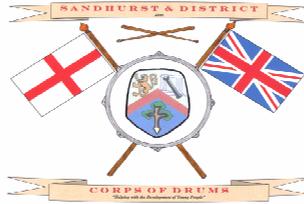


Sandhurst & District Corps of Drums

"Helping with the Development of Young People"

News Letter No 21
December 2006



Founded April 2005
Registered Charity No
1110329

Affiliated to BACYP and NACYP



******Merry Christmas******

Welcome to the Christmas news letter issue 21. It's really hard to believe that it only seems like yesterday I was putting the 2005 Christmas edition together. The Corps of Drums has had a very successful 2006. You only need to refer back through this years news letter to see how much we have progressed and also how many things have been achieved. This time last year we were still trying to raise funds to buy some of the basic items we needed, and in twelve months we have ended up with much more than we ever thought possible. However we still need to maintain momentum with fund raising as we still have many things on our wish list. Our name is certainly getting known. I seem to be taking 2-3 calls a month enquiring about the band and I already have to start planning our events diary for 2007. I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank everyone who has supported us over 2006. This includes parents, supporters and suppliers who have done so much to help us. I would also like to thank the Mayor of Sandhurst Cllr Elizabeth North who once again nominated the Corps of Drums as her chosen charity. Last of all I would like to say a special thank you to my Management team and Staff who have kept me in line over 2006. I really wish everyone a very merry Christmas and look forward to a successful and busy 2007. Best regards Mark

Santa Arrives in Aldershot



Saturday 18 November was a very special day for the people of Aldershot. At 12 noon a special person by the name of Santa Claus was led through the town by the Sandhurst & District Corps of Drums. This was the official start of Christmas in Aldershot. The Corps of Drums marched for almost two miles to lead Santa around the town where hundreds (if not thousands) of people stopped to wave to him. The Corps of Drums received a very warm welcome as they played various tunes to the crowds. The band finally stopped in the town centre whilst playing Jingle Bells which went down a treat. After a very short rest (about a minute) they went on to play to the large audience for about half an hour.

Jenny Rawlings who is the town centre manager commented, "*The Corps of Drums done us all proud. They played and marched so well and brought a lot of smiles and happiness to the people of Aldershot*".

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Visit us at www.sandhurstdrums.co.uk or www.sandhurst.gov.uk



Bass drummer Bob Stevens playing our crested bass drum



The Corps of Drums at the ready to step off

The one comment that many band members made to me was how much better it was with the weather being cold, they all remembered back to the Aldershot Victoria Day parade last July when we marched the same route in temperatures hitting the high 80's. Well done to all the band members.

CORPS OF DRUMS – DIARY OF EVENTS 2007

As mentioned in my opening notes, I have already taken some bookings for 2007. I expect we will receive many more requests for the Corps of Drums to attend and take part in local events. Following is what I have already confirmed. Please note that the St George's day parade shows two dates. I am awaiting confirmation of which Sunday the parade will take place.

Date:	Event:	Comments:
Saturday 13 th January	Sandhurst Social Club Senior Citizens Dinner	All members
Wednesday 31 st January	Surrey Masons Burns Night	TBC
Sunday 22 nd or 29 th April	St George's Day Parade RMA	All members
Saturday 7 th July	Aldershot Victoria Day Parade	All members
Sunday 11 th November	Sandhurst Remembrance Service	All members

I am already discussing other events that will take part in June and July and I will advise you of these as soon as I have them confirmed.

Please note: we may require some help with transport for band members at some of the above events. If you would be happy to help us then please let Rose, Lorraine, Linda or Angie know so we can make a list in case we do need help.

CORPS OF DRUMS CHRISTMAS PARTY

For all band members attending the Corps of Drums Christmas party, please remember that it is Sunday 3rd December 5.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. For supporters of the Corps of Drums we thought we would tell you what we are doing this year. Well we could have had a normal party but that would be predictable so we thought we would hold our Christmas bash at the Big Apple in Wokingham where the band members will have several games of Laser Quest. For those of you who are not sure what this is, it is basically an opportunity for the band members to swap their instruments for laser guns and work around an area trying to hit their opponents with the lasers. It's all come a long way since I was their age; we used to have cap guns. Still I know they are all really looking forward to it and what will make their day is that they will get fed with a hot buffet as well. The one thing I have learnt about the members in our band is that they only have to hear there's food and they are happy.

