

Ian turns personal collection into museum



Signposting for the museum on the main road from Edinburgh to Livingston. Picture Nigel Duncan Media

Ian Inglis opened the Military Museum Scotland in the Legion Hall in Wilkieston, next door to the Scottish War Blinded residences.

It displays military artefacts dating from World War I up to the modern day.

Initially, it was set up as an education resource for schools and a place for veterans to visit and reminisce but as word started to spread about the museums existence lots of other groups and individuals have visited.

The museum has hosted many care home visits with residents coming to reminisce and have a cuppa in the café.

There have also been booked visits by cadet units and scout groups.

Military associations regularly book the museum for their meetings and Ian said: "All the bookings and the regular visits from members of the public confirms that there was a need for a Military Museum in Scotland.

"The museum's collection increases daily and if you have any items tucked away that you may think might benefit the museum and the work it does and wish to donate or loan items to the museum please get in touch. Everything has a story to tell."

He added: "The location we are in is only temporary so the

hunt goes on for a permanent location. If anyone knows of any suitable locations, please get in touch.

“What we need now is more support, not only from the military and veteran community, but from the wider community too.

“We need funds to continue the work we have started and the best way anyone can support the museum is by visiting the and then spreading the word.

“The museum also boasts an outreach programme where schools or indeed anyone can book the Mobile Military Museum to come to their location or event.

“The mobile museum was where it all started but, because the collection grew and the feedback we received from the schools asking about a permanent museum, convinced me that there was a need for this type of museum in Scotland.

“The museum cannot run itself and it does need many volunteers to help keep the it functioning.

“If you have a few hours to spare every week or month and you want to help please get in touch.”

You can find out more by visiting the museum’s Facebook page at [Military Museum Scotland SCIO](#).