

# NEWSLETTER

*Friends of The Black Watch Castle and Museum*



FRIENDS OF  
THE  
BLACK  
WATCH  
CASTLE & MUSEUM

Issue 5 - 2015



# Foreword from Friends Chairwoman, Sarah Riddell-Webster

“When the Friends were first formed five years ago our aim was to encourage people to take an interest in and support The Black Watch Castle and Museum as it underwent major refurbishment and subsequent reopening. We have, over those five years, built a substantial membership, that continues to grow steadily as all that Balhousie has to offer attracts more visitors. Two years on from the reopening of the museum, I have spent the last year reflecting on what the Friends have achieved and how we can best channel our energies to provide maximum support, both financial and practical, to the Museum. There is absolutely no doubt that the Friends would not be in the strong position that they are today without the outstanding job that was done by Leonor Blackhall as Friends secretary. Leonor was the driving force behind the Friends and did much, much more than the title of secretary suggests. I would like to thank Leonor for all that she has done and wish her well in her new role within the Museum. Rebecca Berger has taken over the position of secretary, and with her experience as Learning and Audiences Officer for the Museum she has much to offer to the Friends.

In terms of what we have achieved so far the most tangible way of accessing that is to look at the funds that we have raised and the financial support we have been able to provide to the Castle and Museum. I must confess that I was hard pushed to remember all that we had given to the Museum in grants over five years. As a reminder we have compiled a book with details of all the donations that have been made to the Museum. The book is held at the front desk in the shop, so you can see for your self at any time the support that we are giving with your help. In monetary terms, support of the museum has amounted to £21,000 over the five years. That total includes the items donated and also contributions towards the administrative staff costs. We have at all times tried to keep the costs of running

the Friends to a minimum, doing as much as possible with the aid of volunteers. I continue to be extremely grateful to the members of both the Management and Events Committees who are so generous with their time and efforts.

In the past the Friends ran two or three lectures a year with the museum staff running the others. Looking to the future we have agreed with the Museum that the Friends will run all the lectures that take place at Balhousie, with a lecture every month. There are no shortage of topics for us to cover and fortunately no shortage of lecturers willing to come and talk on their particular interest. We are extremely grateful to all those that come to speak whether they are an enthusiastic amateur historian or highly knowledgeable professional. The one thing they all have in common is a love of their subject and a skill in delivering a fascinating lecture. There is great scope within the lecture programme for us to attract people from different interest groups along to Balhousie. This has been very evident with the lectures we have held so far and I hope will continue to be the case into the future. I hope this newsletter will give you not just a review of many of the activities undertaken by the Friends, but also a reminder of the huge range of different events that have taken place at The Black Watch Castle and Museum over the last year.

Thank you for joining us and continuing to support the work that we do. We are nothing without our membership and welcome your involvement at any time.”



## Profile on Anne Kinnes, Chief Executive

“Anne started her career in Yorkshire in a variety of management roles including a Michelin Star restaurant and a luxury hotel. In 1992 she moved to Scotland where she fell in love not only with a Scottish chef, but also with the country and all it has to offer, especially food and drink. This provided a great platform for the next eight years. She was employed at Scotland's Larder which at that time was the only Food and Drink based visitor attraction in Scotland. Anne then became Chairman of Fife Visitor Attractions, which led to her working with Visit Scotland as Strategic Development Manager and latterly Business Product Manager. Her two consecutive roles involved managing national strategy in key areas of food and drink, rural access and transport. In 2010, as part of their continued commitment and investment to Whisky Tourism in Scotland, Morrison Bowmore Distillers appointed Anne Kinnes to the role of Visitor Centre Operations and Development Manager.

Anne's Black Watch journey began in January this year and with her experience in Hospitality and Tourism matched with the strong beliefs and values of The Black Watch Museum she aims to support the team to ensure that the Castle and Museum are one of 'Scotland's Leading Visitor Attractions'. In September 2014 the museum was awarded the prestigious 5 Star Grading from Visit Scotland; only 5% of all Scotland's attractions achieve this. Since opening we have grown and improved in all areas of the business month on month, and Anne is leading the team as we work hard to ensure this trend continues.”



## Upcoming exhibitions

The Museum's next temporary exhibition – titled Seasonal Greetings from the Front – will focus on how the Regiment has celebrated Christmas, New Year and Red Hackle Day over the years. The exhibition will run from November 2015 through February 2016.

Following that, the temporary exhibition gallery will feature the installation artwork Unknown by Alison Kinnaird during its Scottish tour. The artwork features a glass army created as the artist's response to war. The exhibition will run from March through May 2016.

***The Friends of The Black Watch Museum sponsor the temporary exhibitions programme.***



# Lecture: Field Marshall Sir Douglas Haig

by Professor Gary Sheffield



On the evening of Thursday 26 March The Black Watch Museum was filled with people keen to hear Professor Sheffield's address on Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig. They were not to be disappointed as Prof Sheffield delivered a fascinating account of the experience and contribution of the greatest British general of the First World War.

The enormity of the task faced by Haig was made crystal clear, namely welding a rapidly expanding, but largely untrained, army into a war winning fighting force in the greatest conflict the world had ever seen. This took over four years and many costly set backs but the army which advanced east in the "Hundred Days" campaign of 1918 was the most professional force which Britain ever put into the field, all down to "The Chief's" unswerving resolve and meticulous planning. As Sheffield rightly said, "he had no peer."

