

Drumbeat



Issue 98

Tidworth, Netheravon & Bulford Community Newsletter

July 2005

Music in the Air 2005

Saturday 30 July 19:15

Middle Wallop Air Field

A magic combination of music and aerial acrobatics
Arena opens 17:00 - Bring a picnic!

Tickets from : Box Office : 0870 - 0602311
Museum of Army Flying : 01980 - 674421
www.musicintheair.co.uk

Support the Royal British Legion

Heroes Return 15 July Salisbury City Hall



A lively concert to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the end of WW2 with music and songs from Beethoven to Boogie Woogie!
Narrated by Michael Mates MP
Tickets from the City Hall.

"White Cliffs"

To mark the 60th anniversary of VE/VJ Day, profits from the sale of the Jive Aces' recording of this classic World War 2 song will be given to the Royal British Legion



Boat Troop on River Patrol

News from 26 Engr Regt inside ...

Rundle Cup 2005

Saturday 9 July 2005

Tidworth Polo Ground

12:00 National Hunt Jockeys v 3-day Eventers
in aid of the spinal injury charity, "Inspire"

14:30 Army v Navy for the Rundle Cup

16:00 Indian Cavalry Officers' Association Trophy

Other attractions include :

Trade stands & Refreshments

Everyone welcome Free Entry for Pedestrians

Royal Artillery Display Troop Summer Show

7 July 15:00 - 16:00 & 16:30 - 17:30

Knighton Down, Larkhill Free Entry

Featuring the new Kawasaki KX 250F making its first public appearance

The 16:30 display will include a parachute drop



Bulford Village Fun Day

Sunday 9 July Village Recreation Ground

Starts with a Car Boot Sale at 12:30

Attractions include :

Ringwood Pipe Band - Punch & Judy

Go carts - Airbourne Adventure,

BBQ - Beer tent - and much more!

Everyone welcome

Tidworth Area Festival 2005

Sunday 31 July 10:00 - 18:00

Family Fun Day in Castledown School Grounds
(on the A3026 between Ludgershall and Tidworth)

Trade Stands - Jennings Funfair - Novelty Rides

Live Music - Arena Events

Entrance : Adults £3, Under 14 £1.50, Under 7 free

Free Parking



Find out what's on ! Visit : www.drumbeat.org.uk



News from 1RRW

The Royal Regiment of Wales has returned to Iraq to assume the role of Divisional Reserve, based at Shaibah Logistics Base near Basra.



With the experience of op TELIC 3 under our belt, the new training currently being undertaken reflects the changing threats and new challenges that face us in a



country where in spite of high profile attacks, there is still long-term hope in the emerging political process. Soldiers of the RRW

are undertaking intensive training with helicopters, Warriors and "Snatch" armoured Land Rovers, and will be able to provide a hard-hitting and fast moving capability, for short notice deployment anywhere within the MND (SE), the British Divisional Area of Operations.

For up-to-date news log on to www.army.mod.uk/rrw or follow the link from the Garrison Units page of the Drumbeat website

Keep in touch ... News from home makes all the difference

By Post

Forces Air Mail Letters (Blueys) : FREE
(Write "OP TELIC" in the top left corner and remember that enclosures (eg photos) are not permitted)

Letters and cards up to 60gms : 30p

All other letters and packets go at Royal Mail INLAND rate, up to a MAXIMUM of 2 kg.

When using a BFPO address, geographical locations are not needed and SHOULD NOT be included as they could lead to items circulating via civilian postal channels, causing delay and/or excess postal charges.

E-Blueys & Fax-Blueys

These are printed, folded and sealed without anyone but the sender and the receiver viewing the contents. They are delivered First Class in the UK, or via the BFPO system overseas. Log on to www.bfpo.com for E-Blueys

Radio Requests

For requests on BFBS Forces Radio in Iraq and Garrison Radio in TNB Garrison, contact details are on the Drumbeat Noticeboard on the back page.

