

THE GT BEDWYN POST

News and Views

From and For

Members



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COVER PICTURE

If you drive north from Andover, along the A343 towards Newbury, you will, after a couple of miles, pass through the village of Enham Alamein. As you drive through, you will see on your right the village church and green. Its on this green you will see the life size statue.

You **must** find time to park and walk across the grass to look at it !

The statue was commissioned by the Enham Trust from the Newbury sculptor Nick Speakman to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War. Entitled 'Moving On', it represents a soldier of the Royal Artillery arriving with both the psychological and physical scars of that conflict. Behind are symbols of the horrors of war left behind.



The Enham Trust was set up in 1919 to help disabled servicemen returning from the war find a useful career and place in society and caters today for the disabled of this age.

If you do not drive this way as a rule it is worth a detour to examine the statue closely. The facial expression does really represent the mental and and physical effects suffered by the survivors of this almost medieval war

The statue was carved from an oak tree felled in the village during winter storms.and unveiled by Simon Weston and Sir Gerald Howarth MP.



LEST WE FORGET



This large 'poppy' was positioned on a hill overlooking Bratton, in Wiltshire, by our group's private 'walking disaster' (aka John Drewitt). No need to mention here the runaway tractor or ask how's the thumb John?

Unfortunately this grand gesture was spotted by some bureaucratic 'jobsworth' who insisted that as this was a site of Special Scientific Interest, the poppy be removed, less the pins damage the soil structure. I'm sure the pins do little or even less damage to the actual structure than sheep grazing and it would be interesting to know how often these 'interested' scientists actually visit this special area . Leaving it for a few days would not have made any difference, I know.

On Saturday 8th Nov John's Car /transport gathering to raise funds for the 'Poppy Appeal' was held at 'The Duke' public house in Bratton and quite a few exhibitors turned up even with the inclement





Sunday 9th November was of course Remembrance Day and as usual Members of the Group travelled to Winchester, where as usual they outnumbered the 'locals' at the parade and service at the cathedral. Unfortunately the organisers failed to provide a band for the parade which led to much step changing and though not a disaster did not make for a memorable event.



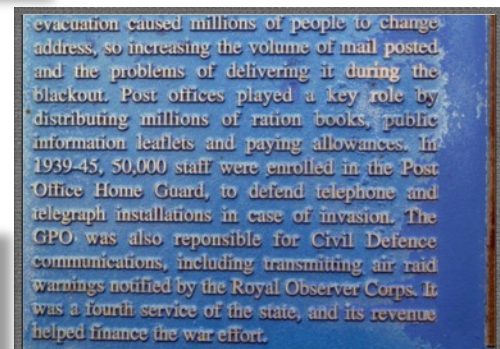
At the obligatory lunch stopover on the return journey, two member of the party ordered steak but unfortunately only one was available. Not good for trade and no need to mention the establishment but they only have small cooks.



Made a visit to the Memorial Arboretum at the weekend. You will be pleased(astonished?) to know that the 'Winchester' tree planted in the avenue is alive and flourishing. I also noticed that the ROC got a mention on the 'Post Office at War' memorial as it was them who forwarded any transmissions.

Regards

Errol



Thanks to Errol and Gill Cook for this item..



Hi Chris,

The Monday Gang visited the Kempton Pumping Station on Saturday 15th Nov. It houses two large three cylinder triple expansion steam engines that were used to supply water to London. The engines were built by Worthington Simpson and were commissioned in 1928 and worked continually until decommissioning in 1980. They each weigh 1000 tons and each produced a 1008 horsepower. Each of the two flywheels per engine weighs 33 tons and each crankshaft weighs 30 tons. The engines are 62 feet high and 45 feet long. The engines are similar to those used in the Titanic and the Kempton engines were used in the making of the of Titanic film. The engines are started by two barring (starting) steam engines much as we start our own car engines. It takes two days to get the whole system hot before the engine is started.

