

Tom Taylor –also known as – “ Tommy Taylor “ Clarinet

Here is my Tayle !!

In the late nineteen fifties – for some unknown reason – I set out on **a journey to play trad jazz clarinet**, something which I have now enjoyed for over 60 years.

With my other smitten pals we formed a band called the Savoy Seven – funny? –there were only six of us – and we slowly began to build up a repertoire to make appearances around Glasgow.

However, out of nowhere, in 1960 I was invited to step up to join the Esquire Jazz Band led by Norrie Macfarlane. The Esquires angled their numbers to the more popular side and they were able to be busy, giving me the opportunity to build up a valuable experience and a wide range of numbers.

Norrie was well known and we duly entered for the Scottish Jazz Championship – but we could not compete with the more mature bands. At my stage then I was scared stiff to appear in front of so many people, and still remember that I hoped everyone did not know that I forgot about the coda in the last tune!!

Within Glasgow at that time, the trad jazz scene in the 1960's was thriving with bands at all levels covering a wide range of locations in Glasgow, Edinburgh, central Scotland and further afield.

I was lucky to be invited to join to play with two of the leading Glasgow bands, starting off with the popular George Penman Jazzmen and a later move where I was invited to join the similarly popular City Stompers led by Lennie Herd and Alastair McDonald.

Band jobs covered covering everything – with one regular Saturday evening at the Shawfield Stadium spurring the greyhounds into greater things...band bets not on!

In 1966 I travelled to Canada to spend 4 years broadening my engineering experience, and was able to make contact with Scottish jazz members already emigrated there.

Coming back to Glasgow again in 1970, I was lucky to join George Ogilvie's Dixielanders making my Dixieland repertoire larger. In the course of 18 happy years, I made many new friends and played at a variety of different locations.

Everything always comes back to you! In 1988 I was very pleased to take up the clarinet post sadly vacated by the loss of Dick Stroak in the Kit Carey Jazzband. This put me back with old friends Kit Carey and Graham Stark with whom I still play after some 60 years!!

In addition with the above bands, I have been happy to play regular weekly and monthly dates over many years in Glasgow with Graham Starks A&G,, in Avant Garde, and in Irvine.at the Harbour Arts Centre with George Hewitt's Joymakers..

Looking at the above history, it will be clear that I have been privileged with bands, travelling, locations (and a few drams with pints) with many old friends.

There was nothing to beat a good band job!

However...I started off with setting out on a journey, but looking at the above history I can say that **my quest has been fulfilled!**