

Museum News

FOR FRIENDS OF THE QUEEN'S ROYAL LANCERS & NOTTINGHAMSHIRE YEOMANRY MUSEUM



Issue 1 November 2011

The Making of a Museum



Friends inspecting progress as the Museum takes shape in March 2011.

It has taken three years in planning but, as these pictures show, what a difference the project has made to a wing of the Thoresby Courtyard.

Visitors have been flocking in their thousands to this new Military Museum, which has been created by the Queen's Royal Lancers, the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry and the South Notts Hussars – with a little help from their Friends.

The ongoing contribution that the Friends are making will help to ensure that the three fine collections of arms, uniforms, medals, silver and paintings, illustrating the role our local Regiments have played in the great battles of the last three centuries, will be on view to the public for a long time to come.

The superb displays, which can be seen today, are the result of a major project led by Brigadier William Hurrell, the Colonels of the Regiments, the museum's Board of Trustees and the many volunteers from the three Regiments.



Above: Sand blasting.

Below: Stripping out.



Thoresby Hall courtyard.

The free-to-enter museum, which is attracting such interest from serving soldiers, veterans, families and tourists, extends across the top floor of a wing of the Thoresby Courtyard, a listed building on the Thoresby Estate in north Nottinghamshire.

This project has been made possible through a partnership with the Stonebridge Trust, who have generously contributed to the capital costs, as has the Leader Project, which provides European money for rural regeneration, and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

"The Thoresby Courtyard not only provides a first rate venue for the museum but safeguards the long term future of these three fine collections," says Brigadier Hurrell.

With professionally designed displays and interpretation boards, the museum tells the human, social and military history of the Regiments, as well as the ongoing story of the British Army today.

For more details see the centre pages of this newsletter, which has been created for Friends of the Queen's Royal Lancers and the Nottinghamshire Yeomanry Museum and their families.

Inside this issue

Meet the Curator	2
Royal Opening by HRH The Princess Alexandra	2 & 3
An Evening with Bill Harriman	4
Events for Friends	4
Tell a Friend	4

Royal Opening for Museum

Friends of The Queen's Royal Lancers & Nottinghamshire Yeomanry Museum were present when HRH The Princess Alexandra officially opened the Museum on a beautifully sunny day in the Thoresby Courtyard.

The East Midlands Army Cadet band was playing and there was a guard of honour to greet Princess Alexandra, who was taken on a guided tour of the museum. She also met Friends of the Museum at a reception in the Thoresby Riding Hall.

The guest of honour has special links with the museum as she is Deputy Colonel-in-Chief of The Queen's Royal Lancers.

For a full report on the Museum's special royal day, see the centre pages of this newsletter.



HRH The Princess Alexandra is welcomed to the Thoresby Courtyard by the Lord-Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire Sir Andrew Buchanan Bt, KCVO.

Meet the Curator

Former Regimental Sergeant Major Mick Holtby is the Curator of The Queen's Royal Lancers and Nottinghamshire Yeomanry Museum.



Curator Captain Mick Holtby with a 7 pdr gun, which greets visitors to the Museum. The gun was used in 1885 as part of a British expeditionary force to assist General Gordon at Khartoum.

Captain Mick Holtby served in Northern Ireland, Cyprus, Germany and the Oman during a 25-year career with the 17/21st Lancers.

After taking up a retired officer post at the headquarters of The Queen's Royal Lancers in Grantham, he was involved in setting up the newly amalgamated Lancers' museum, of which he became curator, and which used to be housed at Belvoir Castle.

Mick, who is also Assistant Regimental Secretary of The Queen's Royal Lancers, grew up in Hull and worked as an apprentice mason before joining the Army at 18. He had always wanted to be in the armoured corps and became a career soldier, progressing to the rank of RSM with the 17/21st Lancers, where he was subsequently commissioned.

