

The Lion & the Dragon

The Friends of Cumbria's Museum of Military Life

Autumn 2019

The Newsletter supports Cumbria's Museum of Military Life, the Regimental Family of the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment and all things military in Cumbria.



Military life seen through the eyes of artists

WHAT is art for? Should it provide a record or should it also stir emotions in the spectator?

PAINTINGS in the Museum's collection do both. They serve to remind us that the Museum covers all aspects of military life; not just combat. Our cover shows one of

the strongest images in the collection, of Belfast during 'Operation Banner'.

NATIONAL SERVICE PAINTER

It may not be a coincidence that the most powerful images in the collection come from the Regiment's

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Lest we forget

From the Editor

As we approach Remembrance Day I am pleased that we are able to print an item about a former member of the Border Regiment who lost his life in the disaster of Kut in 1916.

ANN Head's research into her family has had its reward in the location of the grave of a distant family member in Baghdad. It is a reminder that the suffering and heroics of the First World War were spread across the globe.

STARTING on 16 September is the next temporary exhibition 'The history of the Regiment through 100 objects'. Don't miss it!

Peter Green

Military art from 1066

One of the best known examples of war art is also one of the oldest. The Bayeux Tapestry shows the conquest of England by William the Conqueror.



It reminds us that the Museum's recent 'Stitch in Time' exhibition formed part of a very long tradition.



recent past. Roy Kearsley, has painted two images that would stand comparison with other modern British Art. They capture the tension and the drabness of an infantryman's life on the streets of Belfast. It is not only the colours, the sludgy browns, dull purples and dirty greys, Kearsley has captured the danger and the drudgery of two moments during 'Operation Banner' in the men's faces.

ROY had served as a National Service Officer in the King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster) 1955-56 and knew James Howard who in 1974-75 was commanding the 1st Battalion King's Own Royal Border Regiment. James invited Roy to Belfast at Easter 1975 and these two paintings were the result.

MILITARY PORTRAITS

THE earlier images, though apparently simply records of senior officers, also communicate something of the times when they were painted.

ONE of the earliest pictures in the collection is of Lieutenant-Colonel T W Nicholson KH, who served in the 55th Foot from 1804-1839. Nicholson took part in the campaign in The Netherlands including the siege at Bergen-op-Zoom In 1814, where he was badly wounded. Nicholson is wearing the medal of a Knight of the Hanoverian Guelphic Order. The picture is in a slightly unsophisticated style, in oil on card and was painted in India around the 1830's.

THE portrait of Major-General Sir James Holmes Schoedde KCB is certainly from a more sophisticated culture. He served in the Peninsula, transferred to the 55th Foot in 1829 to command it, was one of the senior commanders in the First China War 1841-42 and Honorary Colonel 55th Foot 1857-1861. He appears to have found the time spent with the painter somewhat tiresome, but is never the less an imposing figure. Self confidence, pomp, triumphalism all ooze out of the picture. The picture is almost certainly painted over a photograph.

MANAGERS AND WARRIORS

TWO modern portraits show how times have changed since Victoria's heyday. Lieutenant-Colonel T A Milburn, though apparently, also bored with having his portrait painted, is not at all triumphalist. This is an ordinary man, slightly overweight and with his mind not on conquest or battle, but perhaps fishing in a quiet pool or maybe a gentle pint of beer.

A Workington Solicitor, Milburn was CO of 5 Border and took Battalion to France. In July 1915 he was invalided home and commanded the training and reinforcement battalion until 1918

RECENT ADDITION

MAJOR Clive Hind 4 Border is a recent donation to the collection by his grand-daughter Mrs. Liz Wall. Hind looks even less like his Victorian forebears. He has the hallmarks of a middle-aged school teacher or bank manager. He is an administrator first, warrior second.





Captions

Overleaf: A detail from 'Dawn Patrol' a foot patrol in Belfast, Roy Kearsley 1976.

Page 2 Extreme top right: Lieutenant-Colonel T W Nicholson 55th Foot, unknown artist.

Extreme top left: Major-General Sir James Holmes Schoedde KCB, Honorary Colonel 55th Foot, unknown artist.

Top right: Lieutenant-Colonel T A Milburn OBE TD, Commanding Officer 5 Border 1914, Frank Dobson

Top left: Major Clive Hind 4 Border, D Dittmers, 1946.

