

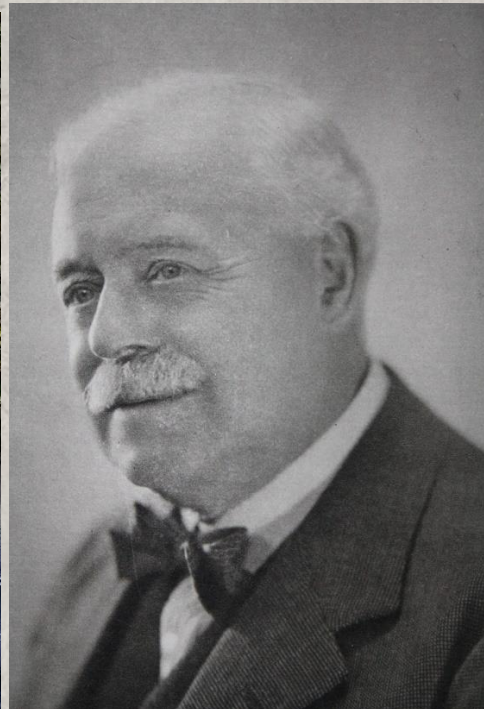


You are warmly invited to our November Lecture
at Millbank (and online), all are welcome
1830hrs Friday 29 November 2024

Our guest speaker, Tom Scotland, will be talking on
'Robert Jones – Fighting a War on Two Fronts'



Tom Scotland



Robert Jones

'Robert Jones was a friendly, outgoing optimist who worked hard, loved life and lived it to the full.'

See overleaf for more information, including Moynihan's inspiring description

Proceeds will be donated to the Bone Cancer Research Trust

Our speaker, Tom Scotland, is a renowned orthopaedic surgeon and military surgical historian. His most recent book is *'Sir James McGrigor - The Adventurous Life of Wellington's Chief Medical Officer'*, published in 2021 for the 250th anniversary of the birth of Sir James McGrigor. See speaker's biography below for more detail.

Prior registration required. Refreshments at 1730hrs. Directions below.
Register [HERE](#) or via www.friendsofmillbank.org





Fighting a War on Two Fronts

Robert Jones, Director of Military Orthopaedics WWI

(A short biography, by Tom Scotland)

Robert Jones (1857-1933) played a decisive role in the management of musculoskeletal wounds during the First World War. Although from a general surgical background, he established himself as an orthopaedic specialist, and in 1913 was elected President of the Orthopaedic Section of the International Medical Congress in London. He was a friendly, outgoing optimist who worked hard, loved life and lived it to the full.

In late 1914, Jones observed that hospitals were full of soldiers with badly treated fractures. He was directed by Sir Alfred Keogh to open an orthopaedic unit at Alder Hey Hospital, Liverpool, segregating musculoskeletal cases for the first time. In the opening months of the war, wounds involving the femur had a mortality of 80 per cent, due partly to inadequate splintage. In 1915, Jones introduced the effective Thomas Splint, which along with early wound excision reduced mortality to less than 20 per cent.

In March 1916, Jones became responsible for the first orthopaedic centre on the site of the Hammersmith Workhouse, Shepherd's Bush. Young surgeons trained by Jones provided operative expertise, while a curative workshop restored movement to stiff joints, improved function and boosted morale. Keogh appointed Jones Director of Military Orthopaedics and with the help of friends and colleagues he oversaw 17 orthopaedic centres in Great Britain and Ireland.

The general surgical establishment viewed this development with jealousy and suspicion. The Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England seemed initially disposed to advise the Army Council to rescind Jones' appointment and he needed powerful allies. Sir Berkeley Moynihan, assisted by John Lynn-Thomas and Ernest Hey-Groves, used all their powers of persuasion to ensure Jones remained in post.

When the United States of America entered the war in April 1917, Joel Goldthwait of the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) brought 20 orthopaedic surgeons to Britain to provide Jones with vital support to staff orthopaedic centres. A further 400 Americans rotated through the centres and Robert Osgood (MGH) became Jones' deputy. Osgood persuaded interested parties to form a British Orthopaedic Association, which held its inaugural meeting on 2 February 1918

Opposition persisted and Jones had the grim task of fighting off attacks from the general surgical establishment for the remainder of the war. He did so with tact and diplomacy.

Moynihan said of Robert Jones:

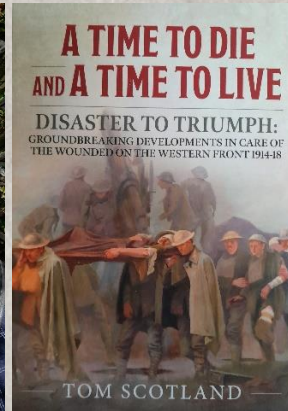
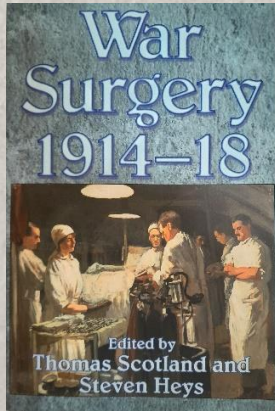
He speaks ill of no man. He seeks and finds good in all things and in all men. He sets an ideal and a standard of action in friendship which all strive to reach when with him. I have never heard an unjust criticism, cruel jibe, or word of bitter criticism on his lips. His personality radiates cheeriness, good temper and good will.