Having an in-depth knowledge of British cavalry and armoured warfare, his special interests include the Crimean Campaign of 1854-56, and in particular the Charge of the Light Brigade, as well as the Second World War in North Africa, where he has travelled extensively.



Princess Praises

Friends of the Museum watched as HRH The Princess Alexandra officially opened The Queen's Royal Lancers and Nottinghamshire Yeomanry Museum, which tells the dramatic history and present day involvement of local army regiments.

The guest of honour has special links with the Museum as she is Deputy Colonel in Chief of The Queen's Royal Lancers. Her Majesty The Queen is Colonel in Chief of the Regiment.

On arrival in Nottinghamshire, Princess Alexandra was greeted by the Lord-Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire, Sir Andrew Buchanan Bt, KCVO.

At the museum she met members of the Board of Trustees, including the honorary Colonels of the Regiments, and representatives of the growing network of Friends of the Museum, who are supporting this landmark project.

The Queen's Royal Lancers and The Nottinghamshire Yeomanry, which is made up of The Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry and The South



Bill Hariman, James Gunn, Liz Ridgway, Jo Smith, Karen Colville and Col Murray Colville.



Above: The Colonels of the Regiments, From left are Col Murray Colville TD, DL, Col Tim Richmond MBE, TD, DL and Major General A A J R Cumming, CBE.

Left: Princess Alexandra arrives in the Thoresby Courtyard accompanied by the Lord-Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire, Sir Andrew Buchanan Bt. KCVO before the Colonels of the Regiments are introduced. To the right are Colonel Murray Colville and Colonel Tim Richmond.



The Princess is introduced to members of the Queen's Royal Lancers.



Princess Alexandra tours the Museum displays with Curator Mick Holby and Brigadier William Hurrell.



Signing the Visitors Book.

New Military Museum

Nottinghamshire Hussars, have amalgamated their collections to create a combined museum within the Thoresby Courtyard, in partnership with The Stonebridge Trust.

The Stonebridge Trust have not only provided space in the Thoresby Courtyard for the Museum's galleries, but have also contributed funding to the capital costs of the project. Other funding has come from the Leader Project and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

After a tour of the Museum, and an opportunity to meet Friends of the Museum and other guests at a reception in the Thoresby Riding Hall, Princess Alexandra unveiled a plaque to mark the occasion.

She told guests that she was impressed by the Museum and was thrilled it had successfully brought together the history of the three Regiments in one place.

Princess Alexandra congratulated all those who had contributed to the project which is enabling so many magnificent artefacts, not easily accessed by the public in the past, to be shown off in such impressive surroundings, and wished the museum every success in the future.

Receiving almost 10,000 visitors in the three months following the opening ceremony, the museum tells the human, social and military history of the Regiments and the ongoing story of the British Army today.

A unique collection of arms, uniforms, medals, silver and paintings illustrate the role that the local Regiments have played in the great battles of the last three centuries and, indeed continue to play in international conflicts of the present day.

On the day of the Royal opening, Project Director Brigadier William Hurrell said the concept for the museum began about three years ago and he was thrilled with the final display.

"We have artefacts here such as the bugle which sounded the charge in the Crimean War. It is a

very informative and educational display which will appeal to all ages," he said.

As well as celebrating military history, the museum provides a fascinating insight into how the Yeomanry was raised in Nottinghamshire with the help of the great families of the county, such as the Pierreponts, Cavendish-Bentincks, Howards and Pelhams in the Dukeries, to help maintain law and order at a time when England was governed by the landed gentry.

The Pierreponts lived at Thoresby Hall, so it is most fitting that the new museum, which brings together three fine regimental collections not normally seen by the public, should find its home within the Thoresby Estate.

As it is free to enter, the museum enables the public, especially families, and visitors to the area to learn about local history through the eyes of the collection.

The museum is working closely with schools, so an education room has been created for visiting groups. There is also a shop selling a range of military souvenirs and a book which has been specially produced telling the history of the three Regiments..



Talking to Members of the Nottinghamshire Army Cadet Force.



