

Farnhill and Kildwick Local History Group

LITERATURE

LEISURE

LEARNING

The years of the First World War 1914-1918

WRITTEN AND COMPILED BY

ISOBEL M. STIRK

2017

CONTENTS

.....

3. Introduction
5. Reading, Reading rooms, Mechanics' Institutes
6. Libraries
8. Reading for Children
10. Sunday School Prizes in Farnhill
12. Cautionary Tales
13. Children's Heroes and Heroines
15. Reading at Kildwick School
17. Publishers. Children's Annuals. The Crossley Family's books
22. Reading for Boys
23. Scouting in Yorkshire
24. Newspaper Reading for Children. How to keep dry for adults!
26. The War affects Children. Egg and Moss collections
28. Lessons about the War at Kildwick School
30. Danger on the High Seas and the War comes to Yorkshire
32. Relaxation. Lectures
35. Reading for Adults
37. Magazines and Periodicals. A Yorkshire Mystery
41. Reading Material for the Troops
42. Poetry
45. Information received. Newspapers and Magazines
49. Local Newspapers
50. Cinemas, Films and the Stars
54. White Feathers. Casualties
55. 'Do not hesitate'
56. Message from the Vicar and Rejoicings
58. 'Let's have a Party!'
59. The Supreme and Final Sacrifice

.....

INTRODUCTION

Although the world's first radio broadcast was in January 1910 from the Metropolitan Opera House in New York- a live performance of Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *Pagliacci*, an Italian opera by Ruggero Leoncavallo- it was not until 1922 that regular wireless broadcasts for entertainment began in Britain. These were from the Marconi Research Centre in Chelmsford and the BBC's radio services began in the same year. In 1925 John Logie Baird gave the first public demonstration of televised silhouette images in motion at Selfridges in London but regular television broadcasts only came in the mid- 1930s. Therefore in the early years of the 20th century and during World War 1 for people all over Britain there would be no family evenings in front of the television watching a favourite soap opera or listening to the radio. In the years of World War 1 the ways in which the pubs were used was transformed. The Government feared that war production was being held back by drunkenness and in October 1915 announced new powers under the 'Defence of the Realm Act.' Lloyd George, Chancellor of the Exchequer, led the campaign against alcohol. He said Britain was- ***'fighting Germans, Austrians and Drink and as far as I can see the greatest of these foes is Drink'***. Someone, who signed themselves as *CITIZEN*, had a letter published in *The Craven Herald* on 28th August 1914 agreeing with these sentiments.

'The German government has prohibited the sale of intoxicating liquors. Surely the British Government will forth with prohibit the manufacture of beer so that the grain may be used for the food of the people and stop the sale of spirits in the interest of health and sobriety of the huge mass of men now under arms.

The early closing of public houses and the curtailment of the hours of liquor sales to clubs would surely be a great blessing in these times of war.

That same individual would be pleased to hear that public house opening times in cities and industrial areas were reduced to 12noon until 2.30pm and 6.30pm until 9.30pm- although in rural areas people could

continue to buy drink throughout the day. A tax was put on alcohol and a bottle of whiskey in 1918 cost £1.00-five times the cost before the onset of war. There was a 'no treating' order that insisted that any drink ordered was to be paid for by the person supplied. Paul Jennings in his book, *The Local: A History of the English Pub*, tells the story of a man who went into The Boltmaker's Arms in Keighley accompanied by three women for whom he intended to buy a drink. Unaware of the presence of a plainclothes policeman, the man, the women, the barman and the publican were all duly fined. Although areas away from the cities were not so much affected perhaps long evenings drinking in the pubs was not as prevalent with people after a hard day's work or, with shortages and rising prices, as attractive.

READING, READING ROOMS, MECHANICS' INSTITUTES

As education had developed- with the Elementary Act of 1880 and the Balfour Education Act of 1902- children were attending schools and learning to read and write. Books would play an important part in the lives of so many families both for relaxation and information and learning.

