



Issue 3 January 2010
www.thenma.org.uk

The Memo

The latest news and views from the National Memorial Arboretum Friends

Welcome to the New Year issue of your members' magazine



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Welcome

Hello, and welcome to the third issue of The Memo the quarterly magazine for NMA Friends.

2010 has got off to a cold and snowy start yet this hasn't stopped our dedicated team of volunteers being on site to welcome intrepid visitors.

There's an exciting programme of events planned for the Spring, which you can read all about on page fourteen, and includes our first ever Walk to the Wall on 22 May – an exciting 6-mile sponsored walk finishing at the Armed Forces Memorial. For any budding photographers there's also the NMA Friends photography competition with the theme 'Where a Nation Remembers'.

This issue's case study is Derek van Arkadie, who was interviewed by Poppy Reporter (and Young Friend) Ellie Ham. We've also got a treat for you with 'Stars from the Storyteller' Maynard Scott's account of meeting the mother and daughter from the Essex Woodcarvers sculpture in the Millennium Chapel.

There are also all the regular features for you to enjoy!

Thank you for your support!

Emma
Emma Jhita
(Marketing & Fundraising Manager)



NMA Friends magazine, New Year issue

The Memo - January Issue
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Please let your family, friends and colleagues know all about this unique place in the heart of the country. More information can be found online at www.thenma.org.uk



Their names will live for evermore...

Case Study - Derek van Arkadie...

Poppy Reporter, and Young Friend, Ellie Ham recently interviewed Derek van Arkadie, Friends Committee member and regular Volunteer, for her school project on WWII about his time as an evacuee

How old were you when WWII started?

I was 7 years old.

Were you evacuated?

Yes, on 1st September 1939. I remember it was a Friday. The Friday before war was declared on the Sunday.

How long were you evacuated for?

For 6 months. I've brought my identity label with me which I thought you'd like to see.

Where did you live?

Before the war I lived in London. I was evacuated to Kettering in Northamptonshire first of all and then I was moved to Luton.

How long did it take you to get to your new home?

It seemed to take all day.

Did you go to school?

Yes, I went to an infants school.

What lessons did you do at school?

We had to do whatever lessons teachers were available to teach. Sometimes we did knitting and sewing. At school we used to go down to the basement to learn old-time dancing. The teachers would turn the music up loud so we couldn't hear the bombs.

Did you have a ration book?

Yes I did. I have it here with me to show you.

Did you prefer rationing or not?

Yes, it was better as it was fairer for everyone.

Did you get many sweets?

We were only allowed

no more than a few ounces each.

What was your first memory of being evacuated?

We were taken into a hall and given a bag which contained a bar of chocolate, a tin of condensed milk, a fruit pie - which when I took it out of the bag was mouldy - and a tin of corned beef. I remember on the first night in the home we were stood in the sink and scrubbed down from head to toe! I have lots of memories. A not so good one was when the man of the house chopped the head off a chicken to kill it so we could eat it for tea. But the chicken carried on running around with no head.

Did you enjoy staying at your new home?



Ellie Ham, Poppy Reporter



Derek van Arkadie with Identity Tag

Yes I did, the people were very kind.

What was your favourite food in war time?

I loved suet pudding, in particular with jam or currants in it. We ate lots of chicken and we used to catch rabbits and have rabbit stew for tea.

Did you have an Air Raid Shelter?

We didn't have one when I was evacuated, but at home during the Blitz we had an Anderson Shelter. My dad was an air raid warden. One day an incendiary bomb was dropped in our garden.

Is it true that clothes were rationed during the war?

Yes, that's correct. All

sorts of clothes. My mum knitted lots of socks and jumpers.

What kind of clothes did you wear?

I wore short trousers, long socks and shirts. I had to wear a tie when I was at school with a pullover jumper. We also had a school cap. We wore plimsoles on our feet and sandals in the summer, with wellington boots in the winter.

What did you do when you weren't at school?

We used to make our own toys to play with. When there had been an air raid, we used to go and collect items to use to make toys. Pram wheels were always welcome as we used them to make scooters.

You said you were evacuated for 6 months. Where did you live the rest of the time?

Yes, just six months at Kettering and Luton and then I was in London. I went to Grammar School in Somerset. That was a long journey. I would come home to London in the school holidays. I was living at home in London at the end of the war.

