

Drumbeat



Issue 93

Tidworth, Netheravon & Bulford Community Newsletter

February 2005

First Soldiers move in

The first of the new accommodation blocks to be built by Aspire Defence is now complete and 36 soldiers from 22 Engineer Regiment moved into it last month.



The building contains six flats, each with six en-suite bedrooms and communal lounge, kitchen and storage areas. Called "the Demonstrator Unit", it has been built as a prototype to test the durability of the building and its fixtures. It is the first building from the multi-billion pound Project Allenby/Connaught and Aspire Defence will be interested to hear what the Sappers think of it!



The key to the door! (picture by Nigel Gillies)

Lt Col Tyrone Urch, Commanding Officer of 22 Engineer Regiment hands a key to Pte Letsa Whyte, a chef with the Regiment and one of the first to move in. "It's great to have my own room but still get together with the other girls in the communal areas", she said.

Royal Visit to the KRH

HRH The Princess Royal braved gale force winds and driving rain on 11th January, to meet soldiers of The King's Royal Hussars based in Aliwal Barracks. Princess Anne is Colonel in Chief of the Regiment and visited the unit to see how the soldiers are preparing for their deployment to Iraq in April.



HRH The Princess Royal climbs into a Challenger 2 Main Battle Tank assisted by D Squadron Leader, Major Alex Potts, KRH.



Staff Sergeant Brian Bellman explains the new modifications on the Scimitar Reconnaissance Vehicle to the Princess.



Want to know what's on? Visit : www.drumbeat.org.uk



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Welcome to 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Wales (24th / 41st Foot)



The 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Wales is due to move here to Tidworth this month. It has served in many theatres around the world recently, including Northern Ireland, Hong Kong, the Falkland Islands, Bosnia and Kosovo. During the Fire Strikes of 2003, 1 RRW deployed to the West Midlands, where it covered one of the largest areas and several major

incidents. Their most recent deployment, October 2003 to April 2004, has been to Iraq on Op TELIC 3.

As well as a very busy military timetable, the Battalion has a strong sporting tradition. The Rugby team has won the Army Rugby Challenge Cup more times than any other Regiment, and has been Champion of the British Army in Germany four times in the last five years. In recent years the Battalion's Boxing Team has won the British Army Novice Championships, the Battalion Bobsleigh squad has competed as Wales 1 and 2 and the Skiing team has had considerable success. The Battalion also boasts international judo players, power lifters and a former Welsh ABA Champion.

The Royal Regiment of Wales is an amalgamation of two older Regiments, the South Wales Borderers (24th Foot) and the Welch Regiment (41st/69th Foot). It was formed in 1969 with a parade at Cardiff Castle in the presence of the new Colonel in Chief, HRH Prince Charles, The Prince of Wales. The Regiment recruits exclusively from South Wales, mainly from Cardiff, Swansea, Newport and the Valleys.

The South Wales Borderers

Founded in 1689, the 24th Regiment of Foot fought the campaigns of its Colonel, John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough. It fought successfully in the Indian mutiny in the 19th century, most notably at Chillianwallah, where it charged an Indian gun line. However, the Regiment's finest moment undoubtedly came in 1879, when, after the destruction of a British Column at Isandlwana by the Zulu army, 137 men of B Company, 2nd Battalion, 24th Regiment of Foot made a desperate defence of a small mission station at Rorke's Drift. Fourteen Victoria Crosses were awarded and the events of the day inspired the film, "Zulu". Since then, designated the South Wales Borderers, the Regiment has served in India, China and both World Wars, Germany, Malaya and Aden, before amalgamating with the Welch Regiment in 1969.

The Welch Regiment

The Welch Regiment was raised in 1715 as a Regiment of Invalids intended to carry out garrison duties in Britain. It was later designated a Regiment of the Line as the 41st Regiment of Foot. The Regiment served around the world, including service in the United States in 1812, Afghanistan and the Crimea where, at the Battle of the Inkerman, Lieutenant Ambrose Madden won the first VC awarded to a member of the Regiment. The 41st Regiment was amalgamated in 1881 with the 69th Regiment of Foot to form the Welch Regiment. It went on to serve in both World Wars and in Korea, where it relieved the Gloucestershire Regiment after the Battle of the Imjin River, and later in Germany.

1Bn The Royal Regiment of Wales will be moving in to the new Lucknow Barracks this month - just in time for St David's Day on 1st March. They will be deploying to Iraq on Op Telic VI with 12 (Mech) Brigade in April/May.

Did you know ...