Social and education changes had increased the demand for books in the late 19th century and printed matter was reaching out to all strata of society. Charles Dickens wrote- ***The English, as far as I know, are the hardest worked people on whom the sun shines. Be content, if in their wretched intervals of leisure, they read for amusement and are content.***

In 1857 the West Riding Union of Mechanics' Institutes was founded and in 1841 renamed The Yorkshire Union of Mechanics' Institutes. The objectives were lectureship in different arts and sciences, a library for reference and circulation, a reading room and emphasis on night schools. These institutes built up a stock of books and provided reading material for those who would not otherwise have access to it.

Sometimes in rural areas where there was an institute, reading rooms were established- there was a reading room in Sutton in Craven- and stocks of books, newspapers and journals were held. In order for a village library to be affiliated to the Yorkshire Union of Mechanics' Institutes there had to be twenty five subscribers paying one penny per week or one shilling per quarter. The Bronte family used the one in Keighley. The Mechanics' Institute in Skipton began in 1847. In the 1860s 'Penny Readings' were held there at fortnightly intervals in which prose and poetry was read aloud- as the name suggests there was a charge of one penny. The Union selected fifty books which would be sent out to the relevant places. In the late 1800s popular books were *Mansfield Park, Pride and Prejudice, Agnes Grey, The Tenant of Wildfell Hall, Jane Eyre, Wuthering Heights*. There were fifteen works of Dickens and seven of Benjamin Disraeli. The non-fiction books included publications on dyeing, spinning and weaving, chemistry, mechanics, engineering, steam and the steam engine.

LIBRARIES

W.T. Stead, brought up near Alnwick, was a philanthropist, pacifist, politician, psychic, writer and journalist and was the foremost publisher of paperback books in the Victorian age. His aim was to make books available to everyone regardless of class. In the early 1890s he wrote an eerily foreshadowing fictional story about a ship run by a Captain Smith which faces dangerous icebergs. Ironically Stead perished aboard *Titanic*, captained by John Smith, some twenty years later. In 1895 he established *The Review of Reviews* circulatory library. For £6.00 a year any subscribing centre could obtain the loan of a box of fifty books from his office every three months. The centre would then lend books to its own subscribers at the rate of tuppence per week or five shillings a year. This box could contain a large number of children's books. He then launched *Masterpiece Library*. *Penny Poets* was the first series. School teachers and public schools praised this new series and in 1896 he began his *Penny Popular Novels*. He realised that his life would have not been as successful if he had not had books from an early age and so, in 1896, *Books for Bairns* was published. *The Penny Novels* and *the Review of Reviews* phased out as the century turned but his *Books for Bairns* carried on.

The Public Libraries Act of 1850 was an Act of Parliament which gave local boroughs the power to establish free public libraries. Many people favoured it because it would provide facilities for self- improvement- through books and reading- for all classes- not just those who were wealthy enough to afford their own reading material. The Act was limited to boroughs with populations of over ten thousand. Local rates could be increased by no more than a half penny in the pound and the levy could only be spent on library and museum buildings and staff. It could not be spent on books or other stock.

Swire Smith, a Keighley mill owner, was instrumental in the building of Keighley Library through his friendship with Scottish/ American- Andrew Carnegie. Carnegie was born in Scotland in 1835 and emigrated with his family to America in 1848 where he became a very successful business man and industrialist. From 1901 he devoted himself to philanthropy and his passion for education and reading led to him establishing public libraries in the United States, Britain, Canada and other English speaking countries. Six hundred and sixty libraries were said to have been

built, between 1883 and 1929, with money donated by Carnegie, in the United Kingdom and Ireland. Books and libraries were important to him but certain criteria had to be met. There had to be a financial commitment from the town and it must be a free service for all. Other philanthropists were thinking along the same lines. Cornishman John Passmore Edwards, a life-long champion of the working classes established twenty four libraries and Henry Tate- the Lancashire sugar merchant, provided the money for four in London as well as establishing the Tate Gallery.

