

Drumbeat



Issue 204 Tidworth, Netheravon & Bulford Community Newsletter September 2014

What's on in the Garrison area

● Thurs 4 Sept 13:00

Official opening of the Salisbury Plain HIVE, now in a new 'welfare hub' at the Tidworth Leisure Centre - Everyone welcome to come along.

● Sat 6 Sept 13:00 - 16:00

Holy Trinity Summer Fair at the RBL Club, Pennings Road, Tidworth. Stalls, Bouncy Castle, Children's games.

● Sat 6 Sept 12:30 - 16:30

Netheravon Church Fete on the Millennium Field SP4 9RT. Fun Dog Show, arena events, stalls, laser shooting, raffle & refreshments

● 5 - 7 Sept

'Fall for the Fallen' - Skydive for BLESMA at Airfield Camp, Netheravon Call 01980 - 628 250 for details

● Sat 13 Sept 12:30 - 17:00

Ducis & Everleigh Village Show at Collingbourne Ducis Village Hall & Recreation Ground. Donkey Derby, Fun dog show, Flower & Produce show, Cream Teas, Test Valley Brass Band and pipers from 19 Regt RA.

● Sun 14 Sept 12:00 - 17:00

Open Day/guided tours at the Wilton Windmill, near Marlborough SN8 3SW

● Tues 23 & Wed 24 Sept

Early Christmas Fair iao ABF The Soldiers' Charity in Tedworth Park. Opening times - see inside

● Wed 24 Sept 14:00

Garrison Soapbox Derby

● Fri 26 Sept 19:30

The Yirdbards in Concert at Chute Village Hall - a Wiltshire folk evening with a line-up of cello and acoustic guitars. Tickets 01264-730758/ 730347

● 26-28 Sept

KRH Open Weekend

● Sat 27 Sept 17:00 - 20:30

Military Musical Pageant on the Tattoo Ground, Tidworth. FREE event. Tedworth park opens at 16:30

● Tues 21 Oct

AFF Big Debate at the Institute of Education in London. www.aff.org.uk

● Fri 24 Oct 19:30

"Heroes", by Tom Stoppard. A Hog the Limelight show at Sipton Bellinger Village Centre. Tickets : 01980 - 846341 or 01980 - 842429

Musical Military Pageant

Saturday 27 September 2014

Gates open at approx. 16:30 hrs



A celebration of Army music with a Firework Finale on the Tattoo Ground, Tedworth Park

FREE ENTRY



Bring a picnic to enjoy in the park* while listening to a celebration of Military Music - one of the largest military musical events in England this year!

Including : ● A reflection on the Great War

● Military Wives Choirs ● Fireworks

● Concluding with a pop concert

(*Sorry, no BBQs please, but food & refreshments will be available : Burgers/hot dogs, Hog roast, Sausage and Mash, Mexi Cali (mexican food), Pancakes and Col Grumpy's Coffee bus

Further details from : Drumbeat website & Facebook page



Commemorating the outbreak of the Great War, 100 years ago

At Bulford Garrison Church



Soldiers from 3rd (United Kingdom) Division marked the centenary with a special 'Lights Out' vigil at the Garrison Church of St George in Bulford Camp on 4th August.

Around 200 troops filled the church for the service, during which the lights were gradually dimmed until only the altar candle was left at the end. It was intended to reflect the statement by Sir Edward Grey, the Foreign Secretary at the start of the First World War, who remarked: "The lamps are going out all over Europe and we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime."

The event had added poignancy as 3rd Division deployed to France in August 1914 as part of the British Expeditionary Force, just ten days after the declaration of war with Germany. The Division fought at the first engagement between British and German troops at the Battle of Mons in Belgium on 23 August, a battle in which two soldiers from 4th Battalion The Royal Fusiliers were awarded the first Victoria Crosses of the Great War.

At Tidworth Military Cemetery

A Service of Commemoration and Remembrance took place at Tidworth Military Cemetery on 30th July, to mark the sacrifice made by 10,000 soldiers from Wiltshire during the First World War.

As a focus for the event, crosses had been made by Wiltshire schoolchildren, each cross bearing the name of one of the fallen soldiers. These crosses were fixed to a wall of Remembrance, which will tour the County over the coming months.



