

Whispering Smith

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Remember servicemen and women

WRITTEN BY
CHRIS ADAM SMITH



After a long walk along the coast from LA, I walked into a small village pub and ordered a pint. The old man at the end of the bar nodded and, unprompted, told me he was 95 and had lived there all of his life. Told me he had spent five years away in the Army in the Second World War, much of it in Burma, and, upon his return and knowing that his mother had died while he was away, walked up the street to where he met his father, who was on his way to Chichester and told him that the house was empty. Some homecoming that was, he told me, and when it hit him, he said, sadly, that he "was very upset". Some understatement! Do we ever stop to think enough about what the men and women we send to fight our wars go through? I think not and this month is a good time to think about just that. Remember, our people are still fighting and dying in outlandish parts of the world at this very moment, and although I expect many of them, like me, wonder what the hell they are doing there, they do their duty regardless. See you at the LA war memorial on November 11.

Thank goodness, though, that life is not all doom and gloom. Last weekend my daughter ran the London Run to the Beat half marathon. So what? So did 18,000 other people. Ah, but they were not Harriet. She is not sporty, she does not even walk fast and is usually about as mobile as a door-stop. Her favoured position when not at work is on the sofa with her iPad, or iPhone, exercising her thumbs. She gave up cigarettes, red wine, and chips, and ran through her pain every evening for three months. On that Sunday she came down the final straight like a breeze, smiling and waving to me as she crossed the finish line looking like she had a lot more run in her yet. She was pumped and the charity she was running for in memory of her late mum was nearly £600 better off. Incredible what one can do if one really wants to, I couldn't have been more proud of her!

Dando delivers lifeline of precious water to Darfur

Company's proud history began with fight against disease in Littlehampton

By **ROGER GREEN**
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People living in one of the world's poorest countries now have a better chance of survival thanks to the engineering expertise of a Littlehampton company and its factory at Ford.

Dando Drilling International, which traces its beginnings back to a cholera epidemic in Littlehampton almost a century and a half ago, is still helping to defeat disease in the 21st century in developing countries.

One of West Sussex's longest-established manufacturing companies, Dando has provided three of its world-renowned drilling rigs being used for a special United Nations project in Darfur, Sudan.

The 24-tonne water well drilling rigs were shipped out to the UN body earlier this year and have now been commissioned by Dando engineers Steve Goulding and Stan Kirby.

Less than half of Darfur's population has access to fresh, clean water and the UN is confident that the wells created by the rigs will transform the lives of thousands of people.

One of the Dando Watertec 24 rigs has already drilled a 236-metre deep borehole in Gereida, which is expected to produce more than 16,000 litres of water.

Similar water wells have also been drilled in El Fasher and El Daein. This new supply of water will be shared by the local Dar-



Water flows from a new well sunk by one of the three Dando drilling rigs now in use by a United Nations organisation working in Darfur, Sudan.

furis and the UN mission, which has drilled its very first water well using its own equipment and crew.

A company spokesman said: "Dando is proud to have been named the supplier of choice for this project and its drilling rigs will allow Darfur communities to be more self-sufficient with their water supply."

The supply of the three rigs continues Dando's record of more than 80 years of providing equipment to Sudan. Customers during this time have included the Sudanese government, UN agencies, and

charities and private drilling contractors.

In 1930, Dando supplied ferry pumps to a client in Darfur which were still in operation as late as the 1980s and could very well be functioning today.

A further Watertec 40 drilling rigs have been despatched by Dando to Nigeria and they, too, will soon be commissioned in the field, ready to start their life-changing work.

The company also supplies drilling equipment for the mining industry in Africa, but its roots are very much in the vital search for clean water.

"Dando is proud to have been named supplier of choice for this project" - Dando spokesman

The UN is confident that the wells created by the rigs will transform thousands of lives

Taking its name from two entrepreneurial Littlehampton families of the 19th century, Duke and Ockenden, the title was shortened to D and O, to make the snappier-sounding Dando.

It sank its first tube well in Littlehampton in 1867 when the town was hit by an outbreak of cholera.

Within a year Dando had drilled its first well overseas, in Abyssinia, and over the next half-century expanded rapidly worldwide. Today it concentrates on manufacturing industry-leading rigs.

Family's Hallowe'en scare leads to festive candle bags warning

Hallowe'en began with a frightening experience for an Angmering family when a candle bag left on a bedroom window sill started a fire.

A fire crew from Littlehampton arrived at the terraced house in Parsons Close minutes after being called out at 5.17pm on Wednesday.

The occupier, a woman in her 30s, had left the Hallowe'en-themed candle bag burning while she was out of the house briefly to pick up her daughter. The neighbour spotted smoke in the upstairs window and dialled 999.

Firefighters discovered, on entering the house, that the fire, which was contained to the blind and window sill, had

burned itself out.

Candle bags are made from flame-retardant paper and, when a tea light is placed inside, it creates lighting effects for both indoors and outdoors. They are becoming increasingly popular for special occasions such as Hallowe'en, Christmas, birthdays and weddings.

Littlehampton fire station watch manager Ian Paine said: "Thankfully, the fire was contained to the window area and didn't spread, but this could have been a serious incident."

"It appears that the occupier used more than the recommended number of tea lights to create a really bright decorative effect. The excess heat they created caused the window sill and

blind to begin to melt.

"To my knowledge, this is the first time we've been called to an incident specifically involving a candle bag. However, like any product that involves a naked flame, it's vital that the manufacturer's instructions are followed very carefully."

"We would also stress how important it is to keep these kind of products out of draughts and away from curtains and other flammable materials."

Ian urged everyone to make sure they have working smoke alarms in their home and to test them regularly—the best way to protect against fire. For information on free home fire safety checks, call 01243 642879.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Arise and shine at breakfast meeting

Sharon Eason is the speaker at the next Arise breakfast meeting for women, at the Wickbourne Centre, Clun Road, Littlehampton, on Saturday at 8.45am. Her subject will be "God's Girls". For tickets, price £5, call 01903 782744.



Sharon Eason

Poppy Bazaar for Legion

East Preston and Kingston Royal British Legion women's section is holding its annual Poppy Bazaar in the Conservative Hall, Sea Road, East Preston, from 10am-noon on Saturday, with stalls including cakes, a tombola and raffle.

The 50p admission includes coffee and biscuits and all proceeds will go to the Legion's Poppy Appeal