... that Salisbury Plain contains over 40% of NW Europe's flower rich chalk grassland and has the largest concentration of important archaeological remains in the UK ?



... and that Parishes across the Plain can get support from the Salisbury Plain Wildlife and Heritage Office to undertake community projects aimed at raising people's awareness of the wildlife and archaeology in our area ?

This project is funded through the "Sustain the Plain" programme which has been set up to support projects which improve the quality of rural life and make better use of the natural and cultural heritage of the area. It is administered under a European-wide scheme called Leader+. If you would like more information, please contact Nicky Warden on 01722 - 792 015.

Garrison Radio will play Cupid on Valentine's Day

Will you be apart from your loved one on St Valentine's Day ?

Paul Morris and Louise Bruce at Garrison Radio are determined to bring hearts together on Monday February 14th.



Whether your special person will be with you or far away on the day when romance is top of the pops, a message on the radio will bring you closer !

Just contact Garrison Radio to send your special Valentine's Day message :

Telephone : 01980 - 602277

Email : tidworthbulford@garrisonradio.com

Thank you to AKA's



AKA's has donated a percentage of the money raised from the sale of tickets for their New Year's Eve party to Paddington Crèche in Tidworth.

Our picture shows Linda Boyce and Debbie Guinnane from AKA's presenting the money to Claire

Haighton from the Paddington Crèche.

"The crèche is raising money for an outdoor play surface for the children, so this donation is very welcome", Claire Haighton told Drumbeat.

Congratulations ...



The Long Service and Good Conduct Medal is awarded to Non Commissioned Officers who have completed 15 years exemplary service.

Last month, Brigadier Andrew Kennett MBE, Commander 1 (Mech) Brigade, presented LS&GC Medals to six NCOs : WO2 McCoy RAMC, SSgt Webster RAMC, LCpl Kidner RSigs, Sgt Hambling RSigs, SSgt Cooper RSigs and WO2 FofS O'Hara RSigs. The recipients are pictured here with WO1 (RSM) Paul Buckley, Major Pete Drew, OC 215 Sig Sqn, and some of the families who attended the ceremony.

Looking for a job ?

Help is only a phone call away :

MOD Civilian Personnel Management	01980 - 672474
Army Welfare Service	... 01980 - 673379
Eurest Defence Support Services	... 01980 - 843165
Kennet District Council / TLC	... 01980 - 847140
Sodexo Defence Ltd / TLC	... 01980 - 846511
Aspire Defence Ltd	... www.aspiredefence.co.uk
Job Centre Andover	... 01264 - 826000
Job Centre Amesbury	... 01980 - 836600
Job Centre Salisbury	... 01722 - 315400
Job Seeker Direct	... 0845 - 60 60 234

website : www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk

Jobs, Training & Career Guidance

Tempo, Tidworth	... 01980 - 846693
AFF Training Centre, Bulford	... 01980 - 672981
AFF Employment Advice	... 01980 - 673196
Army Learning Centre, Tidworth	... 01980 - 602275
Tidworth College	... 01980 - 844220

Information about our area

Tidworth & Bulford HIVEs : details on Noticeboard page
Drumbeat Newsletter & Website : www.drumbeat.org.uk

The Ashdown Family Centre

NSPCC ●

Station Road Tidworth Telephone : 01980 - 846164

General Drop-in (Free) : Mon, Tues & Fri 9:30 - 12:00

Under Ones Drop-in (Free) : Thursdays 10:00 - 12:00

Breast Feeding Support Group (Free) : Fri 12:45-14:45

The Ashdown Family Centre runs several other children's groups which are open to everyone in our area. For further information about any of them, please telephone or call in :

Opportunity Pre-School Group, Parenting Groups, "Where's the Manual?", Counselling, Advice and Support, Individual work with under 8s, After School Group

The Conservation of Barn Owls on Salisbury Plain

The Barn Owl is a very photogenic bird that some might say gets an 'unfair' amount of publicity. It is relatively rare, with only about 4000 pairs in UK, (compared with about 8 million Robins !), and it gets repeated reports on the huge numbers that are killed on the roads each year. Sadly, everyone is in such a hurry these days that Barn Owls do not stand a chance when they hunt the roadside grass verges for food. So everyone knows about the Barn Owl.

What is new that I can tell you? A few thoughts :

The Barn Owl is just like us, it needs food to eat and somewhere to live. Food comes first. Without it none of us would survive and that is where Salisbury Plain comes to its rescue. The Plain has many thousand acres of rough grassland and in and around its roots live two small ground mammals that the Barn Owls hunt : First is the Short-tailed Field Vole that eats grass shoots and second is the family of Shrews that eat the insects that live in the grass. That solves the food problem.