The event was organised jointly between Wiltshire Council and the Army and was attended by people from all over the County.

At the Royal Albert Hall



Members of the Salisbury Plain and the Tidworth Military Wives Choirs were among the 100 military wives who took part in the BBC's Prom Concert on 3rd September, commemorating the start of the First World War.

A Commemorative Journey

The Western Front Association has organised a series of transport-related 'commemorative journeys' to mark the centenary of the deployment of the British Expeditionary Force to France in 1914, by land, sea and air, culminating with a Service of Remembrance in France on 13th August.

One such journey began on 12th August, outside the Officers' Mess at Airfield Camp in Netheravon from where No. 3 Squadron Royal Flying Corps took off to fly to their assembly point near Dover, before crossing the Channel.

With the iconic RFC wings looking down from the side of the building, a short service took place to commemorate the deaths of the first Servicemen in the UK to lose their lives after the outbreak of the war, Pilot 2Lt Robin Skene and Air Mechanic 1st Class Raymond Barlow, whose aeroplane crashed shortly after take-off from the airfield. A wreath arrived by parachute, carried by Sgt Kenny Everett RA, which was laid on the steps of the Mess by Maj (Retd) Ben Taylor-Roberts, ex Army Air Corps.



The commemorative journey from Netheravon was also to draw attention to the work of the thousands of WW1 Royal Engineers Signal Units despatch riders. Some 70,000 motor cycles were made for the British Army between 1914-18, including 20,000 Harley Davidsons. The journey from Netheravon to France was joined by members of the Surrey Chapter of the UK Harley Davidson Riders' Club.

Academy Results have improved

Wellington Academy, the state school sponsored by Wellington College, has improved its academic performance this year, after the College strengthened control of the Academy's operation last September.

A-Level and BTEC results at the school are up on last year. A record number of pupils will be going to university, (70% of the Sixth Form - double last year's number), and, amongst the BTEC students, two are entering Foundation courses at FE colleges, some have secured apprenticeships and most of the remainder are going straight into employment.

GCSE results have held steady, with improvements in key subjects. Dr Michael Milner, Principal, said :

"These results are evidence that we are heading in the right direction following Wellington College's more direct intervention since September 2013.

"This has been a year of considerable change, both within the school in terms of staffing, curriculum and teaching and learning approaches, as well as nationally through reforms to qualifications and in the way GCSEs are now structured In that context these results are encouraging, but there is a way to go and we believe the changes will start to deliver significant progress in the next year and beyond. We are here for the long term, and for sustainable good results, and this takes time, including for new excellent staff to settle in and make an impact.

"The fact that students are increasingly focused on academic subjects puts us in the right place to secure our performance going forward," he continued. "We have also focused a lot of attention on good behaviour inside and outside the classroom which is beginning to pay dividends, creating a positive environment for learning in school and drawing good feedback from members of the wider community."

The Royal Tank Regiment Amalgamation Parade



The Royal Tank Regiment held a parade at Carter Barracks in Bulford on Saturday 2 September, to mark the formal amalgamation of the 1st and 2nd Royal Tank Regiments to form the Royal Tank Regiment.

The torrential rain which was falling as hundreds of family, friends and former RTR personnel arrived, stopped just minutes before the start of the parade, just as Lieutenant General Chris Deverell MBE, Colonel Commandant of the Royal Tank Regiment, arrived on a Rolls Royce Armoured Car. This particular vehicle was built in 1920, saw service in Shanghai and Egypt and now lives at the Tank Museum in Bovington. Other highlights of the parade were a working model of a First World War MK IV tank from the film, 'War Horse' and a dramatic smoke-filled dash across open ground onto the parade square by five Challenger 2 Battle Tanks.

Lieutenant Colonel Nick Cowey MBE, Commanding Officer of the Royal Tank Regiment said :

"Today for me is fundamentally about looking forward and celebrating the fine history of the RTR and the men on parade today who will take forward the good name of that regiment. Today, somewhat sadly, they removed their red and saffron cravats. Those were the colours of the antecedant Regiments. When this Regiment goes on parade in the future we won't wear cravats again because we're a single Regiment now and our colour is black.

