number of musicians commonly referred to in discussions about engaging a band at Commissioners' meetings, and the photograph does indeed show a band of twelve musicians: 2 clarinets, 2 cornets, 1 euphonium, 4 violins, 1 double bass, 1 drummer and one player partially hidden at the back who could be either a flautist or another violinist. Mr New was known to augment his band with extra players from time-to-time but two ensembles could have been drawn from even this basic band, each comprising 1 clarinet, 1 cornet, 1 euphonium or string bass, 2 or 3 violinists and a drummer. This arrangement would have allowed New to provide music at both the promenade sites and at the pier. It is also likely that some of the players would have doubled up on some instruments - ie

clarinet/flute or violin/drummer – in the way that bands and theatre orchestras do to this day, to allow even greater flexibility. Also visible are a number of substantial music stands which indicate that the band was accustomed to performing in one place for a while rather than parading around the town. It is a matter of conjecture which, if any, of the musicians might be Jacob, Dan or Louis New.

New's band increasingly began to accept private engagements as *The Mona's Herald* noted in July 1906 when the band played at the coming of age party for J. S. Mylchreest at the Whitehouse, Kirk Michael.²⁷ The fifth annual Ramsey Horticultural Show in Mooragh Park, complete with a water carnival and evening dance, was ruined by atrocious weather, and as so many of the activities had to be abandoned, the show was re-scheduled for late August. Earlier in the month New's band and a choir accompanied the singing at the annual Sunday Lifeboat Service and helped to raise the sum of £22. A few days later 'New's Hungarian Band' took part in the annual entertainment in the Pavilion and opened the concert with Weber's overture *Preciosa* which was followed by popular songs and ballads and selections. The receipts were meagre and the organisers hoped that as the band gave its services free, they would be well supported for the remainder of the season. On August Bank Holiday 700 visitors disembarked at the Queen's Pier and were entertained by the band and Buxton's Pierrots.

In September the band took part in the Pierrot's benefit night and later in the month a Grand Entertainment and Dance featuring a Manx Tableaux of National Songs. That year New's band extended their summer stay by one week which enabled them to take part in a benefit concert of their own on the 13th at the conclusion of which a spokesman thanked the band . . . 'who have done good service and contributed in no small way to the attractiveness of Ramsey during the season'. Among the local musicians who also took part was John Craine, the organist, pianist, choirmaster and composer of the Manx Oratorio *The Story of the Cross*.²⁸ The day after their benefit concert the band departed the Island. Despite Mr New's band winning many new friends, overall the season had been a poor one financially with smaller than unusual crowds attending the concerts in the park due to the unsettled weather.

No sooner had Mr New and his band had disappeared over the horizon than the Ramsey Town Commissioner's began their *post mortem* of the season. New's band was praised but there was disappointment expressed with Buxton's Pierrots. The Committee dashed off a letter to New in Germany which might have arrived even before he did in an attempt to secure the band for 1907. Jacob New replied immediately in a letter dated 1st October, 1906:

Hundheim, Post Hundheim, Rhein-Pfoehy (indistinct) Bavaria.

Dear Sir,

In your letter of the 28th inst, I see that Commissioners cannot agree to the terms I asked for, so I am willing to come next year on the same conditions as before, so please send me the arrangement (*sic* contract).

A popular Ramsey Institution.

It needs no argument to establish the fact, which is universally admitted, that New's popular band is one of the most pleasurable features of the Ramsey visiting season . . . nothing short of indispensable.²⁹

Having accepted the usual terms, with the added *proviso* that they 'would not leave the promenade and accept other engagements', New's band arrived in Ramsey for the 1907 summer season on Saturday 22nd June. There was a vague intention expressed to improve the site on the South Promenade by constructing a temporary platform for the band to play on; this was discussed again in 1908 but did not come to fruition until July 1914.

The band's financial position in Ramsey, however, remained inherently unsatisfactory and entirely dependent on good weather and large crowds to ensure that the collections were adequate to cover their expenses. They were supported by the generous patronage and good will of individuals like Mr Daniel Vondy,³⁰ His Worship, the High Bailiff and other well-wishes in the town who continued to secure subscriptions:

It is unreasonable to expect an efficient band of musicians will year after year continue their services to the town on such a precarious and uncertain tenure as has hitherto fallen to their lot.

