

August 2017



## PRESS RELEASE

# Explore Aldershot's Military Heritage free of charge

**Special events for Heritage Open Days,  
Saturday 9 – Sunday 10 September 2017  
[www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk)**

There will be exciting opportunities to discover more about Aldershot's rich military heritage in a special series of events for the Heritage Open Days weekend on 9 - 10 September. Organised jointly by the Friends of the Aldershot Military Museum and the Prince Consort's Library, there will be guided walks around the Aldershot Military Cemetery and the historic Aldershot military town, and the Prince Consort's Library, normally open only to serving members of the Armed Forces, will welcome all visitors for a special open day. All the Heritage Open Days events are free to attend.

The tour of the Aldershot Military Cemetery will be on **Saturday 9 September** at 10.00 am. The walk will highlight the remarkable lives of some of the people for whom this is their final resting place, including three holders of the Victoria Cross; pioneers of early aviation such as Samuel Cody and Rex Cammell; and some whose stories may be less well known, such as six Sappers who died attempting to defuse an unexploded bomb close to Hook station in the Second World War. **Places on the Military Cemetery walk are limited and pre-booking is essential**, to book a place please telephone the Friends of the Aldershot Military Museum on 01252 621221.

On **Sunday 10 September**, the Prince Consort's Library, the British Army's main military library, will be open for visitors from 10.00 to 16.00. As an Army library it is not normally open to the public, so the open day is a rare opportunity to see inside this Grade II listed building which was founded by HRH Prince Albert in 1860 and retains many of its original features. The library is situated at the end of Knollys Road. During the open day there will be talks on the history of the library at 11.30 and 14.30. There is no need to book for the library, just turn up. Visitors should note that there are many steps and stairs in the Prince Consort's Library.

The guided walk around the historic Aldershot Military Town will be on **Sunday 10 September**, starting at 10.00 from the car park on the corner of Queen's Avenue and Prince's Avenue. The walk will show the development of the garrison from the original Victorian Camp, through the twentieth century rebuilding, and areas now undergoing redevelopment for civilian housing under



Project Wellesley. The length of the walk is approximately 4 miles, duration around 3.5 hours, and it will visit the Prince Consort's Library in time for the 11.30 talk on the library's history. The tour will also call at the historic Alexander Observatory in Queen's Avenue, which is being opened by members of the Farnham Astronomical Society to allow visitors to see inside this most unusual building which still contains the original telescope. The Observatory will stay open during the afternoon for anyone who wishes to visit it but not do the full historical walk. **Places on the Military Town walk are limited and pre-booking is essential**, to book a place please telephone the Friends of the Aldershot Military Museum on 01252 621221.

Paul Vickers, from of the Friends of the Aldershot Military Museum, said: "The Heritage Open Days events have proved very popular in previous years and this is a great opportunity for anyone interested in Aldershot or military history to explore more of the area's rich heritage."

These events are part of the national Heritage Open Days weekend. Heritage Open Days is the largest heritage festival in the country; last year over 4,800 events welcomed around three million visitors across England. Heritage Open Days operates as part of the National Trust with funding from players of People's Postcode Lottery. Every single Heritage Open Days event is free, including access to many sites that usually charge for admission.

For more information see the website: [www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk).

## ENDS

**For media enquiries and images contact:** Paul Vickers (Vice-Chairman of the Friends of the Aldershot Military Museum), telephone 01252 330901, e-mail [phvickers@ntlworld.com](mailto:phvickers@ntlworld.com).

### Notes to Editors:

#### About the Friends of the Aldershot Military Museum

- The Friends of the Aldershot Military Museum are a voluntary organisation and registered charity (no. 1108637) founded in 1987. Its aims are to support the work of the Aldershot Military Museum and to help preserve and promote the local history of Rushmoor. For further details visit the website at: <http://www.friendsofthealdershotmilitarymuseum.org.uk/>

#### About the Prince Consort's Library

- The Prince Consort's Library is part of the Army Library and Information Service and is the Army's specialist military library. It was founded in 1860 by the Prince Consort as a military library for the officers in Aldershot. It remains a library dedicated to military education for Army personnel, but now welcomes enquiries from soldiers of all ranks from wherever they are posted, in the UK or overseas.

#### About Heritage Open Days

- Heritage Open Days is co-ordinated and promoted nationally by the National Trust with funding by players of People's Postcode Lottery, and run locally by a large range of organisations, including civic societies, heritage organisations, and local councils, community champions and thousands of enthusiastic volunteers.