

THE FRIENDS OF
THE BLACK WATCH
CASTLE AND MUSEUM

UPCOMING
EVENTS

Captivating Collections
Friday 23rd September
£5.00/Friends £1.50
7.00-9.00pm

Keynote Lecture
Commonwealth War Graves
Commission
Thursday 29th September
£15.00/Friends £5.00
7.00-8.30pm

Casino Night at The Castle
Saturday 8th October
£15.00/Friends £12.00
7.00-11.00pm

Friends Tours:
Paintings at Balhousie
Tuesday 29th November
Free to Friends
7.00-8.30pm

Friends Tours:
Black Watch Famous Sons
Tuesday 28th February 2012
Free to Friends
1.30-3.30pm

WINTER
LECTURE SERIES
2011-12

Afternoon and evening talks at
The Black Watch
Castle and Museum

Paintings & Portraits
of The Black Watch
Tuesday 11th October
7.00pm

Surrender of St Valery 1940
Tuesday 8th November
7.00pm

Fontenoy and The Black
Watch
Tuesday 13th December
1.30pm

Brown Bess to Bolt-Action
Tuesday 10th January
1.30pm

Bolt-Action to Present Day
Tuesday 14th February
1.30pm

Breaking the Siegfried Line:
The Battle for Goch 1945
Tuesday 13th March
7.00pm

Adults £5/Friends £1.50
Limited Places.
To book contact lectures or
event tickets contact:
T: 01738 638152
Emuseum@theblackwatch.co.uk

Friends Newsletter

ISSUE 1

Foreword from Friends Chairwoman

Sarah Riddell-Webster



As I sit down to write this foreword I find it hard to believe that it is almost a year since the Friends of The Black Watch Castle and Museum was launched, it has been a busy and exciting year. We have been delighted to see so many people joining the Friends, some from very far afield, reflecting the

broad geographical range of the extended Black Watch family, and many from much closer to home. Some of our Friends have had recent connection to the Regiment, some whose connection is several generations back, and some with no family connection who simply wish to support the legacy of The Black Watch.

It has also given me great pleasure to see the events the Friends committee have organised being so well attended. I am very grateful to all those who have given generously of their time to make these occasions a success. The diversity of events has meant that we have welcomed people to Balhousie Castle that have never been before. The Shapes Auction House valuation day was one event that

attracted many new visitors. Each time we hold an event we are pleased to find that many new Friends choose to join our organisation. To date we have over 194 Friends and have set ourselves the target of reaching 300 Friends by April 2012. I hope that you can help us to do so by encouraging those you know with an interest in supporting the legacy of The Black Watch to join us. As the number of Friends grows I hope we will find some amongst you that would like to get a little more involved. We welcome volunteers to help run our events or suggestions as to what events you would like to see in the future.

Friends Membership Benefits

The Friends membership includes a number of attractive benefits: free admission to the Castle and Museum, invitations to Friends events at a reduced rate, updates and newsletters, eligibility to wear a Friends tie or lapel pin and 5% discount in the Museum Shop. In April we

introduced a further benefit - The Welcome Tour. This is a free tour of the Museum, by our expert guides, available to all Friends. The tour is one way for us to offer a warm welcome to new Friends whilst demonstrating the legacy being supported. The tours are

proving very popular with just two dates remaining this year on Wednesday 12th October, 10.30 and Thursday 15th December 2.30pm.

To book a place contact 01738 638152 or email friends@theblackwatch.co.uk



Above: Kilt of Captain W.D MacLaren Stewart

Museum Items Of Interest: The Somme Kilt

Captain W.D. MacLaren Stewart of Ardvorlich was one of the many Black Watch men who lost their lives during the First World War. His kilt is on display at the Museum in the First World War gallery. It still bears the mud from Flanders. The kilt was recently conserved by Tuula Pardoe at the Scottish Conservation Studio. This work was made possible with the support of Museums Galleries Scotland.

Battle of the Somme: 1st Battalion attack on the Flers Line, 1916

.....Within an hour of arrival the enemy made a determined bombing attack up the Flers front line. It drove in the 'D' Company bombing post and turned down the communication trench in 'C' Company's area. Here, fortunately, the enemy encountered Captain Stewart sitting down to breakfast. He was quite equal to the emergency. With Sergeant Barclay, they drove the enemy back with bombs. In a short time Captain Stewart had re-established 'D' company's front post, but, in the moment of his success, Captain Stewart fell, shot through the head. It is certain that but for the bravery and vigor he showed, the main attack later could not have been launched. The loss of so popular an officer as Captain Stewart was keenly felt. He had served with distinction in the 2nd Battalion in 1915 until wounded. After a short period at Nigg he returned to France. Here he joined the 1st Battalion. He distinguished himself throughout the fighting on the Somme by his coolness and daring.

"A new exhibition, dedicated to the recent deployment to Afghanistan..."

Museum Update

ACQUISITIONS

The Museum has been lucky enough to receive some interesting objects recently. Of particular note is the Sir John Moore's writing case, generously donated by Ian Munro. The writing case has three secret compartments. It is most likely made from satinwood from the West Indies, where Moore served Under General Sir Ralph

Abercromby. Moore is best known for his military training reforms and his death at the battle of Corunna during the Peninsular war. During this battle he rallied The Black Watch. The writing case was presented to General Anderson in 1796. The Museum gives thanks to Major Colin Innes for facilitating the donation.

AFGHANISTAN

A new exhibition, dedicated to the recent deployment of Afghanistan has been on display at the Museum since Spring. We plan to continue to tell the story of The Black Watch, in it's current form as 3SCOTS, in the coming years. The Battalion are due to deploy to Afghanistan later this year.

Friends Annual General Meeting

We will be holding our first Annual General Meeting on:

**WEDNESDAY
9TH NOVEMBER 2011
6.00pm
at BALHOUSIE
CASTLE, PERTH**

With this newsletter you will receive formal notice of our AGM.



Join us for
our first
Friends
AGM

Our Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2011 is available to view online www.theblackwatch/index/friends. Should you wish to receive a paper copy, please contact the Friends secretary who will send one to you. At our AGM we will hold elections for the management committee.

We do hope that you can manage to come along and indulge, not only in the business of the day, but also the tea, coffee and biscuits we will have on offer.

If you think you can attend please let us know either by email or telephone - see back page for details.

The Friends Set Sail!

PAGE 3



**Rachael Jackson
with Friends
committee
member, Alfie
Iannetta
(© G Lafferty)**

The Friends have joined forces with Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines to promote our organisation. Fred. Olsen has four cruise liners, one of which is called 'Black Watch'. This is said to be their most intimate ship and a firm favourite of those who travel with Fred.

Olsen Cruise Lines. In June, Rachael Jackson, PR manager with the company, visited the Museum. She experienced a tour of the Museum, discovered our archives, met with the staff and browsed our Museum Shop. Rachael said, "I am delighted to be visiting the

historic home of such an eminent and illustrious Regiment as The Black Watch." All of Fred. Olsen Cruise Liners now have a Friends leaflet in each of their cabins ensuring all who sail with them are given the opportunity to find out about who we are and what we do. We hope to welcome many new Friends through this partnership. The picture to the left shows a model of the 1939 Fred. Olsen Cruise ship named "The Black Watch".

Museum Redevelopment

The Black Watch Heritage Appeal set a target of £3.2 million to fund the redevelopment of the Museum. To date nearly £2.1 million has been raised. To secure the remaining funding an application has been made to The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) as well as significant bids to the Gannochy and Robertson Trusts. The Museum Team are delighted to have passed stage one of the HLF application process. They are now working hard but enthusiastically on the stage two application, which is due for submission in December 2011.

Our architectural team (ANTA) have prepared detailed plans based on the original concept shared with our supporters. These have been supported by our Trustees and we will be submitting planning permission imminently. Studio MB have been recruited to design and develop the internal layout of the redeveloped Museum. The new Museum will retain its much loved traditional style whilst

embracing a modern and fresh quality.