Keighley Carnegie Library was the first in England to be funded by the eponymous tycoon and its foundation stone was laid on the day of Edward 7th coronation in 1902. The library opened to the public in 1904. In 1902 Skipton Urban District Council and Trustees of the School of Art and Science wrote to Andrew Carnegie requesting the sum of £6,000.00 for the establishment of a public library in the town. He offered £3,000.00 but said that the Council must adopt the Public Libraries Act and this they did- in October 1903. In February 1910 the public library in Skipton was opened by Sir Matthew Amcotts Wilson, of Eshton Hall Gargrave. Matthew Wilson was connected to the Currer family of Kildwick Hall. Local dignitaries attended the ceremony- including Swire Smith –then Sir- who had been instrumental in getting the library in Keighley established. The first librarian in Skipton was Leonard Hetherington and an assistant at the library was wounded in the Great War and died in 1918 and was buried near Arras.

When this free library was firmly established the books at the Mechanics Institute in Skipton were not replenished and the existing ones that were of any use were sold to the library. Having books available on the shelves was novel. Instead of having to look through a catalogue readers could pick and choose their own books.

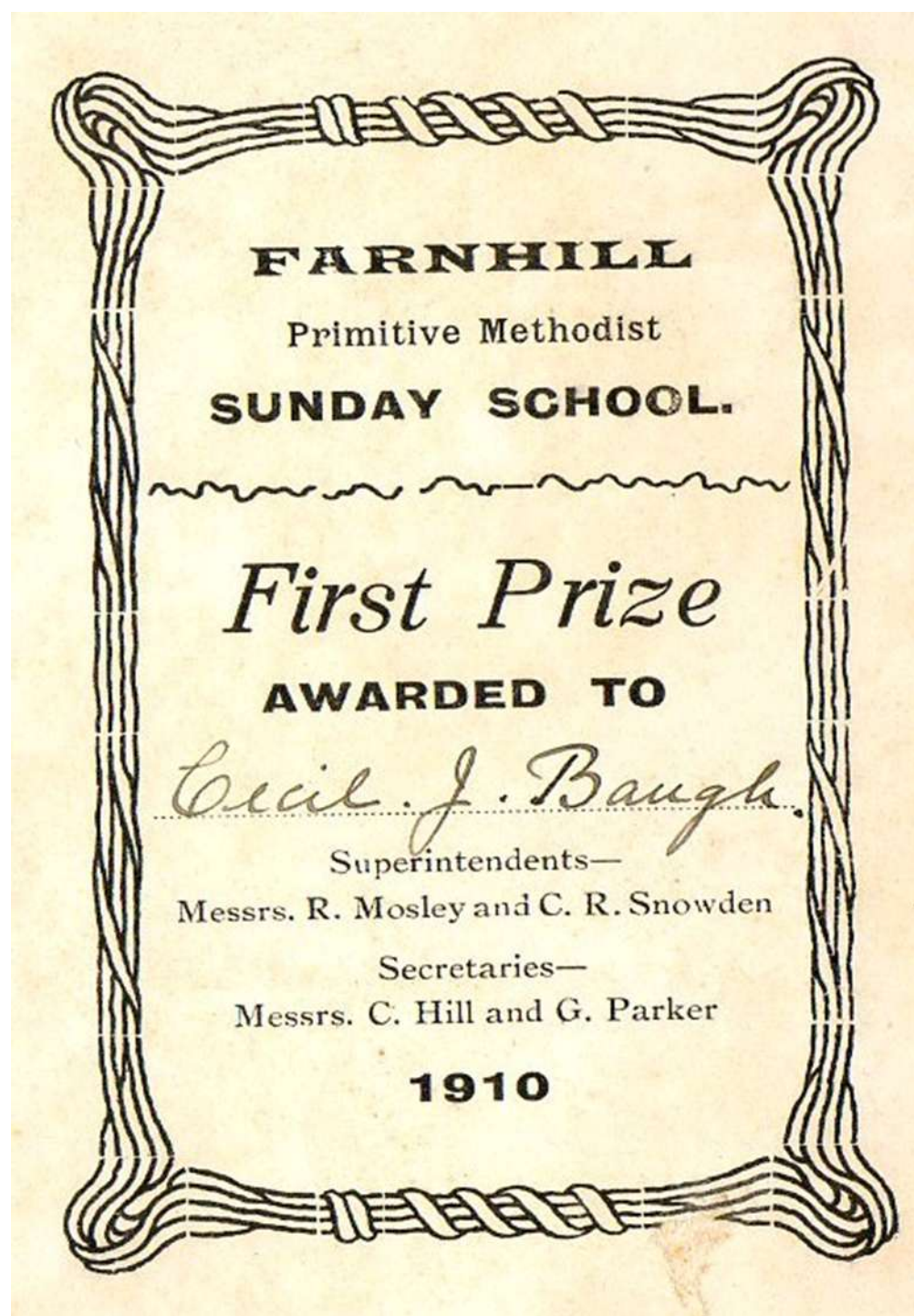
Skipton library was fortunate to receive, in 1914, five thousand volumes of literature from the Petyt Library. These books, now housed in a special collection, had had various homes in the town after been bequeathed to Skipton, in the early eighteenth century, by the Petyt brothers, sons of a yeoman farmer from Bolton Abbey. Acquiring great wealth they collected books and amongst those received by the library were fifteenth century Bibles, works by Homer, Virgil and Chaucer and books which were the sources of Shakespeare's history plays.

