



Issue 8  
2012

Welcome to the latest issue of *Legion Knots* - the magazine about the branches and for the branches of Nottinghamshire.

In this issue we honour the work of Royal Wootton Bassett. A small town in Wiltshire which now holds a place in history due to the work of Royal British Legion members, showing honour and respect for our brave fallen men and women whilst on their journey home.

## **CHELSEA HOSPITAL**

The Royal Hospital Chelsea was founded in 1682 by King Charles II and intended for the 'succour and relief of veterans broken by age and war', the Royal Hospital, with its Grade 1 listed buildings, still serves its original purpose and intends to continue to further its role well into the 21st Century.



In 1645 Parliament decreed that pensions to disabled soldiers should be paid from national funds, not local taxation. It was common practice for maimed or old soldiers to be kept on regimental rolls, or sent on garrison duty - thus impairing the effectiveness of an army that was always short of money. Charles II was determined to make provision for the soldiers so on 22nd December 1681 he issued a Royal Warrant authorising the building of the Royal Hospital.

King James II who succeeded King Charles II in 1685, made the first attempt to put Army pensions on a systematic basis in 1689. He decreed that a daily allowance should be made to all soldiers disabled by wounds or accidents, who had become unfit for service or who had served for 20 years. Funding was erratic due to mismanagement but relied on deductions from army pay, with occasional funding from other sources (such as the sale of commissions). This continued to be the Royal Hospital's main source of revenue until 1847. Since then the Hospital has been supported by Government 'Grant-in-Aid'. This is supplemented by a small income derived from legacies, donations and the Army Prize Fund. The last element comes from shares of money allocated as the prize money for battles and campaigns in the 19th Century. Those

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[https://donations.britishlegion.org.uk/  
membership/membership.aspx](https://donations.britishlegion.org.uk/membership/membership.aspx)

(Branches - put a sticker with your  
contact details in this box)

that were unclaimed went to the Royal Hospital.

In 1809, Sir John Soane constructed a new Infirmary building, with space for 80 patients. This on the site now occupied by the National Army Museum (1968/69). The Infirmary was damaged by bombing in the Second World War and later demolished. The 19th century saw the fitting of ranges in the Long Wards and were, until 1955, used for the cooking of rations

The Royal Hospital also benefited in acquiring Land from the construction of the Chelsea Embankment and Chelsea Bridge Road so the site now covers a total of 66 acres.

Parts of the hospital were heavily damaged, with some loss of life, by enemy bombing in 1918, reconstructed in 1923 only to be destroyed again by a V2 rocket in 1945 and the Infirmary was destroyed in 1941.

In the Museum is The Sovereign's Mace which was presented to the Royal Hospital by Queen Elizabeth II in July 2002. Throughout its existence the Royal Hospital has had no colours or other distinctive device. The Mace is now carried at all the Royal Hospital's ceremonial events.

Currently the facilities are being upgraded to meet the needs of the 21st Century In-Pensioner. Improvements to bathing and WC facilities are planned and an IT suite has been opened. However, all the works have to take account of the historic structure. Improved access arrangements for In-Pensioners with disabilities is also planned.

An 'In-Pensioner' was simply one who resided in the Royal Hospital Chelsea. An 'Out-Pensioner' was a former soldier of the Regular Army who received a pension for long service and/or disability caused through service. On entry, he surrenders his army pension. The term derives from the period when the Royal Hospital was still being built. King James II who succeeded King Charles II in 1685, made the first attempt to put Army pensions on a systematic basis in 1689. He decreed that a daily allowance should be made to all soldiers disabled by wounds or accidents, who had become unfit for service or who had served for 20 years.

[Http://www.chelsea-pensioners.co.uk/home](http://www.chelsea-pensioners.co.uk/home)

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## MY BROTHER

Alan Frederick Jacques was born on October 31<sup>st</sup>. 1929 in Beeston, Nottinghamshire. A member of the 17<sup>th</sup> Company Boys Brigade known as Beeston Lads Club, he was first a bugler in the band and later, the Drum Major.



