



The Corps of Drums Society

Registered Charity No. 1073106

Newsletter – February 2021



Committee Contact Information

Listed below are the current positions held within the Society, I have also added the relevant email addresses, so if there are specific Areas of concern or information required it will reach the correct person and therefore can be answered in a timely manner

President:	Brigadier J K Tanner OBE BA	
Chairman:	Roger Davenport	Chairman@corpsofdrums.com
Hon. Secretary:	David Lear MBE	Secretary@corpsofdrums.com
Hon. Treasurer:	Graham (Jake) Thackery	Treasurer@corpsofdrums.com
Drum Major:	John Richardson	Drum.Major@corpsofdrums.com
Music & Training:	Peter Foss	Music.training@corpsofdrums.com
Picture archivist:	Iian Pattinson	Archivist@corpsofdrums.com

Other Officers

Editor, Drummers Call:	Geoff Fairfax MBE	Editor@corpsofdrums.com
Northern Ireland Rep	William Mullen	Sales@ernemusicsupplies.com
Australian Rep	Martin Hartley	hartleymartin@hotmail.com
Regular Army Liaison	Senior DMaj Simon Towe	

Chairman - REPEAT NOTICE

Having collected the drum donated by Trevor Wade, I want it to find a new home asap.

Trevor Wade (Society Member), who is moving to the Isle of Wight, has kindly donated a Premier side-drum to the Society complete with a white plastic sling and sticks. The dimensions are 14" x 12", the shell is white, and it has 8 rods, metal hoops, top and bottom snares, and a tensioning key. Similar drums now sell for something in excess of £450.

Any Offers please to the Hon. Secretary by email.

The drum is currently with the Chairman near Sevenoaks in Kent."

The price is not known, but information can be obtained from on 01295 710144 or 07764 947743 or online at nickhaynes51@gmail.com

The Drummers Handbook

Historical – Dress

The role, status and particularly the dress of the drummer has been gradually changing and by 1645 when Cromwell raised the New Model Army they continued to be employed not only to beat time when marching but to pass signals. Until the introduction of the bugle, all signals in Regiments of Foot were by drum. In an age when close formation manoeuvre could win or lose a battle this was very important. The drummer was still a very important person! This new Army included twelve Regiments of Foot who were uniformly dressed in red.

Previously regiments had been raised by feudal lords and landowners who formed units from the workers on their estates and usually commanded them in person. Each chose his own colour scheme — often that of his own coat of arms, and the result was that regiments dressed in red, buff, green, yellow, blue, grey, etc. These regiments were known as Colonel . . .'s Regiment. The Hon Charles Howard, who commanded his regiment from 1738–1748, and dressed his men with green facings. As there was already a regiment commanded by another Howard, who had buff facings, they became known as the Green Howards (now part of the Yorkshire Regiment) and the Buff Howards respectively, the latter eventually dropping the name Howard to become known as the Buffs (forebear regiment of the Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment).

The year 1660 saw the Restoration of the Monarchy and the formation of the Regular Army of today. Some of the regiments of Cromwell's Army were re-embodied in the King's Army within minutes of their disbandment.

The Clothing Warrant of 1751 brought about a change in the dress of drummers when they were ordered to wear coats of the regimental facing colour, trimmed with regimental lace except those of 'Royal' regiments, who wore the royal livery — a red coat with blue lining and facings adorned with royal lace. They wore grenadier caps embroidered with regimental devices, and drums on the front and on the rear turnup flap. There are a number of significant factors in this order, one is that the drummer was immediately identified as such by wearing a coat of reversed colours to that of the fighting soldier, who continued to wear red coats with regimental facings. Another is the wearing of the badge of the drum in their headdress. In 1831 the wearing of reversed facings was discontinued and the red coats of the drummer were now distinguished by the lace or braid. In addition, the badge of a drum made a further distinction and is still worn today in Infantry regiments. The Foot Guards with their laced coats do not need the badge.

The Crimean War saw further changes in the dress of the Army when in 1855 the tunic was substituted for the coatee. This also saw the disappearance of the 'Wings' which had been worn by the Flank Companies, i.e., the Grenadier and Light Companies. Wings or Shoulder Shells were however retained for drummers and bandsmen only.