Haig's life after the War was devoted to improving the lives and expectations of those who had served under him, and the unending queues of servicemen who trooped silently past his coffin in Westminster Abbey was clear testament to the respect in which he was held.

He did not deserve to have his reputation besmirched in the way it was in the decades after his death but it is surely right and proper that a more objective analysis of his immense contribution to Allied victory is vested in the pen of people like Professor Sheffield. All who listened to his lecture came away with a far greater understanding of Haig and his greatness.



## Sons of The Regiment



To mark the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War a temporary exhibition was installed in the Sons of The Black Watch case in Gallery 10 of the Museum. This features a selection of menus, photographs, textiles and medals from several serving soldiers.

One of these soldiers was James Albert King, who served as a Chindit during the War. The invasion of Burma by the Japanese in 1942 posed a serious threat to the Allies. In late 1943, King was one of the soldiers of The Black Watch who became part of the Chindit force. The men were trained to operate behind enemy lines and to put an end to the myth that Japanese forces were invincible. Objects of King's on display include a letter from Major Archie Wavell and a souvenir embroidery of the Taj Mahal.

The exhibition also showcases the personal collection of Private David Blair, who served in Palestine during the Second World War. Blair took part in patrols of the area to look for evidence of enemy activity, including improvised explosive devices on train tracks. He was made a Prisoner of War in Crete after a swift German invasion overnight in 1941. Although he was not well enough to make an escape, he was able to assist an officer in doing so by making a hat from a hospital blanket while other soldiers made clothes. The officer successfully escaped and his mother wrote to Blair's mother to thank him. Both the hat and the letter are part of this exhibition.

Also on display is one of a pair of embroideries made by Major-General Sir Victor Fortune which he completed while he was a Prisoner of War between 1940 and 1945. Fortune was Divisional Commander of the 51st Highland Division at the outbreak of the Second World War. In 1940, faced with insurmountable odds, he ordered his men to surrender at St. Valery-en-Caux. Along with men of the 1st Battalion, Fortune was made Prisoner of War.





### Joseph Gray Exhibition

In the Spring this year, The Friends sponsored a particularly moving Special Exhibition displaying the work of Joseph Gray. Joseph Gray was an 'adopted son' of the City of Dundee. He was not born there but moved to the city in his early 20s to work for DC Thompson as an artist. Having volunteered in 1914 to serve with the 4th Battalion, The Black Watch, he was injured and sent home in 1916. Although he was no longer at the Front, thoughts of his comrades were never far from his mind. He committed those thoughts and memories to paper and canvas in a series of the most outstanding drawings and paintings. The detail and depiction of life in the trenches was beautifully illustrated in his immaculate pencil drawings, many of which became studies for later



large-scale oil paintings. One of those paintings is *The 4th Black Watch in the Attack* (on display in Gallery 5). Gray's most famous painting, *After Neuve Chapelle*, hangs in the McManus Gallery in Dundee. I was delighted that The Friends had been able to sponsor the exhibition, which was only possible because of the support of the Gray family and six other organisations that lent pieces of work. On hearing of the exhibition, Joseph Gray's daughter decided that she would like to come and see the exhibition and bring some of her family with her. And so, on an evening in late March, we welcomed to The Black Watch Museum no less than four generations of Joseph Gray's immediate family. His daughter Maureen Barclay, aged 96, had travelled from London along with her four daughters, one of whom had come from Australia, her grandchildren and great grandchildren. There were 25 members of the Gray family present that evening, many of whom had not seen some of their antecedent's work that was on display. I was particularly moved that the family made such an enormous effort to come and see this wonderful exhibition.



### The Ballykinler Window

THE long-standing links between The Black Watch and the Church of Scotland are commemorated in two new exhibits at the Regimental Museum.

In 1977, towards the end of an 18-month tour of duty based at Abercorn Barracks at Ballykinler, County Down, in Northern Ireland, the 1st Battalion presented a stained glass window, bearing the distinctive burning bush badge of the national kirk, to the local St Martin's in the Field Church.

In 1989, the Battalion again found itself at Ballykinler on its return from Berlin, and decided to mark its association with Abercorn by commissioning another window – this time featuring a Black Watch soldier against the haunting backdrop of the Mountains of Mourne.

Major Ronnie Proctor MBE, secretary of The Black Watch Association, takes up the story; "I got word that the barracks was to become a training centre and that St Martin's was to be deconsecrated. I felt it was important that the windows should not be lost and, in a successful joint-operation between ourselves and the Queen's Own Highlanders Association, we organised the return of both windows to the museum."

Installed in the spring of this year, they now provide a focal point on the ground floor – fittingly next to the padres' section. The cost of minor repairs, installation and the highly effective back-lighting was met by the Association.

The Ballykinler exhibits are not the only stained glass windows on show at Balhousie Castle. A similar repatriation took place in the early 1990s when a window – again presented by the 1st Battalion – this time of St Barbara's Church at Werl, North Rhine-Westphalia, in the then West Germany, was brought back to the Museum.

That was thanks to the efforts of Colonel Robert Gurdon, at the time Regimental secretary and directory of the Museum. It is now a striking feature on the building's main staircase.

