

# SIXTH SENSE

THE BRITISH FORCE

## 1 MWD Regt face woof ground during joint exercise



REGULAR and Reserve soldiers from 1st Military Working Dog Regiment join forces on the Sennelager Training Area for a challenging two-week exercise. Full story, page 3.

Photo: Dominic King Army Press Office (G)

● Nose in front: Pte Natasha Faulkner with her military working dog called En

**Guy Fawkes events near you - p28**

**Oral cancer: signs to look out for - p26**



**Clocks go back this Sunday!**

# FIX MY DAY TRIPPER!



● Ticket to ride: Beatles fan Simon Mitchell and his rare Magical Mystery Tour coach

## Expat with broken 'magical' Beatles bus hopes to work it out with a little help from the BFG community

**BEATLES fan Simon Mitchell needs HELP getting his original 1960s Magical Mystery Tour coach back on the road in Germany.**

He desperately hopes a mechanic will donate their free time

by Phil Welsh

to making the vehicle mechanically sound in time for the 50th anniversary of the Fab Four's TV film next year.

### **CHARITABLE**

Former BFG worker Simon purchased the 1967/1968 Bedford on

eBay more than two years ago, and since then, he and his wife Petra have spent their spare time and money restoring it.

Once returned to top condition, the coach will be used for charitable purposes, such as giving children with cancer a treat, but it will also be available to hire for special functions.

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News in brief

Remembrance Sunday 2016

ON SUNDAY, November 13, the National Service of Remembrance will be held at the Cenotaph on Whitehall, London.

Starting at 11am, the service will commemorate the contribution of British and Commonwealth military and civilian Servicemen and women involved in the two World Wars and later conflicts.

The Department for Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) is the coordinators of the event, alongside colleagues from across Government, the Armed Forces and veterans' organisations.

No tickets or passes are needed for the event and the public are welcome to watch the ceremony from the pavements along Whitehall and Parliament Street.

There will be video screens north of the Cenotaph, near the green outside the main MoD building and mounted outside the Scotland Office.

At 8am, Whitehall opens to the public. The public are advised to arrive early to secure a good view, as space is limited. Allow time to clear the police security procedures and you are advised not to bring suitcases or large bags.

Runrig tickets winning trio

THREE lucky Sixth Sense readers have each won a pair of tickets to see Scottish Celtic rock band Runrig in Bielefeld on October 28.

They are: Scott McCurdie, 2 Fd Coy, BFPO 39; Steve Jones, TSU BFPO 39; and Anna Dunshire, Bielefeld.

The cult band, which was formed in 1973 and has released 14 studio albums, will be performing at the town's Stadthalle starting at 8pm.

Tickets are still available from www.karten-online.de

The Queen is looking for a new cleaner

A ROYAL cleaner is being sought to care for Her Majesty's "historic vases and irreplaceable paintings" within her official Scottish residence.

The £8,580-a-year job at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh involves 20-hours over a five-day week.

An advert on the Royal website describes the post as "admiring a spotless room before thousands do the same".

Spreading bad news

JUST when you thought 2016 couldn't get any worse, there's bleak news for Nutella fans.

The chocolate delight is shooting up in price after a poor hazelnut harvest, the Mirror reports - with some shoppers already paying up to 25 per cent more.

It is the result of a poor hazelnut harvest in Turkey, the paper claims.

HELP MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR BUS GET BACK TO ITS FORMER GLORY

'We can't seem to find a mechanic who is familiar with these old Bedford coaches' says owner Simon

Continued from front page

The father of two became fascinated with the 1967 Beatles TV film after playing a small part in it as a seven-year-old child actor.

It led him to amass MMT memorabilia worth at least €100,000 - with the blue and yellow coach as the showpiece of his collection.

Simon, who splits his time between Hessisch Oldendorf, where he lives, and Bonn, where he works, said: "When I purchased the coach in January 2014, it had just passed its MoT and was supposedly in great shape for its age.

"But when I began to strip it down, I saw rust as far as the eye could see and a lot of rotting wood. The floor was so rotten beneath the driver's seat that I was surprised it hadn't gone through it.

"My wife and I learned how to weld just to replace much of the boot, heater channel and framework. And then we dealt with the wooden floorboard."

REBUILT

The 56-year-old former German Guard Service (GGS) worker, who paid more than €10,000 for the vehicle and transportation to Germany from the UK, has rebuilt the engine and now it runs better than ever. The Bedford is currently stored in a barn near Hameln and is up for a new paint job next.

"The restoration is about 50 per cent complete, but one thing we can't do ourselves is fix the worn out steering and the leaking brakes. We can't seem to find a mechanic in Germany who is familiar with these old Bedford coaches," said Simon.