At the age of 17½ years after working at Boots factory in Beeston, he joined the Grenadier Guards. At first he was in the Corps of Drums, later becoming Drum Major of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion and served in several countries including Egypt, Germany, Malaya and Norway where he became a very proficient skier. Another time he was in the Oman instructing the Trucial Oman Scout Band\*. He was on duty on many

royal occasions during his 22 years of service.

But like others, old age caught up with him. After being widowed he became a Chelsea Pensioner. He was so happy there, well looked after and he made many friends.

On January 19<sup>th</sup>. this year, we said our sad goodbyes in the beautiful new Church

within the Chelsea Hospital Infirmary.

Thank you Royal British Legion for the love and support you give for the care of these grand old men.

Audrey Cooke (nee Jacques)



### **Trucial Oman Scouts**

*\*The Trucial Oman Scouts was a security force established in 1951 (initially as the Trucial Oman Levies) to defend the seven emirates of Trucial Oman and keep the peace. TOS officers later established the Dubai Police (1956–), the TOS Cadet School (1964–71), the Abu Dhabi Defence Force (1965–76), the Ras al-Khaimah Mobile Force (1969–96), the Dubai Defence Force (1971–96), and the Sharjah National Guard (1972–76). Upon independence, when the Emirates merged to become the United Arab Emirates, the TOS was renamed the Union Defence Force. The TOS had an impeccable record over the course of its twenty-year existence: it defended the Emirates against hostile forces, peacefully settled tribal and territorial disputes, policed the land, served as a stabilizing influence, and provided an honourable career and valuable training for thousands of Emiratis. Soldiers of the TOS were as much 'at home' on the back of a camel as driving their Landrovers and the TOS was the first truly federal, Emirati institution in which men from all seven emirates worked together, shoulder to shoulder, as fellow citizens of what would become the UAE.*

<http://www.trucialomanscouts.org>

## **A 'tree-mendous' effort for the Royal British Legion**



Throughout January, Nottinghamshire residents took part in Veolia Environmental Services' fourth annual Christmas 'Tree-cycling' campaign. People were asked to recycle their old Christmas trees at any of the 14 Household Waste Recycling Centres, to make Nottinghamshire a greener county and to help an important national charity at the same time.

Chair of Nottinghamshire Council, Keith

Walker said "It means that Notts residents have helped to raise £1368 for The Royal British Legion, which Veolia Environmental Services will round up to £1400, to help them support ex servicemen in the region."

# Wootton

## The Final Journey

We had been given an approximate time that the cortège would arrive at the war memorial in Bassett (as the locals know it), but the regulars and newcomers alike started to arrive hours early to stake their place on the High Street. Old friends and comrades greeted each other.

For four years a modest Wiltshire town had become the focus for a nation's grief. Since 2007, the town has ground to a halt, whenever the bodies of British service personnel were driven down the High Street after arriving at nearby RAF Lyneham.

Thousands have stood with the people of the town, joining the bereaved families to watch our fallen heroes pass through on their way to the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford.

A few days later new repatriations would instead pass through a new purpose built centre at RAF Brize Norton.

Repatriations were started at RAF Lyneham as Brize Norton needed runway repairs. The mayor heard of a repatriation and stood with just a few others at the side of the High Street to show their respects. The local branch of The Royal British Legion decided it was right to honour our fallen in this way, and the rest, as they say, is history. My contact for the repatriation, Anne Beavis (branch treasurer) had made contact with RAF Lyneham to get details of the repatriations which she then e-mailed out, as well as ringing many others.

Local branches started to attend with their standards, which they lowered as cars went through. Then friends and families began to join the growing crowds. It became customary for bereaved relatives – if they wished – to join the crowds in Bassett after receiving the bodies of their loved ones in a chapel at Lyneham. Many placed flowers on the cars, some applauded as the cars passed.

For a short period, the world's media turned on the town calling what they did ghoulish and accused them of turning the event into a circus. Spurred on by comments from the families of the fallen they ignored the attacks and continued to show their respect.