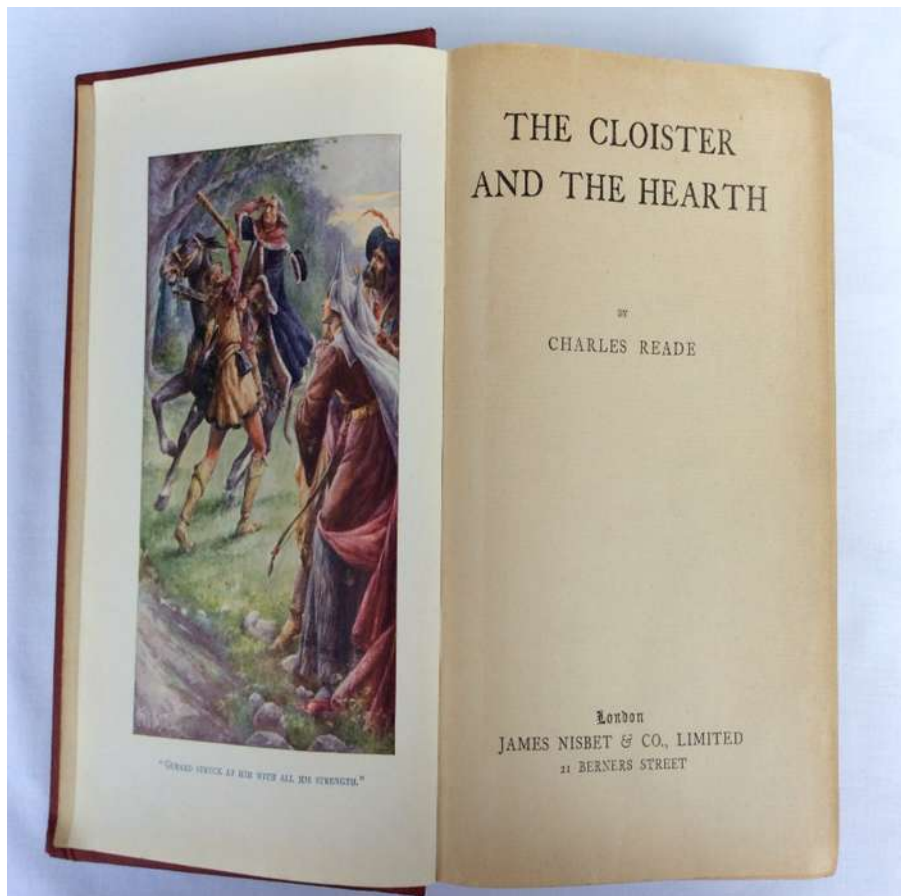
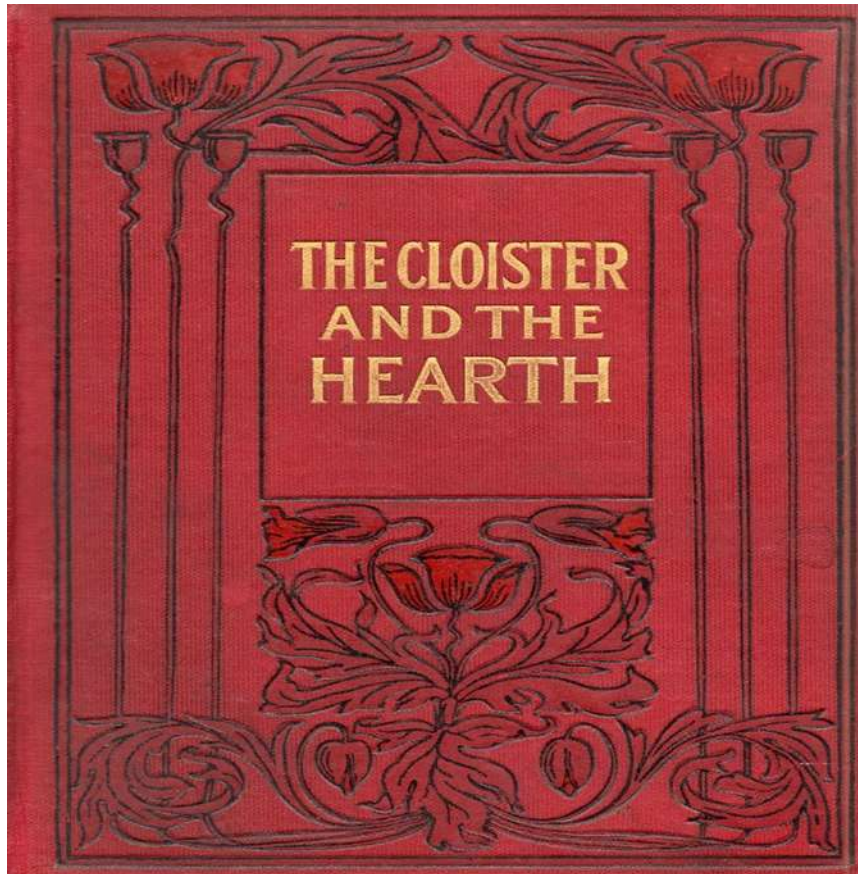
READING FOR CHILDREN

Eileen Colwell, creative pioneer of children's libraries, said 'Home without books is like a home without windows.' Whilst she was growing up in Rotherham in 1915 children's libraries had not been thought of and Eileen, an avid reader, used what was called as an 'indicator' library- no books on display but borrowers had to choose from a list. If the choice was not available the librarian handed out anything that was. This frustrated the young Eileen and she vowed that one day she would make a library just for children. After becoming a librarian she fulfilled her dream in North London and hand- picked two thousand volumes for children. Following this success other areas followed suit.

So what books were children reading in the early nineteen hundreds and during the First World War? Many homes would have copies of the classics, passed down through the family, and also the popular books of the time- many received as Sunday school prizes. In Farnhill the Primitive Methodist Chapel was certainly encouraging its young scholars in reading, and not just religious works. In his excellent memoir describing growing up in Farnhill Norman Green, born in 1906, tells of how he went to the very well attended Chapel Sunday School and how, after the Bible reading, fiction books were read aloud by either one of the teachers or one or more of the scholars. The Sunday School books, from the Methodist Chapel, handed down in the local Crossley family, show that Harry Crossley was awarded fourteen first prizes from 1918-1930. Harry must have been a stalwart of the church as fourteen of these books were first prizes, many for attendance and they included books by Edgar Wallace, Dickens, Ballantyne and 'Sapper' of *Bull Dog Drummond* fame. Harry would probably be familiar with his half-brother Cecil Baugh's book which Cecil had received as a prize at the same chapel in 1910.- *The Cloister and the Hearth*. Charles Reade's book was set in the fifteenth century and was based on lines by Erasmus about the life of his parents. Published by James Nisbet & Co it had been very well received and Conan Doyle named it as his favourite book of all time. Nisbet & Co was a publishing house in London and had an impressive list. *The Whitehall Library* contained *Jane Eyre*, *Cranford* and four novels by Sir Walter Scott. Nisbet's *Blue Cloth Library* contained authors' books still well- known and still read today- Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities*, *The Mill on the Floss* and *Adam Bede* by George Eliot, Alcott's *Little Women*

