

Liverpool Scottish Regimental Museum Trust

Newsletter No. 5 Issued 23rd May 2003

Chairman: Professor Donald Ritchie FRSE DL Hon Curator: Dennis Reeves Esq.

Hon Secretary: Major (retd) IL Riley TD FSA Scot Hon Treasurer: Major K.Ravenscroft



From: Major Ian Riley

Dear Friend of the Liverpool Scottish Museum,

[Shortcut to Table of Contents](#)

I apologise for the gap of over 12 months between newsletters but a huge amount has happened in the meantime which has meant a lot of work for all involved in the Museum. The death of Major David Evans, the physical building of the museum interior and the displays, the organisation of the opening events themselves, the preparation of the documentation of the Museum connected with our application to Resource for fully registered status and the preparation of our successful bid to the North West Museums Service for a grant towards conservation and environmental control have been priorities together with the trip to Ieper/Ypres and the rededication of the War Memorials. Unfortunately, there are still research queries originating from before Christmas that are still in the pipe line. I hope you feel that the wait will be worthwhile.

Stop Press Stop Press Stop Press Stop Press Stop Press

- **Liverpool Scottish soldiers of the King's and Cheshire Regiment** are about to be deployed overseas
- **The opening of 'Scottish Wood' at Altcar Range** will be carried out by Brigadier The Honourable HBHE Monro CBE, Colonel of The Highlanders (Seaforth, Gordons and Camerons) on Sunday 13th July at 3pm. A page is being maintained on the Museum Website to [update](#) those interested..

The previous newsletters can be seen in the [Archive](#) file.

- [Forthcoming Additional Openings \(in addition to Wednesdays 2 pm to 7 pm but please check 0151 645 5717\)](#)
- [Award of Fully Registered Status](#)
- [Official Opening of the Museum](#)
- ['At Home' Open Nights](#)
- [Progress with the Museum](#)
- [Acquisitions](#)
- [Conservation and Future Projects](#)
- [Death of Major David Evans TD](#)
- [Rededication of the War Memorials](#)
- [Liverpool Scottish Visit to Ieper - Commemoration of Sjt CW Ormesher](#)
- [Liverpool Scottish Army Cadet Unit - Patrol Competition Success](#)

Openings Additional to Wednesday Afternoon and Evenings

The Museum is normally open on Wednesdays from 2 pm until 7 pm (and at other times by mutually convenient appointment) but please check by 'phoning 0151 645 5717 (Curator - home) or 07952 169285 (Museum). The following additional dates are/were offered

- **Wednesday 19th March 8pm to 10 pm** for members of the Liverpool Scottish Regimental Association Pipe Band
- **Saturday 22nd March 2pm to 6 pm** (prior with the Liverpool Scottish Officers' Association AGM that is to take place at the TA Centre Townsend Avenue). Although this is planned to take place on the day of the Officers' Association AGM, anybody wishing to visit the Museum is most welcome. It would help planning (although it is not essential) if those intending to visit could contact Major Ian Riley (01925 766157)
- **Saturday 12th April 12pm until 4 pm.** It would help planning (although it is not essential) if those intending to visit could contact Major Ian Riley (01925 766157)
- **Wednesday 16th April 7pm to 8:45 pm** Families of the Liverpool Scottish ACF unit
- **Wednesday 21st May 2003 at 19:30** for soldiers of the serving Liverpool Scottish (King's and Cheshire Regiment) including those about to go to Iraq
- **Sunday 15th June 2003** For AGM of Liverpool Scottish Regimental Association (members of the Association - see Association Newsletter) and Hooge Day Remembrance (members and friends of the Liverpool Scottish) Exact timings are not confirmed - phone Freddy Bates (0151 476 5961) for details
- **Monday 16th June 2003 7:30 pm to 9 pm. (Provisional)** Please contact Major Ian Riley (01925 766157) as there is a group of Old Comrades from the 4th Bn. The South Lancashire Regiment (Prince of Wales Volunteers) likely to be attending on this night.
- **Sunday 13th July 2003** - Visit of the Colonel of The Highlanders (Seaforth, Gordons and Camerons), Brigadier the Hon HBHE Munro MBE, to the Museum prior to the opening of 'Scottish Wood' at Altcar Range. (The Museum event is by invitation only but the event at Altcar is open to all friends of the Liverpool Scottish and takes place at 1500hrs). A brief newsletter giving details of the Scottish Wood opening will be posted on the museum website in mid-June with a brief e-mail notification.

