

# taiko taiko

Spring 2003

The Year Kicks Off in Style.....

issue No. 23

After a quiet winter period, in which we all enjoyed a much-needed rest & hols, we returned back to base ready for the challenges of the New Year.



The year began with lots of school workshops – a brand new project: the Mugen Taiko Dojo Educational Outreach Project. On invitation by Bristol City Council, Teresa and Adam spent two weeks in Bristol, working with 10 different primary schools, teaching hands-on Taiko workshops to boisterous 7 – 12 year olds. The enthusiasm and energy of the students was overwhelming and very positive. The project was repeated in Leeds, culminating in the Garforth College Cultural Evening, with performances by an African drum and dance group, Indian musicians and Mugenkyo – and all the students the three groups had taught.



A really thrilling event for us this spring was the Worthington Cup Final at the Millenium Stadium in Cardiff, performing on the pitch just minutes before kickoff. As it was such a huge event, we were asked to assemble a larger team specially for the event, so we went out as the Mugen Taiko Dojo Drummers, consisting of eight players.



A special thank you to Shane Connolly, Mark Alcock, Hilde McKenna and Frank Warren for joining us on the day. It was a short sharp shock tactic – 4 minutes of high energy, with a choreographed display by 40 flag-wavers. The Millenium stadium was incredible – 75,000 capacity sold out crowd to watch Man Utd vs. Liverpool. The television coverage of the event - with a full 8 seconds of our performance - was broadcast to a worldwide audience of 250 million! All tuned in just to watch us, of course!



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"TAIKO TAIKO" is the quarterly newsletter of Mugenkyo and the Mugen Taiko Dojo, publishing information about the group and Taiko Dojo activities, the art form of Taiko, and Taiko events in the UK.

## MUGENKYO Taiko Drummers

Established in 1994, MUGENKYO is Europe's first professional Taiko drum group, performing at theatres, concert halls, festivals and events throughout Britain and Europe. Mugenkyo's aim is to develop Taiko as a European art form, through performances and joint projects and collaborations across a wide variety of artistic disciplines.

[www.mugenkyo.com](http://www.mugenkyo.com)



The MUGEN TAIKO DOJO is the first purpose-built Taiko Centre in the UK. Located in rural Scotland, it is a place where people gather from all over Britain and Europe to learn about the art form of Taiko through residential workshops and regular classes. It is also the permanent base and training space for Mugenkyo. The Dojo's extensive outreach programme takes Taiko into schools and communities, creating a greater understanding about Taiko throughout the UK.

[www.taikodojo.com](http://www.taikodojo.com)

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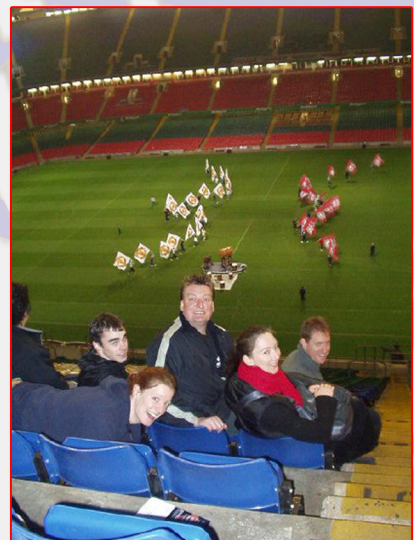
**Thank you to those of you who sent in donations towards the cost of this newsletter:**

