

Craven and the First World War Project

Newsletter



Spring 2018

"Building a greater understanding of life in Craven during the First World War"

Raikeswood Camp website

A new website about Skipton's WW1 military training and POW camp will launch at the end of May. The website will provide information about what life was like for local soldiers who trained at the camp, as well as the German officers who were imprisoned there from 1918. More details to follow.

Knitted poppies wanted

Inspired by the beautiful Weeping Window ceramic poppy installation displayed at the Tower of London in 2014, a group from Kildwick are knitting and crocheting red poppies to mark the end of the centenary. They are looking for volunteers to contribute to the project by knitting or crocheting red poppies which, if they get enough, they hope to suspend from the local church tower. The poppies will display from June 2018 and then travel to various locations, including Yarndale in Sept. For more information, contact Denisa Francis on 07967708612 / denisafancis@live.co.uk



Craven News

Bentham honours VC recipients

Saturday 21 April 2018 saw the dedication service of the memorial paving stones for two Victoria Cross recipients from WW1 associated with Bentham.



Born in Bentham, Charles Robertson VC MM was a Lance Corporal in the Royal Fusiliers. He repelled an enemy attack at Polderhoek Chateau, Belgium remaining at his post with no reinforcements. He bravely defended his position despite being badly wounded.

The Headmaster of Bentham Grammar School, the Revd. Theodore Bayley Hardy VC DSO MC was a chaplain with the Lincolnshire Regiment. Under heavy shell and mortar fire, he managed to rescue several wounded men. He displayed great gallantry with disregard to his own personal safety.



The stones were dedicated in a service attended by representatives of the Royal Fusiliers and the Army Chaplaincy Corps, who laid wreaths in remembrance of these



Photos by Jon Brook of Bentham Imaging

brave men, and members of the Skipton Branch of the British Legion. The service, arranged by Bentham Town Council and Bentham Churches Together, was led by Revd Anne Russell and accompanied by music from the Kirkby Lonsdale Brass Band. For more info on the VC recipients go to:

www.benthamtowncouncil.co.uk/vcmemorial

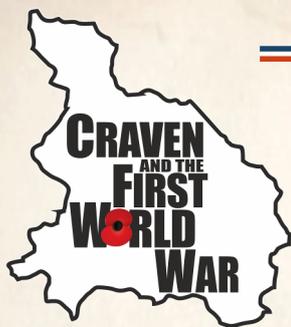
Refugee families learn about Skipton's POW camp

Local refugee families spent the day at Craven Museum recently learning about what life was like at Raikeswood Camp, Skipton's WW1 camp for German officers.



The families took part in a number of activities throughout the day, including creating a short animation film bringing to life the story of one prisoner who ended up in Skipton after travelling across the world following his escape from a Japanese POW camp in 1915. They also learned a German card game played by the officers in the camp, and tried their hand at baking using First World War rations to make Trench Cake which would have been sent to soldiers on the front line.

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Craven News continued...

The families will get a further chance to unearth the history of Skipton's lost WW1 camp by taking part in the archaeological dig which will be returning to the site of the former camp in the Raikes area of Skipton at end of July. More details on this summer's dig to follow.



Regional events

'Recovery? From Flanders to Afghanistan' exhibition

Thackray Medical Museum
Until 31 Dec 2018 - £7 adults

A thought-provoking look at the medical advances that emerged from the First World War, drawing in parallels from modern day conflicts.

www.thackraymedicalmuseum.co.uk

Ambulance Trains exhibition

National Railway Museum
FREE

An exhibition telling the forgotten story of the ambulance trains used to evacuate sick and injured troops on an unprecedented scale during the First World War.

www.firstworldwar.nrm.org.uk

'Huddersfield's Great War Stories' exhibition

Tolson Museum, Huddersfield
Until 31 Dec 2018 - FREE

An exhibition which explores people's lives at home and away in Huddersfield during the First World War.

www.kirklees.gov.uk/museums

The Unknown Soldier

Friday 27th April, 7.30pm - Skipton Town Hall

A story of comradeship, betrayal and of promises both broken and kept following the carnage of World War One.

Jack stayed on when the guns fell silent, to search the battlefields for the boys that could not go home - for the dead and the missing, for both enemy and friend. And amongst the rusty wire and unexploded bombs Jack is looking for something - looking for someone. He has a promise to keep and debt to repay, and now there is this strange request from the generals.

Tickets: £10 / Under 18s £8.00. Available to buy on 01756 792809 or online at: www.cravenc.gov.uk/skipton-town-hall/concert-hall/the-unknown-soldier/

Tunstill's Men

Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th June, 4pm - Methodist Hall, Grassington

As part of this years Grassington festival, students and staff at The Skipton Academy return for one last time to tell the poignant tale of local young men sent off to war.

The true story of a recruiting campaigner during World War 1 is brought to life in this promenade performance through the Grassington Streets.

Meet for the Funeral of Gilbert Tunstill at the Methodist Church then walk back in time with the performers.

Tickets: £8. Available to buy on 01756 752691 or online at www.grassington-festival.org.uk/product/tunstills-men/

If you have any events coming up that you would like to be included in the next issue, please contact Rob Freeman at Craven Museum & Gallery on RFreeman@cravenc.gov.uk