Next is somewhere to live. That's where I come in. It all started in the 1980s when I put up nestboxes on the Plain for my favourite bird of prey, the Kestrel. Kestrels had lost their traditional nesting hollows when Dutch Elm Disease killed all our Elms and they needed a substitute nestsite. The Kestrels loved these boxes and to my surprise the Barn Owls started using them too !

This made me realise that Barn Owls had lost their tree-site homes as well as their barn sites, with so many barns being converted to dwellings. They too were becoming homeless. My Barn Owl Project began in earnest in 1987. I have two stalwart helpers, Alan Bush and Len Spackman. We belong to the Land Warfare Centre's Imber Conservation Group at Warminster. We have now established a large network of nestboxes on SPTA (West) and on the Larkhill and Westdown Ranges. The Bulford Conservation Group covers SPTA (East).

From a small beginning (one pair in 1987) we had more and more pairs each year. In 2003 we had 73 pairs, which was 2% of the UK population. Also in 2003 we ringed our 1000th baby Barn Owl from a nestbox near Electric Target Range in Warminster. Salisbury Plain has now the distinction of having the greatest concentration of breeding Barn Owls in the UK. For this we must thank HQ ATE (SP) and the Land Warfare Centre for all their support and help without which this project would not have been possible.

Nigel Lewis
Imber Conservation Group



Drumbeat Noticeboard



Tidworth Junior Youth Club

AWS Hall at the TLC
18:00 - 20:00 Call Jimi on 602191

AWS Half Term Activities

For details call
01980 - 602191 or 07810 - 771630

At Half Term ...

Design a T-shirt at the Museum of Army Flying in Middle Wallop
Mon 14 - Fri 18 February
11:00 - 15:00 £3.50 per T-shirt
(Normal admission charges apply)

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.

Listen live online to BFBS Middle East : Visit www.bfbs.com

Garrison Radio

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

"Enigma"

As useful to the Allies as the historians of Bletchley claim ?
A talk by Robin Neillands at
The Museum of Army Flying in
Middle Wallop
3 March 19:30
Call 01980 - 674421 for tickets (£5)

Blood Donor Session

Monday 21 February
Tidworth College, Ordnance Road
13:15 - 15:25 and 16:30 - 18:45
Phone 08457 - 711 711 to book

Tidworth Polo Club

Job vacancies : Grooms
Free Riding : Help exercise the polo ponies !
Call the Club for details : 602508

AWS Job Vacancies

Supervisor for Jammie Dodgers After School Club at the TLC
Deputy Supervisor for Noah's Ark Pre-School at the Beeches, Bulford
Enquiries to 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

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 Gillian Hansell on 602224

Busy Bees Crèche : 603160

Caterpillars Pre-School : 602460

JD After School Club : 602019

Open during half term week

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 : 07811 - 358101

Robin Hood - The Panto !

Shipton Bellinger Village Centre
4 Feb 19:30 5 Feb 14:30 & 19:30
Tickets from Parkhouse Stores
or phone 01980 - 846341 (evenings)

The Grapevine, Perham Down

Thrift Shop Wed & Fri 10:30 - 14:00
Coffee Shop Mon - Fri 9:00 - 14:00

1 Staffords PRI Shop

Open to all the Garrison
Mon - Thurs 09:45 - 14:00
Mooltan Barracks NAAFI XL Club
Military clothing & equipment
Unit/Tour T shirts, Top brands ...
Tax Free purchases if going overseas

The Beeches

Families Centre, Bulford

Call Michelle : 01980 - 672342

JJ's Beauty Salon

Call Jo on 01980 - 597 679

Hairdresser : Curl up and Dye

Tanning Studio now open.
Call Lisa on 01980 - 590 020

Noah's Ark Under 5s

Call Denise on 673479

Little Rascals Parent & Toddler

Tues & Thurs 10:30 - 12:00

Call Denise on 597834

Play Session for 2-4 yr olds

Tuesdays 13:00 - 14:30 50p

Call Inez on 07900-276120

The Bistro - Job Vacancy

The Beeches needs someone to run the Bistro - Please call Michelle for details on 672342

The Beeches is available for hire for functions & children's parties.

Bulford HIVE

7 Kandy Road, Bulford Camp

Open Mon - Fri 9:30 - 13:30

Call Jackie Bird on 672109

Also at the Haig Centre : First Thurs every month 10:00 - 12:00

Stay with the beat !

Deadline for March 05 issue : 9 February 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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