

DOVER TATTOO

Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd June 2012

Alan Lee

Held on the two evenings this Tattoo was the premier Diamond Jubilee event in the south of England and was much enjoyed by everyone. The Lee family attended the Saturday performance when the sunny day gave way to a much cooler and breezy evening but that did not spoil our pleasure or result in any accidents. On the Friday evening however one of the guest members of the Tigers Freefall Team landed badly and after treatment was taken to the William Harvey hospital with a broken hip.

As a fanfare sounded the packed stands settled down to the music by the bands of 305 (Ashford) Squadron RAF Air Cadets and then The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. Tonbridge School Combined Cadet Force produced some excellent rifle drill to music. Attention switched to the stage for the Adjutant General's Corps Band and WO2 (BSM) Gary Chilton who sang popular songs recorded by Michael Bubl . He ended with *'Save the last dance for me'* and the crowd doing the *'Mexican*



Wave'. We then watched the 3rd Battalion PWRR demonstrate search and destroy tactics against insurgents laying roadside improvised explosive devices. They received rousing cheers and won the day. Next came the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas and the pipes and drums of 1st Battalion the Royal Gurkha Rifles who ended with *'Yo Nepali'*.

A crescendo of sound heralded the arrival of the White Helmets Motorcycle Display Team of the Royal Corps of Signals. Highlights included the blazing *'Ring of Fire'* and their high speed crossover manoeuvres.

The finale featured the massed bands and all the evenings' participants. In gentle rain the spectators stood for the lone piper as he played a haunting lament, *Sleep Dearie Sleep* then the National Anthem.

Congratulations to all who organised and took part in this most enjoyable and successful event.



White Helmets



The Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas