



The Fusilier Museum

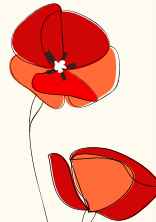
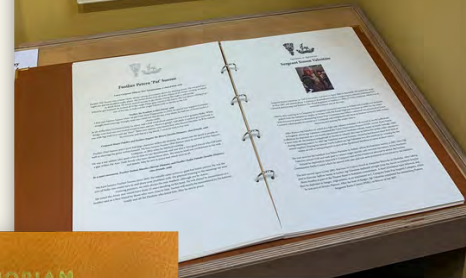
WARWICK

Monthly E-Newsletter - October-November 2023



MUSEUM NEWS

THE MUSEUM AS A PLACE OF REMEMBRANCE



Welcome to the October/ November edition of the museum e-newsletter. We apologise that we were not able to produce a newsletter last month, but it turned out to a busy period for the museum as staff and volunteers delivered an ambitious learning programme with a local primary school - more on this below.

It is appropriate that in this month's issue we consider the theme of Remembrance and the part the regimental museum can play in the collective acknowledgement of the fallen and the sacrifice they made. In fact, remembrance forms a core part of the museum's public offer - the chronological order of museum displays brings the visitor through 350 years of history until recent operations in Afghanistan and then beyond that we have a book of remembrance for those of the regiment who gave their lives in active service.

I am always struck how much use this book gets - even on the quietest days, I have to turn the book back to the front after it's been viewed by visitors. Sometimes the book has even more powerful meaning for those visiting veterans or serving military who personally knew the soldiers who died serving their country. One such soldier who comes to mind is Sergeant Simon Valentine whose life seems to have touched the lives of many others.

Museums, by their nature, are places of memory, but for regimental museums those memories are particularly poignant when displaying objects, images and documents of soldiers related to living family members. Although people tend to think of museums being about the display of 'stuff', they are also meeting places for people to celebrate or commemorate people and events. Hardly a day goes by without us receiving a visit from someone with a story to tell about a family relation or an enquiry which leads to such stories being revealed. Donations of historic items to the museum are also part of process of building an accumulative remembrance of soldiers of the regiment, a memory that, hopefully, can be sustained for many generations to come.

To mark Remembrance Day 2023, the museum is launching a new temporary exhibition called 'Lest We Forget' where we will present a series of objects and images connected with the act of remembrance as well as provide some insight into how the iconic items like the memorial plaques of World War 1 and the poppy, were developed as symbols of remembrance.

The exhibition will open on Saturday 11th November, but we also plan to open the museum after the wreath-laying ceremony at Warwick War Memorial on Sunday the 12th November where members of the public will be invited in for free. Our aim is to place the museum at the core of this important community event in Warwick District and highlight the role the museum can take in remembering the fallen and their sacrifice for king and country. We hope then visitors might visit us again to learn even more.

-Chris Kirby, General Manager



WELL DONE! CURRENT PROJECTS

The museum manages different projects that will both enhance the access to the collections, promote the Regiment's story and provide opportunities to generate funding essential to the organisation's future.

Success!

Building Bridges Project With Westgate Primary School



Matthew Watson the Head Teacher at Westgate School:

"I am so delighted that the project worked as well as it did. You (and your team of volunteers) put together an incredible package of learning filled with great experiences and the children had an amazing time."

During October, staff and volunteers at the museum were busy delivering a learning project with Westgate Primary School. As has been previously mentioned, this work was funded by West Midlands Museum Development to allow the museum to pilot some new learning sessions that could then be rolled out to other primary schools in the district. We delivered three different learning sessions each of which consisted of a session in the school and an onsite visit to the museum. The class involved was Year 5 (9-10-year-olds) made up of 26 students.

The three learning sessions were purposely designed to be very different, drawing on different themes and activities. The year 5s were absolutely fantastic in how they engaged with the project and the outputs they produced.

The '3 Soldiers' project saw Year 5 study three famous soldiers of the regiment - Hannah Snell, Corporal William Amey VC and Field Marshal Montgomery. Three groups were given a soldier each to research and studied objects, images, and documents to finally create their own museum exhibitions. The 3 Soldiers' display was then put up for public viewing over the half term holidays.

A second session called 'Get Marching' explored the role of marching in supporting soldier's discipline and morale and looked at famous WWI marching songs including the songs of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment - 'The Warwickshire Lads'. The session in school was led by a group of music educators who taught the students a new 'Warwickshire Lads 2023' and got them to write their own verses on themes related to a soldier's life, home, and family & friends. The finished work is presented below.

The final session was 'Changing Uniforms' looking at how and why uniforms changed over time. This session gave the Year 5 students the opportunity to examine the diverse range of uniforms on display in the museum as well as try out a replica WWI uniform for themselves.

Thanks to my colleague David and our volunteers Anne, Seb, and Graham for getting involved in the project and helping make it such a success!

More photos of this wonderful project on next page!

If you can donate at least £10 to the **BUILDING BRIDGES LEARNING PROJECT** to help the Fusilier Museum Warwick to create effective learning sessions for regional primary schools, then please donate and make a difference - <https://fusiliermuseumwarwick.com/support>

CURRENT PROJECTS *Continued!*

More Photos From the Building Bridges Project



THANK YOU

for making this possible through your support!



image credit: Sean Featherstone

The Warwickshire Lads 2023

The Trench
Have you ever seen the inside of a trench?
Without my parents, I'm feeling all alone,
Its damp and dim with a mustard stench!
Marching through the dirt, diseases spreading wild,
Rats crawling up my legs and itchy fleas on my head,
Now you all know about a trench!

CHORUS

Home
Have you ever been so far away from home?
Without my parents, I'm feeling all alone,
Missing Warwick's hills and luscious green grass,
Swimming in Saint Nick's and singing in the Park

CHORUS

Family & Friends
Do you miss your family and your friends?
Do you miss your family and your friends?
Send a letter or two from the war that never ends,
If you're upset, read a postcard from the English shore,
We will be victorious, like a lion we will roar!

CHORUS

CHORUS
The Soldiers of Warwick, the history of this town,
They marched across the Country, to fight on King and Crown!
Through passing down their stories, their memories will live on,
And by working hard together we will write this song!

[Final Line]
And working hard together, we have written this song!

Get Marching
Music by Mayura Music, Lyrics by
Year 5, Westgate Primary School, October 2023

The Fusilier Museum



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OBJECT OF THE MONTH

Museum Volunteer Martin Shalders gives a vivid description of the Allied trenches in World War 1 inspired by the WWI trench displays in the museum.

WAR IN THE TRENCHES



It's dark. It's deeply dark. Of course it's slippery with mud but also with partially decayed cadavers of former colleagues and now strangely quiet in the early hours of the morning. This could be the forward trench anywhere on the western front during 1916 or 1917. It is a British trench as it's designed not to be by any stretch of the imagination of a permanent nature! It's not supposed to be at all comfortable or habitable, in direct contrast to their counterparts possibly 200 yards away across No Man's Land. The German trench was by contrast mainly dry, deep and of a far more permanent nature.



The senior British officers did fear that their rank and file may get too comfortable, lose that belligerent feeling and be quite happy to sit back between large scale operations. This would never do and thus 'volunteers' were often required to undertake covert raids across the devastation.

Naturally, there were always those who, for personal reasons, wanted to take the fight to their enemy. These raids by groups of 10 to 20, their faces blackened, equipment muffled, and nerves stretched were used from time to time. Such raids were extremely hazardous but often restored bruised morale and enabled soldiers to meet their enemy face to face.



These raids were also used to disrupt enemy trenches, obtain plans, capture prisoners for interrogation and cause general discord. Examples of these evil and silent weapons employed by these raiders are on show in the First World War showcase and will show the barbarity of these nocturnal excursions. This was hand to hand conflict at its most brutal, in stark contrast to the long-range slaughter wreaked by the multitude of artillery pieces many yards behind the lines. The stark barbarism of these hand-crafted medieval weapons may disturb the casual visitor!

VISITOR NEWS

A Successful October Half-Term!

Over the October (almost mostly in November!) school half term, we delighted to be joined by two members of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment Re-enactors Group, Will and Lewis. They kept many of the museum visitors engaged throughout the day including a keen young man (he turned up one minute before we were officially open) who had been part of the Building Bridges project and wanted to bring his mum and dad in to see the museum.

They were one of several families who spent nearly two hours on site demonstrating that the modest size of the museum belies the number of things that can keep an enquiring mind entertained. Lewis said a 7-year-old visitor had impressed him with his ability to release the catch on the decommission Bren gun the re-enactors had brought – a task beyond many an adult. He suggested he had found either a future army recruit or member of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment re-enactors!

The museum is now free for all visitors under 16 years old and our new pricing policy seemed to pay off during half term week where we had a much higher rate of family visitors than we had in the previous school holiday.

However, the museum continues to recognise its obligation to a more specialist adult audience: on the same Saturday, Vice Chair of the Friends of the Museum, Major David Seeney gave a fascinating talk on Dunkirk and the Wormhoudt Massacre. It was a sell-out and David has promised to do a similar talk again next year.



REGIMENTAL STORIES

Honouring the enduring legacy of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, formed on April 23, 1968.

Remembering the Fusiliers' Afghanistan Day - 4 October

Operation HERRICK was the operational name for all British military operations in Afghanistan from 2002 to the end of combat operations in 2014.

The Fusiliers' first tour in Afghanistan was in 2006-2007, when members of the 2nd Battalion deployed on several occasions to Helmand Province, as part of the Theatre Reserve Battalion. This included A Company's defence of the Northern Helmand town of Nowzad in the summer of 2006, and C Company's deployment to Sangin the following year. Fusiliers were also deployed to Kajaki and Musa Qala during this period.



From March to October 2009 the 2nd Battalion deployed as a Battalion on Op HERRICK 10. The Battalion was split over several locations. A Company was attached to 2RIFLES Battlegroup (BG) in Sangin, with troops in Forward Operating Base (FOB) NOLAY and FOB JACKSON. The 2nd Battalion BG was deployed to Musa Qala, with BG HQ in the District Centre and B Company deployed to the North in Patrol Base (PB) WOQAB, close to the enemy front-line. This deployment took place over the most dangerous period for British troops in Afghanistan. Sadly, seven members of the Battalion, all from A Company, were killed during the tour.

-Courtesy of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, www.fusiliersconnect.com

81ST ANNIVERSARY - TURNING THE TIDE OF WORLD WAR II

"In war, it is 'the man' that matters."

- Bernard L. Montgomery of Alamein, Field Marshal



FM Bernard Montgomery

Fought from Oct. 23 to Nov. 11, 1942, the Second Battle of El Alamein resulted in a decisive German defeat by British forces in North Africa during World War II. Church bells were rung in England for the first time since the war had started. The victory was achieved by then Lt. Gen. Bernard Law Montgomery, a son of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment and First World War combat veteran, who rallied the spirits of British troops and used his analytical genius to exploit German strategic weaknesses. "Monty" would go on to organise and lead all Allied land forces - a total of 2 million men - in battle on D-Day in 1944. In addition to his unparalleled military accomplishments, Monty lived a life of service, undertaking many charitable initiatives even during the war, and was a gifted and prolific author of military history and studies on leadership.

-Zita Ballinger Fletcher, Editor

MUSEUM EVENTS FOR 2023



Here is a list of museum events for the rest of 2023.
Make sure to get them into your calendar!

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE MUSEUM IS NOW OPERATING ON ITS WINTER SCHEDULE OPENING FROM 10AM TILL 4PM TUESDAY TO SATURDAY.

Remembrance Day

10 – 4pm, Saturday 11th November

12 – 4pm, Sunday 12th November



'LEST WE FORGET – REMEMBERING THE FALLEN OF THE ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT'

A small exhibition of objects and images exploring how the Fallen of the regiment have been remembered over the last 150 years and why Remembrance is important to us today.



The museum will have a special opening on Sunday 12th November after the wreath-laying at Warwick War Memorial where all visitors are invited in for free.

Victorian Evening

3pm – 5pm Thursday 23rd November

The museum will have a stall in this popular Christmas market with distinctive stocking fillers for sale including the ever-popular Bobby the Antelope cuddly toy.



Also this year, The Fusilier Museum Warwick has sponsored a tree as part of St. Mary's Christmas Tree exhibition which will be available to see from the Victorian Evening.



Our competition for young people to make special decorations for our tree is open until Saturday 18th November.

LEST WE FORGET

REMEMBERING THE FALLEN OF THE
ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT

A TEMPORARY
EXHIBITION FROM
SATURDAY 11TH
NOVEMBER 2023.
SPECIAL OPENING
ON SUNDAY 12TH
NOVEMBER 2023
AFTER THE WAR
MEMORIAL
WREATH-LAYING



OBJECTS OF
REMEMBRANCE
FROM OVER
THE LAST 150
YEARS OF
REGIMENTAL
HISTORY



THE FUSILIER MUSEUM WARWICK, PAGEANT HOUSE,
JURY STREET, WARWICK
01926 258 288
WWW.FUSILIERMUSEUMWARWICK.COM

A CALL FOR RATINGS

We Still Need Your Help!



In this digital age, online reviews are very important to drawing visitors to museums.

The museum was very happy to have created a new visitor page on Tripadvisor for our new location at Pageant House - but we need more reviews to get us up in the rankings!

If you have enjoyed your visit to the museum and would like to help us attract new visitors, we invite you to share your experiences with others on our [new Tripadvisor page - follow the link here!](#)

Every bit of positive feedback helps.



are needed to write online reviews!



FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM TALKS

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2023

1/WARWICKS FROM THE MARNE TO THE AISNE IN 1914



Jonathan Davy
Secretary, Friends of the Fusilier Museum Warwick
2 PM London Time
Saturday, 25 November

STAY TUNED FOR NEXT YEAR'S FRIENDS' TALKS SCHEDULE!



PLEASE

JOIN THE FRIENDS

The Friends support the museum and its mission of preserving regimental history and also promote education and activities for history lovers, both online and locally. All are welcome to join!

To learn more, contact us at friends.fusiliermuseumwarwick@gmail.com

VISIT THE MUSEUM

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