

Drumbeat



Issue 112

Tidworth, Netheravon & Bulford Community Newsletter

September 2006

An Exhibition of Aerial Photography and Archaeology **100 Years of Discovery**

100 years ago this year, in 1906, the first aerial photographs were taken of Stonehenge from a hydrogen balloon flown by an officer in the Royal Engineers.

This English Heritage Exhibition, which opened last month at Stonehenge, shows how aerial photography has developed, from the days of Victorian balloonists to the 21st century, and the impact it has had on our knowledge of the past.

2 - 28 September
Alexander Keiller Museum, Avebury
7 October 06 - 6 January 07
Salisbury Museum

5 March 07 - 27 April 07
The Royal Engineers' Museum of Military
Engineering, Gillingham

12 May 07 - 24 June 07
Aldershot Military Museum

Pictured : As the Exhibition prepares to open, the Royal Engineers Balloon, Sapper IV, flies over Stonehenge, recreating the historic flight

PROMS Band Concert

24th / 25th / 26th
October 2006

The Band of the Prince of Wales's Division
at the

GARRISON THEATRE

Lowa Road, Tidworth, SP9 7BT

TICKET RESERVATIONS :

Monday - Friday 9:30 - 12 noon



**Now in its
21st Year !**

ADMISSION : £7 (all seats)

Tel : 01980 - 602018

Promoter : K J Pickernell

THE EARLY EARLY CHRISTMAS FAIR

in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund

Wednesday 27th September 2006

9.30am - 3.30pm

at

Tedworth House, Tidworth

Entrance - £4.00 (or £3.00 after 2pm)

DO COME - and bring your friends too !

85 stalls; some old favourites - 38 new ones

Food, Homes and Gardens jamboree

Large lunch and refreshments area

Room to browse ... Something for everyone

A shopping and social event !

Free parking

Or, if you can't come, please send a donation to:

The Army Benevolent Fund

HQ GSU, Ward Bks, Bulford, Wilts, SP4 9NA

Tel/Fax: 01980 - 672337



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New Court Centre in Bulford officially opened



The new Military Court Centre in Bulford was officially opened by Maj Gen Mark Mans CBE on 27th July 2006.

The old Court Centre had long ago passed its 'sell-by' date; the office accommodation was inadequate and the building itself did not meet the requirements of either the Human Rights Act or the Disability Discrimination Act.

This new centre will serve Army units in the Salisbury Plain area as well as Royal Navy, Royal Marines and Royal Air Force units in the south and south west of the country. It will be used by the Military Court Service for all Courts Martial and associated hearings in the 5 Division area.

The construction of this and two other military court centres, one in Colchester, the other in Catterick,

Pictured (left) : Air Commodore Thomas, RAF, Commodore Fraser, RN, Maj Gen Mark Mans, Deputy Adjutant General, and Mr Miles Crowley, Director Military Court Service

"Legally, we cannot force anyone who is abroad, other than military personnel, to come back to court", said the Manager of the Centre, Lt Col (Retd) Ray Aldis. "Some of the cases originate overseas, like Germany for example, and involve civilian witnesses who do not wish to travel here. When we offer the chance for them to give their evidence over a video link they usually do so. We can also avoid the expense of bringing military personnel back from important operations in Iraq or Afghanistan. If they are not key witnesses, they can give evidence by video teleconferencing. We have done this from Royal Navy ships in the Red Sea and, on one occasion, linked up to a US military witness in Oman."

Designed by Hemingway Architects of Bristol and built by Mansell Construction Ltd, working closely with the Army Infrastructure Organisation, Defence Estates and the Military Court Service, the new Centre was completed almost exactly to time and budget. It is fully compliant with all relevant legislation and also has several energy-saving features, for example, it makes the most of natural light and rain water is collected from the roof to be recycled and used within the building.



Court Room number 1

demonstrates military commitment to its Courts Martial system and the desire to conduct hearings in appropriate surroundings.

The new multi-million £ purpose-built Centre is equipped with the latest hi-tech video and IT systems, which will enable military legal hearings to take place in facilities comparable to those found in any modern civilian court.

The new Centre has two Court Rooms, a vulnerable witness suite, interview rooms and office accommodation for Prosecution and Defence Counsel, Judges, Court Members and Court Staff. There are also two garden areas which separate the Courtrooms from the offices, which provide a calming effect for those involved.

The video conferencing link in the new building will be a great asset :



From left to right :
The Court Centre staff in Court Room no. 1
Peter Russell (Asst Court Officer),
Chris Hiatt (Court Assistant) and
Lt Col (Retd) Ray Aldis (Court Officer).

