

Shorncliffe

TRUST



Season's Greetings from the Shorncliffe Trust



Shorncliffe Garrison has played a significant part in military activity and conflict for over 200 years.

Today it faces its own unique battle to maintain and preserve Shorncliffe in its rightful place as the birthplace of the modern British Army. Regretably, due to lack of support by both developers and local authority who could have shaped the site to create a beacon of excellence for the District just as the redevelopment of Caterham has achieved, this battle is likely to be lost; with the unfortunate result of favouring housing over heritage. (<http://www.caterhambarracks.org.uk/>)

With it, the significant stories that Shorncliffe can tell to our future generations will be lost forever. We hope this first Newsletter may inspire you to support this worthy aspiration whilst we still have chance to **'Make History and Save History'**

Shorncliffe Garrison was built to defend the south coast of England from Napoleon in 1796.

It was home to General Sir John Moore who created the Light Infantry Brigade and help train the legendary Green Jackets of the 95th Rifles, made famous through the Sharpe novels by Bernard Cornwell.

It was the link camp between Great Britain and France during WW1, with its port, railway networks and hospitals almost over whelmed during the War. Currently it is home to the Royal Gurkha Rifles, who have swapped the mountains of Nepal, for the cliff tops of Kent.

The Shorncliffe Trust was set up to save the site's heritage including the WW1 trenches and create a permanent legacy to those who gave their lives for this country during the Great War. The Trust was instrumental in ensuring the Napoleonic Earth Redoubt received Ancient Scheduled Monument status in 2013.

The Trust's aims are to:

- Create a world class heritage park and education centre, through preserving the training land, WW1 trenches, Napoleonic Redoubt, WW2 defences and Victorian firing range.
- Provide facilities site for education, recreation and tourism on site
- Create local jobs and support the local military and civilian communities

However, after more than 10 years' discussion, first with the MOD to achieve a base for the Trust to deliver education, training and interaction; we are now at the stage with development and planning moving ever closer to the Napoleonic Redoubt; despite advice by Historic England to preserve and reuse as many buildings as possible to retain the site's integrity, it seems just 4 listed buildings will remain. We urge our supporters to rally and pledge support for our plans to pay homage to the life at Shorncliffe and preserve it for future generations.

The Trust have created a Friends and Supporters scheme and we welcome you joining our cause. Find out more on page 4.

Folkestone Poppies



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A poignant event to mark the end of the battle of the Somme was held on 19th November on Folkestone's The Leas.

'Folkestone Poppies' was the brainchild of local Conservation Architect and advisor to the Trust, Roger Joyce. Roger is Chairman of the Shepway's Heart Forum which organisation brings together Heritage and Arts Tourism groups in the District and felt it was an ideal partnership event between the Forum, the Shorncliffe Trust and Step Short. Hundreds of locals attended the event with 1000 metal poppies being 'planted' by school children, which remained for just one day around the Mark Wallinger artwork 'Folk Stones'. The artwork comprising of 19,240 individually numbered pebbles was created for the Folkestone Triennial and remains one of the permanent artworks, created to mark those killed in action on the first day of the Somme, 1st July 1916. The artist was honoured to be invited and attended with Folkestone Mayor, Martin Salmon and Damian Collins MP for Folkestone & Hythe.

A Very 'Poppy' Christmas



Requests to purchase Folkestone Poppies at the Somme event has created a brilliant ongoing fundraising campaign for the Royal British Legion. The Poppies are available to purchase at £5 each from Café Collective located on Folkestone's Old High Street, with £1 from each sale being donated to the Royal British Legion

The Third Shorncliffe Lectures

The Third Annual Shorncliffe Lectures took place on 19th November in a unique military venue which is the Sir John Moore Library at Shorncliffe Garrison and houses the beautiful stained glass windows depicting the crests and emblems of the Regiments and Commanders of the Light Division who served under Moore and Wellington during the Peninsular wars. The lectures were started in 1803 under Moore's leadership whilst he was at Shorncliffe so it was apt the lectures took place in the Library which commemorates his time there.