These wings can be compared to the 'Swallows Nests' worn by German drummers and bandsmen until 1945. It is of interest to know that in the Crimean War the only weapon carried by drummers was a specially made sword. Not until the flank companies were abolished in 1862, and the training of the other companies was extended to include their functions, did the drummer receive formal military training.

The final change in drummers' tunics took place in 1872 when the 'red crown' was introduced and worn on the lace or tape of all Infantry of the Line in place of the regimental lace they had worn

previously. This lace, known as 'Crown Lace' was worn on the drummers' full dress tunics up to the beginning of the Second World War (1939-45). It is the distinctive mark of drummers of the Infantry of the Line and should always be worn. Drummers of the Foot Guards still wear the blue fleur-de-lys and not crown lace.

Tuition – Attaching the Bugle Cord

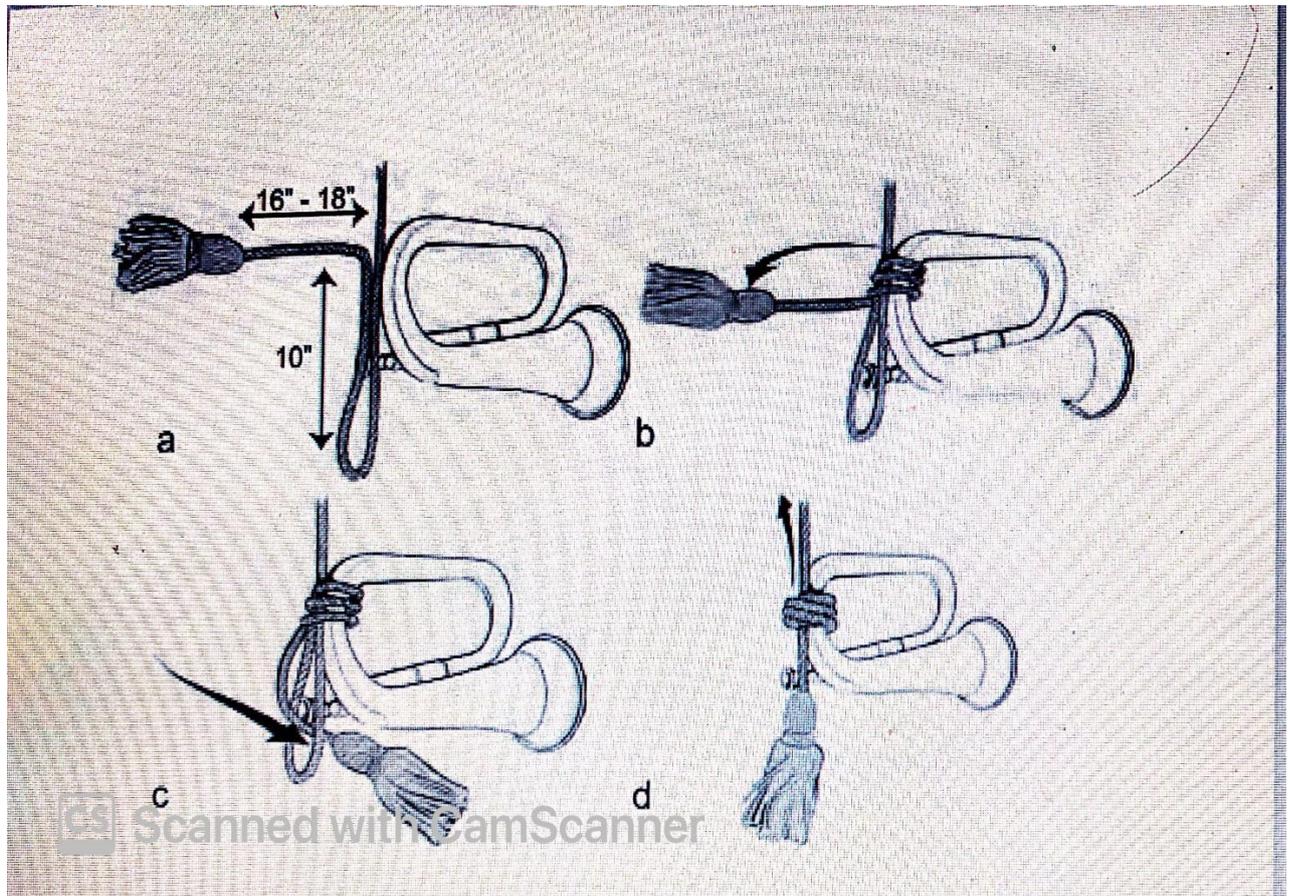
To attach the bugle cord to the bugle, form a loop of ten inches approximately 18 inches from one of the tassels and lay the loop against the bugle:

