



Pictures and story from 'The Guide' published in April 1998 (sorry about the creases). This issue included a story about the Soke Military Society's annual exhibition (we had dropped 'Collectors' by then) of that year, held at the Museum.

John Rowell was a member in those days and always positioned his army ambulance outside the museum main entrance to attract visitors. My two sons, Jan and Douglas, were keen exhibitors and didn't mind the photographer dressing them up and staging a little scenario. They were thirteen at the time and members who attended the last meeting will have seen Jan give his presentation on The Pharmacist of Krakow.

That's Jan *left*, on the front page, and that's him in the photo *below*, at the 2024 exhibition with his son Alex, who is now a member.



Below left, Douglas and Jan Gray sending an important message across the battlefield, and below them is John Rowell in his ambulance.

If anyone knows the name of the young man with the models then please let me know and I will give him a name-check.

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the guide's guide to the Soke Military Society

A marvellous military event

CROWDS will be out in force to see the annual exhibition put on by the Soke Military Society. Take a journey into the history of militaria tomorrow at Peterborough Museum, Priestgate, from 10am to 5pm tomorrow and Sunday from 2pm to 5pm.

The city-based Soke Military Society has about 110 members - including one living in France - and there will be about 20 of their number who are collectors of military memorabilia putting on the display at the museum.

Exhibits at the weekend display will include badges, model aircraft, Civil Defence memorabilia, military equipment and items recovered from the battlefields of the First and Second World Wars.

But the interest is not all focussed inside - outside the museum you will be able to see a Second World War ambulance owned by one of the society members.

Entrance is free, but there will be refreshments and items such as books on sale.

Society treasurer David Gray said: "We hope to raise funds so the society can keep going for another year and also to benefit the Guinea Pig Club for airmen who have been burned."

● If you are interested in joining the society, you can find out more by visiting the exhibition or call Mr Gray on 01733 769434.

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