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Bugle School Progressing

After four lessons of our bugle school I can report that things are progressing very well. The sixteen members that enrolled for the course are really getting in to it. Although some are making more progress than others, it is apparent to us that they are all trying their best. We can not ask for any more than that. However we may have to have a couple of additional lessons to bring some of them up to speed but we hope that we can introduce our bugle section for the 2007 season.



Bugle instructor Toby Garde



Corps of Drums buglers practising their bugle drill

We are currently working out the final test for them but it will include bugle history, basic music theory, instrument care and ability to play. For those who do not pass the final test we will continue to work them until their standard is such that they can take the test again. Well done so far to our future buglers.

XMAS SHUT DOWN DATES

Please all remember that our last practice evening before Christmas is Monday 18th December. Our last event in 2006 is Sandhurst School Variety Show which is the following evening Tuesday 19th December.

We re start in 2007 with our first practice evening on Monday 8th January.

Please can all band members attend our first evening back as we have to practice for the Sandhurst Social Club's Senior Citizens Dinner which is on the following Saturday (13th January)

STUCK WITH WHAT TO BUY THEM FOR CHRISTMAS?

As a parent I know how hard it is to think what to get your children for Christmas. Why waist money on play station games that they will get bored with after a few goes of them. Why not buy them a music related present? For drummers you could buy a practice pad, new sticks or even a DVD on drumming, for the bell lyre players you could buy tune books or a small electronic key board? And for the cymbal players even a set of their own cymbals? If you want ideas or suggestions where to buy these types of presents please ask either Alan Lemon or myself. Please remember that some items may have to be ordered so don't leave it to close to Christmas.

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CORPS FIRST REMEMBRANCE PARADE- A VERY PROUD MOMEMNT

Sunday 12 November marked the first time that the Corps of Drums took part in a remembrance parade. We had been asked to take part of the Sandhurst Remembrance Day parade by the Mayor of Sandhurst Cllr Elizabeth North. This was very special for us as we really wanted to be part of this annual event. We spent time talking to all band members so they fully understood how important this parade was. We were very lucky with the weather as although it was a little cold it was dry and sunny which does help any band. This year's occasion I believe was the biggest Sandhurst has seen. With over 130 Officer Cadets from the RMA Sandhurst in attendance along with many local youth and community groups and a very good turn out of local people all of which helped to make this important day a big success. The Corps of Drums marched on and led four Colour Sergeants from the RMA who took their position on the four corners of the memorial along with local Scouts, Cubs, Guides and Brownies who carried their standards. The Corps of Drums wreath was laid by Drummer Samuel Bugden who we all felt extremely proud off. Considering Samuel had never done anything like this before we all felt he conducted him self very well. Well done to the Corps of Drums and we look forward to attending next year.



The Mayor of Sandhurst Cllr Elizabeth North (centre) with Cllr Peter North to her right getting ready to lay their wreaths.



Corps of drums getting ready to march on

A Message to Parents

On behalf of the Management team and Staff, I would like to say a special thank you to all the parents of the Corps of Drums members. Over the last twelve months you have all been very supportive not only to your children but to us as well. On many occasions you have been more than happy to help with transport and also getting the band ready before some of the events. As someone who has worked with youth groups for a number of years I know how important it is to seek support

from parents. I have seen the effect on not only the children but also the youth group if this support is not forth coming. What really pleases me is that the Corps of Drums parents have taken an interest in what the band is doing. I think that you all know that you can stay on a Monday evening if you wish and have a cup of tea while watching the band practice which is great to see. Also the turn out for the AGM we held in June was more than we could have wished for. Well done to all the parents.

IMPORTANT DIARY NOTE FOR 2007

Although we have many important dates for 2007 there is one in particular that you need to make a note of. It is 5th June 2007 , why I hear you ask? Well that's my birthday and I don't want to be forgotten.

Thanks Mark

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