A - Bind the tassel end tightly around the bugle to cover the loop, three turns at the mouthpiece end and B - four turns at the bell.

C - Pass the tassel through what remains of the loop and draw the loop tight to secure the tassel end in place.

D - There should be a four inch drop between the bottom of the knot and the crown of the tassel. Fine adjustment to achieve the four inch drop should be made by loosening the binding, adjusting the length of drop and then re-tightening the binding.

Only two colours of bugle cords are provided from public funds and they are royal (scarlet, blue and yellow) or green, both are described as Cord and Tassels, Bugle and Trumpet in the Equipment Table Schedules, which also give the entitlement of instruments for Infantry Corps of Drums.



Past Article from Drummers Call – No 78 – Spring 2013

Cutlers Sword 2012

LSgt P.N. Blakelock Coldstream Guards

I first took an interest in music at a very young age. I grew up with stories and pictures of my Mam who used to be a part of her parents' Jazz band as a Side Drummer and marched at the front of the band as a Drum Major. She won quite a lot of medals too and this inspired me to join a local Army Cadet Force band. I joined the Durham Army Cadet Force Borneo Band and Bugles at the age of 13 where I learnt to play the Side Drum, Drum Kit and Bugle. Looking back I had a great time and learnt a lot in the two and a half years that I was in the band.

In June 2001 I decided to join the British Army and the Regiment I chose was the Coldstream Guards because I used to watch them on the television every year doing the Queen's Birthday Parade. I always said to my parents that I would be there some day.

I did my training at the Army Foundation College and Catterick and passed out in September 2002. From there I was posted to the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards who were in Londonderry, Northern Ireland.

I heard that the Coldstream Guards had a Corps of Drums and asked if I could join them. To my delight they said yes. I spent about 6 months in Londonderry and then headed back to England with the Battalion and was posted to Aldershot until 2004. For those 2 years I was the Corps of Drums cymbal player for all the jobs and parades that we did because that was the job of the junior Side Drummer. That was OK because I was still learning the side drum and bugle. I had very good teachers to look up to and who taught me, one of them is now the Senior Drum Major, British Army and the other is the current Drum Major of the Coldstream Guards.

In May 2004 I put what I was taught into practice and went on my Drums Course at Army Training Regiment Pirbright. I spent the next 6 months developing my skills and adapting what I was taught. I passed the course with very good results.

Whilst I was out in Iraq in 2005 I was short toured to get posted to Number 7 Company Coldstream Guards in Chelsea Barracks London as the incremental Drummer doing ceremonial Guard Mounts and sounding the *Last Post* for the "Ceremony of the Keys" at the Tower of London. I spent two years doing this and I thought it was fantastic. In 2007 I was entered into the Household Division Silver Bugle Competition where I came first. It was a massive achievement for me because it was the first ever time that I'd been entered into a competition.

Between 2007 and 2011 in between tours of Afghanistan I've done a number of big Parades. I've done 5 Queens Birthday Parades, The Edinburgh Tattoo, The Basel Tattoo, a Concert for the Queen and a Scarlet and Gold Concert and that is just a few to mention.

Over the past year I have achieved a great deal. I was part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Parade and on the Queen's Birthday Parade this year I was the Lone Drummer. That was a great experience. I was so proud

to be selected out of my Corps of Drums. If you did get the chance to watch it you would have noticed that I was using an old rope tension drum. The last time this was done was about 10 years ago. I thought it would be fitting with it being the Diamond Jubilee Year so to that end Drum Major Scott Fitzgerald applied for permission for me to use the drum and it was granted.