And others are known to exist. "There is another window, which we believe may be in storage, which was installed in St Andrew's Church, Nairobi, Kenya in 1955," said Major Proctor. "We are currently trying to see if it, too, might be returned to Perth. Another, dating from the late 1930s was, we know, installed in Jerusalem."

Outwith the Museum, another example of stained glass window excellence, commemorating The Black Watch, can be viewed in historic St John's Kirk in the heart of Perth.



## New Acquisitions

The Black Watch Castle and Museum receives a fairly regular stream of new donations and loans to the collection, usually averaging about two per week. These new acquisitions are cared for by the Collections Team and put into environmentally monitored storage. Temporary exhibitions provide the Castle with opportunities to display some of these new acquisitions, while some may be added into the permanent displays.

One of the Museum's most recent acquisitions was a loan of a selection of items which belonged to Major General Sir Victor Fortune. This consisted of a wide variety of medals which he was awarded throughout his service including his First and Second World War medals, as well as his Distinguished Service Order and KBE (Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire). In addition Major-General Fortune received a number of gratitude medals from countries such as France and Portugal. This acquisition also included a number of his certificates, including one for the Memorable Honour of Tin Hats. Additional items relating to Major General Fortune were donated to the Museum in 2014, including a pair of embroideries made by Fortune during his time as a Prisoner of War.

Fortune was commissioned into The Black Watch in 1903 and served throughout the First World War, Inter-War and Second World War periods. He was taken Prisoner of War in 1940 and spent the rest of the war working to improve the condition of the men under his charge.

Another significant acquisition this year was a very generous donation from the family of Major Kenneth Allan Lowe, including his medals and a variety of documents. Lowe was 18 when he enlisted into the army in 1937. In due course, he joined The Black Watch where he assisted with the war efforts. He was wounded several times but continued to serve until he was killed in action on the 8th February 1945. Shortly before he died, he received a Military Cross which was included in this donation.

The efforts by which he received his Military Cross are well documented. Major Lowe was in command of a leading company when advancing to St. Michiel Gestel on the 23rd October 1944. The opposition became heavier as they approached the town and as the company approached the nearby road bridge, this was blown up by the enemy. Not content to wait for arrival of river crossing equipment, Lowe procured a boat to get his company across. This endeavour made possible the eventual crossing of the whole battalion as his company had been kept busy building a bridge during the night.



## Louis Flood Lecture, 30 April 2015

The evening of 30 April was a trip down memory lane with a fascinating display of photographs taken by that well known photographer and Perth legend, Louis Flood. The show depicted events linking The Black Watch with Perth, and the county, over thirty years from the 1950s to the 1980s.

There was a goodly turn out of Friends and visitors, including a number of Rotarians who had come along to support their former President.

This most pleasant evening was greatly enhanced by an excellent and humorous overview by Colonel David Arbuthnott who knew personally so many of the people featuring in the photographs, including his own father.

There were over 60 slides covering the following themes:

- Cocktail parties and events at Doo'cote Park and Balhousie featuring many of the key players of yesteryear, including Brigadier Baker Baker and Generals Freddie Graham and Andy Watson.
- Ceremonial events, one featuring a Guard of Honour at Campbell's Dyeworks showing General Arbuthnott and a very young Lieutenant Bob Tweedy.

- The Freedom ceremony at Aberfeldy in 1970 with the Lord Lieutenant, the Earl of Mansfield, Provost Fisher of Aberfeldy and Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier Bernard Ferguson, amongst others.
- Many pictures of Depot events, including a youthful Colin Innes and recruit Jim Baxter, the famous footballer.
- Threshold to operations showing troops about to depart for Korea and Cyprus.
- Sporting events including cricket at Doo'cote Park, curling, football on the South Inch and even a Ladies Tug of War.
- Balhousie Castle and Museum including the Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier Monteith, presenting the Colonel in Chief, HM The Queen Mother, with an engraved Swedish crystal ornament.

All in all it was a most interesting melange of activities over these three decades and greatly enjoyed by all who attended.

Major Derek Mowatt delivered a very warm vote of thanks.





# Our Project with the Heritage Lottery Fund



We are in the closing stages of a five-year Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) project which has played a central part in our overall redevelopment of the Castle and Museum. Working with the HLF has been an absorbing process. By the time we are finished our HLF project will have extended over five years divided into three phases of planning, the actual build and two years ongoing support. We are currently conducting a final evaluation of this project for HLF. This gives us the opportunity to reflect on what has been achieved through their support.

HLF have a two-stage application process for the type of grant we were seeking. We submitted our First Round Submission in November 2010 approximately two years after the launch of the Black Watch Heritage Appeal. After a period of intensive preparation we then submitted our Second Round Submission in November 2011. This included detailed plans for the new build and all aspects of the Museum redevelopment and also detailed financial projections and project execution plans. But it also included major pieces of work on the significance of our heritage, including Balhousie Castle as well as our Collection and Archive. And importantly it described our ongoing commitment to developing and delivering a full programme of activities so that the broader community could have access to and engage with our heritage. Taken together this was a major and thorough piece of work which then proved its worth when it came to execution of the plan in the following year.



The other £52,000 was a 31 % contribution by HLF towards a number of activities taking place over the two years after we reopened to the Public at the end of June 2013. This included our Learning & Audiences Officer post, aspects of our Volunteer programme and most recently digitisation of more of our Collection and Archive and the loading of these images onto our website, which is planned for autumn 2015. This has given us valuable financial support for these activities. From the HLF perspective they have gained the opportunity to remain involved for a period after the capital works were completed.

