



The John Buchan Story

The Chambers Institution, High Street, Peebles,
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www.johnbuchanstory.co.uk

Dear John Buchan Society member

As Chairman of the Trustees of the *John Buchan Story* and Chairman of the Management Committee of the *John Buchan Story* we wanted to write to you to tell you what we have been doing in the pandemic.

After agonizing every month as to whether to open – conducting risk assessments, ordering screens, gloves, hand sanitizer etc – and spending many hours working out how to keep everyone safe, we reluctantly decided to stay closed for this season. Although more than half of our volunteers were willing, others are in the At Risk category and our first responsibility is to them. We will work hard through the winter so, on the basis that the virus will still be around, we can safely open on 1st April 2021.

Now for the good news –we had a very successful season in 2019. Having removed the entrance fee, our numbers went up from 2,000 to 5,000 and our donations matched the old entrance fee. This year we received a grant from the Government to cover our rent and rates so our financial position is strong.

The First Nation headdress on loan from the Russell-Cotes Museum, Bournemouth will be returned soon. The trustees are disappointed that the loan cannot be extended but we are actively pursuing the loan of another, from Canada. In the meantime, we have purchased a modern headdress from the Blood tribe for our First Nations exhibition. In order to house and display this material, we have a splendid new cabinet, which also provides us with extra storage for artefacts not on display.


Since we cannot open the museum to visitors, we decided to create a virtual look at various aspects of John Buchan's writings and life. These may be viewed through our *YouTube* account. Currently we have:

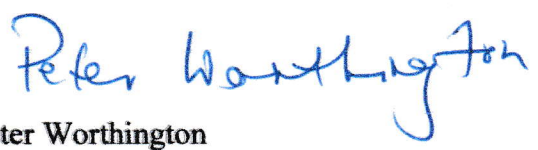
John Buchan – The Man and the Museum	The Battle of Arras 1917
The Royal Visit to Canada 1939	John Buchan and Propaganda in the Great War
John Buchan's Inspirational Holidays	Deborah Stewartby's Favourite Museum Artefacts
John Buchan and "The First Nations of Canada"	Ursula Buchan's Favourite Museum Artefacts

These may be viewed on *YouTube* by searching for **johnbuchanstory**. Details are also on our web site, with other material updated regularly here: www.johnbuchanstory.co.uk

We are so grateful to the Society for their enthusiastic support of the Museum - both the Editor of the Newsletter and the Editor of the Journal have visited this year - and to you, our members. We would like to encourage you to come and see us when it is safe to do so.

Let us hope that 2021 will be a better year for us all


Ian Buckingham,
Chairman of the Trustees of the *John Buchan Story*


Peter Worthington
Chairman of the Management Committee