



Friends of The
FUSILIERS MUSEUM
 OF
NORTHUMBERLAND

2016-2017

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Museum HLF Development Update

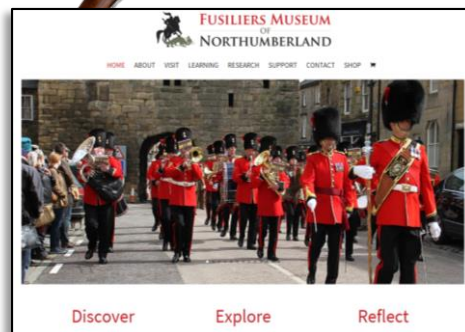
His Grace the Duke of Northumberland formally reopened the museum on 24th of June 2016, the Anniversary of the Battle of Wilhelmstahl (1762), at a Reception to celebrate completion of the new displays on the two upper floors and to thank our funders and everyone who worked on the project.

The first phase of the redevelopment was a special centenary exhibition commemorating the role of the Northumberland Fusiliers in the First World War. It was presented on the ground floor for three seasons from 2014.

“The Fusiliers museum is excellent and makes you proud” eldorado2015, Tripadvisor, summer 2015

The final phase is now complete, retelling the Regiment’s 350 year history with themes representing the everyday life of a soldier over three floors of new displays.

We wish to thank the Heritage Lottery Fund, local trusts and the museum’s friends and benefactors. We’re delighted with the success of the displays, and feed-back from visitors has been excellent.



Upstairs, Downstairs

A special virtual tour of the museum's three floors has increased the accessibility of the displays for everyone.

Filmed by InfoAktiv, the tour allows visitors who are unable to manage the stairs to visit the upper floors at the touch of a screen. Touching one of the virtual tour's 15 'hot spots' brings up a rotating image of the selected object together with information about it.

“An excellent museum, my wife was fascinated” Visitor survey comment, June 2017

Aden remembered

2017 marks the 50th Anniversary of the Aden Mutiny.

“Incident on Temple Cliffs” by Terence Cuneo depicts the actions of Fusilier John Duffy who was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for rescuing the pilot of a helicopter shot down in Aden, 1967.

Thanks to grants from the Army Museums Ogilby Trust and Samares Investments, this and all the paintings in the new displays have undergone conservation by conservator Susan Veitch.

Website update

Please visit our updated website from September 2017 www.northumberlandfusiliers.org.uk



“Pupils enjoyed the trench dug-out. They were interested to see what life was like for a WW1 soldier. They really learnt a lot...from the quiz trail.” Byker Primary School Teacher, summer 2016

Teaching Resources

Sam Levy, the Activities Officer, and volunteers have developed an extensive education programme.

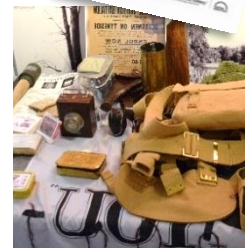
The programme supports the planning and delivery of educational resources to schools and other groups providing a legacy to engage children long after the Heritage Lottery funded project ends. A ‘Timeline Treasure Trove’ box is available for hire by schools and community groups.

“We loved it! Ruby dressed up as a nurse and I was a soldier.” Evan, Ruby, Mam and Dad, Visitors book, summer 2016

Activity Leaders

The Museum’s Activity Officer is working closely with volunteers to develop resources for museum trails and the handling collection.

Volunteer Activity Leaders Dave, Chris and Steve have been fascinating visitors of all ages with their enthusiasm and knowledge about the objects they are presenting. Visitors really enjoy the opportunity to handle objects and discuss them with the team. Feedback has been really positive and reflects the dedication of the volunteers. We are extremely grateful to them, and other members of the team who have helped at outside events.



Interactive elements such as lift the flap displays, dressing up in Fusilier uniforms and headwear, new quiz trails, the colouring and drawing table and handling collection sessions are all popular with families.



Foster Collection

Patricia Brown accompanied by her husband and daughter, came to see the medals which had been collected by her late father, Colonel Kingsley Foster, and her Grandfather, Lieutenant Colonel Osbern Foster.

Kingsley Foster and his father, both Fifth Fusiliers, were enthusiastic and knowledgeable medal collectors. The Foster Medal Collection was presented to the museum in 1952 by Patricia's Grandfather, Colonel Osbern Foster as a memorial to his son. Kingsley Foster was killed in action while commanding 1st Battalion Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, at the Battle of the Imjin, Korea, 25th April 1951.

A project to clean the medals involved staff and volunteers under the supervision of conservator Karen Barker of the Conservation Area Network, which is funded by Arts Council England. The medals were then re-displayed in a new purpose-built case.