Many people have been involved in the HLF project but fortunately our core team of Emma Halford-Forbes, Linda Campbell, Rebecca Berger and James Watt has been in place for most of the time – and we have also benefitted from continuity in the key HLF individuals who have worked with us.

In recent years HLF have given significant support to the museums of the Gordon Highlanders, the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and the Highlanders as well as The Black Watch. So it is probably fair to say that at the start of our journey with them HLF Scotland knew more about our business than we knew about them! But by now there is good knowledge of our project on both sides.

Meeting the HLF application criteria and following their process has undoubtedly stretched us on a number of occasions. But reflecting as we reach the end of our HLF project we can clearly see we have benefitted in a number of ways going well beyond the critical value of their financial support. HLF insist on a rigorous set of processes for planning and execution. And they have stretched our thinking in a number of ways, for example in recognising the importance of Balhousie Castle and the site, making our heritage accessible to the widest possible audience and involving the broader community during and after the project.



Our HLF grant was awarded at the end of March 2012 and this was a major factor in the trustees' decision to proceed with the project at that time.

Our grant was for £778,000 and represented 31 % of total costs which HLF agreed to support. £726,000 of this grant was towards our capital costs and £52,000 was towards ongoing costs. The capital element of our HLF grant was for a set of very clearly identified purposes and had to be spent in a very specific timeframe. But the approved purposes for this capital element closely matched the purposes of the Heritage Appeal which was helpful in managing the overall project. The capital element of the HLF grant represented over 20 % of the total £3,500,000 raised by the Heritage Appeal.





# Transcription

Volunteer Margaret Bowman has been transcribing hand-written documents from the Black Watch archive for about 8 years now. She started out transcribing the Halkett diaries from the Crimean War, but over the past year she has focussed on the First World War papers of Lt Col John Stewart. The Stewart papers were sealed until the beginning of 2014, the start of the centenary of the Great War. Once opened in January 2014 the sealed file revealed a wealth of material, including letters from Stewart to his wife and son as well as Stewart's private diaries spanning the whole of the War.

An example of one of Stewart's letters is reproduced here, alongside Margaret's transcription. Margaret comments, "Stewart by and large is very readable, but if indelible pencil gets wet then the paper smudges and degrades and it is not easy to read! Once I got used to his writing though Stewart hasn't been bad. I worked on another man's papers for about 6 weeks and he didn't have one full stop or comma in all his writing!"

Margaret spoke to staff and volunteers earlier in 2015 about her work and inspired a further three volunteers to start transcribing. This new group comes in every second Monday; their transcriptions will be kept with the object records for use by researchers.



No 53

Somewhere

Friday 29-3-18

Dearest One,

Here we are firmly fixed on historic soil! I cannot tell you the name of the place but you will gather from my former letters that we haven't gone very far. I have none of your dear letters to answer so this must be just an account of our journey up here. We left our dusty and sandy camp on Saturday last, the 23rd, at least I did with the HdQrs and 2 Coys. We marched along the canal and camped on a still worse spot that night. A more uncomfortable camp right in the desert, the sand got into both food and liquid and I felt as if my inside was being sand papered. The following day Sunday, we marched on and reached a spot where we cross the canal by a pontoon bridge and camped again on the desert about 3 miles further on, more sand for meals and added to this it rained heavily during the night and the men got wet through. On the Monday we dried our things and in the evening I fell in the party and was just on the brink of moving off to the railway station (we did the rest of our journey by rail) when a message came to the effect that there was a breakdown on the line, we were not to move. Very provoking but it couldn't be helped so I unloaded the carts & mules, issued the blankets & great coats & prepared to settle down for the night, but just as I had done so other orders arrived to say that we were to get to the station at once and get into the train, so after packing up everything again we set out and eventually loaded up ourselves & baggage in trucks & settle down for the night. All the following day, Tuesday, we spent in our trucks at the station and eventually moved off about 10 o'clock that night, followed by the other ½ Bn - which had arrived the day after we did - about three hours later. We/All Tuesday night was spent in crossing the desert and we arrived at the frontier early on Wednesday morning. From then onwards the journey was splendid: the line runs through gently undulating country covered with grass and cultivated fields, thousands of flowers of all kind made ?? things look heavenly after the desert. It was a gorgeous day too, & altogether it was a delightful change. We reached "rail head" about two o'clock and had some little difficulty in unloading our baggage, mules & carts owing to the lack of sufficient platform accommodation but it was done at last and we eventually marched into our bivouac area about 5 P.M. The Seaforth Highrs who had arrived two days earlier, had tea ready for us all which was kind of them "after which to bed, well content" Our camp is on a hill sloping towards the North and on a fine day we get a perfectly magnificent view, the Judean hills on our right sloping up from the plain on which we are, and on our left the sea coast litteral(sic) covered with well cultivated fields, and further to our left the place where the oranges come from "By jove, WHAT oranges we get, I eat 8 or 10 of them a day, the round I have drawn is just pencilled around one I'm just going to demolish: the price is 8 for one piastre or 2½d the men eat so many that our incinerator can scarcely burn all the skins. We are moving up on Monday next and shall then be not very far away from Abdul once more. From where I am I can look right away over the ground at present held by The Turks, it is a very quiet bit of the line and there hasn't been a single shot fired here today, yesterday there was a little but no damage was done. It is now blowing a howling gale, a prelude to a downpour of rain and as I don't any reason to believe that my tent will very shortly fall, I must stop. Much MUCH love my very own darling sweetheart from

