

Exhibitions & Events



Until 1st February 2019

1066, A Medieval Mosaic

A recreation of the Bayeux Tapestry and Guinness World Record holder for the world's largest steel mosaic. Handcrafted from 3 million pieces of spring steel, it took creator Michael A. Linton 33 years to complete. Additional scenes have been added to those depicted in the original, including the events leading up to the crowning of William the Conqueror as King of England on Christmas Day 1066, as well as the Battles of Fulford and Stamford Bridge. The mosaic now measures 210 feet long, close to double the length of the real Bayeux Tapestry.

8th December 2018 - 12th March 2019

I Am A Rifleman

This exhibition enables visitors to immerse themselves in twelve stories from modern-day Riflemen which centre on four core values of The Rifles ethos: Innovation, Mutual Respect, Self-Discipline and Forward-Thinking. Using individual accounts, images and mementos, *I Am A Rifleman* shows what it means to be a soldier in The Rifles today. The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry became part of the Royal Green Jackets in the 1960s, before the RGJ in turn were integrated into The Rifles in 2007, becoming the new county regiment.



19th March - 31st July 2019

Oxford: The War and the World, 1914-1919

An exhibition highlighting the wartime experiences of men and women, be they 'town', 'gown', or from overseas. By focussing on individual stories the exhibition hopes to emphasise Oxford's international connections during the First World War and helps to expand understanding of different types of war experiences beyond the trenches. Taken together, these stories show how varied Oxford's war experiences were, encouraging us to consider the relationship between Oxford's 'local' and 'global' history.

Galleries

Visit the museum galleries which include:

- Blood and War, Life on the Front Line
- 21st Century Soldier, Modern Conflict
- The Secret War of 1939-1945
- Prisoners of War At Home and Abroad
- Winston Churchill and the Queens Own Oxfordshire Hussars
- Oxfordshire Airpower, the Airmen and Airfields
- The Liberation of Bergen Belsen by the Oxfordshire Yeomanry
- Battles, the Stories of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry

Walk through the recreated Great War trench dugout and sit inside a section of a replica D Day glider.



Visiting SOFO

Opening times

Tuesday to Friday 10am – 5pm
Saturday 11am – 5pm
Sunday 2pm – 5pm
Last admission 4.15pm
Check www.sofo.org.uk for bank holiday changes.

Park Street, Woodstock, Oxfordshire, OX20 1SN
(Enter through The Oxfordshire Museum reception)

SOFO is fully accessible, with baby changing facilities and shop.

Café on site at The Oxfordshire Museum.

Admission charges

Adults £4.50 / Concessions £3.80
Children 5-16 years £2.50
Family and annual tickets are available.
Please see website for details.

Getting here

- **By road** – via A44 Oxford to Evesham
- **By bus** – S3 and 500 from Oxford city centre. 242 from Witney. For bus time tables see www.travelinesoutheast.org.uk
- **By train** – nearest station is Long Hanborough, four miles away.
- Coach turning space is at the Park Street entrance to Blenheim Place.
- Disabled parking is located directly outside The Oxfordshire Museum.
- FREE public car park a short walk away in Hensington Road and limited on-street FREE parking in Park Street.



STORIES OF
CONFLICT
& COUNTY

Galleries & Events

Winter 2018 - Summer 2019



@SOFOtrust #OxfordshireRemembers



www.facebook.com/SoldiersOfOxfordshire

Park Street, Woodstock
Oxfordshire OX20 1SN

Visitor access to SOFO is through the Oxfordshire Museum.



Soldiers of Oxfordshire Trust is a registered Charity, No:1145408

Museum Talks

ALL TALKS START AT 7PM.
TICKETS £10.
<http://www.sofa.org.uk/whats-on>



13th February 2019

Virginia Moffat's *Echo Hall*

Virginia Moffat discusses her novel *Echo Hall*, which tells the story of three generations of women who experience love, loss and conflict during times of war. It spans the time period 1911-1991 and asks the question, is conflict inevitable, or can we find another way?

10th April 2019

Peter Vass, *By Land, Sea and Air: Winning the 1st World War Through Art*

Using material from the most wide-ranging propaganda exercise in the 1st World War, Peter Vass looks at how British servicemen in the army, navy and the newly emerging air force were depicted by artists for propaganda purposes.