Lt Col Aldis and his Staff have only a short time to get the new building up and running as the first case, one of the biggest Courts Martial in recent memory which could possibly last several months, is due to start there this month.

Thank you to 10 AEC ...



Many thanks to 10 Army Education Centre from 26 Engineer Regiment, whose Commanding Officer, Lt Col David Parry, is pictured here receiving a cheque for £1,896.78 from Maj Ed Flute, (Officer Commanding), and Mrs Michèle Blain, (Basic Skills Coordinator), at 10 AEC.

The money is part of the Unit's continuing Basic Skills programme with 10 AEC and will be used for the educational welfare of soldiers in the Unit when they deploy later in the year.

Exercise Vampire Dragon in the Transylvanian Alps



With warning tales of bears, wolves and vampires ringing in their ears, 15 members of the 1 Mech Bde staff set off for Romania, to visit Bran Castle, the mediaeval home of Vlad the Impaler and reputedly the setting for Bram Stoker's famous creation, Count Dracula.

The group went on to summit Romania's highest peak, Mount Moldoveanu, (2544m). The arduous 90 km expedition through spectacular countryside was pronounced a great success, the shared experiences creating a strong team spirit among the Brigade staff, ahead of Op Telic 10 in 2007.

Congratulations ...



Capt Katie Hislop, Adjutant 26 Engineer Regiment, has achieved a number of swimming victories, winning 4 Gold and 5 Silver medals in swimming competitions so far this season.

After months of training with coach, Capt Neil Taylor, her first medals came at the Army Individual Championships where she

won two silvers for the 50m and 100m freestyle and two golds for the 100m and 200m breaststroke events.

At the Inter-Services Championships, competition was strong with an ex-Olympian and a Welsh International representing the Navy, but she won two more silver medals in the 50m and 100m freestyle and was part of the Army freestyle relay team which stormed to a most convincing victory. As Army Ladies Captain, she also received the Inter Services Ladies Swimming trophy on behalf of the Army Ladies Team.

The next day saw her back in the water, this time representing the Combined Services against the Police and Civil Service. Facing stiff competition, she again achieved second place in the 100m freestyle, going on to win first place in the freestyle relay. She was also part of the canon team, made up of 8 male and 8 female swimmers, which secured another trophy for the Combined Services, winning by a clear distance.

Captain Hislop is now competing in the World Masters Swimming Championships in San Francisco as part of the Combined Services Swimming Team.

Bulford Soldiers hold Summer Soccer School

Three soldiers serving with 2RGJ gave up a week of their valuable leave to hold a soccer school for 47 youngsters aged 7 to 14 from the Andover, Tidworth and Bulford area.

It was organised by Sgt 'Chalky' Wiltshire, a level 2 FA coach, from the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) attached to 2RGJ. He was joined by Cpl Pete Shaw, also REME, and Sgt Vince Hope, 2RGJ.

But why give up a weeks leave? "I felt there was nothing around here for the children to do during the school holidays," said Chalky. "This is really good for getting ourselves out into the community and brings football to the youngsters. It was open to all children, not just the sons and daughters of Army personnel. It has been a huge success and we hope to hold it again next year."

"The soldiers running this have been brilliant", the mother of one of the children commented.



Chalky also coaches the under 12s Clarendon and Tidworth Garrison Football Club which is going strong. Call Chalky on 01980 - 673956 or (pm) 846570 for details.

Do you know the rules about parking ?

On 4th September, many District Councils take over the responsibility for enforcing "yellow line" parking regulations from the Police. In the Tidworth area this is Kennet District Council and in Bulford, Salisbury District Council already have the powers.

Under the new system, a new type of parking ticket, called a Penalty Charge Notice, (PCN), will be issued for infringement of the parking regulations and it is the keeper of the vehicle who will be responsible for paying the £60 Penalty Charge.

Motorists are urged to refresh their knowledge of the regulations, as set out in the Highway Code, eg :

- Yellow lines cover the area from the centre of the road to the property line, so parking on pavements, verges and riverbanks behind the lines is a contravention that will incur a PCN. Parking in these areas would force pedestrians out onto the highway and into the path of vehicles.
- In permitted parking bays marked with white lines, vehicles must be within the marked bays. There is no excuse for crossing the bay lines, which would obstruct other vehicles trying to park.
- Most permitted parking bays not only have a time limit, but also a 'no return' time. This is shown on the sign and means you cannot return with your vehicle to the same area within that period.