Princess Alexandra unveils a plaque to officially open the Musuem, watched by Brigadier William Hurrell.



Guests gather to greet The Princess in the Riding Hall.

Events for Friends in 2012

Events for Friends in 2012 are being planned by a committee Chaired by Brigadier Michael Browne.

Committee members representing the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry are Roly Machin and Mike Freeman. The South Nottinghamshire Hussars are represented by Richard King and David Coulling and the Museum's Curator, Mick Holtby, is currently representing the Queen's Royal Lancers.

Planned events include a Reception at the Museum in late Spring next year, date to be confirmed. Veteran Ray Ellis is being invited to talk about involvement in the battle of Knightsbridge, and the idea is to meet in the Museum over a drink and light refreshments in the early evening.

Tell a Friend

Tell your friends about the benefits of becoming a member of the growing network of supporters of the Museum.

A large number of people, from military and civilian backgrounds, have already joined as Friends and it is expected that many more will support the Museum in the future.

As a Friend of The Queen's Royal Lancers & Nottinghamshire Yeomanry Museum you are invited to special events, such as the evening with Bill Harriman, receive a half yearly newsletter, be given guided tours of the Museum and qualify for a 10% discount on purchases of military memorabilia and other souvenirs in the Museum shop.

A modest annual subscription helps with the costs of maintaining the artefacts of each Regiment, including a unique collection of arms, uniforms, medals, silver and paintings.

The annual subscription is at your discretion but the suggestion is £15 for individual members, £25 for joint members, while a life membership is conferred for a single payment of £500.

For more details, telephone 01623 824222, or write, requesting an application form to:

The Queen's Royal Lancers & Nottinghamshire Yeomanry Museum
Thoresby Courtyard • Thoresby Park
New Ollerton • Near Newark
Nottinghamshire • NG22 9EP

Bill Harriman Special Guest at First Event for Friends

BBC Antiques Roadshow firearms and militaria specialist Bill Harriman was reunited with former comrades in the South Nottinghamshire Hussars when he answered questions about exhibits at an event for Friends in advance of the Museum opening.



Friends touring the Museum as it takes shape four months in advance of the Royal opening.



Inspecting the famous Balaclava Bugle are, from left, Major General A A J R Cumming, Brigadier William Hurrell, Bill Harriman and Curator Captain Mick Holtby.



Bill Harriman, second from right, discusses one of the artefacts with, from left, Curator Captain Mick Holtby, Colonel Tim Richmond and Colonel Murray Colville.



Colonel Murray Colville and Brigadier Michael Browne.



Col Roger Merryweather TD, DL, Ruth Robinson and Angela Merryweather.

As a former Territorial Army Officer with The South Nottinghamshire Hussars and the Sherwood Rangers, Nottinghamshire born Bill was guest of honour at a special event for supporters of the Museum.

Bill, who appears in the Antiques Roadshow, eight times a year, gave his view on exhibits from the three regimental collections which are now on display at the Museum, including pistols, muskets, cavalry swords and muskets used in famous military campaigns.

He was introduced by Colonel Tim Richmond, Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire, a trustee of the museum, and his former commanding officer in the South Notts Hussars.

A nationally recognised expert in firearms, ballistics and related matters, Bill is Director of Firearms for the British Association of Shooting and Conservation.

"I had the best part of 20 very happy years with the TA in Nottinghamshire," said Bill, who believes the idea of opening a museum which is the guardian of the region's military heritage, is absolutely fantastic.



Friends gather in the Riding Hall.

Regimental Dinners

Friends of the Museum are invited to attend the Annual Dinners of the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry and the South Nottinghamshire Hussars respectively as this will give people the opportunity of seeing the individual Museums of the two Yeomanry Regiments.

The SNH Dinner is taking place on June 2 2012 at Bulwell. The SRY dinner is usually in March or April at Carlton, with the date yet to be agreed. Friends of the Museum are also warmly welcomed to other SNH functions.