Your ever very devoted

J Stewart Jack





# The Shop at the Castle and Museum

The shop at the Castle and Museum has recently undergone a revamp to make it look fresher, brighter and improve the flow to make your shopping experience enjoyable. CEO Anne and Retail Manager Lorna have sourced some exciting new product lines for the shop; some of these have already been introduced, and others will be arriving over the coming months, all to be on the shelf in time for the Friends Christmas shopping evening on the 26th of November. We look forward to seeing you there!



*Couthie Originals - the original collection of gifts and other products, including our ever-popular Pairs game, the magnetic words (aka Scots fridge poetry!) and our popular money box, mugs & hanging plaques!*



*We have a lovely selection of locally sourced food & drink - from shortbread and our own branded chocolate to flavoured gins and a small selection of whisky and beers.*



*Our Totally Tartans range includes tartan cushions made with authentic Scottish tartans. We also have quirky Scottie dog cushions that make ideal gifts for anyone with a Westie or Scottie dog. We also offer tartan draught excluders and throws that will keep you cosy this winter!*



*These fun socks come with a pair and a spare - the perfect gift for the man or lady who is forever losing socks!*





# First World War Memorial Wall Project

Last year the Castle and Museum launched the First World War Memorial Wall Project. Throughout the First World War centenary, every day at 11:00 members of the Castle and Museum team hold a brief ceremony during which the names of the Black Watch soldiers killed on that day are read out and a cross is placed on the Wall for each man. The crosses have accumulated over the first year of the centenary, a visual representation of the Regiment's losses. In this first year, local schools, community groups, families and visitors have taken part in the Memorial Wall ceremonies. A teacher from one local school wrote after their visit,

*"The children are extremely touched and honoured to have been asked to take part in the memorial service remembering the soldiers that had fallen that day. A very powerful event for them to be part of and very nice to be included. Thank you."*

There were two major events in 1915 that saw hundreds of Black Watch men killed in one day. The first was the battle of Aubers Ridge on 9 May 1915, when 388 Black Watch soldiers lost their lives. The Reverend Scott Burton of St Matthews Church of Scotland in Perth conducted an extended service on 9 May this year. The second was the first day of the battle of Loos on 25 September 1915, when 573 Black Watch men were killed. Reverend A. Forsyth TA of The Black Watch Association led a service on 25 September 2015 which, like that on 9 May, was attended by members of the public, descendants of those killed, members of The Black Watch Association and of 3SCOTS. By the end of September 2015 when this newsletter went to print, 2165 crosses had been hung on the Wall to represent the men of The Black Watch who had died. The project will continue over the next three years, and all are welcome to attend and be involved. Photographs of all the memorial ceremonies can be found on the museum's Facebook page, and a list of dates on which the ceremonies take place can be found on the website.





# Living History: From Waterloo to the World Wars

In May 2015 the Castle and Museum once more took part in the Festival of Museums, a celebration of history and heritage that takes place annually in museums across Scotland.

This year The Black Watch Castle and Museum put on a jam-packed event showcasing military history over the past 200 years.

Visitors met a troop of Waterloo soldiers camped in the Castle grounds. These soldiers put on live musket demonstrations and even fired a 19th century cannon from the back of Balhousie Castle, heard throughout Perth!

The gory details of medicine in the trenches were explored and explained by a First World War nurse, while a Black Watch soldier from 1915 took both children and adults through a series of drills and physical exercises.

The Scottish Military Vehicles Group were once more on site with vehicles dating from as early as 1916 to the post-war period. Skill Share Dundee were also involved in this year's event; children could make their own leather ID tags with leather-stamping tools, as well as helping to weave a replica of the Waterloo Colours.

It was a very successful day, and plans are already underway for the 2016 Festival of Museums!





## Interview with Volunteer Meeters and Greeters

At the Castle and Museum, volunteers support the organisation across all teams and departments, including the Front of House team. These volunteer meeters and greeters and shop assistants meet just about everyone who comes through the Castle doors, so we thought we would ask a few of them about the interesting people they meet in their roles.

We spoke to two of our meeters and greeters, Jim and Gordon, both of whom have volunteered at the Castle since it reopened in June 2013. Here are a few of their answers to our questions.

### What is the best story you have heard about a Black Watch soldier in your time volunteering at the Castle?

**Jim:** "An elderly ex Black Watch soldier visited with his grandson. He told me the story of when he was a young conscript at the Battle of the Hook in Korea, he, along with three other young soldiers, hid in a tunnel from Communist Chinese troops. A hand grenade was thrown into the tunnel and exploded. He felt blood on his back but was unable to check. The Chinese soldiers did not enter the cave thinking that no one would have survived. When the Chinese troops were repulsed by allied forces the young soldiers were able to crawl out of the tunnel. He discovered it was not himself bleeding but one of the others, a nineteen year old had a back injury from the grenade. They dragged him off the Hook by arms around his throat attempting to keep his back as still as possible. They all survived with the injured soldier making a recovery."