"The rules for parking help ensure the safety of everyone using the streets and our officers will enforce the regulations strictly", Kennet District Councillor Peter Evans said. "For most drivers who park in the appropriate places there will not be a problem and they probably won't even notice the change in enforcement systems. Only those who break the rules will feel the effect of the changes when they get a Penalty Charge Notice !"

Motorists who park illegally outside the bank in Station Road, BEWARE !

Your vote is your voice ... don't waste it!

Kennet District Council started its annual voter registration campaign during the August Bank Holiday weekend.



Registration forms have been sent to every household in the district. If you have not responded, you will be sent a reminder form in September and may receive a personal visit during October.

As a new service this year, electors with no changes to make to their registrations will be able to confirm this fact by simply calling a free 0800 telephone number or using a dedicated internet site :

0800 1973112 or www.registerbyinternet.com/kennet

You can also use the new service to request a postal vote or even to opt-in or out of the edited register to keep your personal details more secure.

"This will make it more convenient to re-register your vote and save costs on returning forms via the postal service" Jim Waite, Electoral Services Officer told Drumbeat.

However, those needing to make changes to their details (additions, deletions or amendments) should return the form in the pre-paid envelope in the normal way.

"Whether you decide to vote or not is up to you", Jim Waite continued, "but if you're not registered you have no choice and non-registration may adversely affect your credit rating status."

Complete your annual voter registration form - or you could lose your right to vote !

If you have not received a form or require further information please telephone 01380 724911 or e-mail kennet@kennet.co.uk

What do you think about the shops in the Tidworth area ?

We all know that Tesco supermarket has applied for planning permission to build a store on Station Road Green in Tidworth.

But what else is happening ? What about the future ? Tidworth Chamber of Commerce has commissioned a survey from Bournemouth University to help understand how and when local facilities are used and to identify gaps in the market. It hopes that the results of the survey will help them formulate a long term plan to develop and improve the retail economy of the area, so that it will be better able to provide the services needed by local people.

Have your say !

"We need to create a retail environment where the local shopper wants to spend their money locally, not outside the area, as at the moment.", said David Wildman, Chairman of the Tidworth and District Chamber of Commerce. "It is very important that as much feedback as possible is received so that an overall picture can be built up about retail habits and aspirations so that a clear plan can be achieved".

Take part in an online Survey :

The survey only takes a few minutes to complete and is available on Kennet District Council's website at www.kennet.gov.uk until 15th September 2006, when the consultation period ends.

Chico entertains the crowds



This year's Tidworth Area Festival was a huge success, with thousands of people enjoying an afternoon in the sunshine on the Tattoo Ground in Tidworth Park. The entertainment included a parachute display, fairground rides, a dog show, static military displays and live stage acts, including a star guest appearance from Chico of X Factor fame.

Congratulations to Steven Slater (16+) and Georgina Baugh (13-16), winners of their categories in the Festival's "Xtra Factor" competition.

Four times a Champion !

WO1 Ron Watkins of 7 Regt AAC(V) has retained his position as the British Helicopter Champion for the fourth consecutive year - a unique achievement ! For the past two years, WO2 Jeff James has been the other member of the triumphant crew.



The 3-day event tests pilots' skills to the full. Ron describes the competition :

" Prior to the competition all competitors receive a detailed brief on the forthcoming events, the different parts of the competition being Navigation, Precision flying, Slalom and Fenders. This year, the Navigation event took place in the Northampton area, with the other events taking place at the nearby Sywell airfield. The Navigation event involves pin point navigation to numerous locations, without the use of modern day navigation aids such as GPS, with a minimum amount of time allowed for detailed planning. The whole event is always against the clock. You are expected to arrive back at the finish point to the second.

During the Precision event you are expected to maintain a constant heading while flying in five different directions over a course which is approximately 280 meters long. At the same time you are expected to maintain your height within 1 meter and finish the whole course within the specified time.

During the Slalom event the non-flying member of the crew is given a bucket of water on a 5 meter length of cord which he has to steer between a series of vertical gates whilst the pilot has to fly to each gate in a particular order. At the end of the course the aircraft climbs to a new height to allow the cord to be extended to 11 meters; at this new height the crewman places the bucket and its remaining water on a 1 meter table. This event is also against the clock.

The Fender event requires the crew steer a fender through a couple of vertical gates at a specified height and then place it in a drum style container which is approximately 10 cms larger than the fender itself."

Pictured above : The 7 Regt AAC (V) team with their very impressive collection of silverware, including the Precision flying trophy, the Fender trophy and the Overall Championship trophy 2006. Congratulations !