"That single Regiment is an armoured regiment, part of the Reaction Forces, part of the UK's high readiness troops and that's the logical role for tank soldiers. That is our history and that will be our future." Trooper Al Dowman, a Challenger 2 Crewman in DREADNAUGHT Squadron said :

"I joined 2 RTR and we had a good sense of family but it does not feel like we've lost anything bringing 1 and 2 RTR together, it feels we've gained and gelled.

"It's been a good day and the families have been fantastic and really supportive and the sun came out in the end, so a really good experience."

The amalgamation was announced in July 2012 as part of the restructuring of the British Army. The new Regiment will be comprised of 3 Main Battle Tank Squadrons (AJAX, BADGER, CYCLOPS), a Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Area Survey and Reconnaissance Squadron (FALCON), a Command and Reconnaissance Squadron (DREADNAUGHT) and a Support Squadron (EGYPT).

The RTR will be based in Tidworth as part of 1 Armoured Infantry Brigade and 8 Engineer Brigade. Salisbury Plain is the best training area for tanks in the UK and within the next few of years all the UK's tanks will be based here.

The Royal Tank Regiment is the oldest tank unit in the world. Formed from the Heavy Branch Machine Gun Corps, tanks were first used successfully at the Battle of Cambrai in November 1917, an event which the Regiment still celebrates every year.

In recent history 1 RTR and 2 RTR have both seen action in Northern Ireland, the Balkans, Iraq and Afghanistan in a number of varied and challenging roles. 1 RTR also formed the backbone of the Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Regiment, along with elements of the RAF Regiment for 13 years, before handing this complete to Air Command in late 2012.

The Squadrons: AJAX, BADGER, CYCLOPS, DREADNAUGHT, EGYPT and FALCON are now training for exercises in Canada and Jordan in 2015, preparing to take on the role of the UK's High Readiness Forces in 2016.



A pair of parades mark change of command for 3rd Division troops

Two historic ceremonies have saluted the centuries-old relationship of the Royal Artillery and the Royal Signals with 3rd (United Kingdom) Division.



The first parade at Bulford Camp marked the 100-plus year relationship of 3rd (UK) Division HQ & Signal Regiment with its parent Division - and its 're-subordination' to Force Troops Command as part of the changes being implemented under Army 2020 restructuring.

The change of command is a significant moment as the Regiment can trace its links to the 3rd Division to the old 'Telegraph Companies' that were formed prior to the First World War.

Addressing the Signallers on the parade square at Bulford's Picton Barracks, Major General James Cowan said: "Today marks a key moment in the remarkable relationship between the Division and the Regiment that has spanned one hundred years. Our history is intertwined; it provides a sense of purpose that binds staff and signaller together."

3rd (UK) Division HQ & Signal Regiment - or '3DSR' - will now form part of the new 11 Signal Brigade and change its name to '3 Signal Regiment'. It will continue to support the 3rd Division in its new function as a multi-role signal regiment.

Meanwhile, a 'Sunset ceremony' at Larkhill marked the change of command for the Royal Artillery as 3rd Division's 'Gunners' move to the new 1 Artillery Brigade and HQ South West.

The parade, which included a performance by the Royal Artillery Band and a poignant flag-lowering ceremony, signalled the closure of the Royal Artillery 'Offensive Support Group' as a Formation HQ after 107 years within the 3rd Division - with the salute also taken by Major General James Cowan.



Addressing the officers of the 'OSG', both former and serving, the General said: "Our Division has existed in one form or another since 1809, always holding a distinguished place in the Army's order of battle. Throughout this long history, the connection between the Division and its Gunners has been central to its success.

"Tonight we mark the passing of the Divisional Offensive Support Group, we honour its achievements and we salute the many brave men and women who have served in its ranks. "But we welcome the new Artillery Brigade and look forward to a successful relationship that will endure far into the future."

Storybook Soldiers

Being Deployed? Going to BATUS?
Off on a long exercise?

Would you like to record a story for your child to listen to while you are away ?