[Return to top of page](#) [Return to Main Museum Site](#) [Contact the Museum](#)

Award of Fully Registered Status to the Museum



The Trustees are pleased to announce that the Museum has been awarded **fully registered status** (No.431) by Resource (The Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries) from 13th February 2003.

There are about 1500 fully registered museums in the country. We have been seeking this for about some time as a provisionally registered museum and had made a lot of progress towards full status when Forbes House, Childwall, closed in 1999. There are a couple of riders on the award of 'fully registered status' which involve completing our documentation and putting in place clear policies for collection management and a system for executing them. This is no small task in itself but we have a plan and a timetable (which has slipped only minimally)

The Museum Registration scheme was set up

- to encourage all museums to achieve an agreed minimum standard in museum management, collection care and public service.
- to foster confidence in museums as repositories of our common heritage and managers of public resources.
- to provide a shared ethical basis for all bodies involved from preservation to heritage which meet the definition of 'museum'.

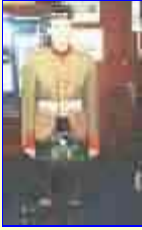
The award of full registration is open to all museums with a long-term commitment to quality and public service and shows that a museum

- has achieved approved standards in museum management, collection care, and public services
- is a suitable home for collections which are part of our common heritage
- is worthy to receive support from public sources

Resource (The Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries) is the body that administers the scheme. The museum holds some six sided A4 information sheets for anyone interested. More information about the registration scheme can be found [here](#). We still aim to improve our standards in line with the recent publication, [Benchmarks in Collection Care](#).

[Return to top of page](#) [Return to Main Museum Site](#) [Contact the Museum](#)

Official Opening of the Museum



The official opening of the Museum in the new premises at Botanic Road took place on Saturday 17th November. Over 50 guests joined the Trustees of the Museum and **Colonel Alan Waterworth, Lord-Lieutenant of Merseyside, and Mrs. Waterworth**. Amongst those present were **Mrs. Ethna Foster-Carter, her son, Aidan, and her daughter, Mrs. Claire Silk**, for the presentation of the pocket watch of Captain Noel Chavasse VC and Bar, MC to the Museum. **Mrs. Foster-Carter** is a niece of Noel Chavasse.



Following the reception and the opening ceremony, there was a fork supper. It was unfortunate that the museum could not accommodate more people for the ceremony but it was packed to capacity. The Museum Trustees are most grateful to the Liverpool Scottish ACF unit (commanded by **WO1 John Pollock**) for their assistance, co-operation and support in all the opening functions, including the 'At Home' nights (see below) and they could not have been successful without the active and willing support of the cadets. It is intended to place a fuller illustrated account on the site in the next few months.

[Return to top of page](#) [Return to Main Museum Site](#) [Contact the Museum](#)

'At Home' Open Nights



Following the official opening in mid-November, the Museum held three invitation 'At Home' events that ran from 2 pm until 9 pm. They proved exhausting, busy and rewarding. It was good to see so many of those who had helped us and who had supported us. **The Lord Mayor, the Vice Lord-Lieutenant, the High Sheriff and Brigadier Mike Wharmby**, the Commander of 42 (North West) Brigade, were amongst the many (over 200) who came through the doors. Brigadier Wharmby took the opportunity to present the ACF Patrol Team with their certificates ([see below](#)).

The Trustees know that these functions were only possible with the support of the ACF and members of the Regimental Association such as **Fred Bates, David Sellars, Bob Davies and Sid Edwards**. Their unstinting help is gratefully acknowledged.



For the purposes of viewing the displays, about 25 people seems to be a comfortable number although, as the official opening showed, 55 makes for a good party. However, we did find that having 55 to 60 people in the room was not the best situation to show off the Museum's treasures. There will be further At Home/Open Days and dates will be offered to the Regimental Association and to the ACF as well as other organisations.

[Return to top of page](#) [Return to Main Museum Site](#) [Contact the Museum](#)

Progress Within the Museum

Since the last newsletter, nearly twelve months ago, work has continued apace at the Museum. Apart from the tireless and completely invaluable work of **Dennis Reeves**, our Honorary Curator, we are very grateful to

- **John Archer** for his work on the fabric of the Museum and the huge amount of work he has done to improve the environment and the storage facilities. In particular we need to recognize the work that he has done to adjust and fit the showcases acquired from the Museum of the Manchester Regiment.