Derek, thank you so much for spending time talking to me. You've given me lots of information about your experiences during World War II.

Ellie it's been a pleasure talking to you and I wish you well in your World War II studies.

Memorial Focus...

We bring you up-to-date with recently dedicated, and re-dedicated, memorials at the Arboretum

The General Post Office Memorial Garden was recently renovated by volunteers from the Royal Mail Group and re-dedicated with a moving service on Sunday 15 November. With the path laid out in the shape of the Royal Mail logo the newly renovated garden is a departure from the previous, simple, layout.

The garden is a tribute to the thousands who died or were wounded, to their families who suffered, and to all Post Office people who steadfastly continued service through the turmoil and tragedy of war.

Featuring a collection of post boxes, including a green Victorian wall box which was bomb-damaged during the blitz, an Edward VII box circa 1901-1910, and a George VI box circa 1940, the memorial garden is a fitting tribute and an insight into the history of the General Post Office.

Another recent addition to the Arboretum is the Household Division Memorial. Dedicated in the presence of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh on Thursday 3 December, the project was initiated by The Major General Commanding the

Household Division, Major General W G Cubitt CBE, who recognised the depth of feeling amongst both serving and association members.

The service mirrored those which took place on 16 October 1926 to dedicate the Guards Memorial at Horse Guards and for the opening and dedication of the Household Brigade War Memorial Cloister in Guards Chapel on 28 May 1956.

At the unveiling, Prince Philip presented Elizabeth Crosses to next of kin of those who had died recently on operations.



Wildlife Focus...

The NMA's resident wildlife expert Richard Thorpe talks about seasonal changes and introduces events coming up this New Year

As I write this it is freezing cold outside so I guess the first thing to say is please feed the birds!!

We are all set for a full wildlife programme this year. This will include a winter bird walk on 16 January, an early morning spring bird walk on 15 May, an evening bat walk sometime in August and a mammal event on 16 October. In addition there will be 2 half-day wildflower courses to be run on 5 July and 2 August.

This winter has seen the usual flocks of fieldfares, redwings and long tailed tits at the Arboretum.

I was recently taking a group of schoolchildren round the Arboretum and we had a look at some Eucalyptus trees and talked about Koala bears and suchlike. Later on I asked if any could remember the name of the tree. No one could so I gave them a clue "Starts with Euca", I said. Quick as a flash a little boy put his hand up and said "Ukelele tree!"

One of the Arboretum's Volunteers Alan Breward discovered an injured mute swan at the side of the River Tame just before the bad weather started. We contacted the RSPCA and they collected it and

took it off to the nearest swan hospital. Hopefully it survived.

I was extremely pleased with the guided wildlife walk on the 1 January. With 30 people on the walk we managed to see two hares.

Anyone who visits the confluence of the rivers at Watersmeet will notice that the Environment Agency have done a lot of work on the Croxall side of the river to help with flood alleviation. This will provide the added benefit of creating shallow wetland breeding sites for birds such as oystercatchers and lapwings.



And finally, I welcome you to 'Ee Bah Gum' my talk on 28 January at 7.30pm when I will be telling you all about my 250 mile walk through Yorkshire last May. Some brilliant scenery to look at and many anecdotes!

Their names will live for evermore...

Around the Arboretum...



- KEY
- A VISITOR CENTRE
 - B CHAPEL
 - C
 - D
 - E
 - F



At 150 acres, and with over 150 memorials, there is a lot to take in at the NMA. In this feature we will focus on different areas of the Arboretum, providing a fresh insight and helping you plan what to see on your next visit:

1. The Fauld Explosion Memorial

This granite memorial to all those who lost their lives in what is believed to be the largest single explosion, in both war and peace time, sits on the southern side of Giffard Avenue. In November 1944 an estimated 4,000 tons of bombs and ammunition were accidentally detonated killing seventy people and causing a crater over 100ft deep. The crater can still be seen at Hanbury, Staffordshire, about 12 miles from the Arboretum.

2. Fire and Rescue Services Memorial

TACT - GALLANTRY - DEXTERITY - OBSERVATION - PERSEVERANCE - LOYALTY - EXPLICITNESS - SYMPATHY
These are the eight tenets of the star depicted on the memorial 'Fire Fighters Serving Humanity' and represent the qualities required of a fire fighter. A six and a half ton block of red granite, this

impressive memorial sits at the North West end of Giffard Avenue.