They also hope to be one of seven teams that will form the British team for the World Championships at Eisenbach, Germany 2008 - and Ron has just been named the Team Coach for the British team !

EFI : When YOU deploy ...



... so do we !

The people who man the shops on the front line, (wherever that front line might be during the course of operational deployments and exercises), all work for the Expeditionary Forces Institute, (EFI), which forms part of 43 Wessex Bde/5Div. They are all NAAFI employees with military training, sometimes spending more than 12 months at a time in operational theatres. Although they are Naafi employees first and foremost, their military training is vital and it has enabled them, when called upon, to mount guard on the camp gates, leaving regular soldiers free to conduct patrols.



The EFI Team in Shaibah



EFI HQ in Kandahar, Afghanistan

Their UK Headquarters, 148 Sqn EFI RLC, has been at Double Hedges on the hill above Bulford since 1994 and, from there, staff deploy to Iraq,

Afghanistan, Kosovo and Bosnia; they also support exercises in Norway and Poland. The 13 outlets in Iraq are manned by a total of 45 staff, in locations such as Shaibah Log Base, Al Amarah, and Basra. The 8 outlets in Afghanistan are manned by 25 staff, in places with names that resonate in this garrison : Kandahar, Lashkar Gar, Gereshk and Camp Bastion.

"When it's not EFI that serves the troops, it is usually over to the NAAFI", 2iC Captain Debbie Loftus told Drumbeat. "They get all the exotic places, like Cyprus, Gibraltar and the Falklands - but EFI gets all the fun, by deploying to operational theatres !"

When asked what he particularly liked about his job, one EFI employee said, "There's a great feeling of pride amongst EFI employees. This is life support at the front line. Let's face it, for a soldier in the Balkans or Middle East, to be able to buy the latest DVD or video camera, as well as everyday items like pot noodles, cigarettes or shower gel, is a big thing. Seeing my customers happy makes me happy !"

"We want our service on the front line to be as good as it can possibly be", said Captain Loftus. "If there is something in particular that any Unit wants us to stock, please get in touch with us and we will do our best to arrange it".

Capt D Loftus, EFI HQ, Double Hedges, Bulford, Wilts. SP4 9PA or email : dloftus@naafi.co.uk



WILTSHIRE

Focus on Tidworth

The September edition of "Wiltshire Life" magazine contains several articles about life in Tidworth ...





Drumbeat Noticeboard



B F B S Forces Radio
 Radio requests call : 08701 20 21 21
 (calls are charged at the national rate)
 Email : requests@bfbs.com
 For overseas commands and
 N. Ireland visit www.bfbs.com and
 go to the "Dedications" page.

Garrison Radio
 Broadcasting to TNB Garrison
 1287 am medium wave
 Call 01980 - 602277 or Email :
tidworthbulford@garrisonradio.com

Castledown Radio
 Broadcasting to Tidworth
 Community Area online at
www.castledownradio.info
 Call 01264 - 791929

Update your Qualifications !
AFF Training Centre, Bulford
 01980 - 672981
Tempo Drop-in Centre, Tidworth
 01980 - 840220
10 Army Education Centre, Tidworth
 01980 - 602370
IT @ Army Learning Centre, 10AEC
 01980 - 602275

Tidworth CAB
 Wylde Road Community Centre
 Tuesdays 10:00 - 14:00 Call 843377
 or 01380 - 728771 on other days

Homestart Kennet
 Volunteers make all the difference !
 Can you give 2-3 hrs a week to visit
 a young family in the Tidworth area
 to help them enjoy parenthood ?
 For details call 01672 - 515 686

Tidworth Saddle Club
 Riding for all ages and abilities,
 Tots' Rides for under 5s
 Birthday "pony parties" for children
 Call Rob Evans on 07967 - 048277

Jo Jingles
 Music & movement for accompanied
 1-4 yr olds. Restarts 11 Sept at TLC.
 Call Becky on 626562 for details

Sodexo Defence Services
 Job vacancies : Catering & Cleaning
 Call 01980 - 656 026

AWS Job Vacancies
 Childcare Bank Staff
 Call Chris on 01980 - 673379

SSAFA Forces Help
 Call 01980 - 670540 or 01980 - 670345

Aspire Defence Helpline (24/7)
 (Mil) 96340 2300
 (Civ) 0845 168 2300

Repairs to Army Quarters (24/7)
 MODern Housing Solutions Helpline
 Call 0800 - 707 6000

Emergency Numbers :
 MDP : 01980 - 60 3099
 RMP : 01980 - 67 2251 & 67 2334
 Wiltshire Police : 0845 - 408 7000
 Police Emergency : 999 or 112
 Crimestoppers : 0800 - 555111