The town gained 'Royal' status in October 2011

# Bassett

We went to Bassett on a damp 18th August 2011, for the final repatriation – the 167th.

As I stood at the side of the high Street I spoke to a stranger, to learn that 24-year-old Daniel Clack, who was killed by a roadside bomb in Helmand was an old boy of Bancroft's School in Woodford Green, Essex. The stranger, David Palmer was himself an Old Bancroftian.

More and more people filed onto the High Street as cars passed through the town centre.

We saw the standards move into position and the bereaved family take their place on the opposite side of the road. The bell of St. Bartholomew's Church started to toll and the crowd fell silent.

The cortège came slowly along the high Street, the standards dipped as it reached them, and then it came to a halt so grieving family and friends could place flowers on the hearse, which after a few minutes continued along the High Street towards the M4.

Lieutenant Clack was killed while leading a ten-man patrol into the village of Dactran to speak to the local nationals and discuss a shura due to take place the next day. Approximately 150 metres from the front gate his patrol was struck by an improvised explosive device, killing him and injuring five other members of his patrol. Lieutenant Daniel John Clack deployed to Afghanistan in April 2011 with C Company, 1st Battalion The Rifles (1 RIFLES), in command of 8 Platoon. He commanded Checkpoint Shaparak in the district of Nahr-e Saraj (South), Helmand province, Afghanistan.



He was known as a man of integrity, and driven by doing the right thing; this attitude had forged a strong platoon and an impressive reputation - in a relatively short period of time he had become hugely popular across the battalion.

Lieutenant Clack leaves behind a loving family: his mother Sue, father Martin, brother James and fiancée Amy Tinley.



## Battle Back Centre

The Royal British Legion has committed £30 million to provide and operate the Battle Back Centre, an adaptive sports and outdoor facility based in Lilleshall in the West Midlands.

With its focus on what you can do rather than what you can't, the Centre will help around 800 injured Army, Navy and RAF personnel every year.

Undertaking and overcoming challenges has been shown to enhance recovery. The Battle Back Centre will provide adaptive sports and ad-



The county website can be found at

[www.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/nottinghamshire](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/nottinghamshire)



venturous training opportunities with world-class coaching. The range of sports and outdoor activities will include climbing, watersports, wheelchair basketball, cycle racing, sledge hockey and archery.

Before being wounded in battle these young men and women were at the peak of their physical fitness. An injury can make them feel like their life has stopped, as everything they hold dear has been taken from them.

By rebuilding confidence, and unlocking potential the Battle Back Centre will prove nothing is impossible for these remarkable men and women.



**KNOTTY WORD**

This village mentioned in the Domesday Book is still popular with fishermen today and has given its name to a phantom in a video game!

**K F R E T  
I S N  
O**

Granny 42, Turks head 47, Top knot 53

*Answer to Knotty Word*

Eosin Fiskerton foist front fore forest fork forte foster front frost ikon iron knot krona often orfe osier nitro noise nose nosier nose note riot rock rose rosen rote snore snort snot soft soften softer soke sore sort sortie stoke stoker store stork stone stroke tenor tiro token tone toner tone torn tore torn tose trio tron



The annual Drum-head Service at Balderton took place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Poppy crosses were carried by members of the Riders Branch to The National Memorial Arboretum. The crosses had the names of the fallen from Balderton Memorial inscribed on them.

*Walter Hurst*



Friday 11.11.11 saw Bilsthorpe branch visiting Crompton View Primary School for lunch after being invited by the children. The children took it in turns to sell poppies around the school. The children asked many questions of their visitors which were answered with great enjoyment for all. The visit from the branch was a great experience for the children of Crompton View.


*Rob Smith*

## Future Events 2012

County Lunch, South Forest, Edwinstowe 27<sup>th</sup> May, £15


County Parade and Annual Service of Re-Dedication, Southwell, June 10<sup>th</sup> 6pm

The 2nd Annual Poppy Ball. 20th October 2012 Britannia Hotel Nottingham £30.00 (Rooms available £49.00 including breakfast)




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