Live Radio Link

Live Radio Link between BFBS Middle East in Iraq and Tidworth Bulford Garrison Radio.

Every Friday 10:00 - 10:30 on 1287 am medium wave

Online Radio

Log on to www.bfbs.com and listen live to BFBS Radio 1 to hear what our troops are hearing on the radio in Iraq.

Online Information from the MOD

www.armynet.mod.uk A useful and secure site for use by serving soldiers and their families worldwide.

Families sign on as "guests" of the serving soldier.



Follow the links from the Drumbeat website : www.drumbeat.org.uk

News from 1STAFFORDS in Al Amarah



The Commanding Officer of 1st Battalion The Staffordshire Regiment, Lt Col Andrew Williams, is under no illusion about the task that faces his soldiers during Op Telic 6. They have deployed to Camp Abu Naji near the town of Al Amarah in the Maysan province of southern Iraq - a town with a population of 300,000, and the scene of last year's explosion of violence when British soldiers fought the longest sustained battle since the Korean War.

"The leadership challenge of commanding over 700 people in an outstation in the desert, and one that is being attacked on an almost daily basis, is certainly testing," Lt Col Williams said, speaking from his office in Camp Abu Naji. "But it is not without its rewards. This is Marsh Arab country and they are a very independent and strong-minded people. It is an immensely complex situation and interacting with the tribal leaders is fascinating and wonderfully challenging."

Creating a stable and secure environment is crucial and building up the effectiveness of Iraqi security forces is a priority. Captain Jack Kennelly, 40, is responsible for the logistics and contracts of the Security Sector Reform (SSR) programme in the area. He ensures that as well as training, the Iraqi police, army and other agencies, receive practical help.

"If for example the police are working out of a station that is in such a bad state they cannot function out of it, or have no cars, weapons or uniforms, then the requests come to me and I apply for finance," explained Jack. "Currently one section of the Iraqi police has no station to work out of, so I am working with the United States Corps of Army Engineers who are supervising the building work which is done by local contractors."

A nearby Iraqi army base has given him their 'shopping list' for new accommodation, barracks, new uniforms and beds. New portacabins are already on the way and will be converted into accommodation, ablution block and offices, for use until a new camp is built - again by local contractors.

"The whole idea is to get them self-sufficient and running things themselves so we can pack our bags and go home," said Jack.

Building up the local infrastructure is also high on the list of priorities. One of the most recent initiatives, which has provided immediate local employment, is a scheme for rubbish to be removed, drains cleaned up and many kilometres of open sewers cleared.

It is in this environment that the soldiers of 1Staffords continue their daily business of patrolling, training the Iraqi security forces, maintaining their vehicles and guarding the camp.

"Everyone is now glad to be here after a long and intensive training period," said Lt Col Williams. "And despite everything that is being thrown at us we will see it through. The people of Staffordshire and the West Midlands can be immensely proud of their soldiers and the fine job they are doing in Iraq to make life better for others."

The Staffords are among nearly 9,000 British Service personnel in Iraq who make up part of the Multi National Division (South East).



News from 26 Engr Regt in Iraq ...



The 19 men of the Boat Troop of 26 Engineer Regiment are working on the wide Shatt al Arab river, the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, which flows gently through the sprawling city of Basra and on into the Arabian Gulf.

As well as carrying out routine stop and search patrols on the river, their task is to support the soldiers of 12 Mech Bde. The boats provide an alternative means of transport other than by road, enabling soldiers to carry out "Dolphin" patrols and vehicle checks on each side of the river.

The Boat Troop also carry out river patrols with the Iraqi River Police with the aim of mentoring them and giving them the confidence to eventually do the job themselves. The river is an obvious route for smugglers and the Boat Troop is working with the Iraqi police to prevent it happening.



There are six bridges over the river that have to be kept open, and the boats regularly check for any suspicious activity that may indicate an attack is being planned.