The band's supporters continued to remind the public that the band was unpaid and relied on voluntary contributions and collections. It was hoped that residents and visitors alike would remember this and give generously.

The 1907 season proved to be a great improvement on the previous one. Ramsey Town Commissioner's engaged the band in July to play at a reception in the park on for a fee of 30s. The following month they were joined at the Annual Lifeboat Service by Laxey Brass Band, played for dancing following the official opening of the extended Ramsey Golf Course and for dancing at the Palace after the Ramsey Bay Regatta. On the 15th they received a more substantial fee of £3 10s for playing at the sixth annual Horticultural Show in the park which that year included a water carnival and cycle parade. On the 20th the band scored a 'gratifying success' at a Grand Concert and Dance for the visitors in the Pavilion, organised by Mr Vondy which doubled as a benefit night. The audience was large, the programme, 'a capital one' during which Louis New contributed a violin solo and played a piccolo solo accompanied by the band. At the end of the evening Mr Vondy thanked all those who had contributed to funds to keep the band in Ramsey over the summer after a lean July, and the balance of £19 after costs was received by Mr Daniel New.

Not all concerts were as well-patronised. Mr Craine's Manx Concert at the Pavilion was poorly attended despite a programme featuring a number of well-loved Manx National Songs, and the benefit night for the Pierrots was a lack-lustre affair despite the novelty of a limerick competition. The band performed on the promenade on Sunday evenings during late August, and in September accepted an invitation to play on the Douglas promenades as the Douglas Volunteer and Town Band had refused to do so. The band left the Island in mid-September following another successful benefit night and dance before a fairly large audience during which Louis New played a much appreciated piccolo solo.

One small cloud appeared in the otherwise clear end-of-season skies when *Times* of 14th September posed the question: was the 'band' good enough? Should delegation visit other resorts such as Harrogate or Buxton on a fact-finding mission before the next season?

In August 1908 New's band extending its range to Peel and assisted at a two day church bazaar which raised the astonishingly large sum of £600 for the spire fund. In June the following year, the Pierrots no longer being tolerated on the Harris Promenade, New's string band occupied the desirable site for a period of time. Back in Ramsey in July the band was on hand at the Queen's Pier to welcome some sixty passengers arriving from Blackpool via Fleetwood on a new steamer service. Later that month they played seasonal selections as another newly inaugurated service, from Dunoon to Douglas via Ramsey, docked at the pier.

By the height of the season in August it seemed that the summer visitor numbers would be higher than in recent years. Over 800 trippers landed from Liverpool, Glasgow and Belfast one Friday and Saturday - a fifty per cent increase over 1908 – and 200 from just one Blackpool excursion. The various entertainments in the town were well-supported as good weather kept everyone outdoors. New's first major concert of the summer was well attended as was the dance that followed. The band was increasingly referred to as a 'Popular Ramsey institution' and they received around £30 in collections from the event. The band departed Ramsey on 18th September, and it must have been disheartening for Mr New that overall the season turned out to be another disappointing one financially.

Competition in the park

In July 1910, by arrangement with Mr Alldritt, lessee of the Mooragh Park Lake, and the Ramsey Commissioners, Mr Matthews' band and vocalists were engaged to provide entertainments and music each day near the landing stage or boat station. It was anticipated that this new venture would help popularise the lake by increasing the number of visitors. The park had always lagged behind other areas of the town in the matter of musical entertainments, and in addition the new band would also give 'first class concerts' on the Queen's Pier every evening and sacred concerts on Sundays.³¹

New's band arrived in Ramsey on Friday 17th June, having been granted 'the exclusive right of supplying music in the season for the especial delectation of the visitors'. Their early arrival that season was timely as there was already 'a sprinkling of visitors in the town', and it was hoped that New and his musicians would help to enliven the dull period between Whitsun and July when the season proper got into full swing. All was not well though, for the Commissioners had been tardy in engaging the band and the question of whether New could stay on the Island until the end of September was still unresolved, as were negotiations for him to bring a larger ensemble that year so that half the band could play on the South Promenade and half in the Park. A proposal to pay New an extra £4 per week to play regularly in Mooragh Park was dismissed by the Commissioners who refused to sanction 'not one farthing from public funds' despite complaints from residents near the North Promenade that they were being neglected. Hence the engagement of Mr Matthews' band to help plug the gaps in the town's musical entertainments.

