



NEWSLETTER

The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders
REGIMENTAL MUSEUM



Edition 10.

December 2019

INTRODUCTION

It is a while since the last Newsletter was sent out in July. In the interim we have been tackling some serious difficulties with the installation of the new main staircase. However, it is not all bad news and, as you will see, some excellent progress is being made to deliver the new museum.

BASE-BUILD DELAY

The challenges of dealing with a scheduled monument have been well rehearsed in earlier Newsletters. The fundamental problem with the staircase is that it cannot sit on the historic foundations but has to be suspended from the concrete scars that form part of the stair shaft. However, these have not been found strong enough to support the steel cross-members from which the stairs will be suspended and remedial redesign of the steel structure and reinforcement has been necessary. It obviously forms a critical element of the project and we are hopeful that this problem is close to resolution.



Steelwork being inserted into the main staircase shaft

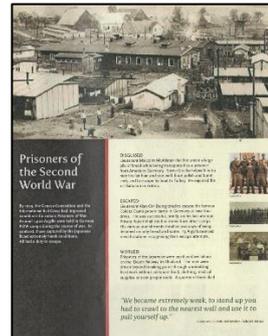
However, great progress is being made on completing the galleries ready for the exhibition fit-out contractors. The plasterers and painters are now working down from the 2nd Floor to the Ground Floor.



The former Royal Dining Room to become the 'Spirit of The Argylls' gallery

EXHIBITION DESIGN

The most exciting development is the exhibition design. Throughout this year work has progressed apace to bring together all the material required for the new exhibition. Elmwood of Glasgow have been appointed the fit-out contractors and are now hard at work alongside PLB, the designers.



Storyboard examples from 'Taken Prisoner' and 'Staying Alive'

Rod Mackenzie and Alli Spark have allocated elements of the collection to each of the display cases, alongside which will be the relevant storyboards. Andy Hay has scanned over 40,000 photographs from which 1,200 have been selected for use in the 121 storyboards spread across 11 galleries. 28 maps and diagrams have been produced, principally to support the campaign stories. The stories and images are powerful, reflecting not only the warfighting escapades of the Regiment but with considerable and wide-ranging emphasis placed on our social history and links into the community in Scotland.



Visitor wayfinding and mapping

AUDIO-VISUAL AND LIVING HISTORY

We will shortly be developing the audio-visual content of the Museum. An important element of this is to record living history as part of our wider oral history project. As well as recording Veterans' stories, a key element of our social history is about family life. Were you married to an Argyll? Was your father in The Argylls? We are recording stories of family members in a series of interviews. If you, or someone you



The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Regimental Museum, The Castle, Stirling FK8 1EH
Telephone 01786 448041 www.argylls.co.uk

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know, is willing to share your story with the Museum, please contact us on 01786-448041 or collections@argylls.co.uk.

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND

Support from HES has been well beyond our expectations. As the project has developed, we have become fully aware of the responsibilities they have to safeguard the historic fabric of the King's Old Building. We have received very significant support from Dr Iona Murray and her team in helping to resolve endless numbers of consents required to carry out the redevelopment work.

As the project has progressed a number of unforeseen issues have arisen, the most recent being the discovery a void beneath the kitchen which is thought to be part of a passageway dating from the time of Mary, Queen of Scots joining the Palace with the Chapel Royal. Investigations will now have to be carried out which will delay the kitchen refit but will not impact on the completion of the Museum.

HES have themselves undertaken and funded very extensive life-cycle works on the building which will ensure that interventions in the foreseeable future will be kept to the minimum. The entire building has been replumbed and rewired; all the windows have been refurbished; the roof and exterior walls have been repaired and repointed to prevent water ingress; the new exit formed; and the retail areas will shortly be fitted out.

FUTURE OPERATIONS

Richard Hickson, our Chief Executive, and Thomas Knowles from HES are closely engaged on the finessing of the model for the future operation and funding of the Museum. This ranges from defining responsibilities for the visitor-facing operation, marketing, access by Veterans and serving members of The Royal Regiment of Scotland, and to future funding to sustain the Museum. This close partnership benefits HES with the addition of a world-class visitor attraction within the Castle, but also assures The Argylls' Museum is placed on a sustainable footing for the future.

VOLUNTEERS



Our finalists in the Inspire Volunteering Awards

Our Volunteers will be key to the success of the new Museum and are already hard at work. As well as hosting regular handling sessions in the Castle, they have been supporting school visits and community events in Stirling, Falkirk and

Clackmannanshire. Stirling's Festival of Volunteering provided an opportunity to start our recruitment drive.



Argyll Volunteers in Stirling's Festival of Volunteering

Our congratulations go to all our Volunteers whose enthusiasm and commitment was recognised by Stirlingshire Voluntary Enterprise when they reached the finals of their Inspire Volunteering Awards.

CONSIDERED VOLUNTEERING?

Have you a little time on your hands? Have you got what it takes to be a custodian of The Argylls' history? We're looking for friendly faces to join our Volunteer Team in 2020. We need you to ensure the history of the Regiment is not lost to future generations. Whether you have stories to share with our visitors, enjoy getting out and about in the community on outreach work, or want to learn new skills in our archives, we have an offer for you. To find out more give us a call on 01786-448041 or email collections@argylls.co.uk

FUNDRAISING

We continue to receive donations to the Museum which include contributions from:

- Mr and Mrs William Donald's Memorial Trust
- The Tay Charitable Trust
- Prudential
- Jean P Gillan Trust
- Reverend W N Monteith's Charitable Trust
- The Veterans' Foundation

The delays we have incurred have inevitably cost more than anticipated and require us to continue our fundraising efforts. *Please continue to help us achieve full funding for the project.* For information on how to support us, please contact Lesley Onslow at capappel@argylls.co.uk / 01786-448041, or go to our website, www.argylls.co.uk/fundraising.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

We want to ensure you only receive relevant communications from us. If you no longer want to receive newsletters or other correspondence, or want to change the way we contact you, just let us know. Contact us on 01786-448041 or at admin@argylls.co.uk.

A Very Happy Christmas and our Best Wishes for the New Year. Thank you for your continued interest and support....