

Sandhurst & District Corps of Drums

"Helping with the Development of Young People"

News Letter No 26
May 2007



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Welcome to the May issue of the news letter. I hope you all had a good Easter and did not eat too many eggs? April has been a busy month for the band in one way or another. We visited the Medina marching band in the Isle of Wight, we had a very successful St Georges day parade and we have found a new junior Drum Major, more on all these later. We now have to start preparing for the forth coming events throughout the summer. Our next event will be the Sandhurst Donkey Derby on Monday 28 May. As you will see in this issue I am introducing a ranking system for band members and several members will receive a promotion during May. The Corps of Drums continues to move forward and our standard is improving every week. I hope you enjoy the news letter this month. Best regards Mark

Corps of Drums lead the Scouts of Berkshire

Our first major parade in 2007 was the Berkshire Scouts St George's day parade which was held at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. We met at the scout hall to get ready and then marched to the RMA where we assembled and formed up and then marched playing up to the RMA Chapel. We did this parade last year and I am not sure if it was because the weather was better this year but we were all surprised at how many people were there. We halted and played several tunes static which received a really good response. After the church service the scouts assembled with the Corps of Drums in front ready to march on. There was a really good turn out of scouts this year and we estimated that there must have been about 250 which was a good amount for the march.

We marched around the parade square in front of the Old College which was a really good setting. As you can see from the group picture above, we were very fortunate to get such a good back drop. I would like to say well done to all band members but especially our new junior members who carried them selves very well. Well done.



The Sandhurst & District Corps of Drums
RMA Sandhurst Old College



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

CORPS OF DRUMS – DIARY OF EVENTS 2007

Please see below for the events that are currently booked in 2007. There will be many more added as time goes on. Please make a note of these dates. I will update this events diary every month.

Date:	Event:	Comments:
Monday 28th May	Sandhurst Donkey Derby	All members
Sunday 17 th June	RMA Heritage Day	All members
Saturday 7 th July	Aldershot Victoria Day Parade	All members
Sunday 8 th July	Frimley Green Carnival	All members
Saturday 21 st July	Ash Community Fun Day	All members
Sunday 11 th November	Sandhurst Remembrance Service	All members

Please Note: Next event is highlighted in bold

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.

Medina Marching Band – Work shop trip

As some of you may be know, we received a grant towards the end of last year from Connexions. This was a grant that was driven by five of the older band members who put an idea forward to visit the Medina marching band on the Isle of Wight to hold some work shops. We did this on Sunday 15 April and had a really successful day. After an early start we arrived on the island and made our way to the Medina High school where we met with Kevin Hayward and members from his band. After a short rehearsal, we split up and carried out work shops on drum, saxophone, flute and cornet and a special work shop for our new junior drum major.



After lunch we then assembled for full band and marching practice on the field and as there was a good turn out by the Medina band on the day there were over 50 in the band. Josh Thorne led the band around the field and had his first taste of being a drum major. This was a very successful day and Kevin mentioned afterwards that his band benefited as much as we did by it. I will be hopefully organising with Kevin a further trip hopefully this year where we may be able to take the whole band.

Happy members on the mini bus



Pictures left and right show the band marching practice



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New Drum Major Appointment

As mentioned earlier in the news letter, I am pleased to announce that I have appointed Josh Thorne as our new Junior Drum Major. Josh has been with us since we started and has all the necessary attributes that I believe a drum major should have. He is very musical, he holds a high grade as both a cornet & bugle player, he has a good working knowledge of the side drum, and he is a smart band member. Further to this, he has I believe the correct mental attitude towards the band. Josh has on many occasions given me suggestions on how we could improve the band and shows a real interest in its future. I am sure he will succeed in his new role and I will support him as much as possible over the coming months to help build his confidence at leading the band.



The picture on the left shows Josh at the recent Medina band work shop day taking instruction from their drum major. This was the first time Josh has taken control of a band and I have to say he really amazed me on how well he done.



The picture to the right shows Josh on side drum duty at the recent St George's day parade (I told you he was a smart band member)

I would like you all to join me in congratulating Josh and I think he will do a great job for both the band and me. Well done Josh.

New Ranking System Introduced

I have already mentioned in my opening note that I am about to introduce a ranking system within the band. Why I hear you ask? Well although I do not want it to run the same way as you would have it in say the Army Cadets, I do feel that it is a way on recognising those band members who have made commitment far above the call of duty. This is not to say that other band members have not worked hard, but the candidates I have chosen have shown an above average commitment to practice. Alan Lemon suggested that we look to introduce the ranking system and after much thought of what we could benefit out of it I agreed to try it. My thoughts are that any band member that can demonstrate to me that they have the ability to fit the role which I want then they could also be considered. I will talk through what will be required from the members in question and if I am happy with their commitment to this new role then I will announce the successful candidates in the next issue of the news letter. However all band members should be aware that this ranking system gives them **no** authority to order other band members about and if this happens then they would loose their rank immediately. I feel I need to emphasise this point.

**We always need new sponsors
Do you know anyone?**

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Please Check Our Website out – its really good

I would like to remind all band members and supporters of the Corps of Drums to check our website out. This has been on the web for some time now and I can not thank Paul Cave who built it enough for doing it for us. Paul keeps the site updated all the time and continues to improve it. I can not believe how quickly he gets new information or pictures on to it. I believe that a good website can have many benefits to the Corps of Drums. For example, I was recently approached by Ash Council who wanted us to perform at their community day on 21 July. The lady who contacted me wanted to visit us to see what we were like, but she checked the website and called me to say there was no need to visit as she could see we were a very professional group and was happy to book us. Please check the website on www.sandhurstdrums.co.uk

We always need new sponsors **Do you know anyone?**

After recent discussion with the fund raising team, we want to try and find further sponsors and people who may be able to donate to the Corps of Drums. Although we now have much of what we need to cater for the amount of band members, we still need to renew some of our old instruments and have many item that we still need to buy.

Below is a list of what we still need to obtain and approximate costs

<i>1045 Training drums (junior players) x 4</i>	<i>£200.00 each</i>
<i>1047S Parade drums x6</i>	<i>£375.00 each</i>
<i>Drum Majors Sash</i>	<i>£250.00</i>
<i>Various badges with the Corps crest</i>	<i>£6.50 each + £100.00 set up charge</i>
<i>Further uniforms</i>	<i>£195.00 each (based on new supplier)</i>
<i>Bell Lyres (small for junior members)</i>	<i>£195.00 each</i>
<i>Storage Shed & Racking</i>	<i>£550.00</i>
<i>Bass drum harness x 2</i>	<i>£190.00 each</i>
<i>And many more items.</i>	

Please could I ask that if any of you know of anyone who may be able to help us further to contact me on 07976 540584 to discuss. Many thanks Mark

Update on our future Bell Lyre players.

Just a quick update for you on my grand daughters Ellie and Lily. They are both home now and doing very well. The currently weigh 9 lb 9 ½ oz and 9 lb 8 ½ oz which is still not massive at four and half months old but considering their birth weight it is very good. I have sat down and spoken to them both about their future rolls within the band and they seem happy with what I have planned for them. However I may not get such a positive response once they begin to talk?

*Lily on the left &
Ellie on the right (I think?)*



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