New's band gave their first concert on Monday 20th June, though it was 'a matter for general regret that 'Dan' (Daniel New) was not present with the band that season'. Such a familiar voice and figure was sorely missed: 'Hamlet without the title role' according to the *Courier*.

The *Times*,³² in an early season review noted that visitor enquiries about Ramsey and the north of the Island were 'up', but that certain improvements to the town's infrastructure were urgently needed.

Most notably the road or track from the swing bridge to Mooragh Park required an essential upgrading as it was a frequently used thoroughfare in the summer and 'was in a disgraceful condition'. South Promenade was a popular area but 'was wretchedly narrow, mean in design and bounded by the most heterogeneous collection of boarding houses, cottages, vacant plots and Catholic Chapels.' The North Promenade, then as now, was 'magnificent, but barely used', although 'Mr New's favourite band' could be heard on both promenades morning and evening and around the town, and 'wafted sweet strains athwart the hum of conversation . . . until a late hour'.

A new engagement for July 1910 was to lead the annual procession Rechabites – the Mona Jonadab Rechabite Tent - through the village of Kirk Michael, from Glen Wyllin to the Cronk Wesleyan Chapel, where a service took place. Later, there were sports events and musical selections from the band, and despite poor weather, the event was considered a success.³³

Instrumental and vocal concerts at the Queen's Pier commenced in July at the middle bay in the centre of the pier from 7.30 pm until 9.30 pm, on Sunday evenings given by Mr J. Matthews' and a guest singers from the Cumbrian music festival and on the boat station in Mooragh Park 'with a musical and nautical combination'.

'Are the German's to rule Ramsey?'

A letter to the editor of the *Ramsey Courier* dated 15th July and signed simply 'A. Visitor' introduced a sour note into an otherwise harmonious season. The writer complained that when he visited Mooragh Park he had expected to hear 'the new band, the English band, which I was delighted to hear earlier in the week'. (ie Mr Matthews' band) He somehow learned that this band had been 'boycotted' by the town commissioners, who 'ought to be heartily ashamed of themselves'. English bands, he protested, should be supported:

Are the Germans to rule Ramsey! Surely the Commissioners are not under their thumb. If so, the sooner they get free the better'.

The implication was that New's band had deliberately set out to undermine the reputation of Matthews' band.

Happily there was a swift response to this attack from a supporter of Mr New, Edward B. Moysey of Ramsey, the Chairman of the Finance Committee, suggesting that such letters as the anonymous 'abusive fiction' sent to the editor, 'so evidently written with the object of prejudicing the public against New's band', should be ignored. Mr Moysey concluded by pointing out that:

New's band have never made the slightest complaint about the presence of Mr Matthew's troupe, and it is grossly unfair to suggest that the Band have any desire to rule Ramsey . . .

The August timetable of events once again featured the Ramsey Regatta, the Lifeboat Sunday Service and the horticultural show, and on the 17th a Grand Benefit Concert and Dance for New's string band during which Adam Simon, one of the violinists, played a solo. The evening was once again promoted by Mr Vondy who voted the occasion 'a most delightful concert'. Later that month the traditional visitor's concert was attended by 150 holiday makers and residents and raised funds for the Boot and Shoe Fund.

Sometime during that month a group of Suffragettes (the Women's Social and Political Union) from Ireland threatened to take over an area near New's bandstand on South Promenade for public meetings. The crowds refused to give them a hearing and they were soon shouted down with 'boos, jeers and hoots', cries of 'Hi! Kelly' and a raucous rendering of *Flanagan*. What, one wonders, did Mr New and his musicians make of this little demonstration of democracy in action?

Fourteen hundred people enjoyed a 'merry entertainment' of 'mirth and hilarity, fun and frolics' that characterised the Ramsey Cricket Club Confetti Carnival which ended with 'showers of irritating little discs flying in all directions'. Both New's band and Matthews' entertainers took part; New was paid a fee of £2 10s and Matthews £1 10s. Some very mixed weather at the end of August ensured that by early September the season was definitely on the wane, although New's band remained in Ramsey after other entertainments had wound up.

'Well, the more the merrier – let'em all come!'

