



Oban War & Peace Museum News



Spring 2020

Your Board and Watchkeepers

Since our last Newsletter (Winter 2017) there have been a few changes. On the Board, Charles Struthers stood down from the Chair after many years of sterling work. Bill Leech ably stepped into the role. Charles remains a Director while Paul Salt has joined the Board, with responsibility for maintaining all the uniforms, amongst his other duties.

Sadly, we have lost a number of loyal and experienced Watchkeepers, both past and present. Alex Cameron, Bill Grant, Donnie MacKay, Brian MacFarlane, Eireen Stephen, Ian Tindall, Nancy Black, Alistair Watt, Jay MacDonald and Donny MacDougall.

We have recruited some new Watchkeepers but not enough to allow us to open for the 2019 Summer evening watches.

A new Watchkeepers' Group is being set up to help our volunteers make the most of their museum experience and to ensure visitors get the most out of their visit.



We are always needing to recruit new volunteers. If you know anyone who might be interested please tell us.

Phone John on
01631 570007

Visitor Numbers and Finances

Visitor Numbers continue to increase annually. 2017 saw 30,244; 2018 saw 31,327 and last year we had 33,019. At the end of the Season we had our 700,000th visitor, Mr Gordon Thomson from Grantown-on-Spey. He was presented with a Quaich.

Finances. Our financial position is reasonably healthy with adequate reserves. We have a duty to ensure that the listed building we occupy, is properly maintained. Donations were well up last year, but the number of Friends of the Museum is diminishing, so that source of income is reduced, along with the resultant drop in the Gift Aid tax repayment. So, if you know of someone who would like to become a Friend, please give our contact details.

*This is the best museum I have ever visited.
Please keep it open for all time.*

**VERY THOROUGH VIEW OF
OBAN'S HISTORY. NICE MUSEUM.
GREAT FOR KIDS TO VISIT.**

Brilliant! Great for the history of
the local area and the history of
how Scotland endured warfare.

**Super Museum. Great staff
.....and much more**

**What visitors
say about us.**

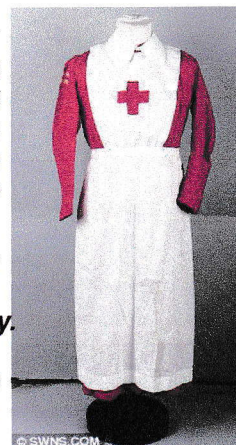


New Display

**World War 1
Red Cross VAD
(Voluntary Aid
Detachment)
Commandant's
Nursing Uniform**

**We are very lucky
to have this
uniform on display.**

**British Red Cross
authorities tell us
it is very rare.**



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Re-Accreditation

Every five years the Museum has to re-apply for accreditation with Museums Galleries Scotland. We re-applied in December 2019, after ensuring all policies, etc., were up to date and in order. The Museum Mentor, Robin Patel, was very helpful and assisted directors Fergus Gillanders and David Hodge in finalising the application, the outcome of which we await. It is important that we retain our accreditation in order to qualify to receive future assistance by way of grant for any future projects and for any training we want to do.

From the Museum

Save your Silver and it will turn in to Gold

This was the slogan on the 'War Savings Card'. Rather a rash promise by the Government you might think, but the real reward was a return of 5.8% p.a. on your investment of fifteen shillings and sixpence (77.5p) if it turned into the sovereign. (Today a sovereign sells for around £300!)



**Motor Car
Fuel Ration
Book**

At the outbreak of the Second World War, petrol was the first commodity to be rationed, as all petrol had to come from overseas. Then, in 1942, petrol for private use was withdrawn completely.



Weekly Food Ration for an Adult in 1942

| | |
|-------------|----------|
| Bacon & Ham | 4 ozs. |
| Other Meat | 2 chops. |
| Butter | 2 ozs. |
| Cheese | 2 ozs. |
| Margarine | 4 ozs. |
| Cooking fat | 4 ozs. |
| Milk | 3 pints. |
| Sugar | 8 ozs. |
| Jam | 2 ozs. |
| Tea | 2 ozs. |
| Eggs | One |
| Sweets | 3 ozs. |



**In May this year
communities
from all over
the country
will come
together to
remember VE
Day on 8 May.**



**National
Registration
Identity
Card**

It remained necessary to carry a card until February 1952!

Future Plans

As well as setting up a Watchkeepers' Group it is hoped that some relevant training courses could be organised. This could include oral recording in conjunction with the Rockfield Centre.

We have so many folk involved with the Museum who may have a story or two to tell! If any volunteers are interested in any form of training, please let us know.

With the 75th Anniversary of VE Day in May, we are working out on how best to celebrate this. We are aware of some celebrations happening elsewhere in the area. If anyone has ideas, please let us know.

As part of the re-accreditation process, certain, fairly minor points were raised which we will have to address. This includes some accessibility issues and we are considering a "loop system" to assist the hard of hearing. We are also looking at ways in which we can better show off our large archive of photographs.

We also need to involve the younger generation to a greater extent and think of ways to work with them. We have had a good number of school visits all of which have been greatly appreciated by both pupils and staff. Once again, any ideas on this topic would be very welcome.

A.G.M.

20 February 2020
12.30pm Columba Hotel

Museum
Re-Opens on
29 February 2020

Did you know that:-
On Trip Advisor we are
#2 of 31 Museums in
Argyll & Bute.

Opening Times for 2020

29 Feb to 26 Apr
10 am to 4 pm daily inc Sunday

27 Apr to 1 Nov
10 am to 6 pm Monday to Thursday
10 am to 4 pm Fri, Sat & Sunday

7 pm to 9 pm
Tues, Wed & Thurs - June & August
(Subject to availability of
Volunteer Staff)

1 Nov to 28 Nov
10 am to 4 pm Mon to Sunday