Bottom: The storming of Chin Kiang Foo by 55th Foot, China, July 1842, Richard Simkin, c 1890.

Page 3. Left extreme top: 'Road Block Belfast 1975', Roy Kearsley

Left top: 'The landings at Arnhem' 1944, Tom Reeves

Left middle: 'Soldiers of the 9th Battalion crossing a river', Vernon Cook, former member of 9 Border.



Hind served throughout WW2 but we do not have any more information other than knowing that he served overseas as the picture shows him with the ribbon of the 1939-45 Star as well as the Defence and War Medal ribbons.

BATTLE IMAGES

THE 55th (Westmorland) Regiment won their dragon honour in China. One incident of that campaign, the Storming of Chin Kiang Foo on 21st July 1842 in the First China War, is shown in another recent donation by Major Bill Alexander and was originally bought by his contemporary and great friend Major-General David Miller CBE CB MC.

THE Border Regiment and its predecessors are generally poorly represented in paintings. Richard

Simkin's studio produced a huge range of water-colours of all branches of the Army and drawings for the Illustrated London News. The picture here shows a rather idealised image of what perhaps would have slightly less organised lines of British infantry.

MORE SOLDIER PAINTERS

'The landing at Arnhem' is similarly tidier than reality. The image has been reduced to simple patterns and colours, a painting style much in favour in the 1930s. The crossed webbing straps of the three men in the foreground are unusual in turning men's backs into the focal point of the picture. But has a momentous, noisy, occasion been over-simplified and reduced to pattern? Or does the picture give cause for thought, since we know what is to follow?

THE painting is one of two painted by Tom Reeves, who served with the 1st Battalion Border Regiment towards the end of the War and was one of the young replacements in the Battalion following Arnhem. He went to Norway, served in Germany and may also have served in Palestine.

BURMA EXPERIENCE

THE largest series of paintings that the Museum holds are by Vernon Cook, a former member of 9 Border, and based on his own experiences in Burma. In this case men wading a river to attack a Japanese position. The painting has none of the tricks of a professional, but never the less still has great impact.

A FAVOURITE PICTURE?

DO you have a favourite picture in the Museum's collection? If you do, please let us know either by leaving a message at the Museum or by emailing the Editor <peter.castra@gmail.com>.

The Editor

Robert Taylor – a quest

Anne Head

TEN years ago I began to see what could be found about my grandmother Jane Taylor's family who came from Carlisle. I was able to find the War

enlisted in the Border Regiment having been a Territorial. His medal card shows that he had been transferred to the Ox & Bucks, who were involved in the Mesopotamia Campaign in present day Iraq, against the Turkish Empire.

PRISONER OF WAR

FROM information in the Cumberland News and the Museum, the story began to emerge.



Memorial for the Parish of St. James, Carlisle, (they were mostly living in Denton Holme) and found that three of the family had been killed.

WAR GRAVES

THE search on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission site found that David Carlyle Taylor, Royal Field Artillery, is buried near Albert in France. William James Taylor, Cameron Highlanders died at the Somme and has no known grave but is remembered at the Thiepval Memorial in France. Robert Taylor, Border Regiment then seconded to the Ox & Bucks is buried in the North Gate Cemetery Baghdad.

ROBERT was the second son of Thomas and Agnes Taylor, of Trafalgar Street, Denton Holme and had

The oldest children of Thomas and Agnes Taylor, Richard, Robert, and William James (my grandmother's cousins) and their father Thomas had all enlisted, mostly in the Border Regiment. And by September 1916 Robert was a prisoner of war in the hands of the Turks.

RED CRESCENT

It became obvious that Agnes had lost all contact with Robert in Mesopotamia. I do not have her letters to the War Office but their replies show she was a very determined woman. The Red Crescent found that Robert had in fact died in December 1916 though this information had not reached Agnes until May 1917. When I found that Robert had been buried on Baghdad I realised that the chances of any

family member seeing his headstone were very slim. To add to the family's sadness William James has no known grave.

MUSEUM TALK

IN October 2018 we attended a talk at the Museum given by Patricia Keppi of the Commonwealth Graves Commission Scotland and she was hopeful that things were at last moving in the right direction and

The Regiment's vehicles

The Editor

UNTIL the 1930's an infantry man's most important transport item was his boots.