By 1911 the bands in Ramsey had settled into their respective roles. Mr New's band could be heard on the promenades between 11.00 am and 1.00 pm every morning and in the evenings, and during the afternoons in the newly refurbished Queen's Hall Gardens,³⁴ thereby maintaining their premier position in the town. Matthew's band assisted by entertainers from Birkenhead that season performed daily in Mooragh Park, and Buxton's Pierrots could be seen in Albert Park, known as 'The Cosy Corner', on the site of the old Albert Hotel. In addition, there were 'biograph pictures' in the Old Cross Hall and a Punch & Judy Show on the South Promenade beach. Bowling, tennis and croquet could be enjoyed in the park and rowing and sailing in the bay, along with the open-air swimming baths and cafe, sea bathing and activities with the Ramseian Swimming Club, roller skating on the smooth floor of the Pavilion Rinkeries and a fleet of sailing and rowing boats for hire on the park lake. An increase in receipts was anticipated.

Mr New's band arrived in Ramsey on Monday 5th June for the 1911 season, some of them on the steamer *King Orry* direct from Liverpool. The Finance Committee agreed for the band to stay until 22nd September and furthermore to increase the number of musicians from twelve to eighteen from July. It was hoped that the arrival of the band would herald 'a relief from the long, dull monotony of winter'.

New's arrival coincided with a resurgence of the ongoing dispute between the town commissioners and the town band which had come to a head just one month earlier when the band apparently resigned, citing two issues: that they could no longer afford the £4 annual payment to the Finance Committee for the hire of their instruments, and related to that, their inability to secure playing opportunities during the summer outside Ramsey, such as the Kirk Michael show, because of New's band's perceived monopoly of such engagements.

The Finance Committee was willing to meet representatives from the town band but were unsure whether the band had actually resigned and were about to return their instruments, or were merely on strike. The Committee were sympathetic, but realistically, had the town band been treated unfairly? It had been noticed that even when New's band was absent from the promenades, the town band was nowhere to be seen – or heard. All agreed that a town band was an acquisition and should be valued, but such a band could never guarantee to fulfil a proper programme of regular summer

engagements as most, if not all the players, were amateurs and had full time jobs. Furthermore, the Committee, in looking ahead to an important event in the Island's year in July posed the question: 'should a German band lead the Ramsey Coronation Procession whilst the Ramsey Town Band looks on?' This was not a good year to go on strike!

New himself was clearly anxious not to freeze the town band out of the summer entertainments entirely, and not only continued to support their benefit nights, but for the 1912 season agreed to allow them first choice of Friendly Society engagements outside the town.

Ramsey truly 'en fete'.

Ramsey, indeed towns and villages all over the Island, was colourfully decorated with flags and bunting of all kinds on 22nd June when, following a Royal Salute at midday, the town's Coronation celebrations for King George V and Queen Mary got underway. New's band took up the rear of the procession through the town, so presumably the town band took the lead. After various public addresses and presentations, a children's choir sang *God bless His Majesty* accompanied by the bands, followed by 'three cheers' for their Majesties and the planting of oak tree.

In July Douglas Town Council, having parted company with Fred Buxton's band, engaged New's band to play in the Villa Marina Gardens at the bandstand on Sunday afternoons and evenings from 16th July until the end of September for a fee of £3 per week. Back in Ramsey it seems as though Mr Matthews' band had disappeared from the scene, and following negotiations with Mr New, Mooragh Park acquired a band of its own, '. . . a creditable company of musicians', six in number, who became known affectionately as 'The Baby Band'. A Confetti Carnival took place at the Queen's Pier with New's band providing the music and a team of willing female confetti vendors enticing the would-be 'mashers' to purchase bags of coloured confetti to throw at each other.³⁵ In the midst of all these jollifications the issue of Sunday music reared its head yet gain.

'Six days shalt thou labour . . .'³⁶

Complaints about music and entertainment in general in Ramsey on Sundays from the so-called 'super-puritanical people' had developed from the anticipated objection to New's band playing in Mooragh Park, to questioning the need for music to adorn the church services. The heart of the objection was centred on a strict interpretation of scripture, in this case: 'Six days shalt thou labour and do all thy work, and on the seventh day thou shalt rest'. However, 'fundamentalist' interpretations of scripture often lead to confusion and could not evade the charge of hypocrisy. Local singers performing sacred music on the Sabbath was acceptable, 'providing that the service was not made a mere excuse for the performance of music', whereas New's band 'playing for gain' in the park, even if they included popular 'sacred' pieces such as *The Children's Home* or *The Lost Chord* in their programmes, could not be tolerated.

As usual, August proved to be a hectic month with the horticultural show on the 3rd followed by dancing to New's band from 8.00 pm until 10.00 pm, and another Confetti Battle at the pier on the 5th which attracted a crowd of 1200 people in support of the hospital fund. A 'band' of twelve young ladies attempted to prise cash from the pockets of the young male contestants in order for the battle to take place. The hospital team acquired an early edge when an outbreak of stormy weather

intervened and a 'truce' was declared. The sale of confetti raised £16. New's band contributed suitable selections at an altogether more sophisticated event a few days later, when Bishop Drury hosted an 'At Home' in the grounds of the Bishop's Court near Kirk Michael. The Douglas to Ramsey railway line ran along the back of the Bishop's residence – it is a footpath today - and for this occasion trains stopped to allow guests to alight and board.

The annual Grand Visitor's Concert at the Queen's Hall took place in the Queen's Hall on the 10th. Billed as A concert given BY visitors FOR visitors, and enjoyed 'a feast of entertainment' followed by many encores. 'All the world and his wife were there' and although the performers were amateurs many were 'of the first water'. Both New and the organiser Mr Vondy were congratulated on the success of the evening: '... this band had proved a valuable asset to the town and is one of our most attractive features and a source of great pleasure to our visitors year after year'. The dance that followed finally ended at 1.30 am.

The annual Lifeboat Demonstration took place on Saturday 10th and the church service on Sunday 11th. New's band gave their services free, accompanied the hymns and played Sullivan's *The Lost Chord* during which a collection of £12 13s 3d was taken. The Ramsey Regatta on the 17th was followed by a concert and dance. The boats on the lake were decorated and looked splendid set against the illuminations in the park. The band received a fee of £1 5s for their part in this colourful event.

The annual visitor's concert on the 17th in the Queen's Hall passed off very well and a large crowd danced to some twenty-nine waltzes, schottisches, polkas and lancers for several hours afterwards. The end-of-season dance took place two days later, and on the 20th New's band serenaded the town with *Auld Lang Syne*. The next day they left Ramsey no doubt in the hope that an invitation to return in 1912 would be waiting for them when they arrived home.

Make Ramsey shine.

It had been a glorious season for the town and the passenger returns confirmed that there had been a substantial increase in visitors in August: just under 219,000, or almost 33,000 more than in 1910. A few holiday makers took the trouble to convey their experiences to the local newspapers, and one rather poetic reminiscence attempted to convey impressions of 'a particularly calm day when the bay presented a pretty sight with many small boats drifting about lazily' with the sound of New's band on the promenade in the background'. Another visitor, who signed himself as BWHB, was not so complimentary about the town, which he described as drab', in a letter to the *Courier* entitled 'Ramsey Shining by the Sea: a Manchester visitor's view'.³⁷ In the opinion of the correspondent, in common with many British watering places, Ramsey lacked colour. The characteristic *tinta* of the town was grey; houses on the promenades should be colour-washed to brighten them up and the pleasure of listening to New's band was severely blunted by the 'hundreds of square yards of dirty, cold grey cement and even dirtier old rubble walling . . .' on the South Promenade. 'Shining by the sea? The townsfolk of Ramsey need to make their town shine and keep it shining'. This may seem a harsh judgement, but the *Ramsey Courier* just a few seasons later described the same area in the following unflattering terms: 'It is, in fact, a sort of dull, uninteresting howling wilderness.'³⁸

The Finance Committee fortnightly meeting in October resolved to invite New's band to Ramsey in 1912 for a fee of £10 for the season³⁹ which was scheduled to begin on 24th June and continue until 18th September. The band would number twelve musicians and could therefore be divided into two

ensembles when required, thus ensuring that Mooragh Park would be adequately catered for. All the other terms of the engagement were unchanged from previous seasons. Committee member Faragher suggested that the town band could be invited to perform on the South Promenade during the weeks before New's band arrived and perhaps undertake to play on the North Promenade from time-to-time lest that part of town be neglected. The general view was that the town band was not reliable despite the concessions made in order to include it in the summer musical programmes.

