



DRUMBEAT

Newsletter of Section 5 – Hastings Drummers
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Happy New Year

The New Year is a time for reflection and looking forward. This time last year we were being led around the streets and pubs of Hastings by our “founder” man at the front Alan (one L – Griffiths). Little did we know that he would soon be leaving for foreign shores.



(back view of Alan in Whitefriars)

We had a farewell bash for Alan in the Motor Sailing Club and saw him off in good style. We even managed to provide some pyrotechnics (though not the bonfire sort).



(Burning Desire outside Yacht Club)

We were joined by drummers from Eastbourne who swelled our ranks and gave us other opportunities for drumming throughout the year.

We celebrated St. Georges Day in April along with the “mummers”, ending up in the Carlisle for a drum and a drink.

The Jack in the Green week-end saw our first major outing with Allan (2 L's - Dyas). Greeted with glorious sunshine we excelled ourselves on the beach, in butlers Yard and other places around the town. (A few intrepid stalwarts had previously drummed in May Day at some ungodly hour.)



Later in May we went to Battle to perform at the Medieval Fayre. Once again the sun shone on us. The mummers did their best and we drum and drank in unequal proportions! (see over)

The summer saw us out and about a lot. Some events were well supported, others less so. We all agreed we need to get dates into our diaries early on to allow us to plan well in advance. We also

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agreed there were certain events which were not well enough supported for us to attend again.



(Bradley excited at our drumming?)

One highlight for us was the hospitality afforded to us by the Millers of Wadhurst. Here we did some charity work amongst the needy rural community. The photo of the run down hovel and gardens bears testament to the lengths we will go to help the more deprived.



(Drummers put on brave face in the Wadhurst squalor)

The summer saw Carnival come and go. Lots to be done to get it back to it's former glory. Perhaps we can help in some way by

liaising with the new Carnival Committee. We also Walked the Fish, handed Giants at Pevensey and drummed at Fairs amongst other events.



Giant handing at Pevensey Castle



Llamas Fayre, Eastbourne (on pier)

Autumn means Bonfire!

This year we attended some of the usual bonfires and some new ones (for us). Hastings was massive, Fletching impressed with their "balls of fire" and Newick was an interesting tour of the village. (Pictures on separate sheet)

Haloween saw our second (and now traditional) Haloween bash. Passions were aroused among



(I don't think Daz's wallet is there Stuart)

We enjoyed our small (but perfectly formed) Bonfire at Icklesham. Our partner Bonfire Society (Robin Hood) put on a good show again and we were really pleased to see them out and about with us on a number of occasions throughout the year. This is another positive addition to our "throng". When we also are able to get Princesses of Poi and Burning Desire "on board" at events we present a stimulating addition to the proceedings.



We drummed around Bexhill on their Christmas shopping day . We even got to drum on an open topped bus (but broke it!!). In true style, we'd never been on a bus before and then the very next week we were on one again.

We held a Christmas Social at the Carlisle for the first time. This was a great success. Hopefully we put enough behind the bar for it to be an annual event.



Kids of all shapes and sizes enjoyed the party and it was good to share it with Robin Hood members, drummers and pagans from Eastbourne, our mini-bus

driver (3 wheels Dave) and Poi dancers.

As you read this you'll be preparing for the New Years Day bash. Meeting at the Stag at 12.00 noon and going who knows where. We'll soon be doing our first "corporate" do in Eastbourne (17th Jan). All hands on deck to make a bloody great impression.



If you haven't been out much this year, make it a New Year Resolution to come back and join us in all we do. As we have gone through the year out practice has paid off and we are really very tight (oh err missus) on most occasions. The additions of further drums will build our sound and providing some practices are attended you will keep up with what we are trying out at any time.



Come and Join us

The final sheet has a selection of other photos from the year. Remember, you can find out more at: www.section5.org.uk and other pictures are often posted there by Alan.

Keith Milchem Dec. 30th 2003