Tidworth Leisure Centre
TLC Opening Times
 Monday - Friday 09:00 - 21:00
 Saturdays 08:00 - 19:00
 Sundays 08:00 - 21:00
 Telephone : 01980 - 847 140
 General Manager : 602030
 Outside Pitch Bookings : 603416

Library Opening Times :
 Mon 14:00 - 17:00
 Tues & Thurs 14:00 - 19:00
 Wed & Fri 10:00 - 17:00
 Sat 10:00 - 13:00
 Call: 01980 - 843460 or 602568

Oasis Café Opening Times :
 Mon - Thurs 10:00 - 19:00
 Fri - Sun 10:00 - 17:00

HIVE Opening Times :
 Mon - Fri 09:00 - 15:00
 Call Carol Harris : 01980 - 602224

Purity Beauty Salon :
 Mon-Sat 9:00 - 20:00 Call 07958-911928

Physiotherapy & Sports Injuries :
 Physiotherapy : 07768 - 737 646
 Sports Therapy : 07796 - 230 571

Thrift Shops
Tidworth : Mondays 9:00 - 14:45
 Behind the Zouch Spar/Naafi
Bulford : Thursdays 9:30 - 13:00
 At The Haig Centre. Reopens 8 Sept
Volunteers URGENTLY required

AWS Families Centres
Tidworth :
 Ordnance House : 01980 - 602398
 at Tidworth Leisure Centre : 602191
Bulford :
 The Beeches : 01980 - 672342
 The Haig : 01980 - 673840
AWS Main Office : 01980 - 672105

Uniformed Youth Groups
Scouts, Cubs, Beavers & Explorers
 Call Arthur Kendrew 01980 - 597 341
Guides, Brownies, Rainbows
 Call Connie Patrickson 01980-845715

Tidworth Junior Youth Club
 AWS Community Hall at the TLC
 Tues 18:00 - 20:00 Call Jimi on 602191

Tidworth Youth Centre
 Tues, Wed & Thurs 18:30 - 21:00
 St Andrew's Hall opposite the Oval
 Call Sarah Fanshawe : 01980 - 842748

Bulford Youth Club at the Haig
 Tuesdays 17:30 - 20:00 9-12s
 Thursdays 17:00 - 19:00 5-8s
 Call Melody Abbott on 07785 357065

New Junior Youth Club !
 New 5-8s Youth Club at Ordnance
 House starting in September.
 Details from Claire on 07900 - 262119

Army Library at 10 AEC
 Candahar Barracks, Tidworth
 Mon-Fri 09:30 - 13:30 Tid Mil 3043
Bulford Army Library
 Ward Barracks, Bulford Camp
 Mon-Thu 9:00-16:30 Fri 9:00-12:30

Service Families Sports Fun Day
 Sat 2 Sept Cancelled

SSAFA / Forces Help
Community Volunteer Project
 Do you have a few hours to spare to
 help in the Salisbury Plain Area ?
 Call 07979 - 374 864 for details

Crimestoppers Family Fun Day
 Sun 3 Sept 10:00 - 18:00
 Bowood House & Gardens
 Fun Fair, Pop bands & singers,
 Quad bikes, Go-karts, Arena events,
 Helicopter rides, Craft fair, etc
 Tickets : 08700 - 115 007

"Bluez 'n' Zuz" Youth Disco
 12 September 19:00 - 21:00
 Competitions & Prizes
 Tidworth Leisure Centre

Rhythm Force
 14 September
 Kneller Hall, Twickenham
 An outdoor music festival from the
 Corps of Army Music
 FREE to soldiers and their guests
www.armymusician.mod.uk
 or call 020 8744 8608

Music on Fire !
 The Fireworks Prom at the
 Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst
 22, 23 & 24 September
 in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund
 Ticket hotline : 0870 - 606 3473

ABF Early Early Christmas Fair
 27 Sept Details on front page

Castledown Radio Fundraiser
 Fri 29 September 20:00
 Disco & Buffet from "Moondance"
 Collingbourne Ducis Village Hall
 Tickets £6 from Castledown Media
 Centre or call 01264 - 850257

AFF Salisbury Plain Coordinator
 Call Donna Langford : 01980-599 010

Stay with the beat !
 Deadline for October 2006 issue : 11 September 2006
Drumbeat, 10 AEC, Candahar Barracks, Tidworth, SP9 7AY
 Call Rosemary Meeke on 01980 - 602980
 or email : drumbeat_tidworth@hotmail.com
Website : www.drumbeat.org.uk
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