The event was sponsored by the Folkestone, Hythe and District Hotel and Catering Association and the Everest Inn, Hythe, who provided a fantastic buffet for the Guests Reception.

Guest speakers were:

Gareth Glover - who spoke about his latest book – The American "Sharpe" – An American 95th Rifleman's road to Waterloo. Shorncliffe was the birthplace of the 95th in 1803. *Gareth is a one of the UK's leading historians on the Napoleonic Wars and has had published over 40 books on the subject.*

Michael Crumplin – who spoke of 'Losing Sight of the Glory' Six Centuries of battlefield surgery Azincourt – Helmand. *Michael, a retired consultant surgeon and an honorary fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh studied medicine of the Napoleonic wars for over 45 years and now devotes his time to writing, lecturing and giving support to students, research workers, authors and the media.*



(Andy Robertshaw is pictured above in Shorncliffe's Sir John Moore Library as are Lecture co-sponsors; Everest Inn, Hythe with WW1 re-enactors)

Andy Robertshaw – Spoke about "The Battle of the Somme a Bloody Necessity?" *Andy is the UK's leading WW1 archaeologist and battlefield historian. His talk summed up his thoughts and discoveries from Britain's and the Commonwealths toughest battle; marking the 100th anniversary of the end of the Somme campaign in France. Andy has worked on TV shows such as Time Team, Two Men in a Trench and Spielberg's film - War Horse. He is an educator, battlefield tour guide and author.*

Light in the Darkest Hour

The Shornccliffe Trust's powerfully moving 'Light in the Darkest Hour' event took place at Shornccliffe Military Cemetery in August. The event was one of the Commonwealth War Grave Commission's 'Living Memory Projects' enabling communities to participate and remember those who were lost during the Battle of the Somme which took place from 1st July to 18th November 1916. The event was also supported by the Royal British Legion as part of their Somme 100 programme.



This year the annual Shornccliffe commemoration project was also recognised by the CWGC at Brookwood Cemetery to mark the end of the Somme Campaign. Trust Chairman Chris Shaw was honoured to represent the Trust and the amazing people who support this special event. Chris also had the pleasure meeting of Meeting Vice Admiral Tim Lawrence.

War Horse; then.....



Shornccliffe Stables during WW1 and the London Production of War Horse

In WW1 Shornccliffe Garrison became the gateway to the Western Front. Three million men passed through its gates and thousands of horses were housed in its stables for training and recuperation for those fortunate enough to return from the front. This important and significant work was being undertaken by the Army Veterinary Service for the duration of World War 1. Horses continued to be stabled here up to the early 1960s

..... and now

Today, the War Horse Stables lie in a perilous state and await the wrecking ball as housing trumps heritage on this huge site at Shornccliffe where only 4 listed buildings are to be retained.



Shornccliffe's 'War Horse' stables today

Earlier this year, War Horse Author Michael Morpurgo dedicated the last of the London performance of War Horse to give the Shornccliffe Trust an opportunity to raise awareness of the plight of Shornccliffe's stables. Michael Morpurgo said;

"Without horses to support the war effort in the First World War, the war would have been lost. They were vital to supplies, to the ambulance service, to the artillery, to the cavalry, and they died in their hundreds of thousands as the men, the same way too. Machine gun and shellfire, wire, exhaustion and disease. Shornccliffe contributed hugely to the war effort, providing veterinary attention and care alleviating the suffering. It is a place that played a significant part in the story of the First World War, and that is a story that must be told in all its aspects and passed onto the next generation"

Alas, the Trust is still facing a battle to preserve and protect the memory, stories and heritage that Shornccliffe can provide for future generations. With your help, the only option is to have funding in place to retain these important assets in trust for future generations. You can find details of how to support our aspirations on page 4 of our newsletter.

Current Planning Applications

Applications for redevelopment of Shornccliffe Garrison are being made in stages and you can view the latest planning application for redevelopment of Somerset Barracks and land around the Sir John Moore Library by visiting Shepway District Council Planning Portal using the planning application number for **Somerset Barracks - Y16/1266/SH**.