and *Good Wives* and *The Woman in White* by Wilkie Collins. This series was also said to include well known writers of the time – their names are not so familiar to us today- such as; *A Dream's Fulfilment* by Mrs Walford. Bertha Walford who died in 1915 was a Scottish novelist who wrote light- hearted domestic comedies. Her last novel published in 1914 was *David and Jonathan on the Riviera*. Jane H Findlater, another writer, who wrote in collaboration with her sister and was included in Nisbet's list was described as 'well known' and her story *The Story of a Mother*, set in a Scottish manse, was included in *The Blue Cloth Library*. Another set of books by the same publisher- *The Select Series*- which *The Spectator* said was to be highly recommended- had authors bearing equally well- known names of the time. Violet Brooke Hunt was certainly popular with *The Spectator* as they reviewed her book- *The Story of Westminster Abbey*- and said it was welcomed as a book from the pen of so practised an author. The late Victorian writers such as Robert Louis Stevenson. H.G. Wells and H. Rider Haggard had been successful with their adventure stories- *Treasure Island*, *The Time Machine* and *King Solomon's Mines*. *King Solomon's Mines* had been advertised on bill boards and posters around London as 'the most amazing book ever written.' Therefore many such titles would be taken down from shelves and bookcases in the 1900s.





CAUTIONARY TALES

In the nineteenth century stories and poems had appeared in the form of cautionary tales that warned children about the dangers of foolish behaviour.

The Reverend Carus Wilson, who is portrayed as Mr Brocklehurst in Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*, produced religious tracts for children and established *The Children's Friend* in the early 1800s. High mortality and perceived wickedness in his young readers featured strongly- often describing the deaths of good children to emulate and the deaths of the not so good to remember with caution. It is thought Charlotte Brontë drew on her memory of Carus Wilson's teachings at his school- which she attended in Cowan Bridge- when she wrote *Jane Eyre*.

'Little girl, here is a book entitled "Child's Guide"; read it with prayer especially that part containing 'an account of the awfully sudden death of Martha G....., a naughty child, addicted to falsehood and deceit.'

(*Jane Eyre*; Chapter 1V)

Perhaps the most popular of these cautionary tales around at this time, a copy of which could have been in many a family home, is Heinrich Hoffmann's *Der Struwwelpeter* published in Germany in 1845 and then in England from 1848. These morality tales for children consisted of rhymes and gruesome images that told the dreadful fates of children who did not behave well. In 1907, in Britain, more grisly tales appeared with the forbidding title of *Cautionary Tales for Children; Designed for the admonition of children between the ages of eight and fourteen years*. Written by Hilaire Belloc- an Anglo-French writer and historian- they had an implausible moral but were in the form of humorous poems- *Matilda*- who told lies and was burned to death, *Rebecca*- who slammed doors for fun and perished miserably. There was also *Charles Augustus Fortescue*- who always did right and so accumulated an immense fortune. Not so lucky was *Godolphin Horn* who was cursed with the sin of pride and became a boot black. *Jim* had an even worse fate- he ran away from his nurse and was eaten by a lion!

CHILDREN'S HEROES & HEROINES

In the years before World War 1 Beatrix Potter had produced many books- *The Tailor of Gloucester*. *The Tale of Mrs Tiggy Winkle*, *The Tale of Squirrel Nutkin* and of course her most famous one of all- *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*. Potter had made it clear that she wanted her books to appeal to young readers, that text and illustrations would be on separate pages, the books be small enough for little hands to hold and not to be too expensive.

There were very many children's books which were very popular at this time. E.E. Nesbit's *Five Children and It* was published in 1902. It was the first volume of a trilogy that included *The Phoenix and the Carpet*-1904 and *The Story of the Amulet*-1906. Nesbitt followed with *The Railway Children* and *The Magic World* - a series of twelve short stories. These stories included *The Cathood of Maurice* – about a boy who abuses the family cat and then learns to see things from a feline point of view, *Accidental Magic*- Quentin falls asleep on the altar stone at Stonehenge and wakes in Atlantis, a tale perhaps echoed later by J.R.R. Tolkein, *The Aunt and Annabel*- a girl enters a magic world through a wardrobe- a possible precursor to C.S. Lewis' first *Narnia* story. Lewis Carroll may have influenced the writing of *Just nowland* in which the heroine Elsie visits a magic land of giant crows and a dragon.

