



**Service of DEDICATION & UNVEILING  
of the**

**ARMY  
APPRENTICE  
NATIONAL  
MEMORIAL**

**at**

**the NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM**

**Alrewas, Staffordshire.**

**on**

**Wednesday 7th September, 2011**

**11.00 am**



## Order of Service

**Lone Piper** Eric Luckman (Carlisle)

**Welcome address** Major David C. Chapman (Chepstow)  
Chairman of the AANM Trustees

**Prayer of Thanksgiving** The Rev Canon Bev John (Arborfield)

**A Reading** Major Gordon G. Bonner (Arborfield)  
Ecclesiastes, Chapter 44, Verse 9

*"And some there are, which have no memorial... and are become as though they had never been born...But these are merciful men, whose righteousness hath not been forgotten..... Their seed shall remain forever, and their glory shall not be blotted out. Their bodies are buried in peace; but their name liveth for evermore".*

**"Last Post"** Standards lowered Bugler

**Two minutes silence**

**"Reveille"** Standards raised Bugler

**Hymn** The Rev Garry Kelly (Carlisle)  
*Soldiers of Christ Arise*  
(Words on loose fly sheet)

**Memorial Poem** The Rev Canon Bev John  
by Tony Church (Arborfield)

*They will always be here, laughing, young and full of fun,  
With all their pals around them, true friends every one.  
The things we've done together, bind us closer still,  
Friendships from our youth endure, and they always will.*

*But when country called, some paid the highest price,  
Let this memorial stand proud to honour their sacrifice.  
Remembered in this haven, far from the sounds of war,  
They are foremost in our hearts, companions evermore.*



# **REMEMBER with pride**

## **The ARMY APPRENTICE**

The memorial is dedicated to the memory of all British Army apprentices and has been funded by donations from ex-apprentices or their families, as well as by a number of local councils and regimental associations.

The project to erect an Army Apprentice national memorial, was initiated in 2009, by four old boys' associations of the former army apprentice schools of Chepstow, Arborfield, Harrogate and Carlisle. It was recognized as a registered charity in 2010.

The early formal Army Apprentice Scheme, which ran from 1923 to 2004, trained more than 70,000 soldier tradesmen for the technical corps of the British Army. Boys aged 14 to 17 were recruited to follow recognized apprenticeships at Army Apprentice Schools / Colleges before passing out to serve in the Regular Army. Later as soldiers, NCOs and officers, these men and later, women, formed a nucleus of military and trade skills of their various corps.

These included the Corps of the **RA, RE, RAOC, RAMC, RAC, R Sigs, RASC, REME, ACC, RAPC, RADC, RCT, & RLC**. Their value to the British Army was considerable. Most went on postings and attachments to every regiment and support unit of the British Army, in every theatre, in peace and war. A number distinguished themselves by reaching the rank of Major General.

Army Apprentice training was conducted at various locations during the period 1923 to 2004. These included Aldershot, Arborfield, Ashvale, Bramley, Carlisle, Catterick, Chatham, Chepstow, Church Crookham, Deepcut, Harrogate, Hilsea, Jersey, Taunton, Woolwich and Worthy Down.

The AAS Queen's Crown cap badge shown on the front of this programme was unique to apprentices serving at the locations of Chepstow, Arborfield, Harrogate and for a shorter period, Carlisle, between the years of 1952 and 1966, after which the Corps took over apprentice training. Some of the entrants who joined between 1964 to 1966 continued to wear the AAS badge until they passed out in following years.

The Army Apprentice National Memorial Charity (Registered No:1137924) was founded in 2010 by the Beachley Old Boys' Association, the Arborfield Old Boys' Association, the Association of Harrogate Apprentices and the Hadrians Old Boys' Association.

The Trustees, whose joint endeavour made this memorial possible, are Major D. C. Chapman, Mr C. Weir, (Chepstow), Major G. Bonner, Major M. Davis MBE, Mr K. Thrower, Mr M. Warwick, Mr M. Hope, (Arborfield), Mr J. McGahan, (Harrogate) and Mr D. Cooper (Carlisle).

**[www.armyapprenticememorial.org.uk](http://www.armyapprenticememorial.org.uk)**

# Hymn sheet

## First Hymn

Soldiers of Christ arise,  
and put your armour on,  
strong in the strength which God supplies  
thru his eternal son;  
strong in the Lord of Hosts,  
and in his mighty power,  
who in the strength of Jesus trusts  
is more than conqueror.

Stand then in his great might,  
with all his strength endued,  
but take to arm you for the fight  
the panoply of God;  
that having all things done,  
and all your conflicts passed,  
ye may o'ercome thru Christ alone  
and stand entire at last.

From strength to strength go on,  
wrestle and fight and pray,  
tread all the powers of darkness down  
and win the well fought day.  
'Still let the spirit cry  
in all his soldiers, "Come!"  
till Christ the Lord, descends from high  
and takes the conquerors home.

## Second Hymn

I vow to thee my country, all earthly things above,  
Entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love;  
The love that asks no questions, the love that stands the test,  
That lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;  
The love that never falters, the love that pays the price,  
The love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

I heard my country calling, away across the sea,  
Across the wastes of waters she calls and calls to me.  
Her sword is girded at her side, her helmet on her head,  
And around her feet are lying the dying and the dead.  
I hear the noise of battle, the thunder of her guns,  
I haste to thee my mother, a son among thy sons.

And there's another country, I've heard of long ago,  
Most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know;  
We may not count her armies, we may not see her King;  
Her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;  
And soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase,  
And her ways are ways of gentleness, and all her paths are peace.



## The Memorial

It stands in the shade of a green woodland glade, tranquil, restful, a place of reflection;  
While a stream running near, nature's melody, clear, is a setting for quiet recollection.

And here, at its heart, the stonemason's art commemorates boyhood ambition,  
To enlist, train and learn, and then, having earned their place, follow their chosen vocation.

This circle of stone tells of 'Boy's Schools', now flown into history's yellowing pages,  
Of young boys' transitions to skilful technicians, through eras of momentous changes.

Yet a building alone, whether timber or stone, was just an inanimate part  
Of a fine learning place; the real soul was embraced by the youngsters who gave it that heart.

The names inscribed here total many long years of staunch service, in conflict and peace,  
And with pride represents the thousands who went and forsook lives of comfort and ease.

But their deeds and careers over many long years bear a testimony of great truth,  
That when they were trained, the military gained the finest examples of youth.

And those old boys, now gone, will forever live on in this cloistered and quiet sanctuary,  
Though some that remain will return yet again, and remember times when all was very

Exciting and new on life's threshold, imbued with eager, supreme expectation,  
Lifelong friendships were made, never fated to fade, rooted firm in that youthful foundation.

So, pause as you pass this place, sit, read each name that's chased into the stonework laid here.

Each one could tell stories of ordeals and glories that stem from a soldier's career,

But in the beginning, ere the losing and winning that all in a martial life know,

That solid direction was laid by instruction in how to live life and to grow

Into maturity, learn of truth, loyalty, and, above all, of honour, fair play.

Lessons which then turned those boys into men, to whom there's a debt we can never repay.