Volunteers Dave and Tim have produced a Foster Collection guide book for visitors' use. The guide contains colour photographs of the medals for identification and a key to their recipients. They are now working towards the second part of the guide which will inform visitors about what the medals were awarded for.



Patricia Brown and the Foster Collection



Volunteers and staff clean the Foster medals, above and below



Clare Brittain and Volunteers at The Rothbury Trenches, July 2017



18th Battalion, Rothbury Trenches, 1917

Visitors

The museum was pleased to welcome 84, 312 visitors in the 2016 season.

Rothbury Trenches

Administrative Assistant Clare Brittain answered the call of the Woodhorn Museum and Northumberland Archives by researching and supplying images from our collection of Northumberland Fusiliers in practice trenches at Rothbury in Northumberland.

Woodhorn's project was to bring to life the forgotten trenches which had been dug and used by soldiers of the 18th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers training at Rothbury during the First World War.

Woodhorn this year organised some summer week-end events at the site of the trenches outside Rothbury, and invited us to take part. An enthusiastic museum team took a handling collection to the trenches, and visitors very much enjoyed handling the objects and discussing them with the volunteers, who did a first rate job.

Our researcher's grandfather, Corporal William Brabban, was one of those 18th Battalion soldiers, so there was a special connection for Bill when he visited the site. Woodhorn Museum certainly achieved their objective – a really enjoyable, enlightening and moving event.



Poverty to Prominence

Our search for an 18th Century image to feature on our new website led us to the Collection of the Duke of Northumberland and a fine oil painting of General Sir Roger Hale Sheaffe. Sheaffe had a remarkable military career, beginning with a chance encounter in Boston, Massachusetts and ending in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Roger Sheaffe, the eighth child of William Sheaffe, was born in Boston in 1763. When his father died leaving the family penniless, his mother opened a boarding house to sustain the family. In 1775 when the 5th Regiment of Foot, under the command of Colonel Hugh, Earl Percy, later the 2nd Duke of Northumberland, were stationed in Boston, the future Duke of Northumberland stayed in the Sheaffe's boarding house. So impressed was Percy by the qualities and leadership potential of the 12 year old Sheaffe that he sent him to a military academy in London.

Percy became Sheaffe's lifelong friend and benefactor; in 1778 he purchased Sheaffe's first commission into the 5th Regiment of Foot as an Ensign aged 15. He transferred from the Regiment when it sailed for Canada in 1787 but continued his successful military career, eventually commanding the 49th Regiment of Foot, and later becoming Governor of Fort St George, Ontario. He fought as a Loyalist General in the British Army during the 'War of 1812' against the United States.

A Baronet and a General, he retired to Edinburgh with his family. He died in 1851 aged 88 and was buried alongside his three daughters, none of whom survived him.

Thanks

Our thanks to Julian Farrance of the National Army Museum, who advised us on the Caplock Musket dated 1842 which is displayed on the Second Floor of the museum.

Legacies

We are most grateful for legacies from the late Alan Hill, Rosemary St John and Sam Phillips.

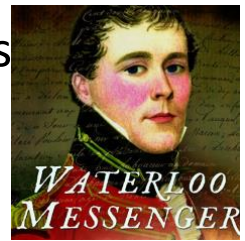
Support

Since 2008 your donations have provided match funding for the redevelopment project. Future donations will help to sustain the legacy of the redevelopment project such as educational activities for visiting families and school groups. If you would like to help the museum, please visit our website.

Registered Charity No. 273064

Lectures

Henry Percy: 'Waterloo Messenger'



A talk at 7.30pm on Friday 22nd September 2017 in the Guest Hall, Alwick Castle, by Sir William Mahon, author of 'Waterloo Messenger', his book about the remarkable life of Henry Percy who brought the news of victory from Waterloo to London. For more information see the Alwick Castle website.

For every ticket purchased through the museum, Alwick Castle will donate 20% of the ticket value to the museum. So when you buy your ticket please say you heard about the event from the Fusiliers Museum!

Coming in May 2018

In May 2018 Kate Adie will be giving a talk in the Castle's Guest Hall.

Kate Adie was the BBC's chief news correspondent for fourteen years, reporting from war zones around the world. She presents From Our Own Correspondent on Radio 4, and is the author of several best-selling books, including 'Fighting on the Home Front: the legacy of women in World War One', published in 2014. If you would like further information, please contact the museum.

The Fusiliers Museum of Northumberland
Abbot's Tower
Alwick Castle
Alwick
NE66 1NG

Tel: 01665 602152

Email: fusnorthld@aol.com

www.northumberlandfusiliers.org.uk