Patricia Thomson, Linda Davitt, David Verrinder, Alex Weeks, C.J. Bowes, Sally Brookes, M. Clarke, T. Bogle, Joe Daggett, M.L. Osmond, A.D. Lettington, N.E. Morgan, Corrine McDonald, Adam Leek, Nigel Deacon, Lin Hamblett, Andy Cooper, Ross Hyslop, Douglas & Barbara MacGregor, Brian Scott, Kenneth Sims, B.D. & D.M. Punter, F. Roe, A.P. Blair, H. Owen, Vince Hogg, Chris Hearn, Rebecca Slater, Sally Meadows, Dale Highway, Anne Hill, Lin Sings, Karen M. Simpson, M. Faulkner, J. Chapman, Celia Bradley, Ann Addinall, John Boyd, Jayne Davies, Jim Hay, Alison Smith, S.G. Hughes, Antoinette Ryman, G. Payne, C.J. Payne, C. Henry, Peter Dolan, Selina Carson, Johanna Morgan, Evelyn Brookes, Harumi Williams, R.G. Powell, Christine Brice, Sue Francis, Nigel Catterson, Antonia Parsons, Mr & Mrs K.R. Ikim, K. Peacock, Jane Hill, Sue Fox, Rana Partridge, A. Courtman-Stock, Noelle Yeo, Steve Greatorex, Brad Bradshaw, R. Stanley, Gail Forrest, C.D. George, M. Finon, Joseph Harris, Mr & Mrs D. Banks, T. Vlismas, G. Clarke, Paul Hopkinson, F. J. Rodd, B Greaves, M. Lear, K.G. Barlow, John Hopkins, Ian Holder, D. Witchell, S.G. The, Kevin S. Holmes, Pheadra Cofte, M. Roper, Margaret Fisher, Gary Lee, P.N. Cunningham, J. Box, Barbara Hoare, Linda Buller, P.C. Larsen, John A. Davies, Jenny Short, Verity Harris, Colleen Bottard, W. Ferguson, Valerie Arif, Tony Smart, Adam Haynes, C. Parker, Rev. T.H. Kaye, Roger Wylde, Myke Grantham, Annabel Strong, Zoe Tracy, Mr & Mrs D. Thomas, Ken Haywood, Mike Ray, Robert Barnes, John Page, Ann Jeeves, John W. Seabrook, Stuart and Sue Kirkpatrick, V.J. Atwood, S.M. Thompson, Dick Tilley, H. Rohde, J.R. Bond, T.H. Evanson, J.E. Ball, &.....Tim Kirby!

Another exciting event in March was the Hina Matsuri in Glasgow, a Japanese Festival held at the Botanic Gardens. For this event we taught a series of workshops in Glasgow, with both adults & children's sessions. The groups showed off what they learned at the Matsuri performance, along with two groups from Clevedon Secondary School, and also the "Wednesday night group" who we've been teaching at the Dojo – a whole afternoon of Taiko.

Our costumes have received a face-lift for the coming 2003 season thanks to Harumi (Miyuki's mum) working hard on upgrading our costumes. We also ran two more introductory weekend workshops at the Dojo – another great success, to be repeated again in November. Preparations are currently underway for our upcoming trip to Japan – full report in the next issue of "Taiko Taiko".

**Pic: clockwise from top: Hani Matsuri, Glasgow-Adam strikes a pose, the players assemble. Worthington Cup Final - a good view of the flag wavers from the top of the Stadium. Hina Matsuri-the adults group do their stuff.**



**Please remember, it costs money to put out a newsletter. Please help us to continue, by sending donations - a book of stamps, postal orders or cheques(made payable to Mugenkyo), all gratefully accepted.**

## MUGEN TAIKO DOJO – TOP TIPS

You don't need an expensive drum to play Taiko. An upturned plastic bin, or even some old bits of drum kit can serve as Taiko drums. Bachi drumsticks are easily made from broom handles or dowelling from B&Q, with the ends sanded down (maple or birch work best). We've taught school groups on their school drum kits - using a bass drum sitting up on a couple of stools, toms set up with stands outstretched to as high a position as possible, snares loosened on the snare drums and light drumsticks (no big bachi!). A trip 'round the charity shops might yield a battered old snare drum who wouldn't mind being re-incarnated as a Taiko drum. Or you can use timpani or samba drums in a "taiko manner" – remember Taiko is not just about the drums you play – it is also about the rhythms, the movement, the energy, the "kakegoe" shouts. These elements can be simulated on any drums, or indeed, can be incorporated into any other style of drumming. Try out some Samba-Taiko! A quieter option is an old tyre hung over the back of a chair. A smaller tyre from a caravan or scooter works best. A towel over the tyre will keep your bachi (sticks) free from black rubber marks. The rubber simulates the bounce of the skin, but without the sound, which will keep you on speaking terms with your neighbours! If you want to check your form, stand in front of a mirror - a full-length glass door or even a window at night serves just as well. Good luck with your DON DOKO's!