Despite the development of the internal combustion engine, it was not until Vickers produced the 'Carrier, Machine-Gun Experimental (Armoured)' vehicle in 1934 that the infantry had a vehicle to carry them and equipment across country.

UNIVERSAL CARRIER

VICKER's speculative design went on to become the 'Universal Carrier' that was found in every battlefield of WW2 and continued in production till 1960.



ICONIC VEHICLES

WITH the help of former members of the regiment six vehicles used by The Border Regiment and the King's Own Royal Border Regiment have been selected for a series starting in our Winter edition.

WE'd love to hear from anyone who has a story about any of these vehicles. Please email your memories or photographs, or just your thoughts on how effective they were to the Editor <peter.castr@gmail.com>.



that she may soon be able to help. In April 2019 we were contacted by Patricia who in turn put us in touch with Richard Hills, Commonwealth War Graves Commission Director Africa and Asia, who has now been able, thanks to his Iraqi contractors, to send us photos of Robert Taylor's headstone.

WE are aware that the Taylor Family are not unique in their sacrifice but we owe it to them, and the families like them, never to forget.

The siege of Kut

The Allied campaign in Mesopotamia began in 1914 as a relatively simple operation to secure the oilfields in the Shatt al-Arab delta and Basra area.

Initially it was a great success, but as the army pressed towards Baghdad its poor logistic support, equipment and command left it isolated and besieged by the Turks.

By 1916 the force had not been relieved, and on 29 April 1916 the British Army suffered one of the worst defeats in military history.



Winter 2019
Alvis Saracen



Spring 2020
Humber FV1611 'Pig'



Summer 2020
Bedford MK



Autumn 2020
GKN Saxon



Winter 2020
Daimler Ferret



Spring 2021
Landrover Defender 110

From the Collection

Jules Wooding

OUR autumn exhibition is following in the great tradition of the British Museum (A History of the World in 100 Objects) by exploring the wider history of the Regiment through a '100' objects.

UNENVIABLE TASK

DECIDING on what will be included within the exhibition falls to the Curator, Stuart, who has the unenviable task of making some difficult choices. These items will be taken out of storage, with the majority on display for the first time.

From small items such as the c.1770 Other Ranks pewter buttons with a roped edging and '34' in relief, to the canteen of cutlery dating from 1905,

the displays will tell the story of the Regiment through ordinary objects.

THE MUSEUM'S STORE

THE Museum's role is to preserve and look after its Collections and over the years the stores have expanded to accommodate a wide variety of objects. It is not always possible to display these items and we are always looking at creative ways of exhibiting them. Temporary exhibitions enable us to do this. The excitement about 100 Objects is that some of these may seem like everyday objects but will help illustrate life in the Regiment over the last 300 years.

ANNIVERSARIES

WITHIN the timeframe of this exhibition are several significant anniversaries – 75th of the Battle of Arnhem, 60th of the formation of the Kings Own Royal Border Regiment (KORBR) and the 120th of the start of the Second Boer War. An

object will be displayed that will highlight these anniversaries.

NEW ARTWORK

THIS includes an exciting addition to our Collections – a new piece of artwork commissioned for the anniversary of KORBR. Ninety-nine of the objects on display will be items that have been donated, purchased or obtained over the years. This new artwork will be incorporated into the Collections and displayed for the first time within this exhibition as the 100th object.

'A History of the Regiment in 100 Objects' runs from 16 September to 1 December 2019.



Captions

Far left top: Agnes Taylor, with members of her family. Robert is either next to his mother or possibly one of the two sitting men. © Anne Head

Far left lower: Robert Taylor's gravestone in the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery, Baghdad. © CWGC

Middle left: Troops of the Monmouthshire Regiment and their Universal carrier. © IWM Non Commercial Licence

Centre: Vehicle pictures, some from former members of the Regiment: Saracen © John Ackerley; Pig © Les Rudd; Bedford © Paul Livsey; Saxon © IWM; Ferret © Jo-Anne Boardley; Landrover © Lenny Moran

Near: A pewter button from the uniform of the 34th Foot and Canteen of cutlery presented by members of the Sergeants Mess, 2 Border, to Sergeant Puckett MM on his leaving the Regiment 1932.

