

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

● EFC Heritage Society members celebrate its 10th birthday



The EFC Heritage Society is celebrating its 10th birthday this year!



The Society, formed in 2008 by Dr David France OBE, is made up of Evertonian authors, researchers, memorabilia collectors and statisticians and, in simple terms, their aims are:

- To be the first point of reference for all enquiries from the Club and the general public about Everton's history
- To actively promote knowledge of the Club's history
- To promote and support The Everton Collection

Brendan Connolly, Chairman of the Society, said: "The early days of the Society were not always plain sailing as we tried to find our feet and focus on what we were trying to achieve, but the driving force and commitment of my predecessor Paul Wharton ensured that we moved forward.

"What we have now is a thriving organisation which enjoys an excellent relationship with the Football Club and

I'd particularly like to thank Richard Kenyon and Alistair James for their fantastic support over recent years.

"Only last week, our vice-chairman, Peter Lupson delivered two education sessions to Everton employees at the new offices at the Royal Liver Building. It was great to see the genuine interest of staff to learn more about the early days of Everton and also the level of knowledge that some already possessed. It was an excellent

example of the Club's regard for both the Society and Everton's fantastic history."

Another feature of the Society's work is the recognition of the graves of some of our former heroes such as Alex 'Sandy' Young, the scorer of the winning goal in the 1906 FA Cup final, Andrew Hannah the captain of our first League Championship-winning team of 1891, Will Cuff, George Harrison, Jeremiah Kelly and Alec Brady.



Before every home game, the Society can be found upstairs at St Luke's Church Hall on Goodison Road, where they provide fantastic displays covering the history of our great club. There are also various stalls selling old programmes, memorabilia and souvenirs and there are often book signing sessions and appearances by former players.

The Ruleteros Society is also represented at St Luke's. Their aim is to encourage the development of links between supporters of our Everton club and the Everton club in Chile. Tom Regan, with his excellent 'Toffee Art', is another regular attender.

"Visiting fans are always welcome, too," added Brendan. "There is a feature on the opponents of the day, including a DVD showing goals from previous encounters. We are open for business from three hours prior to kick-off until 30 minutes before the start of each game."

The Society members regularly use their vast wealth of knowledge to respond to queries from supporters and relatives of former players.

"It's very rewarding to see how grateful people are when you provide information on their distant relative's Everton career," said Brendan. "But it can also be difficult letting somebody down when the stories passed through generations prove to be slightly embellished!"

Members include authors with a combined total of more than 50

Everton related books to their credit – David France, James Corbett, Ken Rogers, David Prentice, Peter Lupson, Tony Onslow, Rob Sawyer, Simon Hart, John Rowlands, Steve Johnson, George Orr and Steve Zocek.

The founder, Dr France, is the Society's Life President and Neville Southall is their Patron.



"Another great project has been the support of KitAid, which was initiated and driven by secretary, Richie Gillham," Brendan concluded. "This has seen thousands of pieces of kit donated by supporters at St Luke's and delivered to deserving cases in Africa."

The EFC Heritage Society is a fabulous organisation – if you haven't visited them in St Luke's before the game, then make sure you do. You won't regret it and they'd be delighted to see you.

The EFC Heritage Society have their own website www.efcheritagesociety.com and can be found on Facebook and Twitter (Everton Heritage).



● Ambassadors Graeme Sharp and Graham Stuart at The Everton Heritage Society event to remember Sandy Young