

# Orange Widows Fund visit to the Boyne

Sixty members and friends of the COB Loyal Orange Widows Fund gathered recently for their first ever day trip. In the comfort of a luxury double decker the group made their way to Drogheda where they were to meet with local historian and former Mayor of Drogheda, Sean Collins, who was to be their guide for the day.

First stop on the itinerary was the council offices at which the group were given a very warm welcome by the current Mayor, Cllr. Michael O'Dowd. The group were then shown the ceremonial town mace presented to the borough by King William 3rd to signify the council were acting with his authority.

Next stop was the Battle of the Boyne Visitor Centre at Oldbridge and a conducted tour of the exhibition, following which Sean Collins took those visitors who were

brave on a walking tour of the battlefield on the Jacobite side of the river close to the site of King William's victorious crossing.

The trip was somewhat tinged with sadness as in the lead up the trip the fund suffered a great loss in the sudden death of Jack Thompson, secretary to the Fund. Following the battlefield tour the group held a short memorial service, with Stephen McAllister speaking of the deep personal friendship between Jack, himself and the Fund chairman. At the conclusion of the service Jack's daughter, son and granddaughter joined the group and scattered poppy leaves into the Boyne water in Jack's memory.

Following an excellent evening meal the group returned, extending special thanks to those who sponsored the event.



## The end of an era

September 20th saw significant changes in the role played by RAF Aldergrove as it moves from a fixed wing aircraft base to providing a new home for a fleet of helicopters. Taking part in the ceremony was Acting Sergeant Hayton who was responsible for the lowering of the RAF flag for the last time. Married to local girl Anne he has clocked up an impressive 21 and a half years service that included stints in Falklands and a tour in Basra.



Acting Sergeant Hayton with Rev I Paisley.



## FOLD Housing Association

ADVERTORIAL



FOLD Housing Association currently have apartments available for the over 55's in two of our North Belfast sheltered schemes: Forthriver Fold and Springvale Fold.

FOLD has organised Open Days at both schemes to give you the opportunity to visit the schemes to see what they have to offer.

On 22nd OCTOBER 2009 there will be an Open Day at Forthriver Fold, Forthriver Way, Belfast, BT13 3SP between 10am and 4pm.

On 23rd OCTOBER 2009 there will be an Open Day at Springvale Fold, Springfield Gardens, Belfast, BT14 8BH between 10am and 4pm.

Each scheme is conveniently located near

local amenities. Both schemes have communal areas, where residents can meet to socialise and participate in organised activities, if they wish. Activities range from weekly Lunch Clubs to organized Day Trips.

Sheltered Accommodation provides safe and secure independent living. Residents have their own apartment providing them with their own front door, kitchen, living room, bedroom and bathroom; all for excellent value for money.

All of FOLD's Apartments for Older People have the TeleCare emergency service provided, so should a resident require assistance they can access our 24 hour response centre who will take the appropriate action required and provide reassurance. Both Forthriver Fold and Springvale Fold have Scheme Coordinators who live on site and can provide assistance to their residents.

FOLD is accredited with the Centre for Sheltered Housing Studies (CSHS) Code of Practice quality standard for all our Apartment Living for Older People schemes.

If you would like to find out more on FOLD's Apartment Living please do not hesitate to contact FOLD Housing Association TEL: 02890 428314, or come to one of our open days, where we will be able to talk through all of your options.



Apartment Living for the Older Person

Fold Housing Association is holding two open days, allowing you to view our available apartments in your area

OPEN DAYS

Forthriver Fold - 22nd October

Springvale Fold - 23rd October

Between 10am and 4pm

For more information phone 028 9042 8314

## BB Bus Destroyed In Arson Attack

On Thursday evening 17th September 2009, the 2nd Belfast Boys' Brigade Company parked up their mini-bus for the night at Glenside Drive beside Ballysillan Presbyterian Church. The bus has been parked here for over 6 years without so much as a wing mirror being damaged.

At around 11.20pm someone smashed the side window of the bus and poured petrol or some other flammable material into the vehicle and set it alight. Within minutes the bus was burning and once the fire had been put out by the Fire and Rescue Service, it was clear to see that the inside of the vehicle was completely gutted. There were a number of other vehicles set on fire the same night in the Crumlin Road area in protest at jail sentences handed down to 3 Lurgan men charged with terrorist offences and it is believed the BB bus was targeted and deliberately set on fire.

This bus was a lifeline to both 2nd Belfast Boys'

Brigade Company and 276th Girls' Brigade Company. Police are treating the incident as arson and their investigations are ongoing.

The loss of the mini-bus has dealt a severe blow to the work of 2nd Belfast Boys' Brigade Company in particular. The bus was used to transport boys to and from the youth centre at Conway Street and to various venues for activities such as 10 pin bowling, ice-skating, summer camps and Saturday football. As the bus was 13 years old, early indications are that the BB company will receive a few hundred pounds compensation and are asking for help to raise the £10,000 needed to buy a second hand mini-bus that is in good condition.

If you would like to help, then please send your donations/gifts to 2nd Belfast Boys' Brigade c/o 4 Ballysillan Road, Belfast, BT14 7QP.

Each donation/gift will be acknowledged by the BB Company.



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