

**Pipe Band
New Member
Information**

PEEBLES EX-SERVICEMEN'S PIPE BAND

Welcome to the Band

Peebles Ex-Servicemen's Band caters for all types of pipers and drummers; whether you wish to learn to play the pipes or drums to enable you to play in local festivals and other events or whether you wish to learn with a view to competing either as part of the competing Band or soloist.

There are two practice nights per week, Monday night in the Masonic Hall, Northgate, Peebles and the other on a Wednesday night in the Ex-Servicemen's Club, School Brae, Peebles. The Monday night practices cater for beginners from 7.15pm to 8pm. From 8pm until 9.30pm more experienced members practice tunes for street performances. Any new tunes are learnt during this practice.

The second practice night on the Wednesday caters for members who wish to compete. From 7.15pm until 8pm members break into small groups to practice. From 8pm until 9.30 pm all members practice competition pieces together.

Drumming and Piping practice are carried out separately for part of each practice night, and then both sections come together for a joint practice. For the first period of learning you will attend for the first three quarters of an hour on Monday night to practice either your chanter or on your pad.

The costs of practicing involve a contribution of £2 per week; this covers the hire of the hall. You will also be expected to purchase a chanter or pad, the Band has a stock of these.

Once you decide the Band is for you, you will be asked to complete a contact sheet. This is designed to allow a member of the Band to contact your family in the case of emergency.

You will attend the Monday night practice until you are confident enough on the chanter or pad to move to the next stage. It is impossible to give any accurate indication of how long that will take as it depends on many factors. The more practice you undertake the quicker you will progress. Different people progress at different rates, so don't be put off if someone who started at the same time progresses at a faster pace than you. It takes dedication and hard work to learn something new, so stick at it.

However to progress to the Monday night practice between 8pm and 9.30pm you should be able to play around eight to ten tunes on the chanter from memory. In drumming you will be invited to attend further periods of practice at the tutor's discretion.

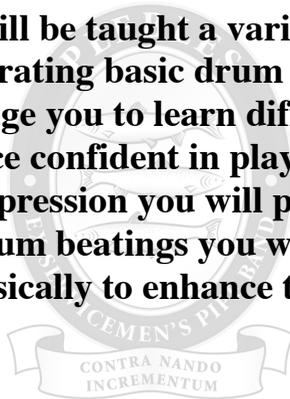
At that stage you will be invited to attend the later Monday night practices to learn to play with the members of the Band. It can be quite a different experience from playing tunes on your own or in a small group to playing with all the members of the Band.

Pipers

As a piper you will be introduced to the pipes, you will continue to learn the tunes you have played on the chanter and transfer these skills to the pipes. You will learn new skills required to play the pipes including exercises to improve the length of time you are able to blow the pipes. Once confident in playing the tunes with good expression you will be introduced to playing with the drummers .

Drummers

As a drummer you will be taught a varied amount of exercises and beatings incorporating basic drum movements. These beatings will encourage you to learn different time signatures and note values. Once confident in playing these beatings with good musical expression you will progress onto playing a drum. As with all drum beatings you will learn how to control a beating musically to enhance the tune being played by the pipers.



LOAN of PIPES

A piper can purchase their own set of pipes should they wish. You will find that there is plenty of advice available from the older pipers in respect of their likes and dislikes when it comes to pipes. Take advantage of that advice, pipes can be expensive, it is important that you buy a set which are right for you. The Pipe Major is extremely knowledgeable and is only too willing to help with a purchase.

If however purchasing is not possible then the Band has a number of sets of pipes which can be loaned to you free of charge.

The loan period is 2 years after which time a piper will be expected to purchase their own set. You should arrange insurance cover for the pipes whilst they are loaned to you. The benefit of the loan is that it gives a piper the chance to play whilst looking around and gaining experience before purchasing.

UNIFORM

Well done, you have made it through all of those practice nights in the cold and wet and now it is time for your first outing with the Band.

