



## Recent & Past Events

### Visit to the National Arboretum 4<sup>th</sup> June 2015 by Richard Nettleton

On Thursday the 4th of June, the planned Association trip to the National Arboretum went rather well, good weather prevailed the entire two days of the visit, and whilst those involved travelled separately, some appeared to be beamed there via some form of Star Trek teleporter, others decided to take the slower scenic route meandering through the countryside and thus arriving just in time for the evening meal. Here we were met by Frank and Joan, who recently emigrated away from the shores of East Anglia to the suburbs of Nottinghamshire; it was a delight to catch up with them once again. The Hotel proved more than adequate for our needs, the beds were comfortable, the rooms quiet, and it also had free parking, which wasn't the case in a similar hotel a little further down the road, which some of our members mistakenly visited. The following day, after a hearty breakfast at the establishment next door, we all piled into our neatly parked vehicles along the kerbside in good old army fashion and set off in convoy, only to find the Coldstream satellite navigator in the lead vehicle had missed the turning and the driver was forced to ask directions of a friendly native.



Clearly there was a conspiracy afoot said a Coldstream Guards spokesman, as it has since been discovered that the woman who's voice is used on Pinkie's Sat Nav's, great great grandfather knew a Grenadier, also 'Specsavers' came to mind at the same time as large signs were strategically placed along the correct route.



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On arrival, Don, who'd already beamed himself there at super warp speed, arranged the parking, then led us off through the entrance and on towards the Plaque our Association had some months earlier, placed by 'our adopted tree'. This was followed by a round of photograph taking, then the short walk to the Household Division



Memorial, where Don laid a wreath on behalf of our Association, the Collects for each Guards Regiment were read in turn by members in remembrance of the fallen, and



those now no longer with us. We then made our way back along the trail and laid a second wreath at the impressive Airborne Memorial, which had a special connection with our Chairman Bob. One member was rather pleased to find the name of the person he joined the army with back in 1961 engraved on one of the vast walls of the centre memorial,

and took several photo's to show this person's sister, who lives in Sproughton.

We were then free to wander around the site, or make our way to the cafeteria and shops. However, as the site had so much to see, it was impossible to do too much in the time we had before departing and heading for home. All in all this was another, 'Grand Day Out' as Wallace and Gromit would say, and although no one stumbled across any cheese mountains, we would thoroughly recommend a second visit, hopefully with more of the Association involved.