3. Celebration of Life Grove

A flag visitors see flying on their approach to the Arboretum, the Midlands Co-operative Society supported the planting and development of this grove. Situated to the south and east of the Armed Forces Memorial, this large semi-circular planting of mixed spring-flowering blossom trees celebrates the life of family and friends who have passed away.

servicemen and women who have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan. This will also be the setting for the Basra Memorial Wall - due to be dedicated in spring 2010.

4. Iraq/Afghanistan Willows

This poignant planting, next to the Celebration of Life Grove, is a sweeping avenue of willows running alongside the Darbyshire Ditch. The trees are individually sponsored and dedicated to

Visit www.thenma.org.uk for a full list of memorials on site.



Their names will live for evermore...

NMA History...

As the Millennium Chapel at the NMA was the only chapel to be dedicated in the year 2000 it really is of historical significance. NMA Volunteer Maynard Scott shares his memories of 'The Storyteller', one of the main wood carvings within the chapel.

Stars from 'The Storyteller'

It is always a delight to meet the children who modelled for the Storyteller carving when they visit the Arboretum and especially to see how they are growing up. It was therefore a great pleasure to welcome Graeme and Mary Jeffery with their two children Emma and Laura on Monday 26 October and to show them the many changes to the Arboretum since their last visit which they think was in 2002. Graeme is the son of Ted Jeffery who is one

of the Essex Woodcarvers team, a regular visitor, and familiar to many of our volunteers and staff.

Laura was probably less than two years old when she was photographed on her mother Mary's right hip and this photo was subsequently used to carve the now familiar lady and child positioned next to the doorway of the Storyteller. Mary is actually holding Laura on her left hip in the carving because it wouldn't have looked right for Mary to

be between Laura and the figure of Jesus. The photo's negative was simply reversed before the photo was printed and the carving commenced.

The photograph below was taken on a recent visit. As Laura is now 11 there was just no question whatsoever of her attempting to perch on mother's hip this time around.



All in a Day...

John Bryan, NMA Volunteer and lead on the Landscape Master Plan explains the Arboretum's ambition for the future, on yet another busy day!

My wife Jill and I spoke on more than a few occasions about retirement and what we would do with our new found freedoms. How good it was to contemplate that new life! After only two months of retirement on a lovely spring morning we arrived for our first visit to the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas, Staffordshire. It was indeed the start of a new life for on that visit we decided we wanted to be a part of this wonderful place and offered ourselves as volunteers. Well the rest, as they say, is history!

My day starts at 8.50am with a cheery greeting of 'good morning' as I arrive for the first of three days a week. The NMA is now starting to develop the first stages of the Master Plans that will involve major investment in new buildings, visitor centre amenities, upgrading and improving the existing

landscape, and subsequently enlarging the Arboretum to approximately 300 acres. We keep our fingers well and truly crossed that the fundraising teams based in London and Staffordshire can indeed turn on the magic and the cash flow, even in these hard times!

Next Tuesday I shall come in for an 8am site meeting with an outside consultant about improving site security, a time I don't relish but the specialist is passing through on his way up north and we just have to take advantage of this opportunity as we will not get another chance for a couple of weeks or more.

One of the volunteers helped me to undertake a simple land survey of part of the site, made more painful as it needed to be done during the snow and the cold that greeted us in the new year, but we keep smiling.

The survey will need to be drawn up, not by CAD but with a T square, scale rule, metric or was it from Imperial measurement days, and an eraser. The old skills may be a bit rusty and the pencil lacking a sharp point (in accordance with all things Health and Safety) but we'll get the job done!

I hope I have given you an insight into just some of the support activities that go on. We do what we do because we can and because we are truly privileged to be part of this special place. Our lease on this reclaimed gravel pit is for one year less than a thousand. Our work will go on and the meaning of the National Memorial Arboretum will continue to grow in importance for generations to come.

For anyone out there who would like to offer some time or their skills there are many, many opportunities to help. There are another hundred or so volunteers who are equally passionate about this very special place, and you could be one too!

John



Their names will live for evermore...

Seasonal Recipe...

At the NMA we're always keen to link recipes to seasonal and locally available produce. This traditional, warming winter recipe is just perfect for colder weather.