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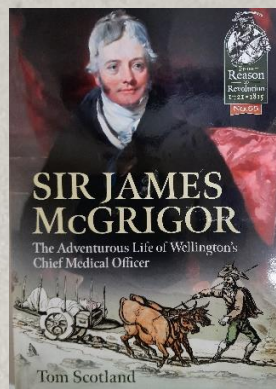


Speaker's Biography - Tom Scotland – and some of his books



Tom Scotland studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh and graduated in 1971. He became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in 1975 and trained as an orthopaedic surgeon in Aberdeen, where he was appointed a consultant in 1983. His areas of interest included knee surgery, paediatric orthopaedics and tumour surgery. In 2004 he was elected to be the first lead clinician of the Scottish Sarcoma Managed Clinical Network, established to provide the best possible care for patients in Scotland with malignant bone and soft tissue tumours. After retiring in 2007, he re-invented himself as a cycling orthopaedic historian, leading cycling expeditions to Great War battlefields in France and Flanders. He has written two books about important surgical developments in that conflict (see above). He has also made a particular study of Aberdonian surgeon Sir Henry Gray, who made major contributions to the management of compound fractures of the femur, significantly improving their prognosis.

Tom has been a member of the Aberdeen Medico-Chirurgical Society, co-founded in 1789 by James McGrigor and eleven student colleagues, since 1983. The Society is very proud of its distinguished founding member, and Tom marked the 250th anniversary, in April 2021, of McGrigor's birth by straying from the more familiar territory of the Great War to publish a new biography.



Tom, an active Friend of Millbank, delivered the Haywood Memorial Lecture to Friends of Millbank in March 2022, on 'Sir James McGrigor (1771-1858), Father of the British Army Medical Services'. The recording is in our Members Area, at <https://www.friendsofmillbank.org/talks-2022/>



info@friendsofmillbank.org



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Directions for Millbank

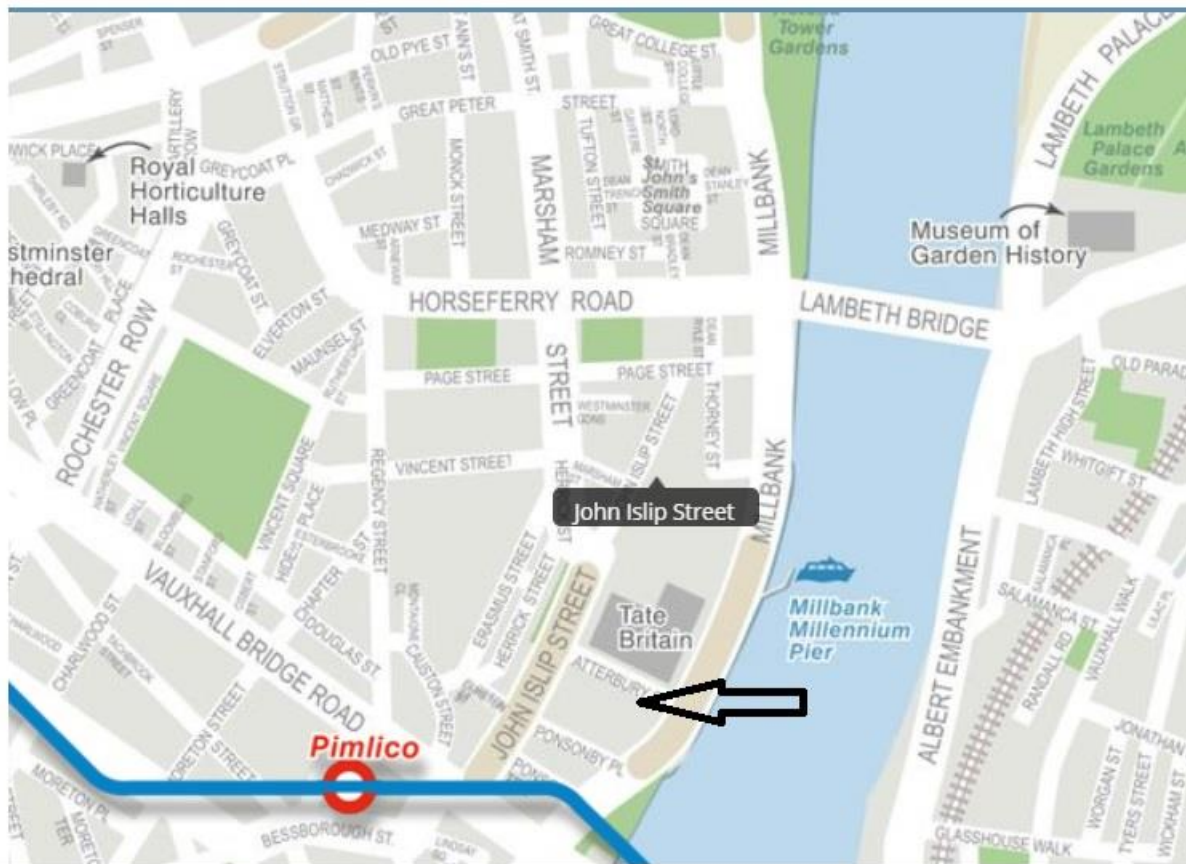
(Chelsea College of Arts, formerly the Royal Army Medical College)

The College entrance is via Atterbury Street, opposite Tate Britain (as arrowed below).

We meet for light refreshments at Reception from 1730hrs. The talk commences at 1830hrs.

Everyone attending the talk, whether at Millbank or online, is asked to register beforehand as above. Our talks are open to all, guests are welcome. Supper afterwards at Millbank Towers.

LondonTown.com - John Islip Street Location Map



info@friendsofmillbank.org



www.friendsofmillbank.org