The Little Princess 1905, *The Secret Garden* 1911, *The Lost Prince* 1915 were all books written by Frances H Burnett. Apparently *The Secret Garden* was not as popular as the other Burnett books. J. M. Barrie's boy who never grew up first appeared in 1906 in *Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens* followed by *Peter and Wendy* in 1911. In 1908 Kenneth Grahame retired from his position as secretary of the Bank of England. He expanded his bedtime stories he had earlier told his son into a manuscript of *Wind in the Willows*, focussing on four anthropomorphised animals, Toad, Mole, Ratty and Badger who messed about in boats. The book was first published in that year and joined those other books which were proving popular with young readers.

Today very few children will not have read the Harry Potter books and followed the eponymous hero in his adventures at Hogwarts School. During the First World War the school story was the most popular genre for girls. Angela Brazil, born in Preston, wrote forty nine novels about life in boarding schools. Her first novel, *A Terrible Tomboy*, not strictly a school story, was written in 1905. Her most popular school story novel was *The Nicest Girl in the School*.

In 1914 young readers were introduced, by the writer Elsie Oxenham, to another school in the book- *The Girls of the Hamlet Club*. This was the first title of *The Abbey Series* compiled of thirty eight titles. *The Hamlet Club*, which sets the scene for the school aspect of the series, was a club set up to combat snobbery within the school. *The Abbey* is introduced in the second title- a romantic ruin that is in a quiet and peaceful place, which creates the wish to behave in the tradition of the early Cistercian monks.

In all probability the children of Kildwick and Farnhill, in common with those all over the land, would be following late Victorian heroes such as David Balfour, Alan Quartermain, Ben Gunn and their heroines- the girls of the *Hamlet Club*, Roberta and Phyllis in *The Railway Children*, Jane Eyre and Becky Sharp- with avid curiosity and interest.

