HOW TO FIND US

THE QUEEN'S OWN ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT MUSEUM
is located within Maidstone Museum.
Entry to our Museums is FREE.

THE QUEEN'S OWN ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT MUSEUM

St Faith's Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1LH
TELEPHONE 01622 602838
EMAIL museuminfo@maidstone.gov.uk

CAR From the M20 take junction 7 and head towards Maidstone Town Centre and Maidstone East Train Station. Follow the brown heritage signs.

CAR PARKING The Fremlin Walk Shopping Centre multi-storey car park is opposite Maidstone Museum.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT Search for timetables by service number, destination or postcode.

TRAIN Maidstone East is the nearest station, two minutes from the Museum.

MAIDSTONE Borough Council

visits visits visits

The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and Queen's Regiment Museum at Dover Castle — 15TH MAY

The collection traces the history of the PWRR, direct successor of twelve forebear regiments, starting in 1572 with the deployment of a Tudor company in the wars against Spain right up to the Regiment's most recent operations in support of the UN and NATO.
£12.00 (MMF MEMBERS £9.00) INCLUDES LUNCH.

National Army Museum and Royal Hospital, Chelsea — 3RD JULY

The National Army Museum tells the story of the British Army. It explores the lives of those who served and explains the impact the Army has had on shaping the history of Great Britain and the rest of the world. Afterwards, enjoy a curry lunch at the nearby Royal Hospital Chelsea, followed by a tour.
£12.00 (MMF MEMBERS £9.00) INCLUDES A MUSEUM GUIDED TOUR AND LUNCH.

The Royal Engineers' Museum, Gillingham — 8TH SEPTEMBER

The Royal Engineers have served in almost every campaign the British Army has fought and the Museum's displays reflect their worldwide activities. Exhibits include huge armoured vehicles and a fabulous medal gallery, including 25 Victoria Crosses.
£10.00 (MMF MEMBERS £8.00) INCLUDES A GUIDED TOUR.

Lashenden Air Warfare Museum, Headcorn — 2ND OCTOBER

Formed in 1970, the Museum is situated on Lashenden Aerodrome, the UK's only wartime Advanced Landing Ground still in use. Displays tell the story of the Battle of Britain over Kent and exhibits range from pre-First World War artifacts through to items from the Gulf Wars.
£4.00 (MMF MEMBERS £2.00) INCLUDES A GUIDED TOUR.

PLACES ARE LIMITED. ADVANCE BOOKING ESSENTIAL.
FOR MORE INFORMATION PHONE **01622 602838**
OR EMAIL **museuminfo@maidstone.gov.uk**

events events events events events events events

Military Living History Weekend — FREE

SATURDAY 26TH – SUNDAY 27TH JUNE
10.00AM – 4.00PM

A host of military enthusiasts and re-enactors will show you how soldiers through the ages lived and fought. See the uniforms they wore and handle their weapons.

The Regiment — FREE

SATURDAY 30TH OCTOBER 10.00AM – 4.00PM

First and Second World War re-enactors and enthusiasts show you what great-grandad and grandad did in the wars!

Concert by the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment Band — FREE

SUNDAY 27TH JUNE 3.00 – 4.30PM

Enjoy military classics in Brenchley Gardens with the Band of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

Children's Activities

Special themed activities are available in the school holidays. 10.30am – 12.30pm and 1.30 – 3.30pm. Some activities are charged for.

MONDAY 1ST – FRIDAY 5TH JUNE
Make wartime badges and toys and weave a rag rug. On 5th June explore the Regimental Museum (FREE).

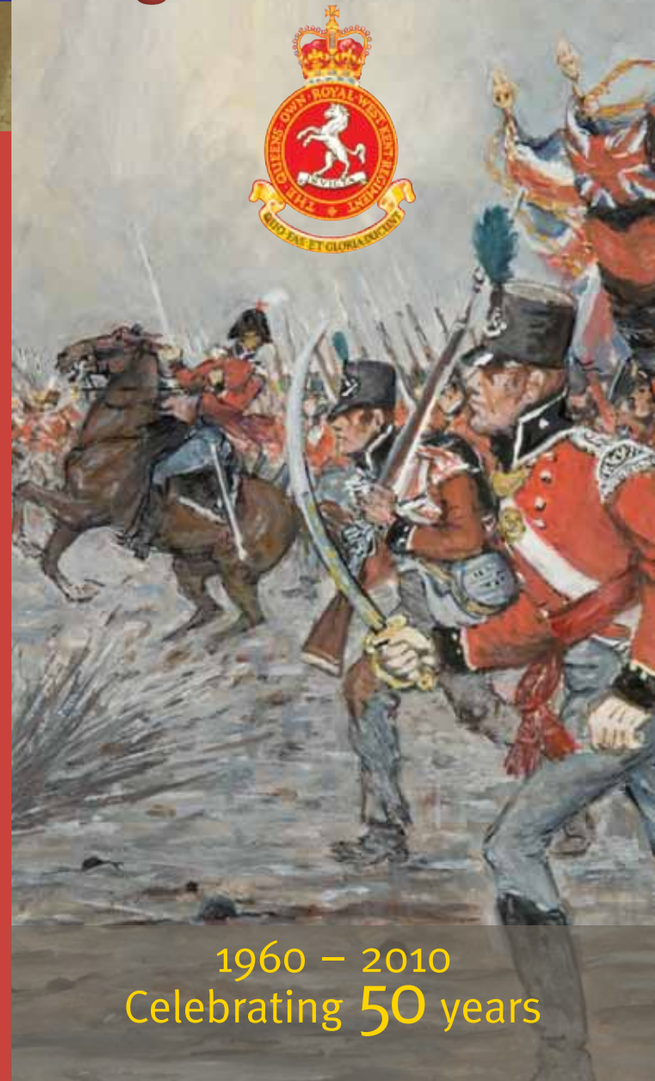
MONDAY 2ND – FRIDAY 6TH AUGUST
Make a gasmask and an aeroplane and learn about animals at war.