"The work is enjoyable," says Staff Sergeant John Hurst, 39, the Boat Troop second-in-command. "We are in the process of getting to know the river and seeing what happens on it and around it. We speak to the fishermen and get a lot of low-level intelligence, they are getting used to us and know we are not going to tear their nets or get in their way. People are generally friendly and the people on the dock seem to like us and give us a wave."

John and two of the other members of the Boat Troop are divers and will eventually be going into the murky water which is 20 metres deep in places. "If a bridge is being put up we will have to check the river bed beforehand," explained John. "There are also various obstructions where we moor the boats up so we are going to go down and remove them."

The boat troop is completely self-sufficient - maintaining the boats themselves and looking after their own kit and equipment. Cpl Anton "Chad" Chadwick notices the difference in the kit he is wearing now compared to what he was wearing on his previous posting with the Boat Troop in Cyprus.

"In Cyprus I was wearing shorts, t-shirt, flip-flops and designer sunglasses," he laughs. "Here, it's combat uniform, boots, body armour, radio, life jacket and loaded weapon. But I'm not finding the heat too difficult because I acclimatised in Cyprus, it is difficult for some of the other guys."

The Boat Troop is based at the Shatt al Arab Hotel, an old building that once served as a British Royal Air Force officers' mess and then a hotel, situated on the banks of the river.

Most of the soldiers from 26 Engineer Regiment are involved in the reconstruction of Iraq, from Baghdad to Basra, supervising projects which will ensure the provision of essential services such as electricity, fuel, water, refuse disposal, sanitation and irrigation.



News from KRH in Shaibah

B Squadron from KRH is part of the Danish Battle Group based in Shaibah camp, an old British RAF station where the remains of old colonial style buildings and the runway can still be seen. Shaibah camp is now massive and is the base for the majority of troops in Iraq.



B Squadron is responsible for patrolling the area of Dhiqar north of the city of Basra with Challengers and armoured Landrovers known as Snatch vehicles.

Major Nick Berchem, is B Squadron Leader in charge of the Danish Battle Group Surge Operations Squadron at Shaibah

"We will be providing escorts for any movement within the Danish area of operation," he explained. "We will also be responsible for training Iraqi soldiers in basic infantry skills in a camp north of Basra. A key part of our operation is to provide Squadron support anywhere in the area at six hours notice to move and then sustain it for a week with tanks and Snatch vehicles."

"The Danish troops have been hugely welcoming and very helpful. They are very keen to start football and volleyball matches with us. I've said of course - as long as we can also play cricket!"

LCpl Dave Jones, works in the QM's department which is responsible for making sure the camp has all the supplies and equipment needed for the six month operational tour.

"We look after everything - anything anyone wants we can usually get it," he said. "All the welfare TVs are organised by our department, we get all the gym kit, chairs, tables, beds, mosquito nets, medical supplies - everything here apart from the tents, we are responsible for. We have not stopped working since we arrived!"

Dave will be staying in Shaibah camp for the whole of his deployment. His first impressions were: "Hot, really really hot, but the camp is alright. The best bit is the welfare village - it's got a Pizza Hut and Subway, shops, a "dry" bar, internet café, barber, post office and a place to develop photos." He is able to e-mail home twice a week and ring his wife Catherine to get news of their 18-month-old son Cai. "It was heart-breaking to leave him, but my father was in the 14th/20th Hussars for 22 years and finished as a Sergeant after the first Gulf War, so I knew what it was going to be like."



LCpl Pete Shepherd, a Snatch driver, has been out on his first patrols. "The country was in a far worse state than I expected," he said, "Lots of burnt out vehicles and rubbish, with kids running around with no shoes. But they seem happy we are here and run up and wave from the side of the road. I expect I will see some pretty amazing sights while I am out here."

