

Soke Military Collectors Society

Back in the day, the *Peterborough Military History Group* began life as the *Soke Military Collectors Society*. The name was changed as we believed the present one represents more closely our aims and identity.

Fellow member, Simon Wilson, has sent in some pictures showing members and their collections from the early days and I thought it worthwhile putting them on the website to jog the memories of those of us old enough to remember those early years and to show newer members that we do have a history dating back to 1969.

The first picture below shows Simon Wilson (left), and Steve Yates, at the annual exhibition in 1974. This was held in the ground floor room at the AEUW Hall on Lincoln Road.



The next picture (below), is a news article from the Peterborough Standard reporting the Soke Military Collectors Society's exhibition at the Cresset in 1979. It shows a young Roy Spong (sorry Roy, you're not in my memory bank), and a veteran member even in those days, Hubert Baxter. Hubert was a member when Roger Negus and I joined, I think in that year, and I remember he had an incredible collection of ammunition, from large shells to small rounds.

PETERBOROUGH STANDARD — Friday, November 2nd, 1979

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ABOVE — Twelve-year-old Roy Spong with a scene of liberation from the Second World War and model soldiers of an earlier era. **BELOW** — Bullets, shells and shell cases make up Hubert Baxter's display at the exhibition.



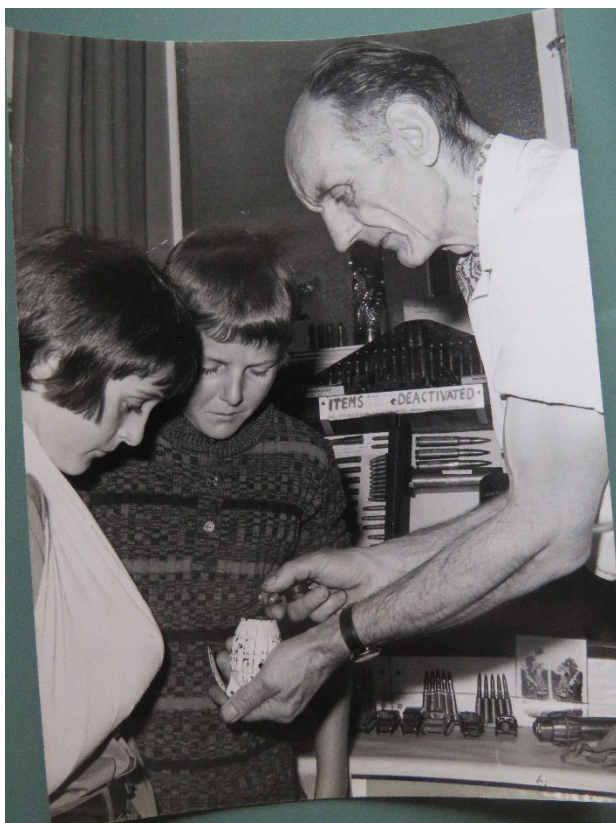
EVEN IN miniature, the men and machines of war command a fascinated following. Model makers and military collectors the world over build and collect memories of yesterday's battles.

The Soke Military Collectors Society is made up of enthusiasts such as these and, on Saturday, they put their treasures on show at The Cresset centre in Peterborough.

The society has held an exhibition every year since it was formed in 1969 and this was the biggest to date. It attracted more than 300 people, including the mayor, Coun Murdoch Charteris.

Model aircraft, uniforms, military equipment, miniature figures and books were all on display and Lesney Toys, the Woodston manufacturers of Matchbox toys, unveiled some of their new products.

Members of the society, who also ran a stall where items could be exchanged, met on the third Thursday of every month at The Still public house in Westgate.



Another nice picture of Hubert Baxter who is showing two young boys a hand grenade from his collection.

Below is a picture of Hubert's wife Jean, taken at the exhibition held at the museum in September 1981.