The engines were left unused until 1995 when the building was cleaned top to bottom by a team of enthusiasts and one engine was restored to running condition and re-commissioned in 2002. The other engine is left as a partially dismantled version so visitors can more easily understand the workings of these enormous machines. The interior of the building itself is finished in white and black glazed bricks to give a clean and hygienic appearance to a unit producing clean water for human consumption.

The building was originally built to house three engines but in the end two steam turbine units were installed in the space remaining. These installations cost only 10% of the triple expansion engines but were less efficient. However overall they gave a better financial result.

A very interesting visit but my words and photograph will not do justice to these enormous machines. You have to see it to believe it!

Brian



Thanks to Brian Davis for this item.



Saturday 22nd November was the eagerly awaited 'educational' visit to Wadworths Brewery in the centre of Devizes. Thirteen members, family and guests met at the Visitors Centre at 11 o'clock for the guided tour.



Following the usual 'safety briefing' off we went almost to the top, up narrow steep staircases through the old building. On the third floor we were introduced to the history of Wadworths and their buildings in the town before 'meeting' the ingredients. Then followed an explanation of the brewing process and a look at the various vessels used in brewing the much loved final product. Old traditional equipment and ultra-modern 'state of the art' computer controlled systems were explained. We then moved down to the final stage, the fermentation tanks from where the ales are further processed for bottling or put into casks for delivery. It was interesting to learn that the brewing process takes 7 - 10 days.

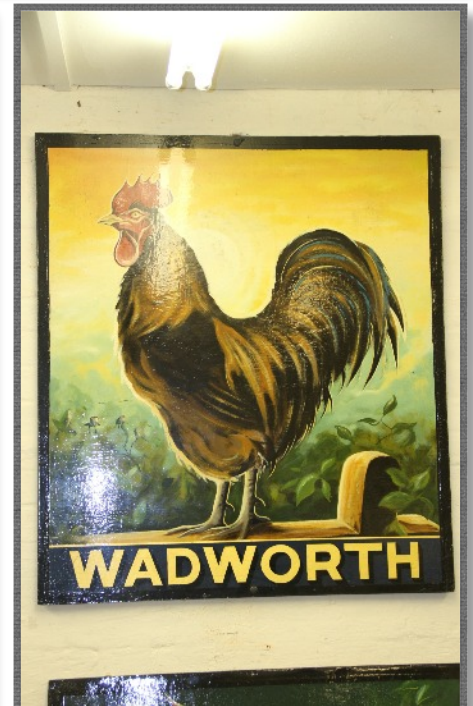
We then left the main building and crossed the road to another section of their estate, where the Sign writing department produce wonderful hand painted signs for all of Wadworths Inns and some others as well. This work was truly artistic and fantastic to see one traditional craft kept alive.

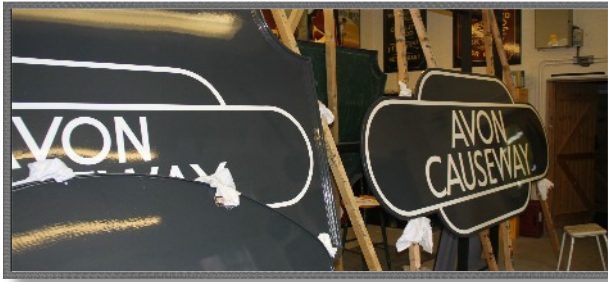
We then walked across the yard to the stables where two magnificent shire horses, Monty and Max, spend their 'off duty' time.



Then it was back to the Visitor Centre where we enjoyed a very nice lunch with local pork pies, cheeses etc along with such accompaniments as 6X pickle. During this meal the young lady behind the bar, who was very knowledgeable, educated our taste buds while we sampled several ales and a stout.









This final picture taken by one of our budding photographers, but I think he must have got a bit excited as it took four efforts to achieve this.

Then it was back to Maurice and Pam's new canal side home for coffee and biscuits. So a big thanks and well done to Errol and Gill for their organisation and Maurice and Pam for their hospitality.

Dates for Diary

Sat 13th December - Christmas Dinner at the Hourglass, Devizes.