Troops from the KRH will be providing protection to the local population, buildings and convoys, patrol borders and assist with building up the local infrastructure. But the priority now is to train and support the Iraqi security forces such as the Iraqi Police Service, border guards and newly fledged Iraqi army, to become confident and capable enough to manage the security themselves, which will lead to the eventual withdrawal of the Multi National Force.



Congratulations ...



MDPC Chris Talbot from the Salisbury Plain Station in Tidworth has been awarded a Divisional Commander's Commendation in recognition of his quick thinking and decisive action which prevented his colleagues from being injured by a speeding car at the scene of a road traffic incident in Tidworth recently. He is pictured here receiving the commendation from Divisional Commander David Allard.

Men's Health Fair Tidworth Garrison Theatre Tuesday 12 July 11:00 - 15:00

There will be Health promotion stands dealing with :
Smoking - Sexual health - Alcohol - Nutrition -
Weight Management - Addictions ...
and basic health screening :

Blood pressure - body fat measurement and weight
cholesterol and blood sugar levels ...

Soldiers will be able to visit the fair, chat with and get
advice from health professionals on the stands.

Further details from : Capt Jo Edwards (SO3 Health)
Army Primary Healthcare Services Tid Mil: 94342 3015



Swimming Pools re-open

The three swimming pools at the Tidworth
Leisure Centre will re-open on 4th July,
following the installation of a completely
new filtration unit which will ensure the continued
purity and clarity of the water.

Ladies' Courses at 10 AEC

19 - 23 Sept	Literacy
19 & 20 Sept	Practice for your Driving Test Theory
27 Sept	E-bluey workshop
3 - 7 Oct	Numeracy

For more details, call Arlene on 01980 - 602743



AWS Summer Activities for Children

Residential trips - Day trips - Family BBQs
Ice Skating - Table Tennis Competition - Bowling
Guitar workshop - Arts & Crafts - Astronomy workshop
Environmental workshop :

(learn how to make a broomstick or an insect hotel !)

For more information call James Fenn : 01980 - 673440

" Their past ... our future "



Veterans and local school
children got together at
the Museum of Army
Flying for a "street party"
to celebrate the 60th
anniversary of the end of
World War 2.

The children had the
opportunity to talk to the
veterans about their
wartime experiences and
to visit the "1940s
House" in the Museum
before having a 1940s-style party lunch, followed by
music from the Army Air Corps Band and a flying
display by the Blue Eagles.

For Services to the Community...



Bombadier Chris Franklin has been awarded the MBE in
the Queen's Birthday Honours List for his work in the
Unit Welfare Office during 1RHA's deployment to Iraq
last year and for his work with the local community.

Bdr Franklin arrived in Tidworth in 1994. He has been a
Parish, now Town, Councillor for about 8 years and Unit
Welfare NCO for the past 2 years. He is also the
Chairman of Governors at Clarendon Infants School and
this year was a member of the team which received a
community award for going on a sponsored hike up
Mount Snowdon to raise money to buy a new electric
wheelchair for a local child ("Chelsea's wheels").

John'o'Groats to Lands End !

A team of 9 cyclists from 6Bn REME, led
by Capt George Vosper, is taking to the
open road this Summer to cycle from
John'o'Groats to Lands End - a distance
of around 1000 miles ! Their adventurous
training will also be raising money for the
charity, Macmillan Cancer Relief.



Of local interest ...

Hatch, Match or Dispatch ...



The Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages for everyone in the Tidworth area is now at the Queen Elizabeth Memorial Health Centre



Wednesday afternoons 14:00 - 15:30
Appointments only

If you are unsure about the procedure involved in registering a birth or a death, or the legal formalities which need to be completed before a marriage can take place, Mrs Anne Smith, Registrar, will be happy to help.

Please call : 01380 - 722162 to make an appointment

The sky is not the limit at Clarendon School



While, nationally, the number of students choosing to study pure sciences and engineering at university is falling, at Clarendon Primary School in Tidworth children are being inspired and encouraged to take an interest in science at an early age.