**Studio MB's
visual image
of The Empire
Gallery which
will be located
on the first
floor of the
redeveloped
Museum.**

The Museum Shop

In The Black Watch Museum Shop you will find an abundance of unique gifts for any friend or family member with an interest in The Black Watch. Amongst the selection on offer are ties, socks, scarves, clothes, books, key rings, stationary and jewellery. A recent addition to the jewellery range is The Black Watch Tartan Collection by Wolfmoon Jewellery. This range is designed and handcrafted in Scotland using

Black Watch Ribbon and colours to create stunning earrings, bracelets and necklaces. Also available is a selection of beautifully crafted quality statues. Once such statue is The Powrie Brae (see picture to the right), an 8 inch bronze replica of the striking World War Two Black Watch War Memorial, which stands on Powrie Brae overlooking Dundee. The figure is of a 'Jock' of The Black Watch in

WWII service dress. To view all that the shop has to offer visit www.theblackwatch.co.uk/shop or pop in for a visit if you are passing. You can order online, by telephone, email or by post. As a Friend you will receive 5% discount on all items in the Shop and on the website.



Powrie Brae Statue

Friends and the Red Hackle Tartan



PAGE 4

The Red Hackle tartan was unveiled on The Black Watch Annual Red Hackle Day, January 5th, 2010. The tartan was designed by the Perthshire based House of Edgar and takes its name from the distinctive Red Hackle worn by The Black Watch troops in their bonnets. The Red Hackle is the inspiration which sees checks of scarlet and cherry overlaid on the iconic Black Watch tartan to produce a fresh, new design. A design which retains and respects the core of the original Black Watch tartan. It is this respect for

the traditional with a look to the future that has seen the Friends adopt the Red Hackle tartan as its signature fabric.

For your chance to win a Red Hackle tartan lambswool scarf answer the following question:

On what day was the Red Hackle tartan unveiled?

Answers to can be sent by post or email to:

The Secretary, Friends of The Black Watch Castle and Museum
Balhousie Castle, Hay Street,
Perth, PH1 5HR or
friends@theblackwatch.co.uk

All entries to be received by Wednesday 30th November 2011. The winner will be notified by letter with their name published on our website



Events

The Friends have hosted a fantastic variety of events so far this year. The events are a way of having fun, promoting new memberships, encouraging people to visit the Castle and Museum whilst raising money. In March, a team of experts from Shapes Fine Art Auctioneers and Valuers spent the day at the Castle. They examined and valued a variety of antiques, paintings and much more brought in by Friends and visitors. Also in March we hosted a Keynote Lecture from Major Colin Innes who spoke about the life of Sir Thomas Graham

1748-1843. The annual Black Watch Cocktail Party took place on 21st July. This being the first year that the Friends have hosted the evening. Nearly 200 members of the Regimental family and Friends travelled from far and wide to enjoy the evening, which took place in the Wavell Gardens within the grounds of Balhousie Castle. The guests were treated to a selection of drinks and canapés whilst enjoying the company and a fine selection of music played by The Perth and District Pipe Band. We are grateful to Steve Brown Electrical Ltd who sponsored the evening. Our upcoming events include a Keynote Lecture on 29th September

when Sir Alistair Irwin will talk about The Commonwealth War Graves Commission. On 8th October we are hosting a Casino Night at the Castle. There will be some fantastic prizes on offer including a 4 night cruise for 2 with ports of call at Kirkwall Orkney Isles and Bergen Norway courtesy of Fred.Olsen Cruise Lines. We also have two tours which are free to Friends; The Paintings at Balhousie on 8th November and The Famous Black Watch Sons on 28th February 2011. Furthermore don't forget the Museum's Winter Lecture Series.



THE BLACK WATCH CASTLE AND MUSEUM HAY STREET, PERTH, PH1 5HR

Museum: 01738 638152 museum@theblackwatch.co.uk

Friends: 01738 638152 friends@theblackwatch.co.uk

Shop: 01738 783743 shop@theblackwatch.co.uk

www.theblackwatch.co.uk

Remember to browse our Friends webpages for monthly news, event updates, welcome tour dates and much more at:

www.theblackwatch.co.uk/index/friends

MUSEUM OPENING HOURS:

April to October: Monday to Saturday 09.30-5.00pm, Sunday 10.00-4.00pm

November to March: Monday to Saturday 9.30-5.00pm

(The Museum is closed over the festive season)