**Gordon:** "I met the relatives of David Findlay VC who told me of his life before the War, and I went to the laying of a Memorial Stone in his hometown of Guardbridge."

### What stands out in your mind as the most fascinating encounter with a visitor to the Castle and Museum?

**Gordon:** "I met an old man who as a child (10 onwards) was in a concentration camp in Holland. Because he was a good singer he was in the camp choir. Because of this he was better fed. One day British soldiers entered the camp. He told me one was from Scotland and he gave him some chocolate. He sang the soldier a song who started crying. He then shook my hand and walked away – he had never forgotten this. The old man showed me his camp number tattooed on his arm. His mother and younger sister also survived. He told me a few months after being freed his voice broke!"

**Jim:** "An elderly Glasgow lady visiting the museum with her nieces was looking for the portrait of ancestor Piper Donald Bain. Family had donated the portrait many years ago and it used to hang in the castle. When a young girl she remembered it hanging at home in her bedroom. She was disappointed the portrait was absent so unable to show to her family. [Archivist] Richard was in that day and on investigation found it in the archive. He invited the family up to view. I was privileged to be present at what was a very emotional occasion. The elderly lady and her family were delighted and extremely proud when Richard informed them that Donald Bain was the hero piper of Alma and also the piper at the relief of Lucknow."



Gordon pictured here with Sir Alistair Irwin



Volunteer Jim giving a guided tour through the Museum.

## Lecture Programme 2015-16

### SSAFA in the First World War 9 November 2015

1:30 lecture commences

Tickets £7 non-members | £5 Friends

Nancy Johnston will give this lecture about the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association in the FWW.

### The Battle of Waterloo 19 November 2015

6:30 drinks reception | 7:00 lecture commences

Tickets £9 non-members | £7 Friends

Maj Gen James Cowan will examine the relevance of the Waterloo campaign to modern war.

### 1915: The Second Year of the Great War 9 December 2015

6:30 drinks reception | 7:00 lecture commences

Tickets £9 non-members | £7 Friends

Mike Taylor of the Tayside Branch of the Western Front Assoc. will sum up the events of 1915 as the second year of the FWW centenary draws to a close.

### The Battle of Kut 14 January 2016

1:30 lecture commences

Tickets £7 non-members | £5 Friends

Black Watch Archivist Richard McKenzie will present on the battle of Kut, when the Ottoman Empire troops besieged a British-Indian garrison town between December 1915 and April 1916.

### Cycling the Silk Route 27 January 2016

6:30 drinks reception | 7:00 lecture commences

Tickets £9 non-members | £7 Friends

Tess Monteith will share her recent experience of cycling the silk road from Shanghai to Venice. Proceeds will be split with Scottish Charity Air Ambulance.

### The Battle of Verdun: The breaking point that did not break, the stress fracture that would not heal.

11 February 2016

6:30 drinks reception | 7:00 lecture commences

Tickets £9 non-members | £7 Friends

Professor Peter Jackson of the University of Glasgow will give this lecture on the battle of Verdun in the First World War.

### The Somme: A Centennial Reassessment 10 March 2016

6:30 drinks reception | 7:00 lecture commences

Tickets £9 non-members | £7 Friends

The eminent historian Professor Gary Sheffield will deliver a balanced re-assessment of the Somme as we approach the centenary of the battle.

### The Road to St Valery 5 April 2016

6:30 drinks reception | 7:00 lecture commences

Tickets £9 non-members | £7 Friends

Brigadier Charles Grant will trace the withdrawal of the 51st Highland Division in 1940, leading to the surrender at St Valery in June of that year.

### Gettysburg – This Hallowed Ground 3 May 2016

6:30 drinks reception | 7:00 lecture commences

Tickets £9 non-members | £7 Friends

Speaker and author Dr Roger Cartwright tells the story of the battle of Gettysburg and how the failure of the British and French navies to break the blockade led to Lee's invasion of the north, and how his failure at Gettysburg destroyed the hope of Anglo-French naval intervention.

### The Battle of Jutland 7 June 2016

6:30 drinks reception | 7:00 lecture commences

Tickets £9 non-members | £7 Friends

Dr Philips O'Brien will speak on the battle of Jutland, the largest naval battle of the First World War.

### Friends are Good on the Day of Battle: Scottish Regiments on the Somme July-November 1916

6 July 2016

6:30 drinks reception | 7:00 lecture commences

Tickets £9 non-members | £7 Friends

Dr Trevor Royle gives this lecture on the contribution of the Scottish Regiments at the battle of the Somme.

### The Black Watch at El Alamein 2 August 2016

6:30 drinks reception | 7:00 lecture commences

Tickets £9 non-members | £7 Friends

Dr Niall Barr will deliver this talk on the battle of El Alamein and the role of The Black Watch in that battle.





# Armed Forces Day Flag Raising



June this year was particularly significant, 18th June being the 200th Anniversary of The Battle of Waterloo. Armed Forces Flag Raising day across the United Kingdom was planned to take place on 22nd June and for Perth and Kinross the favoured venue for this ceremony was Balhousie Castle, the Home of The Black Watch.

It was decided this year to enhance the ceremony to make it more of an occasion. As it happened, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (ScotsDG) had formed a Mounted Troop to celebrate Waterloo, and they were invited with their Pipes and Drums from their Home HQ in Edinburgh to join the Ceremony at Balhousie Castle.