For more information :

Website : www.storybooksoldiers.co.uk

Email : storybooksoldiers@hotmail.co.uk

Telephone : 01980 - 650 515 or (Tid Mil) 94342 2515



The Early Early Christmas Fair

in aid of ABF The Soldiers' Charity

Tues 23 September 14:00 - 18:00

Wed 24 September 09:30 - 16:00

Tedworth Park, Tidworth SP9 7AH

Everyone is welcome



H4H holds first TedFest 2014



Musicians from across Wiltshire turned out to entertain wounded, injured and sick military personnel at Tedworth House on 18th August, at the inaugural 'Tedfest' music festival. The Recovery Centre is run by the charity, Help for Heroes, which organised the event.

Tidworth is the best !

In a study carried out by the Royal Mail to mark the 40th anniversary of the introduction of postcodes, Tidworth (SP9) has been named the most desirable postcode in which to live in England. Using data from government agencies, the Office for National Statistics and the Land Registry, the study takes into account : employment opportunities, health, education and training opportunities, levels of crime, homelessness, household overcrowding, ease of access to local services, quality of the physical environment and housing affordability.

Tidworth 10K: Registration now open

Registration now open for the Tidworth 10K run and 3K fun run, starting and finishing in Tedworth Park. The event raises money for the Salisbury Hospital Stars Appeal and will be organised with the help of the Royal Tank Regiment.

Details : www.tidworth10k.co.uk



Can you help ?

A team of doctors, nurses and reception staff from the Castle practice in Tidworth and Ludgershall will be taking part in the 'Rock Solid Race' in Milton Keynes on 20th September, to raise money for 'Scotty's Little Soldiers' and Andover's Countess of Brecknock Hospice.

"These are two very good causes", Nurse Practitioner, Lindsay Perrin, whose husband is serving in the Royal Tank Regiment. If you would like to support them, please visit her fundraising page : <https://www.justgiving.com/Lindsay-Perrin/>

Welsh Warrior wins Bronze



Lance Corporal Ashley Williams from the Royal Welsh Regiment has returned to Lucknow Barracks in Tidworth after winning a Bronze Medal in the Light Flyweight (49kg) category for boxing at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow last month.

Ashley, who was also the Captain of the Welsh Boxing Team at the Games, has returned to his Regiment a hero after winning the medal for his country. He now has realistic expectations of being selected as part of the British Olympic team for the 2016 Rio Games in Brazil.

Accommodation for All !

"Area 19" and land off Dean's Close is a development site to the south of Tidworth, adjacent to the cricket pitch, which will provide Service Family Accommodation. This site was identified as having the potential for development as far back as 2003, with ecological surveys commencing in 2007. In 2008 the area was found to support good populations of both common lizard and slow worm. As both these species have suffered severe declines they are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). As they could not be accommodated within the development design MOD had to demonstrate that it could prevent harm to these species by moving them to a suitable area. This was a requirement to ensure that planning permission could be obtained.

DIO ecologist Julie Swain suggested that the area to the east, known as Furze and Ashdown Hill could provide such a site. These areas are County Wildlife Sites (also known as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation - SINCs) due to the presence of species rich chalk grassland. Clearance of scrub from an area equivalent in size to the development site would provide for the needs of both the reptiles and prevent loss of the grassland. This work was undertaken under contract in 2011.

Slow worms and common lizard use a wider range of habitats than other reptiles, but need structural diversity to provide areas to warm up, shelter from predators, avoid drying out in hot weather and areas to hibernate. To obtain this, existing open grassland areas were enlarged leaving some scattered scrub, then denser areas were cleared to provide more connectivity and areas provided to create sheltered rides and glades, including stacked cut material for hibernation.

Work commenced last month prior to the translocation, to erect reptile fencing. The purpose of this is to ensure that once trapped and moved to the "receptor" site, slow worms and lizards cannot return to the development area.



Photographs : Iain Perkins



Congratulations ...

Staff Sgt Pete Whatton of the Garrison Provost Staff has received a GOC's Commendation for his outstanding presence of mind and swift actions when responding to a medical emergency earlier this year.



He was presented with the certificate by Brigadier Piers Hankinson at the Garrison WOs' & Sgts' Mess on 1st August.

