

Editorial December 2011.

The last six months have continued to be busy; the Society has hosted a number of lectures and I attended the weekend event run by the Zulu War Research Society, with whom we have a strong link. This event was attended by some 40 enthusiasts, including one who came especially from the USA.

The weekend commenced with a trip to visit Zulu War graves and memorials around Kent and finished at Pluckley Church, where the 24th Regiment commenced life as the Dering Militia. The evening commenced with seeing a display of rare Zulu War artefacts, many from King Cetshwayo and his wives – and a sizeable collection of medals. The evening's main event was a fine lecture by Ian Knight on the battle of Isandlwana. The following day the group assembled at one of Kent's most famous Indian restaurants where I gave a lecture on the subject of 'Zulu War artefacts and their role in the writing of history'. This was the same lecture I gave to the International Guild of Battlefield Guides at their AGM in London. The lecture was followed by a fine curry lunch and then informal discussions on the subject of the Zulu War.

Membership of the Society continues to grow and the Society is regularly used by the international media seeking advice, and by schools and colleges for primary source material.

I was interested to see that the film 'Zulu' is still being regularly shown on television and a lively discussion followed its recent showing with comment in the *Daily Telegraph* about Welshmen at Rorke's Drift. This sparked a response in that newspaper's *Letters to the Editor* page balancing the myth with the facts. This just shows what a powerful image film is, and how difficult it is to counter a myth.

Although tourism to the Zulu battlefields has been seriously affected by the international financial climate, the Society Zulu Village at Rorke's Drift continues to thrive, largely due to the new Rorke's Drift Hotel nearby.

I wish all members well,

Adrian Greaves

Dr Adrian Greaves
Journal Editor.