Coming 2019 - Date TBC

Shrabani Basu - *Spy Princess: The Life of Noor Inayat Khan*

Shrabani Basu, best known as author of *Victoria and Abdul*, set up the Noor Inayat Khan Memorial Trust to ensure that her story and sacrifice were preserved for the next generation. The Memorial was unveiled in London's Gordon Square by Princess Anne in 2012. In this talk Shrabani discusses the life of the 'Spy Princess', the first female radio operator to be infiltrated into occupied France in 1943. Please see www.sofa.org.uk/whats-on/ for final details and dates when announced.

8th May 2019

Caroline Roof, *Trenches and Destruction: Pleasance Walker's Letters from the Front 1915-1919*

Pleasance Walker was a young volunteer thrown into the maelstrom of nursing wounded and dying soldiers and dealing with war-torn civilian victims reveals a woman of natural vitality, remarkable resilience, and compassion. It is a world away from her genteel life in leafy north Oxford - to which she often alludes in her correspondence with her parents. With innocent candour and sometimes surprising humour, Pleasance's outlook strikes a chord in the centenary commemorations of both the end of the Great War and, as an independently-minded woman, that of the Suffragette Movement and the vote for women.

12th June 2019

Philip Geddes, *An Evening with Rudyard Kipling*

Kipling's response to the loss of his only son, Jack, at the Battle of Loos in 1915 would see him become the unofficial voice of the people of Britain and its Empire. He wrote many of the words by which we now remember the dead of the Great War - striking phrases such as "Lest we forget" and "A Soldier of the Great War Known unto God." *An Evening with Rudyard Kipling* tells the full story of Kipling's life with readings from his poetry and prose.

11th September 2019

Bridadier G. deV. W. Hayes

Brig. G. de Vere W. Hayes discusses the many escapes of Lt Mike Sinclair KRRC - captured at Calais May 1940, killed at Colditz September 1944 on his ninth escape attempt. He never made 'a home run' but he spent more time free in occupied Europe than any other POW.'

Activities for families

A Family Friendly Museum

All year round our permanent displays pack in plenty for families and children of all ages to get involved with. Sit in the back of a D Day glider or walk through a Great War trench. Enjoy interactive exhibits and try your hand at code-breaking with our activity trails. Get stuck into the Kids Art Cart and make your own souvenir to take home, or try on wartime costumes at the Dress Up Station. Plus, little ones can crash out in the Under 5s Den.



Family Open Afternoons

JUST DROP IN
Come and enjoy our family-friendly Museum and make something special to take home!

£2 per child.
Adults and babies FREE

All from 2-4pm

Wednesday 20th February

Funky Junk Modelling

Wednesday 10th April

Run Rabbit!

Wednesday 17th April

Excellent Easter Baskets!

Wednesday 29th May

Amazing Medals!

Birthday Parties

For a truly special experience, celebrate your child's next birthday at the museum. Led by our party specialists, throw a party packed with games, activities, trails and 'make and takes' inspired by our unique collections!

Choose from a range of themes to suit your child aged 5-9. £120 for up to 10 children. Each additional child £14 up to 15 children.

Why not ask about our 'Iron Rations' food boxes and fun-packed party bags!

For more information and to book, contact us at education@sofo.org.uk

HOW TO BOOK EVENTS AT SOFO

Call 01993 810211 or email frontofhouse@sofo.org.uk
Visit the museum shop or our online shop www.sofa.org.uk/shop.

Museum Services



Venue Hire

The Museum is available for hire for events big and small, with a versatile meeting room space which can seat up to 60 people theatre-style with HD projector and sound system. Perfect for parties, meetings, screenings, book launches, courses and classes.

Contact us at frontofhouse@sofo.org.uk or on 01993 810 211 for more information.

Research Services

Would you like to know more about a person who served

with the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry or the Oxfordshire Yeomanry? We offer a bespoke Research Enquiry service, with Standard and Advanced options. Standard enquiries will provide you with basic service information for your soldier, while advanced enquiries include a full report and history, including copies of relevant images and documents.

Standard Enquiry: £50.
Advanced Enquiry: £100.

See www.sofa.org.uk/research for full details and use our Soldier Search to find out if your relative may have served with the Oxfordshire regiments.

Become a Friend or Praetorian

Become a SOFO Friend or Praetorian and support the museum while enjoying a range of benefits, including free museum admission, shop discounts, regular newsletters and invitations to private viewings and exclusive events.

See www.sofa.org.uk/support-us for more information on membership and other ways you can support us.