The traditional hotpot has its origins in the Lancashire cotton industry. In fact, legend has it that a Lancashire woman's prowess in the hotpot stakes will determine the marriage prospects of their daughters, but that is the North of England for you! Here in Staffordshire we recommend you source local produce and have fun cooking!

Lamb "Hotpot"

Ingredients

(serves 4 approx)

- 150g Lamb rump
- 200g Lamb shoulder
- 1 small turnip
- 1 green, 1 red and 1 yellow pepper
- 1 small red onion
- 1 tbsp tomato paste
- 1 medium potato
- 1 large carrot

1. Roughly dice both cuts of lamb and dust with flour
2. Heat a thick bottomed pan and add a splash of oil, brown the lamb all over. Add the tomato paste, (and a glug of red wine if desired!)
3. Roughly dice the vegetables and add this to the meat mixing thoroughly. Cover with water, (for extra flavour add a stock cube), and bring to the boil
4. Rapidly boil for 5 minutes then turn down the heat and simmer for approx 2 hours until the meat is tender
5. The flour should thicken the stock to produce a good sauce, just season to taste with salt and pepper, (I like to use a little extra pepper than usual to give this dish a Spanish kick!), if you prefer a thicker sauce add a granulated gravy mix to your liking

Enjoy with a good Cabernet Sauvignon or Merlot to complement the rich flavours of the lamb.

This recipe is courtesy of the Three Queens Hotel in Burton, and is sure to warm you up in this cold winter weather!



Friends Update...

The NMA Friends have got off to an active start this New Year with a range of events and fundraising activities:



Friends stand at Morrisons, Lichfield

Raising their profile among local shoppers and promoting the upcoming Christmas events, the NMA Friends had an information stand and even received some generous donations.



Christmas Walk, Monday 28 January

Taking in the snowy scenery a large group of Friends turned out to walk-off the excess Christmas pudding and explore the Staffordshire countryside.



Epiphany Service, Saturday 9 January

This annual service was a success again this year – despite the snow! The Light Harmony Choir lent their beautiful musical support and the NMA's Chaplain delivered a moving sermon.



Working Weekends

Every first weekend of the month the NMA Friends and Volunteers get to work on various jobs around the Arboretum.

Organise an Event in your Area

Gather together friends and family, or involve your local group or association and organise an event to increase membership of the Friends! For leaflets, posters and other information please contact the Friends Membership Team on 01283 792333 or email friends@thenma.org.uk

twitter facebook

Join us on Facebook and Twitter

These online groups are an ideal way to keep up to date with all the latest news, so look us up and join in today!

Their names will live for evermore...

NMA Events Calendar...

Take a look at the wide-range of exciting events taking place over the next few months, including those with a special Friends focus:

Sunday 24 January - 'Auschwitz-Birkenau, 65 Years On'

Launch of photographic exhibition, on the theme 'The Legacy of Hope', to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the liberation of the camps.

Time: 2.00 p.m.

Venue: NMA Visitor Centre

Cost: No charge, but donations appreciated

Contact: Lynne Barkas, Events Officer - 01283 799857 or lbarkas@thenma.org.uk

Monday 25 January - 'Not Quite Burns Night'

A themed lunch menu will be available from the self-service counter, complete with Scottish entertainment!

Time: 12.00 - 2.30pm

Venue: The Arbour Restaurant

Contact: 01283 799854 for table reservations

Thursday 28 January - Ee Bah Gum

A presentation from Richard Thorpe's 250 mile walk through Yorkshire in words and images featuring the Wolds Way, Abbey Trail and the bit in the middle!

Time: 2.00 p.m.

Venue: NMA Conference Room

Cost: Suggested donation of £3.00, to include light

refreshments

Contact: 01283 792333 for more information and to reserve your place

Saturday 30 January - 'Establishing Roots'

Screening of Roger Davies-Lee's latest video which charts the major new developments taking place on the site.

Time: 12.30 pm

Venue: NMA Education Room

Cost: No charge, but donations appreciated - no reservations

Contact: 01283 792333

Saturday 6 February - The Dedication of the Armed Forces Memorial

Your opportunity to watch, or re-watch, the dedication of the Armed Forces Memorial. This screening will be hosted by the NMA's Armed Forces Memorial Administrator Graham Nolan.