Family History Workshops — FREE

22ND APRIL AND 16TH SEPTEMBER
10.30am – 12.30pm and 1.30 – 3.30pm

Did your ancestors serve in the Armed Forces? Experts from the Orders & Medals Research Society will show you how to find and use military records to learn more about your forebears.

The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment Museum



1960 – 2010
Celebrating 50 years

THE QUEENS OWN ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT MUSEUM

tells the story of this famous local regiment, beginning with its forebears, the 50th and 97th Regiments of Foot. It's a story packed with courage, drama and fascinating characters.

The Museum chronicles the Regiment's history and achievements between its founding in 1756 and its eventual amalgamation with other regiments in 1961. It's filled with colourful and thought-provoking exhibits including the fabulously decorated Sutlej Gun, four Victoria Crosses and the Dicken Medal (the animals' VC) awarded to regimental mascot, Bob the Dog.

The Regimental Museum was originally formed in 1935 and was housed in the Officers' Mess. It became a public museum in 1960 when it was moved to its present home within Maidstone Museum. It is an independent museum and a registered charity.

ADMISSION IS FREE

In 2010 a season of special events and activities celebrates the Museum's 50th anniversary.

lectures lectures lectures lectures lectures lectures lectures lectures

The Battle of Kohima

15TH APRIL

The story of the epic defence of Kohima for over two weeks in 1944 by less than 500 soldiers of 4th Bn The Queen's Own against 13,000 Japanese troops. Earl Mountbatten called Kohima "Britain's Thermopylae". Regimental Museum Archivist, Chris Jupp, explains why.

Nelson, Trafalgar and the Artists

20TH MAY

The National Maritime Museum's Pieter van der Merwe is an expert on maritime history and author of books on Admiral Nelson. Here he retells the story of Nelson's great victory over the French and Spanish fleets at Trafalgar in 1805 and looks at some of the ways it has been commemorated by artists.

Waterloo: Holding the Centre

17TH JUNE

Carole Divall, author of *Redcoats against Napoleon*, focusses on the centre of Wellington's line, which includes the struggle for La Haie Sainte, the great French cavalry charges, and the final repulse of the Imperial Guard on those fateful June days in 1815 when the destiny of Europe was decided.

Maidstone Men in the Great War

15TH JULY

Chris Jupp, Regimental Museum Archivist, recalls some of the heroic and tragic stories of Maidstone men and women in the Great War of 1914-18.

Fallen Eagles

17TH SEPTEMBER

On 17th September 1940 a Luftwaffe Junkers 88 bomber was shot down over Maidstone. Seventy years to the day, historian Tony Webb recalls the tragic story, hour by hour, of a night of terror over Maidstone.

The Buffs

23RD SEPTEMBER

Peter White and Mick Mills tell the story of the oldest regiment in the British Army from its historic beginnings in 1572 to its eventual amalgamation with the Royal West Kent Regiment almost 400 years later.

lectures lectures lectures lectures lectures lectures lectures lectures

Maidstone in the Battle of Britain

THURSDAY 14TH OCTOBER

Local author, Tony Webb, gives an account of life in Maidstone in the late summer of 1940, when the skies above Kent were filled with warring aircraft. By the end of October, the Luftwaffe had been defeated, but in Maidstone 53 people had died and countless more injured as a result of enemy bombing.

The Victoria Cross

11TH NOVEMBER

The Victoria Cross is Britain's highest military award for gallantry. Only 1,354 have been awarded, six of them to soldiers serving in the Royal West Kent Regiment or its precursors. Lt. Col. Mike Martin retells some of the extraordinary stories of heroism performed by its recipients.

Kut 1916 – Courage and Failure in Iraq

25TH NOVEMBER

In 1916 elements of the Royal West Kent Regiment took part in the defence of Kut in what is now Iraq. Besieged by the Turks for 147 days they surrendered only in the face of starvation. Colonel Patrick Crowley, author of '*Kut 1916*' and Deputy Colonel of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, the successor of the Royal West Kents, tells the story of their heroism.

ALL LECTURES ARE HELD AT MAIDSTONE MUSEUM, STARTING AT 7.30PM.
ADMISSION £3.00 (MMF MEMBERS £1.50)

KEEP IN TOUCH ...

Let us have your email address and we will send you one of our regular e-newsletters. Simply email **museuminfo@maidstone.gov.uk** requesting the e-newsletter.

Become a Supporter of Maidstone's Museums

Help support the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment Museum by becoming a member of the Maidstone Museums' Foundation. You will be kept informed about what is going on at the museum and there are discounts on regular lectures, workshops, visits and children's activities.

- ○ **£2.50** Junior (5-16)
- ○ **£10.00** Adult individual
- ○ **£15.00** Adult couple (two members at the same address)
- ○ **£17.50** Family (two adults and up to three children at the same address)
- ○ **£95.00** Adult Life Membership

I would like to join the MMF and attach a cheque for:

£ .....

Made payable to 'Maidstone Museums' Foundation'.

Type of membership (please indicate)

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THE MAIDSTONE MUSEUMS' FOUNDATION
Maidstone Museum & Bentlif Art Gallery
St Faith's Street, Maidstone, ME14 1LH

The Maidstone Museums' Foundation is a registered charity (no 802547)