The Band provides various items of uniform. You will be asked to sign for the various items at the date you receive them. You will be expected to look after the uniform which at all times belongs to Peebles Ex-Servicemen's Pipe Band. You will be responsible for any damage, however caused, whilst the items of uniform, pipes or drums are in your possession, any damage must be paid for or damaged items replaced in consultation with the Band. Wearing of any item of Band uniform or using any item of Band property out with Band functions is not allowed without the express permission of the Pipe Major/Committee. Should you wish to wear any item of Band uniform or use any item of Band property out with a Band function then a written request should be made to the Pipe Major giving details of where, when and why you wish to use Band uniform or property.

As a playing member of the Band you will be expected to commit to attending practice nights regularly and punctually. Experienced pipers or drummers are expected to assist with tutoring learners on Monday night between 7.15pm and 8pm.

If you are absent from practice nights for four weeks, you will not be entitled to play at any public performance without the permission of the Pipe Major. If the absence is prolonged, after consultation with the Pipe Major, the Committee may require you to return your pipes, uniform (and sheet music in the case of a piper) in terms of the next paragraph.

If and when you decide you wish to leave the Band or you do not attend practices in terms of the last paragraph and are asked to return your uniform, the uniform must be dry cleaned and returned (together with the sheet music in terms of a piper) to the Quartermaster within two weeks of the request being made. Any request for the return uniform, pipes and sheet music will be in written form. The member will be expected to pay for any item not returned or damaged at replacement cost.

Items of Uniform provided by the Band:

Kilt and Jacket

Hat and Hackle

Sporran and Flashes

Tie

Two pairs of socks

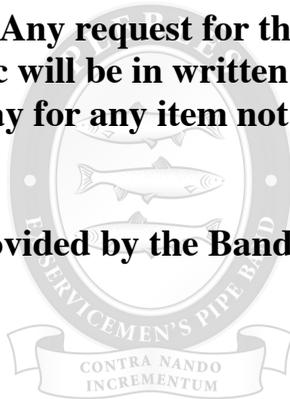
Raincoat

Pipers are provided with a pipe bag cover and pipe chanter

Pipers are provided with a folder of sheet music

Drummers are provided with drum, drum harness

Band members will have to provide their own waistcoat, shirts, belt and shoes. Belts are optional but experience shows they assist keeping the kilt up for the smaller members of the Band! Advice on where to obtain these items can be given, ask the Pipe Major or any Band member.



Band members can purchase waterproof jackets and polo shirts with the Band logo on them should they choose. Ask the Pipe Major.

It is a condition of membership of the competing Band that all shirts worn at competitions are embroidered with the Band's logo. The Band will pay for the embroidery on the first two shirts, additional shirts and embroidery being purchased at the Band member's expense.

PURCHASE OF OTHER ITEMS

It is probably only a matter of time before a piper or drummer will require additional items of kit. Whether it be new drum sticks, practice chanter reeds or some item required for maintenance such as hemp, tape, corks, new blow stick, pipe carriers etc. The Band has an account with a supplier and orders can be placed through the Band.

Pipe reeds for pipe chanters are provided by the Band free of charge. Practice chanter reeds must be purchased by the learner/member. The Band always has a stock of these for purchase.

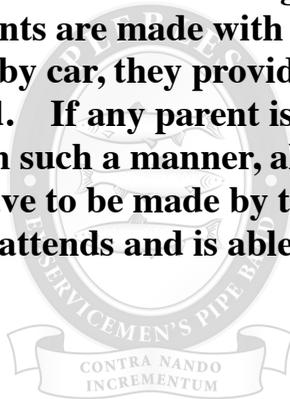
Of course members are free to obtain items with any supplier they choose; there is no obligation to use the Band's supplier.

COLLECTION of CHILDREN

It is expected that parents will collect their children from practice nights, or from any playing engagement, when the Band may play in or out with Peebles. If parents do not wish to collect their children and are content for their child to make his or her own way home, the Band will not accept any responsibility for the child once they have been dismissed from the particular practice or playing engagement.

When the Band have a playing engagement out with Peebles, if the Band does not make travel arrangements with a bus company, arrangements are made with various Band members who travel by car, they provide lifts to other members of the Band. If any parent is unwilling to allow their child to travel in such a manner, alternative arrangements will have to be made by the child's parents to ensure that the child attends and is able to play at the engagement.