The Black Watch and The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards have served together many times over the years, but in recent history frequently during the Cold War in Germany as part of the British Army of the Rhine and more recently in Iraq as part of 7th Armed Brigade – The Desert Rats.

The Occasion was hosted by The Provost of Perth and Kinross, Liz Grant, who made an address of welcome to all present which included a large turnout of the Old Comrades. Pipe Major Alistair Duthie played for the flag raising which was followed by a short performance by the Pipes and Drums of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. The event concluded with a Reception held by The Provost at Balhousie Castle.



*Images by Angus Findlay*





# Cafe in Focus

AUGUST saw The Black Watch Museum's popular Copper Beech Café scoop a major accolade at the prestigious Food Awards 2015 in Glasgow's Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Judged the Best Café/Bistro of the Year in the north-east region, it was a fitting reward for head chef, Alec Summers, front of house manager, Moira Bartrop, and their respective teams. For Alec victory was particularly sweet.

"It's always encouraging when your efforts are recognised," he said, "and here at the Copper Beech we are determined to build on that success."

Alec, who lives in Methven, but originally hails from Fraserburgh, was appointed only in March of this year.

After leaving school at 16, he first dipped his toes in the catering industry at Peterhead's Waterside Inn hotel before entering college in Aberdeen to gain his qualifications. Latterly, following a spell as executive head chef at Crieff Hydro Hotel, he spent 10 years as a freelance, prior to his arrival at the Copper Beech Café.

"I was absolutely in tune with the ethos here, which had been set by the chief executive officer, namely, the emphasis on fresh products, fresh soups, home baking and – really important this – consistency in what we offer our customers," says Alec,

"All our baking...scones, cakes etc...are produced in-house, and we aim to give them that individual touch by applying different icings and glazings. We already produce a selection of gluten-free items but we plan to highlight that by creating a dedicated shelf at our counter."

Healthy eating has a high priority at the Copper Beech – there is no fryer in the kitchen, for example – and the café is proud of the fact that much of its fresh produce comes from local suppliers.

The Copper Beech has proved an extremely popular venue with both visitors to The Black Watch Museum and Perth residents and regularly welcomes up to 280 covers per day.

In addition, the café caters for special occasions – Fathers' Day, Mothers' Day, Easter, Burns' Night – as well as regimental dinners and private functions.

Says Alec: "With that in mind, we are currently devising banquet selector menus so that potential clients can see more or less at a glance what we can offer."

And, for those who have yet to sample the delights of The Copper Beech Café, here is a short selection of the mouth-watering dishes on offer: Full Regimental Breakfast; The Company Deal (a soup and sandwich combo) and Baked Potato Battalion (with a choice of fillings).

General Orders include such favourites as creamy macaroni cheese, chilli nachos to share, Caesar salad, salmon and smoked haddock fishcakes.

All that and more, plus, of course, special dishes of the day. Nor are the 'junior soldiers' forgotten. They have their own Cadet's Choice menu.

So why not make the Copper Beech Cafe your regular port of call for morning coffee, lunch or afternoon tea. Alec, Moira and the team will be delighted to welcome you.



## Copper Beech Cafe Festive Lunch

Tuesday, 1 to Thursday, 24 December 2015

**Highland Game Terrine**  
chutney, oatcakes

**Plum Tomato and Mozzarella Salad**  
basil oil

**Chef's Lentil Soup**  
a hearty broth served with crusty bread

\*\*\*\*\*

**Traditional Roast Turkey**  
with stuffing, chipolatas and pan gravy

**Pan-fried Fillet of Salmon**  
Drambuie and chive cream sauce

**Wild Field Mushroom and Pea Risotto**  
parmesan shavings

Medley of Root Vegetables with Roast Potatoes

\*\*\*\*\*

**Christmas Pudding with Brandy Sauce**

**Marbled Chocolate Truffle Terrine**  
lemon cream

**Duo of Scottish Cheeses**  
biscuits, celery and grapes

\*\*\*\*\*

**Freshly brewed Tea or Filter Coffee**  
served with warm mince pies

2 courses £15.00 per person

3 courses £20.00 per person





# Summer Festival

The Castle and Museum celebrates the success of the inaugural Summer Festival which took place on 5th September. The sun shone as we welcomed over 500 visitors throughout the day, many of whom had never crossed our threshold before. The day was jam packed full of activities which included an exciting mix of live music, activities for all the family, tasty treats and the opportunity to experience The Home of The Black Watch.

Live music was provided by popular folk duo, Mad Ferret, who helped to create a fabulous atmosphere with the shortbread solider decorating station being a big hit, not just with the children, but with the parents too!

The well attended Gallery tours were led by the Museum's knowledgeable and engaging tour guides who followed on with object handling sessions.



In the crafts area families were busy concentrating on making Black Watch Badge fabric collages whilst Perth based company Wicked Chocolate created delicious chocolate covered strawberries and marshmallows all day long.

The face painting stand produced lots of little people who looked like tigers or with butterflies and even castles emblazoned on their cheeks.



Reenactors from the Seven Years War watched on as The Black Watch Cadets wowed the crowds when they preformed their skilled drill movements whilst the Museum archivist turned his hand to a gun powder demonstration!