The biggest achievement for me this year has to be winning the Cutlers' Sword. I went down to London with my wife where I was presented with the sword by the Lord Mayor at the Lord Mayor's Show. My wife and I were made to feel really welcome and we had a great weekend.

I am now posted to the Army School of Ceremonial (Drumming and Bugle Wing) in Catterick as a Side Drum and Bugle Instructor. I've been here for about 4 months now and I am enjoying it. We have just had a passing out parade in the form of a sit-down concert and the concert went really well.

I hope that being up here I can pass on all the knowledge that I have picked up over the years and, who knows, one day my students might be writing an article like this telling people of their careers and achievements. I hope that in the future I will be the Drum Major of the Coldstream Guards Corps of Drums and hopefully one of the Senior Drum Majors.

LSgt Blakelock



LSgt Blakelock pictured with the Master of the Worshipful Company of Cutlers, Adam Traill, after the presentation of the Cutlers' Sword

Hon Secretary – The Guards Division Corps of Drums Association

The only possible Parade on our horizon is the Minden Day Parade on Sunday, 1 August 2021 at Bury St. Edmunds. It is being organised by Paul Wilkins who gathers an ad hoc Corps of Drums for the day and some of our members will be volunteering. Hopefully, the event will go ahead, and we will meet Drummers from other Corps of Drums.

Jamie Wallis,

Hon. Secretary,

e-mail: secretary@gdcoda.org Website: www.GDCoDA.org

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The Drums Gathering – 2021

The ASC will update the arrangements for the Gathering for 2021 when known

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Corps of Drums Society Ties

The Chairman has taken delivery of 50 ties, these are the correct shade of red as opposed to the previous orange colour on (the red ones with alternate crown and fleur-de-lys diagonal stripes). The price for the ties is £13.50 and £3.50 for P &P. if anyone is interested in purchasing a Society Tie, please email the Chairman Direct on the email above

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Drummer Call (DC)– Editors notes –

The next DC will hopefully be released by Spring, the editor and committee would like to apologise for the late release of this edition, but this has been due to IT issues and programming which are now resolved.

We are after looking for an assistance to help with the production of the Drummers Call and to assist Geoff Fairfax MBE.

Anyone interested please email me

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CODS Music Practices -

Going forward the society would be looking at CODS Practice one meeting in the North (Possibly Cottesmore or Syston) and one in the South (London Area), but until restrictions on COVID-19 are in place no firm commitments will be taken.

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Lord Mayor's Show 2021 Music List – Update 01st March 2021

I have received an invitation from the Pageant master to complete the application to attend this year's LMS which is planned to be held on Saturday 13th November 2021, which I have returned.

I have received replies via Facebook and emails for regular groups and some society members to attend, and of which I have included on the nominal roll.

Should there be any other members who are wishing to attend please let me know

The list of music is below, most of those participating in the 2020 show were emailed out the QR Codes, should anyone wish to attend the 2021 LMS and requires the music please email me.

LMS Music 2021 –

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|-----------------------|--|
| • Killaloe | Flutes with Bugle Intro & Bell Lyres |
| • The Adjutant | Flutes |
| • Heraldry | Bugles |
| • Retreat Marches | Flute |
| • Prussian Glory | Flutes and Bell Lyres in the Trio |
| • Bugle Bells | Bugles |
| • Mud Cabin | Flutes & Bell Lyres |
| • Hazelmere | Flutes with bell-lyres in the trio – Designated March |
| • Mechanised Infantry | Bugles & bell lyres |
| • Galanthia | Flutes |
| • Jelalabad | Bugles & Bell Lyres |
| • Children's Love | Flutes with Bell Lyres in the Trio |

The Ken Wynne Legacy –

The sub committee for the Book are planning a face-to-face meeting to go through the last areas of the book, with 75% of the Photos for the book being in place. The New CODS President (Brigadier Jim Tanner has offered his assistance, which is gladly received.