ENGAGEMENTS



Each Spring a list of playing engagements and fund raising events is circulated to members who are asked to indicate their availability for each engagement or fund raising event. It is expected that each playing member will be available for most if not all of the playing engagements. Such commitment allows the Band to improve consistency. It is also expected that all members of the Band, be they learners or playing members will fully support all of the fundraising activities. Fundraising is a vital part of the Band, without it we could not survive.

COMPETITION

Whilst the Band competes at various competitions throughout the year, it is by no means the case that in order to join the Band, a member has to compete. The choice of whether a member wishes to compete is entirely a matter for that member.

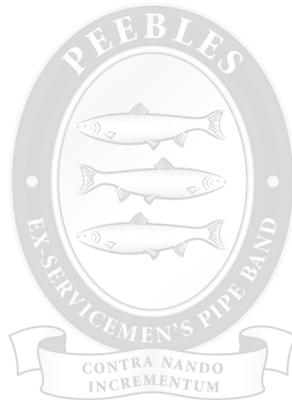
Alternatively the fact that a member wishes to compete does not automatically mean that the member will be invited to compete. The Pipe Major has the sole discretion as to whether a member will play in a particular competition or not. If in the opinion of the Pipe Major any member is not playing to the standard required for competition, the member will not be allowed to compete.

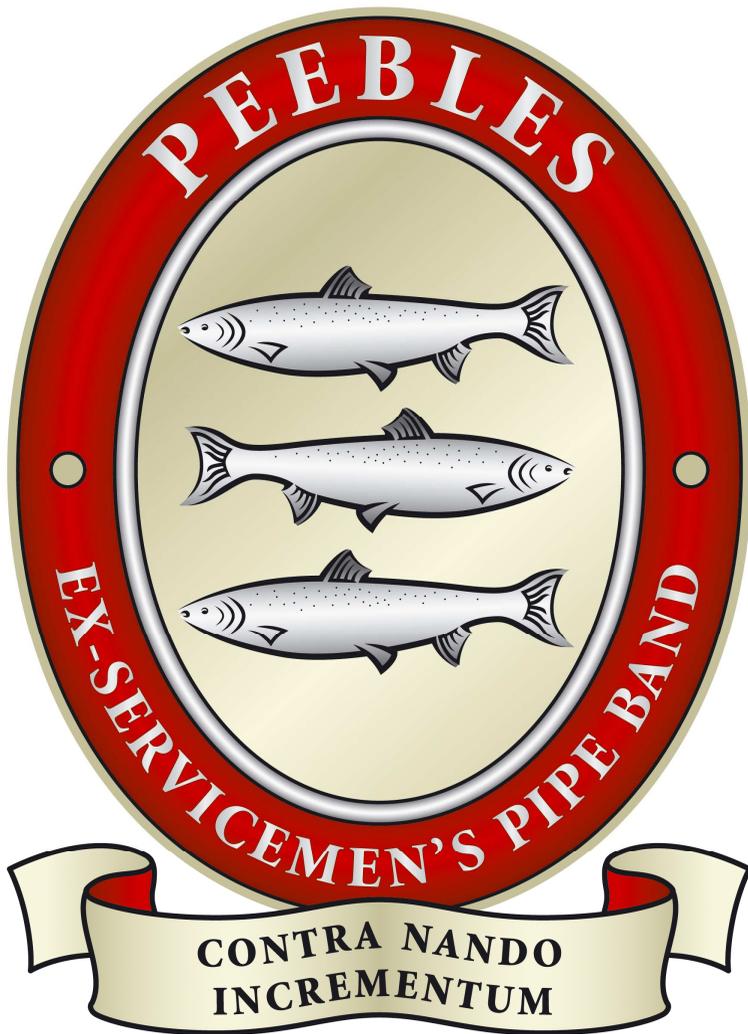
It is expected that any member who puts themselves forward for competition playing will fully commit to the practice nights and competition playing schedule. Only then can the Band improve the quality and consistency required to succeed in competition.

CODE of CONDUCT

At all times Band members are expected to abide by the Band's Code of Conduct. This can be viewed on the Bands' website – <http://www.peeblespipeband.com>.

Notes





PEEBLES

EX-SERVICEMEN'S PIPE BAND

CONTRA NANDO
INCREMENTUM