Time: 12.30 pm

Venue: NMA Conference Room

Cost: No charge, but donations appreciated - no reservations

Contact: 01283 792333

The Early Days

NMA Founder, David Childs gives a presentation on the early days and signs copies of his book 'Growing Remembrance: The Story of the National Memorial Arboretum'

Time: 2pm

Venue: Millennium Chapel

Cost: No charge, but donations appreciated - no reservations

Contact: 01283 792333

Thursday 4 March - Death, War, Conquest and Trees: The Musings of the Curator.

Join the NMA's curator Paul Kennedy as he discusses the Arboretum's focus on conserving botanical species for the future.

Time: 12.30pm

Venue: NMA Conference Room

Cost: No charge, but donations appreciated - no reservations

Contact: 01283 792333



Thursday 11 March - The Future of the Arboretum

The NMA's Chief Executive, Charlie Bagot Jewitt, presents the future vision for the Arboretum. This talk will include developments within the Future Foundations Appeal and the Landscape Master Plan.

Time: 2pm

Venue: NMA Conference Room

Cost: No charge, but donations appreciated - no reservations

Contact: 01283 792333

Friday 12 March - NMA Photography Competition CLOSING DATE

This year's competition takes the theme 'Where a Nation Remembers' and invites entries from all. With the NMA as the nation's venue for year round remembrance, images specific to the Arboretum are welcome as are all images

capturing the theme of remembrance.

Contact: 01283 792333, friends@thenma.org.uk or visit www.thenma.org.uk for your entry form and further information.

Saturday 22 May - Walk to the Wall

This Spring we're asking all NMA Friends to sign-up for our exciting new sponsored event Walk to the Wall, either as individuals or why not enter a team? This could be family members or a group of work colleagues. You'll be sent a wonderful NMA t-shirt and a fundraising pack including top tips on raising sponsorship. We hope you can join us on 22 May!

Contact: 01283 792333, friends@thenma.org.uk or visit www.thenma.org.uk for your registration form and further information.

FRIENDS EVENT

Saturday 10 April - Corsets to Camouflage: Women and War, a talk by Kate Adie

We're delighted to announce that Kate Adie, former BBC chief news correspondent, will be delivering a talk about her experiences of war, and especially women and war.

Time: 3pm

Venue: Millennium Chapel

Cost: £5 for NMA Friends and FREE for Gold Friends (£7 for all other bookings)

Contact: 01283 792333 to book your tickets

NMA Friends AGM

This will be taking place in April at the NMA and all NMA Friends are invited to attend. You will be formally invited in writing in the near future.



Their names will live for evermore...

Puzzle Page...

Test your knowledge of the Arboretum with these fun, and sometimes challenging puzzles:

Guess the Memorial

This one's just for fun. How many memorials can you identify... without reaching for your Guidebook!



1



2



3



4



5



6

Word Search

See if you can find all 16 hidden words!

h	l	a	r	p	w	r	w	o	l	l	i	w	m
o	o	n	a	i	m	o	c	q	n	o	x	i	h
h	s	r	r	a	l	p	o	p	k	c	a	l	b
w	f	d	s	n	a	a	n	o	f	q	a	h	r
s	i	l	v	e	r	b	i	r	c	h	o	y	c
s	i	k	q	t	c	y	f	n	k	f	t	n	h
e	m	a	a	e	h	h	n	j	a	r	a	e	e
r	i	o	w	n	i	f	e	p	o	p	l	a	r
p	f	m	g	s	u	d	w	s	p	m	n	s	r
y	p	l	p	m	n	g	l	l	f	o	w	e	y
c	o	o	h	e	r	e	e	e	p	n	e	e	m
n	r	h	s	u	f	p	y	l	a	c	u	e	z
q	o	f	a	t	k	m	e	l	o	a	b	t	f
f	s	x	o	l	n	a	w	o	r	f	c	h	h

HorseChestnut Plane
SilverBirch Willow
WhitePoplar Yew
Eucalyptus HolmOak
Oak Cypress
Larch Ash
Apple Cherry
Rowan BlackPoplar

NMA Shop Update...

Featuring new products and items from the award-nominated NMA Gift Shop:

This beautifully crafted collection of 'Heart String Teddies' have been lovingly created to touch the heart with their endearing messages of inspiration, comfort, love and joy. On sale for just £8.99 each they make the perfect present!

Please contact us on **01283 799862** or email **info@thenma.org.uk**