Star Chaser, which is a company whose everyday business is launching satellites and research into aerospace, also has an educational brief. Last month, one of their educational presenters, Meric Stanley, visited the school to teach the children about rockets. The day was a huge success, with the whole school turning out to watch the launch. They were all of the same opinion : rocket science is great fun !

It's not too late to enter !

Enter your own garden into the competition
- or nominate someone else's !

Tidworth in Bloom

Gardens (all or just part) - Tubs - baskets - boxes

For more details call Hilary or Jo on 01980 - 846 693
Tidworth Development Trust, Melksham House, Wylde Road, Tidworth

Closing Date for Nominations : 15 July
Judging will be at the end of the month

News from Castledown School

John Pender has been appointed the permanent Head of Castledown School



Castledown School is again making headlines - and this time for all the right reasons. John Pender is delighted with the progress which has been made in the nine months since he arrived as Acting Head last September, to sort out the problems which had previously resulted in the School being put under 'special measures'.

"We've had two Ofsted Inspections and two LEA Inspections in the past year", he told Drumbeat. "We have made good progress but we're not quite there yet !"

The emphasis at the school is still on teaching and learning and good progress has been made : In this academic year, the school has been nominated as the leading secondary school in Wiltshire in Key Stage 3 Assessment for Learning; Key Stage 2 and 3 assessment results have exceeded the progression expected and the School is looking forward to some good GCSE results in the Summer.

After working with its main feeder schools during the year, the improved reputation of Castledown School in the local area has resulted in an increase in pupil numbers. These are up by 10% since January and the Year 7 intake for September will be in the region of 100, more than double the number previously anticipated.

Pupils' behaviour and discipline have dramatically improved; students now feel happy and positive, having regained a pride in their school. John Pender has expanded the 'Vertical Tutor Groups', which encourage the different year groups to mix together, the older and more mature students being an example to the younger ones; also a 'School Council', which meets every 5 - 6 weeks, to discuss issues which the pupils consider important. For example, recently they have been discussing seating in the school grounds and will be undertaking some constructive market research into cost and value before presenting their case to the Head.

"There has had to be a change of 'mind-set' at the school and I have had huge support from the Staff in all departments", John Pender told Drumbeat. He operates an open door policy, believing it is important that pupils feel they can come and speak to him if they need to, knowing they will get a consistent and fair hearing. "Respect works both ways", he said.

The school is now on a sound financial footing, well within the time limits set by the LEA, and the future is looking good. "Next year we will move on to the next stage, building on what we have achieved so far and beginning to explore new directions" John Pender said.

Mark Connolly, the new Chairman of the School Governors, recently wrote to parents, saying, "There is an air of optimism within the school from students, staff and governors that has not been apparent before and we will all aspire to be the best school in the area. The Governing Body believes that John Pender is the right person to steer the school to heights that it could only have dreamed about just a few short years ago".



Drumbeat Noticeboard



Tidworth Junior Youth Club
AWS Hall at the TLC Tues 18:00-20:00
Call Jimi on 01980 - 602191

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.

Live Radio Link with Iraq
Garrison Radio & BFBS Middle East
Every Friday 10:00 - 10:30
Tune in to 1287 am medium wave

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

Table Top Sale
2 July at Castledown Sports Centre
in aid of Sport Centre & School PTA
£4 table 50p entry Child free
Sellers 12:00 - 13:00 Buyers 14:00
Call 01264 - 405040 for details

Tidworth Residents' Forum
4 July 19:00
Wylie Road Community Centre
Come and hear updates from the Garrison & Local Authorities about projects which will affect us all and the future of our area.
Everyone welcome

What's On in July ?
More details about what's happening in our area this month on the front page and inside ...