- **Captain Robert Bonner** of the Museum of the Manchesters for making those showcases available to us.
- **Tony Marchant**, who worked for several weekends to create a suitable alcove for the Liverpool City Centenary Scroll
- **Phillip Ross and Andrew Ross** for the huge amount of on-going work done in digitising Museum records and diaries and in preparing the bound museum guide (which complements the set of contextual information boards prepared by **Dennis Reeves**), tirelessly turning them out on their trusty colour printer over more than a few hours. The attractive presentation of these guides is witnessed by the difficulty we have in stopping visitors taking them away!
- **Sid Edwards, Bob Davies and Mike Pugh Thomas** for the work they have done in conserving the medal collection.
- **Major Keith Hastie TD** for the help he has given in liaising with the Reserve Forces and Cadet Association to effect improvements in the roofing of the Museum.
- **Fred Bates** for his skills, particularly with the paintbrush.
- **David Cato** for his willingness to do all manner of jobs at short notice (sorry I missed the turning of the M602 on the way to Ashton under Lyne; a trip all the way to Leeds, rather than just half way, would have been most enjoyable).
- **Gordon McConnell** for the work he has done on the electrical side and security improvements following the death of **Frank Dean**. Indeed, there have been substantial improvements to the security of the Museum.
- Various student helpers who have made themselves available, often at short notice, including **David Phizacklea, Ben Lyon, Phil Penketh, Mike Pritchard, Phil Thompson, Chris Hodson, Gareth Williams, Matthew Morris, Paul Fletcher, Darren Greensmith, Patrick Mohan and Martin Warren**.

[Return to top of page](#) [Return to Main Museum Site](#) [Contact the Museum](#)

Acquisitions

Amongst other important acquisitions in the period since the last newsletter are

- the important albums, photographs and effects of the Dickinson brothers (Captain RFB Dickinson, Captain GF Dickinson and Captain AP Dickinson MC) passed to us by **Mr. John Dickinson**.
- the pocket watch of Captain Noel Chavasse VC and Bar placed with us by Mrs Ethna Foster-Carter and her family.
- the most interesting model group given and made by **Ivan 'Shrapnel Charlie' Sinnaeve**, representing the Imperial War Museum photograph of Liverpool Scottish soldiers escorting German prisoners into Ieper/Ypres immediately after the Battle of Hooge (16th June 1915). This was presented by **Ivan Sinnaeve** at the Liverpool Scottish Stone on the Hooge battlefield on 16th June 2002. There will be a feature on the work of **'Shrapnel Charlie'** (who lives near Ypres/Ieper and whose work is created from WW1 battlefield relics such as shrapnel balls and spent bullets) in the next newsletter.
- the service dress tunic of RQMS Scott Macfie passed to us by **Mr Darren Sidell**, (after a contact through his father **Mr Colin Sidell**) who rescued it some years ago from the collection of stage props found in the loft of a Sixth Form College in Norfolk and destined for the rubbish skip. It came complete with its medal ribbons (including the Military Medal), overseas service stripes and 'Legs Eleven' tactical markings. These are two strips of black cloth coming down from the back of the collar used to denoted the 1st/10th (Scottish) Bn within the 55th (West Lancashire) Division during WW1.
- a WW1 British duckboard lately the property of a Belgian farmer, the late **Mr Paul Devogele** (1926 - 1997), and passed to us by **Mr Johan Durnez**, a friend of the Museum in Flanders. This was brought back on the coach from Ieper/Ypres in June 2002
- the officer's dirk (1901 pattern) and sgean dubh of Surgeon-Lieutenant A.G. Gullan.
- another 1901 pattern officer's dirk from **Mr. Paul Curphey**
- important photographs and documentary sources from a variety of donors



We are grateful to all those who have lent us or given us material

Conservation and Future Projects

Pictures: We received a grant from the Liverpool Scottish Regimental Trustees of £400 towards the restoration and conservation of a variety of pictures in addition to further grants connected with normal maintenance and the opening ceremony. Included in this was the cleaning and revarnishing of the portrait of Colonel C Forbes Bell VD, the founding commanding officer. Another interesting project was the cleaning of an amateur portrait of Sgt John H. Drennan (a Liverpool Scottish WW1 veteran who was still serving with the Liverpool Scottish in 1955 following WW2 service with the Cheshire Regiment). His medals hang immediately below. Many pictures show the signs of exposure to smoke and dust from years of hanging in messes and coal-heated houses. Others need to be rebaked in acid-free archival material (quite an expensive operation) since many have poor quality mounts which leads to the deterioration of the image over a period of time.