The Prince's Trust Enterprise Programme

The Prince's Trust is able, through its Enterprise programme, to assist 18-30 year old unemployed people explore their business idea and get support to :

- Work out if self employment is right for them
- Plan and test their business idea
- Work with a mentor for support and develop their skills
- Apply for funding to start their business

There are three 4-day 'explore enterprise' courses scheduled to take place in Swindon. Attending the course is the gateway to the whole programme and support package. The courses have been scheduled for :

Tues 25 – Fri 28 November 10:00 - 16:00 daily

Tues 17 – Fri 20 February 2015 10:00 - 16:00 daily.

Ahead of attending the course, eligible young people are invited to attend a short information session where they can find out all about the programme. This is also a great opportunity for young people to ask any questions they may have so that they are able to make an informed choice about the Prince's Trust enterprise programme and whether or not they feel it is right for them.

These information sessions have been scheduled to take place in Swindon on :

Tues 11 & Tues 18 November 2014 10:00 - 11:30

Tues 03 & Tues 10 February 2015 10:00 - 11:30

For further information, please contact Richard Ryan on 01753 502136 / 07943 819347 or by email Richard.Ryan@princes-trust.org.uk

Jumping for Charity



Congratulations to the wives from 1RRF who made tandem parachute jumps at Netheravon on 1st August with the PWRR jump team, the Flying Tigers.

£1,555 was raised for the Forces Children's Trust.



Drumbeat Noticeboard



B F B S Salisbury Plain 106.8 FM

Broadcasting to military audiences
all over Salisbury Plain
from studios in Bulford

Breakfast Presenter : Chris Sturgess
Call : 01980 - 672424

Email : chris.sturgess@bfbs.com
Regional Reporter : Shirley Swain
Call : 07823 - 351 087

Email : shirley.swain@bfbs.com

**To make Radio requests &
dedications, email ops@bfbs.com
or download the new smartphone
app to record your own!**

BFBS Worldwide Radio service on :
Sky Guide 0211, DAB digital radio
and Freesat Channel 786

BFBS TV on Sky Guide 212

Castledown Radio

Broadcasting to the Tidworth
Community Area on **104.7 FM**
email : studio@castledownradio.info
or call : 01264 - 841047

Local Member of Parliament

Claire Perry MP, House of
Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Please call to make appointment at
local surgery : 01380 - 729 358
claire.perry.mp@parliament.uk

Tidworth Town Council

Mon-Fri 9:30 - 13:00 at the Wylve
Road Community Centre, Tidworth.
Tel : 01980 - 847390
Drop in 10:30 - 12:30
Email : carly.lovell@btconnect.com
www.tidworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

TCAP Coordinator

Tony Pickernell - new office at
Wylve Road Community Centre
01980 - 840722 / 07765 - 382678
www.tidworthcommunityarea.info

Rubbish & Recycling

For details about collections, visit
www.wiltshire.gov.uk

Army Welfare Service

Main Office at the new Garrison
Theatre : 01980 - 656789 (Mil. 5789)

AFF Salisbury Plain Coordinator

Carol Morris : 07527 - 492 783

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

DIO Ops Accommodation :

**www.mod.uk/
servicefamiliesaccommodation** or
contact the **HASC** (Housing Allocations
Service Centre) in Aldershot.
0800-169 6322 Mon-Fri 08:30-15:00

Repairs to Army Quarters (24/7)

MODern Housing Solutions Helpline
(MHS) **Call 0800 - 707 6000**

Emergency Numbers :

RMP : 01980 - 67 2251 & 67 3530
Service Police Confidential Line :
0800 - 72 72 72
Wilts Police (non-emergency) : 101
Police Emergency : 999
Crimestoppers : 0800 - 555111
Plain Watch : 01980 - 67 47 00

Tidworth Leisure Centre

TLC Opening Times

Monday - Friday 09:00 - 21:00
Saturdays 08:00 - 17:00
Sundays 08:00 - 20:00

Telephone : 01980 - 847 140

General Manager : 650 030

Outside Pitch Bookings : 651416

Tidworth Library Opening Times

Mon 10:00 - 17:00
Tues & Thurs 14:00 - 19:00
Wed & Fri 10:00 - 17:00
Sat 10:00 - 13:00

