



Armed Forces Memorial. Photo by Toni Morgan

In remembrance

By Toni Morgan

I have wanted to visit the National Memorial Arboretum since I learned of its existence a couple of years ago. My main reason was that I knew it would include the name of my brother, who died in Aden in 1967. The opportunity arose last month and, on a very blustery day, we arrived at the Arboretum.

The National Memorial Arboretum was established in 1997 and comprises 150 acres of trees and memorials devoted to the concept of remembrance. Located in the centre of England, near the cathedral city of Lichfield, it has become a focal point for commemoration and celebration and is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Royal British Legion.

Within the Arboretum, the new Armed Forces Memorial is a massive stone structure which is striking and emotive.

It gives recognition and thanks for those who have died whilst on duty or as a result of terrorist action since the end of World War Two and acknowledges the enduring sacrifice of those who mourn their loss. At the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, relatives of those whose names are recorded there will gather at the site to remember them.

For information about the National Memorial Arboretum, visit www.thenma.org.uk or telephone: 01283 792333.

Showtime for East Finchley writers

By Daphne Chamberlain

Publishers say that short stories and poetry don't sell, but often these are the forms of writing that readers remember best: the twist in the tail, the conjuring up of atmosphere, the recognition of another's emotion as your own. If you are addicted to this kind of treat, there is a lot of it in store in *Showtime*, a stunning book produced by the East Finchley Writers' Group.

Stories, poetry, authentic travel writing, autobiography and novels in progress are all on these pages. Some of the writers introduced themselves and their work to a large audience at the recent East Finchley Arts Festival. If you, too, want to know why Father Francis couldn't keep his promise, why one Elijah's Night was terrifyingly special, the strangest request the stonemason ever had, and much, much more, search for the book online.

Ralph Goldswain, the group's co-founder and the book's chief compiler, told

the Festival audience: "We are always amazed, astounded and entertained by each other." Certainly this group is composed of very different and very interesting characters, and their individual voices come over clearly in their writing.

East Finchley Writers meet at the Old White Lion at 6pm every Wednesday. Please contact Carola on 020 8883 5808 or Lilian on 020 8444 1793 for more information. To find out more about the book, visit www.lulu.com, and type in *Showtime* in the books category.

Unsung heroes

By Diana Cormack

I recently visited Bletchley Park, which can justifiably lay claim to being Britain's best-kept secret. Despite the fact that 10,000 people toiled there day and night during World War II, their work was only revealed in the late 1970s. Those involved had kept quiet about their activities for more than 30 years and only then did they get the public recognition they deserved for their massive contribution towards beating the Nazis and bringing about the end of the war.

Enigma

It all started in the summer of 1939. The country's most brilliant minds were recruited to work as code breakers at Bletchley Park, which was conveniently situated near the railway line between Oxford and Cambridge. The Germans believed they had an unbreakable code, using a machine of amazingly complex combinations, the Enigma cipher. With particular help from the Poles, a breakthrough was eventually made which led to Britain foiling enemy bombing raids and minimising attacks at sea.

Colossus

Colossus, the world's first programmable electronic computer, was developed there in order to break the sophisticated cipher used by Hitler and his High Command. It was kept secret for several years, but played an important role in the D-Day landings.

After the war all evidence

of the work done at Bletchley Park was removed and the site was allowed to fall into disrepair. However, publicity from books, TV programmes and the film "Enigma" has highlighted the importance of the contribution made by men and women from this country and elsewhere, which is said to have shortened the war by at least two years.

Restoration

Recently a campaign was launched to help save the park after news broke of a financial contribution from America towards the restoration of the site. Bletchley Park is near Milton Keynes. The number of displays and activities from which children and adults can learn is impressive, but you should allow plenty of time. I could have spent a whole day there! Schools particularly may be interested in the National Museum of Computing. Telephone 01908 640404 or visit www.bletchleypark.org.uk for more information.

Party time for over 60s

Bishop Douglass School is holding a Christmas party and would like to invite all East Finchley residents over the age of 60 to attend, completely free of charge. There will be a three-course Christmas Dinner, entertainment from the students and teachers, plus the chance to win a fantastic bingo prize and receive a gift from Father Christmas.

The party will be at the school in Hamilton Road on Thursday 11 December from 5-9pm and transport can be provided if you need it. Please call Pam Kent on 020 8444 6690 if you are interested in this wonderful event and book your place NOW. The organisers would like to know by the last day of November if you wish to attend.

John

By Dennis Evans

We called him brother, elder brother.
Gentle John.
War hero, killer,
He had been dropped behind enemy lines.
Prisoner of his own experience,
Suffering the nightmare-days.
Priest-like, he wore sandals,
But no cassock.
His manner was warm
As he gentled us into Bedlam.
We called him brother, elder brother,
Brother John.

The Silent Sleepers

By Reuby Hyams

Asleep for ever,
Silently they lie,
Alone but never lonely
'Neath a foreign sky.
Their future spent,
A price willingly paid.
Through them we live,
Walking free and unafraid.
Freedom is theirs,
Entrusted to our hands,
With us for ever,
Though they lie in foreign lands.
So proudly stand,
And humble homage pay,
Remembering for ever,
Not only just today.
Let banner dip
And solemn trumpets ring,
Honouring our comrades,
Who gave their everything.

East Finchley Baptist Church

Just off the High Road in Creighton Avenue N2

Sunday Mornings at 10.30 am

For more information
please contact the Church Office
Tel: 8883 1544 (Minister: Simon Dyke)

Visitors always welcome

● photography ● calligraphy ● ceramics ● quilting ● collage ● video ● glass ●



east
finchley
open

EFO ART FAIR 2008

The EFO are holding the fifth Art Fair @ Martin Junior School

Stallholders will include EFO Members and others from around the area, selling a wide variety of art and craft work

The Prize Draw will once again offer the chance to win art works by local artists (proceeds to Contact)

There will be food and drink available at the Arts Café (proceeds to Martin School)

Sunday 16th November
10.30am to 4.30pm

Martin Junior School
High Road, East Finchley N2 9JP
off Plane Tree Walk - parking available

www.eastfinchleyopen.org.uk

Bring this ad for a free cup of tea/coffee from Arts Café



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