

Editorial December 2006.

Once again, the Society exhibition at *Firepower* in August was a success. Lectures were presented on both days by Zulu War author and broadcaster Ian Knight, battlefield guide Rob Caskie (Fugitives' Drift) and Society member Mark Maplesden – who made his debut as a guest speaker. Mark chose as his subject 'The role of the guns at Isandlwana' and Mark was delighted to be complimented following his first lecture by a retired general from the RA. All three lecturers were judged to have been outstanding by their respective capacity audiences.

Members may be aware of a new Web site that focuses on Zulu War book reviews. It can be found at www.azwrs.com and the site reviews many books on the subject from the last 15 years. The whole site is now open to visitors – which includes a virtual museum. It is hoped that Society members will soon be able to gain free access to the site; I am still negotiating with the AZWRS for this service.

Members will remember that David Payne and I recently discovered the previously unseen diaries of Colonel Harford CB. He was better known as 'the beetle collector' and, as a young officer, he first came to everyone's notice for leading the first attack of the Zulu War at Sihayo's stronghold. He later took charge of King Cetshwayo following his capture. The nine diaries are in remarkable condition and throw many interesting new aspects into the arena. We propose to transcribe this material over the next year and intend making it available to members in due course. We have now received a number of wonderful artefacts collected by Col. Harford during his military service – these include some extremely rare pieces 'collected' by Col. Harford at the time of the capture of King Cetshwayo. These pieces, all carefully collated in his diaries, will certainly be displayed at our next exhibition – venue and date to be decided.

I have just returned from Rorke's Drift where the Society accountant and I finalized the setting up of the new Zulu village there. A full report is featured further into this edition. I am still actively collecting donations, so, if you have not yet contributed, now is the time to assist this worthwhile project to bring meaningful work opportunities to this isolated community. Subscriptions for the huts have now closed but I still urgently need funds for the other various aspects of the project, including the purchase of Nguni cattle and equipment and training for the dancers.

Finally, new for Christmas..... The two volumes of the *Who's Who in the Zulu War* will be available shortly. Members will have received priority application forms for the boxed set by post.

With best wishes,

Adrian Greaves

Dr Adrian Greaves
Journal Editor.

The cover picture, courtesy Ian Knight, is of the new Blue Plaque in London. See the article by Ian Knight.