Call: 01980 - 843460 or 650568

Paula's Café : Mon-Sat 9:00-18:00

**Youth Activities : T2A Adventure
Sports Club and Youth Only Zone**

**Also at the TLC : Counselling,
Physiotherapy & Sports Injury Clinics,
Purity Beauty Salon, Hairdressing, etc**

Local HIVE Information Centre

**Salisbury Plain HIVE at
Tidworth Leisure Centre**

Mon - Thurs 8:00 - 16:00

Fridays 8:00 - 14:30

Call Nicole & Chris : 01980-650224

HIVE at The Beeches in Bulford

Wednesdays 09:00 - 14:00

www.salisburyplainhive.blogspot.com

Larkhill HIVE

Call Lynsey Jones on 01980 - 845623

HIVE online at www.mod.uk/hives

Bulford Thrift Shop

Term time Weds & Thurs 9:30 - 14:30
In the grounds of the Haig Centre

TNB Garrison Early Years & Play

Sessional and all day care for
children 0-5 years

Afterschool & holiday clubs for
children 4-13 years

www.tnbearlyyears.org

Job vacancies inc. casual bank staff
Tel Barbara Sealey on 07436 - 070904
or email **ec@tnbearlyyears.org**

Local Children's Centres :

Activities for children 0-5 yrs, and
their parent/carer. Call for info :

NSPCC Ashdown Family Centre

Drummer Lane, off Station Road,
Tidworth. Call 01980 - 846164

Windmill Hill Children's Centre

Wylve Road, Tidworth SP9 7QR
Activities in Tidworth, Perham Down
and Ludgershall Call 01980 - 843 010

Bulford Children's Centre

Next to Kiwi School. Activities also
at The Beeches and in Larkhill.
Call Kate Fry 01980 - 632 660

Perham Down Mums & Tots

Mon, Wed & Friday 09:30 - 11:30
at Perham Down Community Centre

Tidworth Town FC

Girls & Boys U8-U14 (sch yrs 2-8)
Humber Lane, Tidworth
Tel 07872 - 565650
secretary@tidworthtownfc.co.uk
www.tidworthtownfc.co.uk

The Shipton Bellinger Rams FC

Shipton Bellinger Village Centre
**www.clubwebsite.co.uk/
shiptonbellingerramsfc**

Durrington FC

Girls & Boys - U7 (academy) U8-U12
Training Weds & Sats at Avon Valley
College. Matches on Sun ams. 07917
-228708 / durrington@btinternet.com

Pewsey Rugby

The Club has 1st & 2nd XV's and a
thriving youth section.
Community Touch Rugby in the
Summer - Tues 7pm.
Contact Mick Haynes 07584 577901
mick.haynes638@mod.uk

Tidworth (Comb Svcs) Polo Club

Courses & instruction for all levels.
01980-846705 or tidpolo@tiscali.co.uk

Tidworth Riding Club

Riding instruction available
Sat - Thurs every week. All ages &
abilities - groups/individuals
Call Vickie Angelo 07500 - 868 940

Military Wives Choirs

Bulford : The Salisbury Plain Choir
Thursdays 7pm Kiwi School
Tidworth : The Tidworth Choir
Thursdays 7pm St Michael's Church

Sarum Bridge Club

The Reading Room, Stratford Sub
Castle, Salisbury. Call 07917 196 886

Wiltshire Health Trainers

Free for over 18s Call: 0300 003 4566

www.ticketsfortroops.org.uk

For all serving Forces personnel and
those medically discharged since 2001

Storybook Soldiers

Off on Exercise ?
Being deployed overseas ? Record a
story for your child to listen to while
you are away. Call 01980 650515
storybooksoldiers@hotmail.co.uk
www.storybooksoldiers.co.uk

Tidworth Youth Centre

St Andrews Hall near VCP2
Mon, Tues & Thurs for ages 13-19
Ludgershall Youth Centre
Andover Rd (next to the CoOp)
Wed & Thurs for ages 13-19
Details from Wendy : 07917 - 174 623

Stay with the beat !

Deadline for the October edition : 22 September 2014
Drumbeat, Building 59, Jellalabad Bks, Tidworth, SP9 7BN
Call Rosemary Meeke on **01980 - 650980**
Email : **drumbeat_tidworth@hotmail.com**
Drumbeat Website : www.drumbeat.org.uk
Drumbeat is produced by Tidworth, Netheravon & Bulford Garrison