The 1913 summer season got underway on Monday 23rd June with New's band of twelve musicians delighting the crowds with their concerts of 'up-to-date' repertoire and the latest dances.⁴⁰ between 4.00 pm and 6.00 pm on a number of occasions throughout August the band were engaged to play music at Ramsey Golf Club to accompany the afternoon teas.

Over 1000 people attended the popular visitor's concert and dance was held on 12th August in the Queen's Hall and some of the proceeds went to the band. The Hospital Confetti Carnival at the pier on the 4th took place in glorious weather ensuring an exceptionally large crowd; a similar event took place over two days on the 8th and 9th of the month in aid of shipwrecked mariners for which the band received a fee of £3 10s. Later in the month the band was stationed at the pier and played *Auld Lang Syne* as 300 visitors left Ramsey on the direct sailing to Liverpool on the steamer *Mona's Isle*, and at the end of the month serenaded some 540 holiday makers as they prepared to cross the briny.

Kirk Michael Hospital Sunday in aid of Noble's Hospital and Ramsey Cottage Hospital took place on 10th August in spectacular Glen Wyllin; New's 'Hungarian Band' played various selections and accompanied the Kirk Michael Choral Society. Two days later 1000 people attended the visitor's concert in the Queen's Hall; the organiser Mr Vondy used his closing remarks to call for better lighting outside the Imperial Hotel so that the band could continue playing later into the evening, and a bandstand. New's band led the procession at the Grand Gala Day in Ballaugh on the 13th and played selections throughout the afternoon. The following day the 12th annual horticultural show passed off successfully despite being 'dogged by bad weather', and on the 16th and 17th the two day lifeboat demonstration and service included a parade through the town accompanied by New's band. August drew to a close with two contrasting events: a variety concert at the Ramsey Palace starring one Charley Vesty, 'the world's greatest novelty punch ball champion' concluded with a dance which ended at 1.00 am. A feature of the Bank Holiday weekend in Ramsey Bay were the flotillas of small boats drawing near to the shore in the cool of the evening - some with Chinese lanterns - as New's band played lively music including *Hitchy Koo*, *Robert E. Lee* and the *Wedding Glide*.

On Sunday afternoons commencing 24th August, New's band resumed the *al fresco* concerts at the Recreation Grounds at Noble's Park on terms which one imagines few bands would agree to: there should be 'no cost to the town' and 'no collections were to be made'. By September it was clear that these concerts were proving a success with visitor numbers to the park on the increase. Few details of the music performed at these concerts have survived, but the final concert of the season included the March from Gounod's *Faust*, a selection from Wagner's *Tannhäuser*, a cornet solo, *The Holy City*, a selection from *The Mikado* and another cornet solo, *The Lost Chord*.

August drifted into September on a ridge of high pressure with the weather remaining warm and stable. The band appeared at Charley Vesty's benefit concert during which 'The King of the Ball-

Punchers' judged a ball punching competition with a £100 prize offered to any member of the public who could outstrip his feats. Nobody could, and the evening ended with a dance which as usual lasted until the early hours of the following morning.

The season ended with a bizarre and unexplained occurrence, when a visitor who had been staying on the Island for ten weeks, suddenly rushed from his lodgings near the promenade, hurtled down the beach, threw off his clothes and plunged into the sea, followed by his wife who waded into the water to save him. Other visitors emerging the Palace, members of the Pierrots and New's band, endeavoured to help the man who was eventually rescued and taken home by the police.

A review of Ramsey's facilities for both visitors and visiting bands took place during the Commissioners' meeting in November. The Clerk was instructed to enquire about the costs of providing covered accommodation for New's band for the 1914 season, a moveable platform and chairs, on the South Promenade, as it was 'a disgrace that musicians should have to stand night-after-night in poor weather'.⁴¹

Out with the New . . .

The summer season of 1914 began promisingly and there was every expectation that it would trump the great 1913 season which still holds the record for visitor numbers to the Island. Daniel New was absent through illness early in the season, though, and Louis New directed the band for a time including an engagement at an *al fresco* bazaar at Port Lewaigue, Maughold, where it proved to be a great attraction along with the stalls, football tournaments, donkey rides, and cocoa-nut shies.