New book – a Border remembers



'The Music Maker: How one POW provide hope for thousands'
Jaci Byrne
Pen and Sword
£19.99

POW books have gone through phases. In the 1950's they stressed British pluck and ingenuity. Then pluck gave way to forced labour and starvation. More recently attention has turned to the non-military aspects of camp life. 'The Music Maker' combines the all three.

WHITEHAVEN MUSIC

DRUM Major Henry Jackson, from Whitehaven had already served in the Royal Artillery in WWI, when as a Territorial, he was called back to 5 Border, in September 1939. He was 40 years old and off to France again. In the confusion of the retreat to Dunkirk his group are captured.

AUTHOR Jaci Byrne has effortlessly stitched together her grandfather's remarkable diary, with

her family memories to recreate his struggle and resignation that despite taking part in the 'War to end All Wars' he was back in France and fighting the Germans.

PRISONER

WHEN not working as a fitter in a coal mine, Jackson was a musician with his own band. As Drum Major in the Regiment's band Jackson was part of the Regimental Aid Post. Taking a wrong turning on the road to Dunkirk meant he joined the great influx of men captured in the Summer of 1940.

THESE men had no idea if or when they might be released. For Jackson it meant six years of camps in Poland and eastern Germany. For all POWs food was poor and they depended on Red Cross parcels. Byrne like most other NCOs and Other Ranks was expected by the Geneva Convention to work whilst a prisoner.

THE CAMP BAND

BUT Jackson had the advantage that he had music. The pictures of him leading the Camp Dance Band are one of the book's gems. It contrast with his band from the 1920s. In the first photograph he and his musicians are in dinner jackets and bow ties: in the second its shirt sleeve order, battle dress, though with a shine on his boots.

SOME readers may find the descriptions of Nazi horror a little over done. Prison life was hard, made harder by threats, monotonous heavy work, cold and lack of food, but the Nazis here are perhaps too one dimensional and

stereotyped. Jackson's comment that one guard was letting prisoners out to visit a brothel is slightly at odds with this.

LIKE other POWs Jackson's return home required adjustments by prisoner and family alike. The descriptions of his homecoming and holiday in Blackpool are vivid and lacking in false sentiment. The return of a POW was not easy for him or his family.

In compiling this account Byrne has provided an valuable record social history of a fascinating man and the period.

The Editor

25th Anniversary of a Classic edition: a personal note from the Curator



30 years ago Canon Alan Green completed a history of the 1st Battalion Border Regiment's role as glider-borne troops in the 1st Air-Landing Brigade, 1st Airborne Division at the Battle of Arnhem in September 1944. This account was published by the Regimental Museum in 1991.

ALAN GREEN

ALAN, who served as a young Platoon Commander in D Company 1st Border and was wounded and

taken POW at Arnhem, combined official records with the reminiscences of many of the veterans who had fought in the Battle.

ARNHEM 50

WITH the impending 50th Anniversary of Arnhem in 1994 and the renewed interest the event would generate, the Curator approached Alan with a view to incorporating his account into a broader wartime history of the 1st Battalion. Major (later Lt-Col.) Charles Gray, then 2 i/c of the 1st Battalion King's Own Royal Border Regiment and passionately interested in the Regiment's history, promoted the project within the present Regiment.

GLIDER REVIVAL

PUBLISHED in 1994, "When Dragons Flew" stimulated great interest both in the Border Regiment, and also in the wartime role of the other glider-borne & parachute units of 1st Airborne Division. .

LONG after the first edition sold out, the Museum published the revised 2nd Edition of When Dragons Flew in 2009. This included new information and corrections and over 140 new photographs, most of which appear in an additional chapter of "Battalion Portraits". Once again the veterans and their families supported the project.

THE book serves as a reminder that the history of a Regiment, or one of its Battalions, is all about people.

Stuart Eastwood
 Curator.

Early Christmas Gift suggestions from the Museum Shop



Lapel badges of the Border Regiment, King's Own Royal Border Regiment and the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment.

All £4.50 each from the Museum.

Duke of Lancaster's Regiment News

KEEPING vulnerable people safe is a big part of our work in Africa.