Not quite ready for the long and winding road: Simon Mitchell with his fabulous Magical Mystery Tour bus which has received great media interest since it arrived in Germany

Only two Bedford VAL Panorama coaches with the famous livery and fittings were made by Fox of Hayes - one in 1967 and another in 1968 - with the former being used in the controversial psychedelic film.

The latter bus has a long history that includes being used for sightseeing tours in Liverpool.

And although he thought he was buying the sister bus from its previous owner in Scotland, Simon believes he may be in possession of the original one used by the Beatles.

"Having dismantled the coach, I keep finding things that suggest this could be the actual one used in the film, but I have no definite evidence yet," he said.

"Due to the many changes made to the coach over its life, it is hard to know what year it was made in. It really is a mystery project!

"A Dutch company came to film it and was convinced that it was the original because of how closely it resembles the one in the film. A few weeks ago a German film crew was here.

There's so much interest in the coach."

ROADWORTHY

Simon has received much support for his project from the Beatles Stammtisch in Hannover, of which he is a long-time member.

The fan club plans to mark in big style the half century since the film first hit TV screens, on Boxing Day 1967.

To join in the celebratory fun, Simon is desperate to have his coach made roadworthy. But there are still a lot of repairs to carry out and he has lost valuable time.

'The restoration is about 50 per cent complete, but one thing we can't do ourselves is fix the worn out steering and the leaking brakes'



You've got to hide your coach away: The barn near Hameln where the coach is being stored



Fix me do: The MMT coach's steering is worn out and the brakes are leaking



Beatles member Paul McCartney sitting on the dashboard of the MMT coach in its heyday

He said: "The coach was first housed in a building with no electricity and little space to work on it, so we had to find another storage facility - but that took a year.

"In the meantime, people have wanted to book the coach for all kinds of events but I have had to turn them away.

"I purchased the coach with the main aim of collecting donations to give to cancer funds, so I really want to see the Bedford finished and fully running - and looking just like it did in 1967.

"I will never give up. This project means too much to me."

● If you think you can help Simon with repairing the MMT coach, he can be contacted at bugman@t-online.de; or for more information about the bus visit his website: www.magical-mystery-tour-bus.de

MILITARY DOG SQUADRONS JOIN FORCES FOR TRAINING EXERCISE

by David Allen Army Press Office (G) Photos by Dominic King

102 SQUADRON 1st Military Working Dogs Regiment (1MWD Regt) deployed to the Sennelager training area for a two-week exercise designed to test soldiers' military skills and provide them with an opportunity to work closely with their dogs in the field.

Having been thoroughly tested on their own ability to conduct patrols, understand tactics and section attacks the soldiers' attention next turned to developing their relationships and ensuring their canine care techniques were up to speed - the furious wagging of the tails and accompanying barks of approval was evidence enough that these skills were being met - before they began a series of training patrols with their dogs in both rural and urban environments.

Pte Natasha Faulkner, 18, who has only been with the regiment for a few months, said that spending time with her dog, En, was really good.

"As part of our training we complete a dog handling course but being on exercise is giving me quality time with En and allowing us to get used to each other.

"The exercise has been challenging but beneficial; I am learning new skills all the time, practising our protection role together and learning more about En's personality."

TOGETHER

The second week saw 11 soldiers from 101 Squadron, the reserve squadron of 1MWD Regt and one of the Army's newest reserve elements, join the exercise.

During this phase of the exercise both squadrons worked together to plan and carry out a section attack at dawn on heavily defended compounds where they also completed explosive, IED and vehicles searches.

Ex-regular Pte Daniel Cunningham who joined the squadron a year ago, said: "After a couple of years out I realised I missed aspects of military life so when I heard about the launch of the squadron and it was near to home it was a no-brainer really."

Of the exercise itself Daniel added: "Its enjoyable and tiring but worthwhile, the infantry skills are coming back to me but its really the opportunity of getting hands-on with the dogs which is the best bit. I am duel handling with Harry a protection



A soldier and his four-legged colleague during the challenging exercise

dog and it's a great buzz when he starts reacting and bonding with you. It is difficult because we only have a short time with the dogs but you get a real sense of achievement when it all comes together."

UNIQUE

Speaking about the attraction of the 1MWD Regt, Lt Col Stephen Foreman said: "Why would you not want to work with animals, you get to do all the Army elements in an unique and interesting area in a number of different roles - dog handlers, veterinary technicians and veterinary officers.

"It is a niche capability that deploys both our regular and Reserve soldiers to all areas of the world on different operations and exercises providing security and safety."



Reserve and regular Military Working Dog squadrons on exercise together at the Sennelager Training Area