Further updates will be included in the monthly newsletter when received

10th Leicester (1st SYSTON) Scout & Guide Band COD

Events and practices for 2021

Due to the Governments advice on social distancing and groups meeting, we have assumed that to follow these guidelines that all practices and events are cancelled

For any further information on practice dates and events please email Pam Hales on the following email address

pamhales@btinternet.com

Yorkshire Corps of Drums (YCOD) - Music Practices / Engagements

Events and practices for 2021

Please email Peter Garthwaite on the email below. Practices are held at Harewood Barracks, Regent Street, Leeds LS7 1AT

p.garthwaite@ntlworld.com

Cinque Ports (Rifle Volunteers) Corps of Drums - Music Practices / Engagements

Events and practices for 2021

Due to the Governments advice on social distancing and groups meeting, all practices and events are cancelled

The Practices are held at The Scout Hut, Mint Walk Warlingham, CR6 9SA – 10:00 – 15:30 for further Information please email secretary@corpsofdrums.com

We are always looking for new members, again if you are interested in brushing up on your drumming skills, come along, you do as much or as little as you want to do.

Guards Division Corps of Drums Association - Music Practices / Engagements

Events and practices for 2021

The Guards Division Corps of Drums Association (GDCoDA) will be holding their 2020 practices at the Grenadier Guards Association, Windsor Branch (post code SL4 5EY) on the following dates.

Due to the Governments advice on social distancing and groups meeting, we have assumed that to follow these guidelines that all practices and events are cancelled

We meet at 10.30 hrs. and finish about 15.00 hrs., which includes a 45-minute break for lunch and a chat. Free tea / coffee and biscuits are provided. Why not come and visit us and join us playing the drum and fife marches. If you have not got an instrument do not worry you can borrow one on the day.

For further information on any of the above please email Jamie Wallis (Hon Secretary) on the email below

Secretary@gdcoda.org

The Yorkshire Volunteers Corps of Drums

Practice nights are the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at Standridge Community Centre, Wakefield, West Yorkshire.

Due to the Governments advice on social distancing and groups meeting, we have assumed that to follow these guidelines that all practices and events are cancelled

For further information on joining the YVCOD, please contact David Barlow on the following email

Dtb33@btinternet.com

Staffordshire Corps of Drums

The Staffordshire Corps of Drums are recruiting Flute Players/drummers (including Tenor Drummers) and Bell Lyre players.

Due to the Governments advice on social distancing and groups meeting, we have assumed that to follow these guidelines that all practices and events are cancelled

The Corps meets on Monday evenings 7-9 pm and occasional Sunday training days. we are located at the Stafford & Rugeley Sea Cadet Centre, River Way, Stafford. ST16 3TH.

For further information please contact Major (Retd) David J Keates MBE on 01902 850536 or Email davidjkeates@hotmail.co.uk

The Fusilier Association Corps of Drums (London)

The FACOD meet on Saturdays and every Friday between 19:30 21:30 with practices planned for the following dates.

Due to the Governments advice on social distancing and groups meeting, we have assumed that to follow these guidelines that all practices and events are cancelled

The listed dates below would be dependent on government advice

Start times are 1030 coffee tea 1100 breakdown into lessons and admin, finish at 1530 at 213 Balham High Road, London, SW17 7BQ

Names for security reasons need to be given before attendance, anyone interested please email Colin Ashton on colin@polishspecialities.com

Cheshire Drums and Bugles

Events and practices for 2021

Anyone interested please email Robert Richardson on robbodrummer@hotmail.com

Due to the Governments advice on social distancing and groups meeting, we have assumed that to follow these guidelines that all practices and events are cancelled

Picture Archives – No new Updates

It is the plan going forward to have Photos from the archives scanned and to be included in the Members area of the CODS Website. Further updates will be included in the newsletters.

Archivist@corpsofdrums.com

Facebook – Update

The Monthly Newsletters will no longer be attached to the Facebook, page but a link will be added taking you to the CODS website.

Current Facebook members stands at 1600 – **Membership forms are on the CODS Website**

Current Paying members of the Corps of Drums Society is 127

To obtain feedback for new members I have asked all those requesting to join to answer 3 drums related questions, which will hopefully get new members to join the CODS and more importantly to give those new members information of Active Corps within the area they live.

If the questions are not answer they will not be accepted

David Lear MBE - 410 St Richards Road, Great Mongeham, Deal, KENT CT14 9LH