Comments should be sent to Shepway District Council by the 7th January 2017 via the planning portal page or via email to the planning team: planning@shepway.gov.uk

A Poem Home

W. Eric Berridge was a local man who trained at Shorncliffe and fought and died at The Somme; his poem was received by his family, after he was killed in action. The poem was read aloud at the 'Folkestone Poppies' Event in November, marking the 100th Anniversary of the end of the Battle of the Somme.

God, wheresoe'r Thou may'st be found
And Whosoe'r Thou art,
Grant in the Scheme of THings that we
May play a worthy part
And give, to help us on the way,
An all-enduring heart.

We know Thou watchest from above
This fantasy of woe;
And wheresoe'er pain or loss
We here may undergo,
Let us in this be comforted -
None from Thy sight can go.

Sometimes in folly we upon
Thy Name profanely call,
And grumble at our destiny
Because our minds are small.
And so we cannot understand
The Mind that ruleth all.

Grant us to see and learn and know
The Greatness of Thy Will,
That each one his allotted task
May grapple with, until
We hear at last Thy perfect voice
Bidding us "Peace, be still"

'Friends' of Shorncliffe

Fundraising plays a significant part in our ability to achieve our aspirations. If you can help support our endeavours to create a unique heritage and education experience at Shorncliffe, birthplace of the modern British Army, then we would be delighted to receive your Friends Membership form available on our website. Please contact us if you wish to discuss sponsorship options, maintaining Shorncliffe's legacy.

Friends - Individuals £15 per annum – (Couples £25 pa)

- Shorncliffe 'Make HistorySave History' Lapel Badge (2)
- Shorncliffe Trust e-Newsletter
- Priority booking opportunities for Shorncliffe Trust Events
- 20% discount on your Lecture and Event Ticket(s)
- 20% discount on Shorncliffe Trust produced Books
- 20% discount on your ticket(s) for heritage tour days
- Opportunities for discounts on books available from visiting lecturers (Subject to availability)

If you are in a position to help the Trust take major steps towards our aspirations; we welcome you as a major donor.

MAJOR DONOR – for 2 persons – Annual donation £500

- Inset days (*dates to be agreed*): Familiarisation visit, historical interpretation tour of the Shorncliffe Redoubt and Back Door Training Area and lunch
- VIP Invitation to all Shorncliffe open events and their receptions; which include:
 - Commemoration of the death of Sir John Moore
 - Light in the Darkest Hour
 - Shorncliffe Lectures
- 1 set of 'The Shorncliffe Lectures', Volume 1, 2 and 3. *This series of books covers topics relating to Shorncliffe through the centuries, edited by Dr Stephen Summerfield in association with Ken Trotman Publishing.*
- Shorncliffe 'Make HistorySave History' lapel Badges
- Recognition of support on Shorncliffe Trust's website.

CLUBS, SOCIETIES AND HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS

Contact us to discuss options for reciprocal member benefits

CORPORATE PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

Could your business benefit from a connection to the Shorncliffe Trust? Shorncliffe Trustees; Corporate Partners and Sponsors are passionate about history and heritage by helping to preserve the legacy at Shorncliffe for future generations. Not only does the Shorncliffe project respect the significance of the Garrison, the many millions of troops stationed and trained here for over 200 years including two World Wars; it brings history right up to date as sharing the significant story of Shorncliffe, supports the visitor economy and provides skills training opportunities across the district.

Corporate Partners and Sponsors can support the Trust's life blood by way of providing much needed funds or in kind assistance ranging from marketing and PR support, brand awareness, legal and financial services or via partnerships with hospitality and tourism businesses amongst others. Another opportunity is to nominate the Shorncliffe Trust as your chosen charity partner ensuring you can tick the box for your organisation's Corporate and Social Responsibility.

The Trust will share news of your commitment through our Corporate Partners and Sponsors section on our new website, (*Coming early 2017*) and via marketing material including our Newsletter this coming year; creating brand association and prominent acknowledgement of your investment.

Acknowledgement and thanks will also be given at our annual Sponsors Reception which will coincide with an annual event.

Find out more: [email community@shorncliffe-trust.org.uk](mailto:community@shorncliffe-trust.org.uk)

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