

Scottish Secretary visits poppy factory

News story

Factory makes 5 million poppies every year.



Scottish Secretary Alister Jack today [Monday 10 August] visited Lady Haig's Poppy Factory in Redford Barracks in Edinburgh.

The factory makes five million poppies and 15,000 wreaths every year to raise funds for Poppyscotland's veteran support services. During lockdown the factory staff worked from home, continuing to make poppies for this year's Scottish Poppy Appeal.

Mr Jack met factory manager Major Charlie Pelling (retired) and many of the former service men and women who work in the factory.

Speaking after his visit, Alister Jack said:

It was a real privilege to visit Lady Haig's Poppy Factory and meet the former service men and women who produce the famous poppies. It was heartening to hear how hard they had all worked to make sure that production continued right through lockdown. Every year Poppyscotland raises much needed money for veterans charities, and I wish them the very best of luck with this year's appeal.

Charlie Pelling, Manager at Lady Haig's Poppy Factory, said:

The lockdown has been a very challenging period for us but it is a testament to the professionalism and commitment of our workforce that they adapted to home working so enthusiastically. In doing so that have ensured that the millions of poppies needed for the 2020 Scottish Poppy Appeal would be ready in time. While we expect this year's Appeal to be different due to the ongoing pandemic, it is

vital that we continue to have the support of the public, without which Poppyscotland would not be able to continue offering it's life-changing support to our Armed Forces community.

Lady Haig's Poppy Factory, a subsidiary of Poppyscotland, is currently located in Redford Barracks while their permanent premises in Canonmills are refurbished. Poppyscotland raises money through the annual Scottish Poppy Appeal to deliver support to members of the armed forces community. The charity funds services in advice, employment, housing, mental health, mobility and respite.

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