Archival Storage Project and Assistance from the North West Museums Service: Following a bid to the 'Stewardship Fund' of the North West Museums service we are to receive a grant of up to £3800 to cover 80% of the costs of improving the monitoring and control of the Museum environment (with particular regard to humidity and temperature) and investing in high quality archival storage materials.

Such materials, especially made in restricted quantities for museums and archives, are necessarily expensive. Albums, scrapbooks and notebooks have been measured so have boxes custom-made. Individual photos and items of importance will be placed in Melinex sleeves (a polyester material of high archival standard).

Major David Evans TD



The life of the Liverpool Scottish Regimental Museum has been overshadowed in the last few months by the unexpected death of Major David Evans TD, the Honorary Secretary of the Museum Trust on 13th August 2002.

David had made the most significant contribution to the Museum, and to the Liverpool Scottish in general, since he joined V (The Liverpool Scottish) Company of the 51st Highland Volunteers in 1973. He did not found the Museum and was not its curator but in being the driving force for the creation of a properly constituted trust with charitable status and which was from the beginning aligned with the Army Museums Ogilby Trust (AMOT), standards were driven up and the Museum became a recognized research resource. He and Dennis Reeves formed a formidable team. The closure of Forbes House in 1999 (where the Museum was located on the top floor above the Officers' Mess) raised a huge challenge which David faced with resolve. With the help of fellow trustees, which he would readily acknowledge, he drove forward the location of new premises, the packing and storage of the artifacts and the move into the new premises in Botanic Road. It is a tragedy that the unofficial opening will take place without him but it is a great source of comfort to his friends that he supervised and organised the [Rededication of the War Memorials at Botanic Road](#) when the Lord Mayor visited in June 2002. It was a shock to those who saw him taking a leading role in the Liverpool Scottish trip to Ieper (Ypres) in the week following the rededication of the memorials, a trip in which he displayed all his usual energy and good nature, to find that he had died but two months later.

David had not always enjoyed the best of health in recent years but this was never an obstacle or inhibiting factor. He was active in many other spheres of Territorial Army life both in the Liverpool Scottish and outside (the Royal Artillery Officers' Association, the Nation Employers' Liaison Committee, subsequent service in the Liverpool University OTC, a supporter of both the ABF and SSAFA).



His thanksgiving service (immediately following the family-only cremation) was attended by over 250 people. There was barely room in the small church to accommodate the people who were standing; they almost outnumbered those with seats. Afterwards, Jean Evans together with daughters Sian and Alexandra welcomed

many of the mourners to their house where afternoon of sunshine ensured a wonderful garden party, the like of which David would have been proud to host. The eulogy can be found [here](#)

The museum will be, in its own way, a memorial to David. The monument to Sir Christopher Wren, architect of St Paul's Cathedral in London, is a Latin inscription in the floor of that great cathedral '*Si monumentum requiris circumspice*' ('If you require a monument, look about you'). So be it for David Evans.

[Return to top of page](#) [Return to Main Museum Site](#) [Contact the Museum](#)

Rededication of the War Memorials



The War Memorials, now relocated at the Museum, were rededicated on Sunday June 9th 2002 by the Padre of the Liverpool Scottish Regimental Association, **the Rev. John Williams**, in the presence of the **Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Councillor Jack Spriggs**. All members of the Liverpool Scottish are particularly grateful to Graham Dowling and Peter Spinks whose skills and efforts made the relocation possible.



A fuller web page report is at [Rededication of the War Memorials at Botanic Road](#)

[Return to top of page](#) [Return to Main Museum Site](#) [Contact the Museum](#)

Liverpool Scottish Visit to Ieper - Commemoration of Sjt CW Ormesher



There was a highly successful visit (15th to 17th June 2002) to mark the commemoration of Sjt CW Ormesher at the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate on 16th June 2002 and the addition of his name to the Menin Gate itself in Ieper (Ypres) in Belgium. The background to this was in the last news letter ([No. 4 see archive](#)) but in brief Sjt. Ormesher was reported missing after the action at Hooge on June 16th 1915. His mother refused to accept that he was dead and made efforts to discover his fate

through diplomatic channels. In the event, Ormesher's name never appeared on either the Menin Gate memorial to the Missing or the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register.