## Mugen Taiko Dojo Workshop Dates

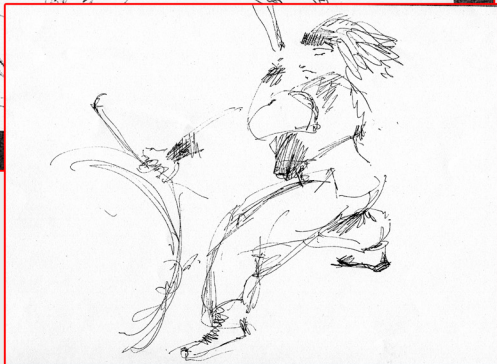
Next introductory weekend  
workshops to be held in  
November.  
Dates confirmed in next issue.

Thankyou to Mrs S.K. Pollitt for writing this special Mugenkyo Haiku poem.

*Drumbeat pounds the air  
Heart-stopping rhythm building  
to its crescendo*



Also Thankyou to Cathy Duncan, Artist in residence at Hexham Abbey, who made these brilliant sketches as we played in the Abbey. Fast Hands!!!!!!!!!!!!



## Order form

See overleaf for goods.

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Merchandise

CD £12

Tape £8

T-shirts £10

Red Skinny-fit

Black writing - orange white

XL

Medium

Total enclosed

£

**MUGENKYO**  
P.O. Box 5124  
Lanark  
ML11 OWA

All prices include VAT, packaging and postage within the UK (please allow 21 days delivery). Please make cheques or postal orders payable to...**MUGENKYO**

# Mugenkyo tour dates

## Spring Tour

### APRIL

24 **St Andrews, THE BYRE THEATRE** 0133 447 5000  
 26 **Orkney, ORKNEY ARTS THEATRE** 0185 687 2047

### MAY

1 **Worcester, HUNTINGDON HALL** 0190 561 1427  
 2 **Aberdare, THE COLISEUM** 0168 588 1188  
 3 **Blandford, BRYANSTON ARTS CENTRE** 0125 845 6533  
 4 **St Helier, Jersey, ST JAMES ARTS CENTRE** 0153 470 0444  
 5 **Crawley, THE HAWTH** 0129 355 3636  
 7 **Ilford, KENNETH MORE THEATRE** 0208 553 4466  
 8 **Camberley, THE CAMBERLEY THEATRE** 0127 670 7600  
 9 **Grays, THAMESIDE THEATRE** 0137 538 3961  
 11 **Hull, HULL TRUCK THEATRE** 0148 232 3638  
 16 **Irvine, MAGNUM LEISURE CENTRE** 0129 431 3010  
 19 **Bristol, COLSTON HALL** 0117 922 3686  
 20 **Frome, MERLIN THEATRE** 0137 346 8949  
 21 **Birkenhead, PACIFIC ROAD THEATRE** 0151 647 0752  
 22 **Leamington Spa, ROYAL SPA CENTRE** 0192 633 4418

Summer dates so far confirmed

Check website for updates

### June

13 **Goole, THE GATE THEATRE** 01405 763652

### July

12 **Clare, Suffolk, CLARE CASTLE WORLD MUSIC FESTIVAL**

### August

9 **Cambridge, SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL** 01223 894161



CD  
 Black medium/x-lrg t-shirt  
 Red skinny-fit t-shirt

Front



Back



Front

Back

Adam reports on the state of play  
 "well it was a game of two halves..!"