The band was also on hand to accompany the singing at the Bride Sunday School anniversary on 5th July, and on Saturday 17th 'Dan' arrived at long last in Ramsey after what was probably an arduous journey from Bavaria,⁴² and in good time to witness the erection of the new bandstand opposite the Imperial Hotel on the South Promenade on Saturday 25th.⁴³

The band's annual benefit concert and dance took place on 11th August, and many of the familiar annual events were scheduled as usual: the horticultural show on the 12th, Lifeboat Sunday on the 16th and a grand visitor's regatta on the 25th, by which time Britain had declared war on Germany⁴⁴ and everything changed.

The end of Mr New and his band's long association with Ramsey came to a swift and unceremonious end,⁴⁵ for although not actually deported, they departed the Island bound for Liverpool – possibly immediately after their benefit concert on the 11th August – in an effort to get back to Bavaria before travel across Europe became impossible. The Chairman of the Town Board Committee reported 'that owing to the declaration of war, the members of New's Band left Liverpool with the object of returning to their homes'. In order to fill the void in the town's entertainment fixtures, Buxton's Pierrots were given permission to perform on the new bandstand, and the town band, no doubt relishing at long last their chance to play in the town, were engaged to give concerts on the South Promenade every evening at 8.00 pm. Ramsey Bay, it seemed, had recaptured something of its familiar end of the season persona, with a 'sprinkling of visitors taking to small boats and listening to the band with oars splashing in the placid waters'.⁴⁶

Under the circumstances the little black humour that was injected into the exchanges in the committee meeting was doubtless welcome:

Mr Faragher: Is there any talk of the Germans coming back again?

Mr Kermeen: They might be back too soon for you, yet. (laughter)

Mr F: They (New's band) can't leave England.

Mr Lawton: We will leave them where they are.

Early in September⁴⁷ the Committee received an application from Mr New requesting that, notwithstanding the circumstances, he be granted the usual band subsidy of £10. The Committee rejected a proposal that New's request should be dismissed out of hand, and responded to a motion by Dr Sugden that a payment of £5 should be awarded in full settlement of the Board's liability. New acknowledged receipt of the money 'and thanked the Board very much for it', and saying that his musicians needed it 'very badly' and would endeavour to use it to return home, 'as no men, handicapped by lameness as he was, were wanted for the army'.

The Committee had in fact been anxious to seek Government approval of their payment to New's band lest it constituted an infringement of wartime regulations. A letter from B. E. Sargeant, the Government and Secretary of the Isle of Man,⁴⁸ dated 13th August, sent with the approval of the Lieutenant Governor, set out the legal position regarding such payments. Namely, that although it was illegal for a person resident in a British Possession to contract with the Crown or Government of an enemy, 'there appears to be no legal reason for withholding the payment referred to in your letter of 12th inst.' The moratorium recently instituted by the Lieutenant Governor did not extend to payments of less than £5, and did not apply to wages and salaries. The Finance Committee met on 4th September and recorded: 'D. New, fee for band services . . . £5', and by the meeting held on 8th September, the Commissioners had received confirmation that New's cheque had been drawn. The sound of Mr New's band wafting across Ramsey Bay on warm August evenings would soon to become a distant memory.

Maurice Powell, September, 2016.

Notes

The *Isle of Man Times* is referred to in the text as the *Times*; Likewise the *Isle of Man Examiner* is referred to as the *Examiner*.

1. *Hear the Little German Band*, Culture Vannin, Culture Vannin, KMJ, 2015, and *The Imperial Viennese Orchestra at the Villa Marina*, Culture Vannin, KMJ, September 2016 and can be read on manxmusic.com; both articles are also included in the Manx Museum's Manuscript Collection, MS 13670.

2. Research into the precise identity of Mr New is on-going. His name is most frequently referred to as Mr Jacob – presumably 'Jakob' – New, or sometimes Mr T. New; other members of the band were named Daniel and Louis, so it is possible they all belonged to a Jewish family of musicians from Bavaria, whose real name could conceivably have been Neu, Neuberger, Neumann or Neunegger.

3. In 1877 the Derby Castle engaged a 'string' band from England, numbering thirteen players of which only seven were string players.

4. Ramsey was not of course a Spa, but what became known as the Grand Island Hotel was originally built as a Hydropathic Establishment – the ‘The Ramsey Hydro’ - and Winter Residence, offering a range of Brine Bath treatments. *Ramsey Courier*, 15th August, 1910.
5. *IoMT*, 5th June, 1897.
6. Ramsey Weekly News, 21st May, 1898.
7. The *Ramsey Courier*, 16th September, 1898.
8. *Ramsey Courier*, 27th September, 1898.
9. The *Ramsey Courier*, 27th January, 1899.
10. The Savoyard George Grossmith.
11. The *Ramsey Courier* 28th July, 1899.
12. *Ramsey Courier* 18th August, 1899. The continued references to Mr T. New would seem to be a printer’s error.
13. *Peel City Guardian*, 2nd September, 1899.
14. *The Ramsey Courier*, 8th December, 1899.
15. Referred to ‘as Mr New’s representative at Glen Helen’ in *Ramsey Weekly News*, 9th December, 1899.
16. *Ramsey Weekly News*, 14th April, 1900.
17. Doings in the North: ‘The Band Question’, *The Manx Sun*, 14th April, 1900.
18. *Ramsey Weekly News*, 26th May, 1900.
19. *Ramsey Weekly News* 2nd June, 1900.
20. *The Manxman* 9th June, 1900.
21. *Manx Sun*, 29th June, 1901.
22. *Manx Sun*, 26th July, 1902.
23. See ‘Sunday Music in the Ramsey Park’, *IoMT* 27th August, 1904.
24. *Ramsey Courier*, 28th July, 1905.
25. Daniel New popularly known to Ramsey audiences as ‘Dan’; Mr Pfeiffer may have been the conductor of the band in Jacob New’s absence.
26. Visiting Musicians 1905, p. 33, *Our Heritage . . . This Was Our Island*, a collection of picture postcards from the Terry Faragher Collection, compiled by Kate Rodgers, Friends of Port St. Mary, 1998.
27. The *Mona’s Herald*, 18th July, 1906. Probably Joseph Slade Mylchreest, the son of Joseph Mylchreest, MHK, JP, known as ‘The Diamond King’, and brother of the famous Manx contralto Ada Mylchreest.
28. See Maurice Powell, *Mr Craine’s Oratorio*, Culture Vannin, KMJ, 2015.
29. *Ramsey Courier*, 12th July, 1907.
30. Daniel Vondy, the proprietor of D. Vondy, Family Butcher and Wine Merchant, opposite the old Ramsey Court House on a site now occupied by Costa Coffee, was the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the Ramsey Lifeboat Committee.

31. *Ramsey Courier*, 19th July, 1901.

32. *IoMT* 25th June, 1910.

33. A photograph of a 1900 Rechabite procession in Kirk Michael can be seen in Rodgers, *Our Heritage*.

34. Officially opened in July with a Grand Concert and selections from New's band, it was intended to be a fashionable venue for first class entertainment, 'the equal of those in Margate, Brighton and Ramsgate and the northern watering places'.

35. Confetti Carnivals or 'Battles' as they were often styled were very popular – although probably not with those tasked with clearing and disposing of thousands of tiny pieces of coloured paper afterwards – and were even a feature of the larger indoor venues such as the Palace and the Derby Castles ballrooms.

36. *IoMT* 22nd July, 1911.

37. *Ramsey Courier*, 5th December, 1911.

38. *Ramsey Courier*, 21st August, 1914.

39. *Ramsey Courier*, 13th October, 1911. £5 less than in 1911 as the season started later. New received no extra payments when he split his band in two and played in different parts of the town.

40. *Ramsey Courier*, 20th June, 1913.

41. One estimate suggested that a platform could be supplied at a cost of about £5, and a dozen chairs for 3s 6d – 4s 6d each. The beach opposite this site was known as the 'Nigger's' beach as minstrel troupes and the Pierrots often performed there.

42. *Ramsey Courier*, 24th July, 1914.

43. *Ramsey Courier*, 31st July, 1914.

44. On 4th August, effective from 11.00 pm.

45. 'The Deported Band', *Ramsey Courier*, 14th August, 1914.

46. *Ramsey Courier*, 21st August, 1914.

47. *Ramsey Courier*, 11th September, 1914.

48. Bertram Edward Sargeant was appointed to that position by the then British Home Secretary, Winston Churchill, in 1910. During the First World War he was responsible for the administration of the detention camps on the Island.