A coach at almost full capacity including the **Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside, Colonel Alan Waterworth, and Mrs. Waterworth and Lt. Colonel Simon Bell**, CO of the King's and Cheshire Regiment, together with a large number of free runners made up a party of nearly 100 who made the journey. The party visited the the 'In Flanders Fields' Museum in Ieper and then the Liverpool Scottish stone on the Hooge battlefield of 16th June 1915 where **Ivan 'Schrapnel Charlie' Sinnaeve** presented one of his well-know model scenes to the Liverpool Scottish (see 'Acquisitions' above). After a break at the Hooge Crater Museum, the Liverpool Scottish went to evensong at St George's Memorial Church (lead by the Chaplain, **the Rev. Ray Jones**) at which the sermon was preached by the Rev. Harry Ross of St. Luke the Evangelist, Walton. The party then marched to the Menin



Gate for the Last Post Ceremony and the commemoration of Sjt Ormesher. The Officers' Association held a supper at the [Trompete Restaurant](#) where **Patricia and Bernard Debacker** produced a warm reception together with food and atmosphere which guaranteed a splendid evening that went for sometime into the morning. On the Monday morning during the return to the UK, there was a visit to the grave of Captain Noel Chavasse VC and bar MC and to Talbot House, the Toc H centre in



Poperinghe. Links to most of these places can be found [here](#). It is intended to place a fuller illustrated account on the site in the next few months.

[Return to top of page](#) [Return to Main Museum Site](#) [Contact the Museum](#)

Liverpool Scottish Army Cadet Force Unit - Patrol Competition Success

Although not strictly Museum news, the ACF unit is our neighbour and the adult instructors



and the cadets of the unit have supported us wholeheartedly in many ways over the last two years. They are a first rate unit and their help did much to make successes of the official opening night and the subsequent 'At Home' nights. They have always been prepared to offer help in the long months of preparation. We would like to congratulate them on winning the 2002 King's Cup (contested between all King's Regiment badged units) at Warcop for the third year in a row and for being the overall winners for the year 2002.



The photograph displayed shows (Back row L to R) **Sgt Gomez, Cadets Heron and Gomez, WO1 J Pollock, Cadets Walsh and McClone**, (Front row L to R) **Cadets Macdonald, McGinn, Naylor and Byrne** together with their two trophies. Certificates were presented to the team by **Brigadier Mike Wharmby** (Commander 42 Brigade) when he visited a Liverpool Scottish Museum 'At Home' in November 2002

[Return to top of page](#) [Return to Main Museum Site](#) [Contact the Museum](#)

Yours aye,

Ian Riley

Liverpool Scottish Regimental Museum Trust (Reg Charity 277953)

Maintained Entirely by Voluntary and Regimental Donations

<http://www.liverpoolscottish.org.uk/>

Museum Mail to: ilriley@liverpoolscottish.org.uk

Ordinary mail/donations should be sent to Major I.L. Riley TD FSA Scot, The Shambles, 51a Common Lane, Culcheth WARRINGTON WA3 4EY

PS. The museum (a registered charity) is entirely self-funding and run by unpaid volunteers using their own resources with no regular financial support from any official source. We have relocated and refurbished the museum. A display case might cost £3000 and an information board is £200 - £300. Many military museums will not handle an enquiry without a fee (£20 minimum in the case of at least one self-funding museum). We will always respond to a query as well as we can; please consider making a donation if you feel you have received something of value or simply wish to support our project. We are always glad to receive items/copies of photos but we need funds to preserve the archive for benefit of future generations. Donations (no matter how small) by UK taxpayers can be increased by 28% very simply by completing a Gift Aid form at no cost to the donor.

Note for those receiving the text version of this newsletter by e-mail

This is the Liverpool Scottish Regimental Museum Newsletter. You are receiving this because you have expressed an interest in the Museum previously or we think it very likely that you will be interested. If you have received this newsletter by e-mail directly from the Museum (a 'liverpoolscottish' e-mail address) and do not wish to receive further newsletters please 'Reply' (NOT 'Reply to All') and add UNSUBSCRIBE in the beginning of the subject line. The change to the address list will be made manually. If you have subscribed through 'Bravenet', you may unsubscribe on-line by going to their mailing list icon on the front page of the museum website (see the address block above)

[Return to top of page](#) [Return to Main Museum Site](#) [Contact the Museum](#)