

NEWSLETTER

The Argyll
and Sutherland
Highlanders
REGIMENTAL MUSEUM



Edition 11.

October 2020

COVID-19 - ALL STOP

It is now a very long time since we produced our last Newsletter in time for Christmas 2019 and you will be wondering what we have been up to. Just as we were about to produce the March edition, COVID-19 struck and on 23 March work on the project for the most part ceased, the contractors came off the site and most of our own staff were furloughed. To that point we were confident that the project would be completed by the end of June. Work did not halt completely and we continued to progress various aspects so that when the opportunity arose to restart, we were ready for it. Work recommenced in mid-July and since then significant progress has been achieved.

BASE-BUILD

Due to the COVID restrictions within the site, the presence of the various trades has had to be carefully orchestrated imposing inevitable delay and slower than expected progress. However, work has pressed on and the major focus now is to complete the main staircase and the decoration of the Douglas Room, housing Gallery 7 - 'Our Scottish Roots'. Both have produced challenges. The 1st and 2nd Floors are complete and the Ground Floor is close to it.



Ground Floor Gallery 3 - 'Service to The Crown' nearing completion

EXHIBITION DESIGN

During lock-down, Elmwood (units) and Glasshaus (display cases) and Heritage (audio-visual hardware) were able to produce and stockpile all the exhibition fit-out equipment at our facility in Forthside. We are indebted to HQ 51 Brigade for enabling us to use this building. As soon as work resumed the contractors began the installation and work is now progressing rapidly to fit out each of the galleries, with completion expected in November.

Work has also been undertaken by Fifex to produce the interactives for the Museum. These are now all but complete ready for installation. In parallel with this, Activation have

measured up and will shortly be producing the mounts for the display case exhibits.



Storage at Forthside during lock-down



Music stand in Gallery 9 - 'Spirit of the Argylls'



Fifex installing model weapons in Gallery 8 - 'Staying Alive'

AUDIO-VISUAL

During lock-down steady progress was made on developing material for the audio-visual software content for the museum. This ranged from identifying the music to support the majority of the galleries, photographs for the touch-screen archives, and

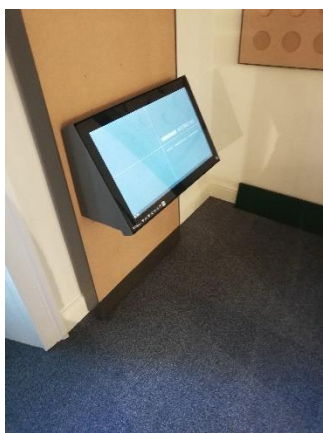


The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Regimental Museum, The Castle, Stirling FK8 1EH
Telephone 01786 448041 www.argylls.co.uk

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written material from which to develop the scripts to support the archive film material. This is the one aspect that has currently been placed on hold until further progress has been achieved with other aspects of the museum.



One of the touch-screen units in Gallery 10 – ‘Fearless in Battle’

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND

At every step of the way, HES have continued to provide us with advice and support on the redevelopment together with continuing to carry out work on the fabric of the building. The roof and windows have now been overhauled although some leaks continue to plague us – and will no doubt continue to do so in the years to come! HES will be completing work on the new exit steps shortly and in mid-October they will be fitting out the retail spaces. The kitchen, a vital requirement to support catering in the museum, has been delayed due to archaeological and conservation works, but we hope that this will progress to enable us to install it in time for the opening.



The Colours Room awaiting installation of the AV unit

FUTURE OPERATIONS

Richard Hickson, our CEO, is now turning his mind to the future operation of the Museum. Unfortunately, COVID-19 is likely to present some short-term challenges, but whilst planning for the worst, we will hope for the best. We are looking at how we can accommodate visitors within the prevailing Scottish Government and HES regulations. The Castle has now reopened to limited numbers and the Museum will significantly enhance the visitor attraction.

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Throughout the pandemic, contact has been maintained with both our staff and the Museum Volunteers. Once the new museum is completed, we will be providing them with training on its operation. We envisage the Volunteers carrying out a variety of support roles with which we require assistance – archiving, research, collection recording, conservation, guiding, outreach and education.

Have you a little time on your hands? Have you got what it takes to be a custodian of The Argylls’ history? We are looking for friendly faces to join our Volunteer Team in 2021. 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.

THE GUARDIANS AND REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

We are very grateful to all the Guardians and members of the Regimental Association who continue to support the Museum most generously. We very much look forward to welcoming you all to the Museum at the earliest opportunity and involve you in the various activities that will take place. In due course we aim to expand the number of Guardians. If any of you know individuals who may be interested in joining, please let us know. Go to our website www.argylls.co.uk to find out how to join.



The new sliding entrance doors

OPENING

Given the serious set-backs over the last year, we are hesitant to confirm when the Museum will be opened to visitors. On present progress we anticipate that this will be during March ahead of the Easter Weekend, 2-5 April. We will keep you posted on progress and plans for the opening.

MAKING CONTACT

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.



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