EVERYDAY, children within the 'Protection of Civilians Site' in South Sudan watch our soldiers at work. Here, Cpl Parker, of the 1 Lancs shows 'magic tricks' while a crowd watches, wondering if he has a rabbit hidden in his blue UN cap.

BRITISH soldiers are deployed to South Sudan on Operation Trenton in support of the UN Peace Support effort.



MEMBERS of 2 Lancs, Chindit Coy, have finished delivering their training package at the Kenyan School of Infantry.

RESERVISTS from the 4 Lancs are currently deployed in Nigeria with the 2 Lancs Enduring Training Team. Helping the Nigerian Armed Forces in their fight against the so called Islamic State in West Africa.

Museum News

LOTS of material, particularly modern items, have come into the collections or on loan as part of Afghanistan Exhibition, which has attracted interest from the media and visitors alike.

OTHER items for the collections include the double WW1 MC group of Lt. H. C. Sykes; the WW1 War Memorial from Warwick-on-Eden Church; another to L/Cpl Michael Robinson from Manchester, who died in Egypt in 1953; nearly 100 volumes for the library; the King's Own Border Standard of the Furness Branch of the Regimental Association; and the medals of Jim McDowell one of the famous Arnhem 3-inch mortar team, the one with his back to the camera in the picture on the cover of 'When Dragons Flew'.

THE Museum team is now busy working on the next exhibition "History of the Regiment in 100 Objects", which will be the Curator's swansong so to speak, as he will be retiring from the Museum in February 2020 after 27 ½ years at the helm.

AND there's more about Arnhem. Wilf Oldham from Lancashire aged 97, who served in 12 Platoon B Company, plans to be at Arnhem for the 75th Anniversary.

Stuart Eastwood
Curator

Friends' News

THE AGM was attended by about twenty people who accepted the reports (all on The Friend's web page). The past year had been fairly quiet concerning money raising due to illness and cancellations.

HOWEVER this will be recovered this next year - see programme in the newsletter but don't miss Antique Valuation with Paul Laidlaw (of TV fame) on 11 September 19 at 14.00 hrs Tickets from the Museum. And the WW1 Dinner on 12 October - reserve your places now by ringing the museum - 01228 532774.

MARY McArdle has taken over as Secretary from Jeff Mills who has resigned after many years on the Committee, and having been part of the original team on foundation. Many thanks to Jeff for all his work over the years. The rest of the committee remains as it was. Some minor changes were made to the Constitution to bring it into line with what actually happens. The changes are available on line.

WE would really appreciate some more volunteers to the committee if you feel you have something to add.

Nigel Lewis
Chair

JOIN THE FRIENDS

JOIN us! There are a range of subscription options from £5 for a young person to £30 for a family. Ask for details at the Museum.

Diary

10 September, Tuesday, 1800 hrs

Talk, 75th Anniversary of the Warsaw uprising, the Museum

11 September, Wednesday, 1400 hrs

Antique valuation by Paul Laidlaw St Aidan's Church Hall, Warwick Road, Carlisle



16 September, Monday, 1300 hrs

Veterans Lunch Club, the Museum.

17 September, Tuesday

75th Anniversary of the start of 'Operation Market Garden', Border Regiment. See 'Lest we forget' overleaf.

8 October, Tuesday, 1800 hrs

Talk, 'The formation of the King's Own Royal Border Regiment', the Museum.

12 October, Saturday 1845 for 1900 hrs

The "Lonsdale WW1 Dinner" £50 per person includes drink on arrival; seven course dinner; tables of 8 with two bottles of wine on each table and soft drinks. Tickets from the Museum.

19 October, Monday

The Gallipoli Landings, talk, the Museum.

21 October, Monday, 1300 hrs

Veterans Lunch Club, the Museum

26 October, Saturday, 1900 hrs

Arroyo Day celebration, Apple Tree Pub, Carlisle

28 October

Arroyo Day - Anniversary of the Peninsular War triumph for 2/34th Foot. See 'Lest we forget' overleaf.