A sizzling BBQ was headed up by the awarding winning Copper Beech Café team with the Head Chef, Alec Summers, providing much anticipated cookery demonstrations through the day.

The day also played hosted to beat the goalie, pin the Hackle and a fantastic cocktail making demonstration.

The day was rounded off with the anticipated raffle draw, hosted by The Friends. The raffle had many great prizes provided by generous local companies and suppliers; the top prize being a 5 day cruise around Norway with Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines. Sarah Riddell- Webster, Friends chairwoman explains, *"The Friends are extremely grateful to all of the companies and organisations that donated the wonderful prizes that helped make the Raffle such a popular and successful part of the Summer Festival. The Friends greatly enjoyed being part of such a wonderful, family orientated day"*





## Waterloo Lives



The Black Watch Museum collaborated with the National Army Museum (NAM) to mark the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo with a special commemorative exhibition. Titled “Waterloo Lives” the exhibition told the real story of Waterloo through a fascinating display of objects that told the personal stories of soldiers and their families, and the legacy that the battle left behind in the lives of so many people. The exhibition opened in May and ran until the end of October.

Included in the exhibition were works of art, military uniforms and medals. Two framed paper items were loaned from the NAM, as well as a cavalry man’s cloak and busby. The NAM uniform differs greatly from the uniform of The Black Watch (an example of the style of the period was also on display), and from the uniform of today’s soldier. It was a privilege to be able to borrow items from the national collection and bring them up to Scotland.



Amongst our own items on display were artefacts representing both Black Watch regiments at the battle – the 42nd and the 73rd. The pension certificate of Alex McKinnon of the 42nd Royal Highlanders shows the extra monies he received as a result of his service at Waterloo. While the Waterloo Medal of Thomas Cross of the 2nd Battalion, 73rd Regiment, was key in illustrating the contribution made by our sometime 2nd Battalion.

The NAM’s “Waterloo Lives” project was a unique opportunity afforded to Regimental museums while the NAM is closed for refurbishment. Being involved in this national project – with the backing of the NAM’s curatorial, exhibition and marketing teams – enabled us to develop and publicise an exhibition on a scale beyond our regular capacity. Working with national museums is exciting for any curator; as well as working with some of the best collections in the country, it gives us a unique opportunity to raise our profile.



## The Regimental Reunion



The Friends committee were very pleased to be invited by The Black Watch Association to have a stand at the annual Regimental Reunion which was held at Balhousie on a sunny Saturday in June. The Black Watch Association provides camaraderie and support to all those who have ever served with the Regiment for no matter what length of time. The Friends support the Museum and the collections with in it which remind every one of the battles fought and service given by all those who have served in the Regiment. I was delighted that several of the Association members took the opportunity to join The Friends that day. We welcomed new members from as far afield as Stoke-on-Trent and London, both areas that reflect how Regimental recruiting changed in times of war and the years that followed.



The Association members formed up and marched through Perth led by the Pipes and Drums of 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland, who had been joined by a number of pipers from within the Association, back to their Regimental home at Balhousie. As the sun shone it was a glorious sight to see them all stream through the Queen Elizabeth gates and into the courtyard of the castle. They were addressed by Councillor Bob Duncan who is Lord Provost of Dundee and currently President of The Black Watch Association. The formalities of the day over, the staff of The Copper Beech Café served pints of beer and pies in large quantities to the assembled company.

It was nice to see so many Association members in their blazers and blue bonnets, red hackles highlighted in the sunshine, filling the garden of their Regimental Headquarters. Their presence always helps to bring life and reality to the stories told and artefacts contained within the museum.





# YOUR SUPPORT ENABLES



## EDUCATION

A learning and education programme that encourages students to engage with the collection and the proud history of The Black Watch.



## PROTECTION

The continued research, conservation and protection of this unique collection and Balhousie Castle.



## RECOGNITION

A strong outreach programme that connects people. Your support can be recognised both online and at the castle.



If you are interested in becoming a Corporate Patron or would like to know more about the Corporate Patrons scheme, please contact Leonor Blackhall on [info@theblackwatch.co.uk](mailto:info@theblackwatch.co.uk).

## PATRON OPTIONS



### ENTERTAINMENT

Exclusive use of the Castle  
Exclusive use of the Meeting Room  
Invitations to corporate cocktail party  
Tours



### DISCOUNTS

10% off at the Black Watch Museum Shop  
10% off at the Copper Beech Cafe  
10% off Venue hire  
Discount cards



### RECOGNITION

At the Castle and Museum  
On the website



	BLACK PATRON	SILVER PATRON	GOLD PATRON
1 DAY	-	2 DAYS	1 DAY
2	1 DAY	4	3 DAYS
GUIDED TOUR	2	CURATOR'S TOUR	6
4 GUESTS	4	6 GUESTS	BESPOKE TOUR
			8 GUESTS
10% off at the Black Watch Museum Shop	✓	✓	✓
10% off at the Copper Beech Cafe	✓	✓	✓
10% off Venue hire	✓	✓	✓
Discount cards	5	10	50
At the Castle and Museum	-	✓	✓
On the website	✓	✓	✓
	£300+VAT PER ANNUM	£1000+VAT PER ANNUM	£5000+VAT PER ANNUM

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The Black Watch Museum is a charitable company registered in Scotland | Charity No. SC005848

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