Dragonflies Open Day & Fête
Collingbourne Ducis Village Hall
9 July 11:00 - 13:00
Call 07932 - 187 239 for details

Tidworth Polo Club
Job vacancies : Grooms needed
Free riding: Help exercise the ponies
Call the Club for details : 602508

AWS Job Vacancies
Part time staff required for childcare facilities in the Garrison
Call Chris on 01980 - 673379

Emergency Numbers :
MDP : 01980 - 60 3099
RMP : 01980 - 67 2251 & 67 2334
Tidworth Police Station
09:00 - 17:00 : 01980 - 842 303
Devizes HQ : 01380 - 722 341
Police Emergency : 999 or 112
Crimestoppers : 0800 - 555111

Tidworth Leisure Centre
**** 4th July ****
Swimming pools re-open

Centre 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 Kelly Wilson : 01980 - 602224

Busy Bees Crèche : 603160

Caterpillars Pre-School : 602460

JD After School Club : 602019

Tweenies Parent & Toddlers :
Thursdays 9:30 - 11:30 Call 601501

Purity Beauty Salon :
Mon - Sat 9:00 - 20:00
Call Yvonne on 07958 - 911 928

Physiotherapy & Sports Injuries :
For appointments, call in or phone
Physiotherapy : 07768 - 737646
Sports Therapy : 07796 - 230 571

Tidworth Thrift Shop
Every Monday 9:00 - 14:45
Behind the Zouch Spar/Naafi
Call Florence Foakes 07808 - 125 724

Garrison Church Services
St Michael's, Tidworth 9:30
3 July Family Service
10 July Celebration of VE/VJ Day
St George's, Bulford
11:00 Celebration of VE/VJ Day

Tidworth Saddle Club
Lessons for all standards
Lunging, long lining, hacks & events
All ages - Come & have fun !
Call Mrs Lewis 07899 - 687 466

Ordinance House, Tidworth
Fun Factory Crèche : Call 602398
Holistic Therapist : 9:30 - 12:30
Chill Out @ Heather's !
Call in or phone 07717 - 510 862
Vacancy for a Hairdresser
Call Claire Davies : 01980 - 602398

The Haig Centre, Bulford
Day Care Nursery Call 672331
Parents & Toddlers Call 672700
Getaway After School Club
Ages 5-13 15:00-18:00 Call 673355
Thrift Shop Call 673355
Term time Thursdays 9:30 - 13:00
Bulford Youth Club Call 672105
Tuesdays 18:00 - 20:00 9 - 12s
Thursdays 17:00 - 18:45 5 - 8s
Bulford Scout Group Call 633494
Beavers, Cubs, & Scouts.

Due to postings, there are spaces for children to join and new Leaders are urgently needed

The Beeches
Families Centre, Bulford
Call Michelle : 01980 - 672342

JJ's Beauty Salon
Call Jo on 01980 - 597 679
Hairdresser : Curl up and Dye
Call Lisa on 01980 - 590 020

Noah's Ark Under 5s
Call Denise on 01980 - 673479

Little Rascals Parent & Toddler
Tues & Thurs 10:30 - 12:00
Call Denise on 597834

Play Session for 2-4 yr olds
Term Time Tuesdays 13:00 - 14:30
Call Ines on 07900-276120

Café - Someone needed to run the café - a great opportunity for a budding entrepreneur !
The Beeches is available for hire for functions & children's parties.

Bulford Library
Ward Barracks, Bulford Camp
Mon - Thurs 09:00 - 16:30
Fri 09:00 - 12:30

Bulford HIVE
7 Kandy Road, Bulford Camp
Open Mon - Fri 9:30 - 13:30
Call Jackie Bird on 01980 - 672109

Stay with the beat !

Deadline for August 05 issue : 8 July 2005
Drumbeat, 10 AEC, Candahar Barracks, Tidworth, SP9 7AY
Call Rosemary Meeke on 01980 - 602980
or email : drumbeat_tidworth@hotmail.com
www.drumbeat.org.uk

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