5 November

Inkerman Day - Anniversary of the Crimean War battle honour of the 55th Foot

12 November, Tuesday, 1800 hrs

Talk, The WWI Deborah Tank Project, the Museum

18 November, Monday, 1300 hrs

Veterans Lunch Club, the Museum

4 December

Combined Services Carol Service, the Cathedral

9 December, Monday, 1300 hrs

Veterans Lunch Club, the Museum

2020

3 April

Anniversary of the start of the siege of Kohima, Border Regiment anniversary

8, 9 and 10 May

King's Own Royal Border Regimental Weekend, 'The Shepherds Inn & Auctioneer', Montgomery Way, Rosehill Estate, Carlisle CA1 2RW

22 June

Anniversary of the lifting of the siege of Imphal, Border Regiment anniversary

1 July

Anniversary of the formation of the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment in 2006.

9 July

'Operation Ladbroke', Sicily 1943, Border Regiment anniversary

Our Heritage

THE regiment that became the 34th Foot was raised in 1702, in Norfolk as Robert, Lord Lucas's Regiment.

THE 55th Foot were raised in 1755 at Stirling, by Colonel George Perry. They were originally the 57th Foot, but when lower numbered regiments were disbanded in 1757, they became the 55th Foot.

IN 1782, all infantry regiments were given territorial attachments. Our regiments became the 34th Foot or Cumberland Regiment, and the 55th Foot or Westmorland Regiment.

IN 1881 the two regiments were brought together to become the 1st and 2nd Battalions of 'The Border Regiment'.

THE Border Regiment and the King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster) were combined in 1959 to form the King's Own Royal Border Regiment.

JULY 2006 saw The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, The King's Regiment, and The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, merged to form The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment (King's, Lancashire and Border).

AND the 'Lion & the Dragon'? The Lion was the symbol of King's Own Royal Regiment and the Dragon, that of the Border Regiment. Our yellow theme comes from the 34th Foot's yellow facings.



The Border Regiment
1881-1959



King's Own Royal Border
Regiment 1959-2006



The Duke of Lancaster's
Regiment 2006

Lest we forget

BATTLE honours and regimental distinctions from the autumn, that are part of Cumbria's military heritage.



September 1944. Arnhem, The Netherlands, Border Regiment

1 Border's dogged defence of the western perimeter of 1st Airborne's position at Oosterbeek during 'Operation Market Garden'.

October 1799, Egmont-op-Zee, The Netherlands, 55th Foot

An Anglo-Russian army attempted to drive the French and their Dutch revolutionary Allies out of the Low Countries. Coordination with the Russians was poor and despite some successes the action as a whole was a failure.

November 1914, Ypres, France, Border Regiment

The first battle of Ypres came towards the end of attempts by both the Allies and the Germans to outflank each other, but which ran out of space when the armies reached the Channel coast.



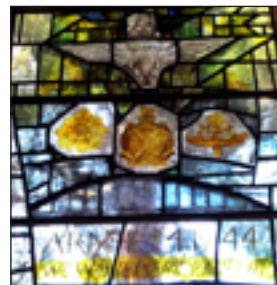
Arroyo Drums

On 28 October each year, or another more

convenient Regimental occasion, the capture at Arroyo dos Molinos, during the Peninsular War, of the drums and Drum Major's Staff of the French 34 régiment d'infanterie by 2/24th Foot is celebrated. Replicas of the French Drums are carried by six men wearing copies of the 1811 drummers' uniforms of the 34th Foot.

Arnhem Oak Tree

A three year old oak tree dedicated to the Border Regiment and 'Operation Market Garden' will be planted on 21 September in St Cuthbert's church yard, Carlisle. There is an appeal to fund the protective tree frame, more information from Mr A Steel, 1 Low Croft, Cumwhinton, Carlisle, CA4 8DZ. The tree was grown from an acorn taken from a tree that men from the Regiment used to help them cross the Rhine at the end of the battle.



Woodhall Spa Commemorative Window

A new stained glass window commemorating the men who took part in 'Operation Market Garden' was formally unveiled on 15 August in St Peter's Church, Woodhall Spa. The 1st Airlanding Brigade, including 1 Border, were based in Woodhall Spa before the Operation. Picture © Phil Groves

Contacts

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Opening hours

1 April-30 September
Every day 10 am-6 pm

October

Every day 10 am-5 pm

1 November to 31 March
Saturday to Thursday
10 am-4 pm closed on
Fridays

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