

17TH PALS' BATTALION BAND - DOING THE O'S PROUD

The 17th Pals' Battalion Band was formed in 2012 by LOSC Deputy Chairman Steve Jenkins and is comprised of former members of the Boys' Brigade, many of whom were lads in the 17th Waltham Forest Company, along with representatives of other companies in the borough and surrounding areas. Most of the band are Orient supporters and all have fond feelings for the O's.

The band is extremely proud to commemorate the service and sacrifice made by the players, staff and supporters of the various football Club s that enlisted into the 17th Battalion Middlesex Regiment - more commonly known as 'The Footballers' Battalion' in the Great War. The band particularly remembers with honour the forty-one players, staff and supporters of Clapton Orient who were the first Football League Club to join-up en masse - three of whom, William Jonas, George Scott and Richard McFadden, were killed during the Battle of the Somme in 1916. It is a unique band in what it represents as well as what it achieves in terms of publicity and goodwill for Leyton Orient Football Club .

The band always feel very privileged to play 'Last Post' and 'Reveille' at the commemoration services in France for McFadden, Scott, and Jonas. In 2016, the band had the honour to parade at the famous Thiepval memorial as part of the Great War special centenary commemorations on July 23. The band also performed in the French town of Arras during the tour.

During the O's Ypres Tour in 2017, the band was invited to parade in the town square prior to taking part in the 'Last Post ceremony' at the world-famous Menin Gate, a ceremony that takes place each evening at 8pm local time. This was without doubt the proudest moment to date for everyone connected with the 17th Pals' Battalion Band since its formation.

Back home, the band regularly assists the Leyton branch of the Royal British Legion when it leads the Remembrance Sunday parade. It also assists Epping Upper Clapton Rugby Club with its WW1 commemorations, the annual St George's Day parade and the Christmas Fayre in Highams Park. This year the band will be present to play at Haven House Hospice at their summer fete, whilst a performance on the pitch at Brisbane Road remains a long held ambition.

At each event Steve Jenkins gives a talk about the O's major contribution to the Footballers' Battalion which in turn creates much interest about the Club to the watching public. This coming June, the band will once again be returning to the Somme, along with over two hundred O's fans and friends of the Club on what will be a very special Somme tour as the world remembers and commemorates the centenary of the end of the Great War.

The band is always on the lookout for new members, particularly buglers, consequently should you have experience in this field or wish to try an instrument, please contact the bandmaster, Steve Jenkins stevejenkins1881@btinternet.com



O'S AWAY TRAVEL



BOGNOR REGIS TOWN

Saturday January 13

Leaving the O's at 10.00am

£20 All categories - no surcharges apply.



FC HALIFAX TOWN

Saturday January 20

Leaving the O's at 9.00am

£31 Adults: £28 Concessions

Non members surcharge of £3 applies to Adult category fare
Book at LOSC today or call the Travel Line on 07722 135970.

LEYTON ORIENT SUPPORTERS' CLUB PRESENTS AN EVENING WITH O'S HEAD COACH JUSTIN EDINBURGH

Monday January 15 at 7.45pm

Doors - 7pm

Free admission by ticket only - Available from LOSC as from today.



Phone: 020 8988 8288 **Email:** loscinfo@aol.com.

Twitter: @LOFCSupporters **Web:** www.orient supporters.org