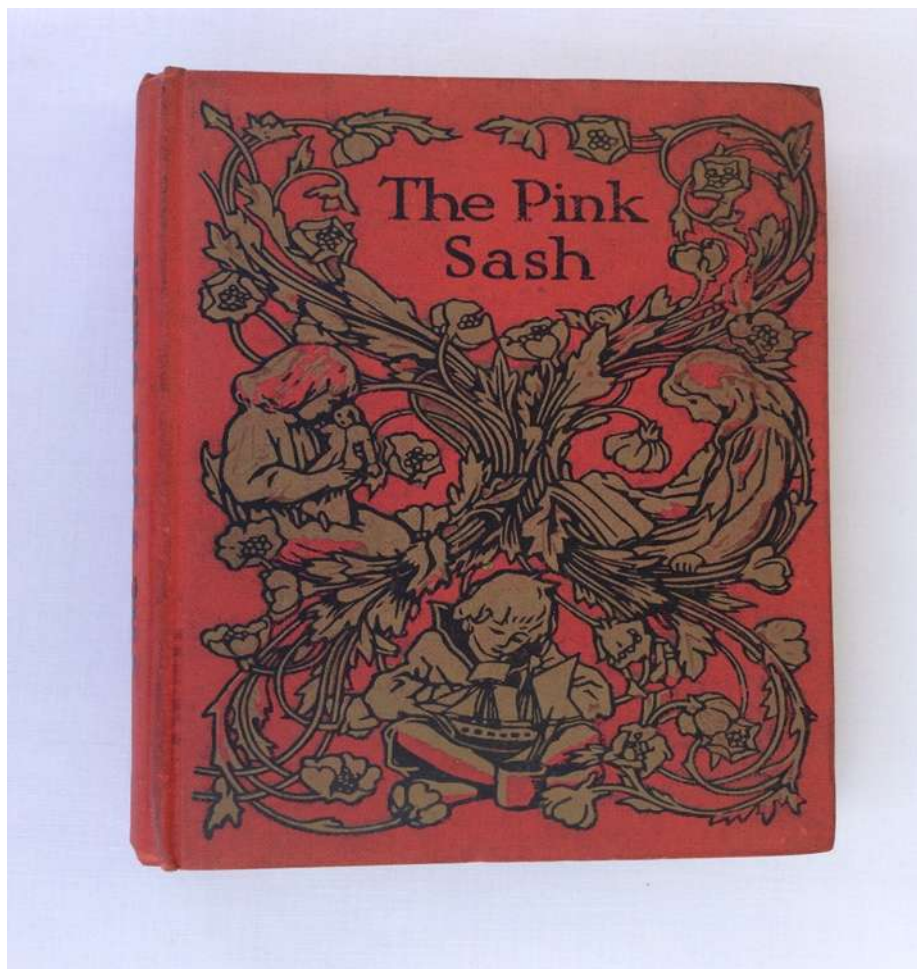
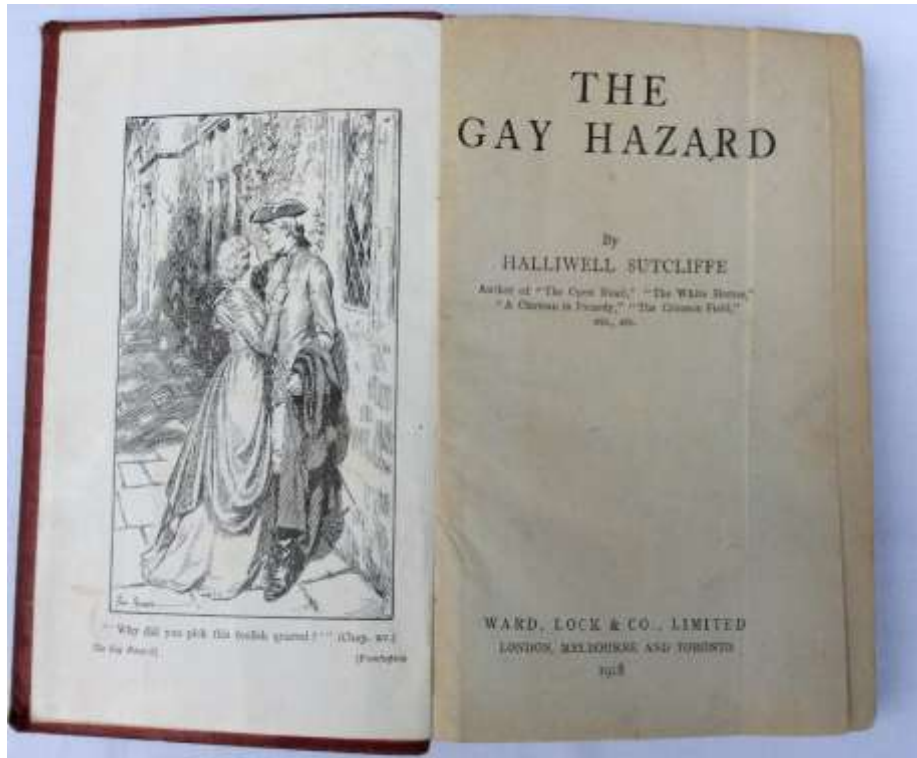
READING AT KILDWICK SCHOOL

Kildwick School's log clearly indicates that reading played a very important part in the pupils' day.

In September 1914, in the early stages of the war, the log records that the school library, which had thirty borrowers, was reorganised and it consisted of one hundred and thirty five books. A later entry, on February 12th 1918, stated that Mrs.R. Petty, of Crosshills, had given sixteen books to the school library to replace several worn out ones. Perhaps these well used, tatty books included *Books for the Bairns* -forty copies of which had been added to the school library in January 1913. These books were published by W. T. Stead, mentioned earlier in respect of the circulatory library, and Stead himself wrote a forward to most of them. A number of the children at Kildwick School also purchased copies for themselves in accordance with the 'West Riding Scheme' which encouraged home reading. Mrs Petty's gift included books by R.M. Ballantyne, Fennimore Cooper and T. Neale.

How exciting these stories must have been as the children read about the adventures of Ballantyne's young coastguardsman- Jeff Benson, and Cooper's brave woodsman Hawkeye, his loyal Mohican friends- Chinachgook and Uncas- and the treacherous renegade warrior Magua. The log of 1914 also stated that the school library had a number of copies of *The Children's Magazine*. Arthur Mee had originated *The Children's Encyclopedia* in 1908 which aimed to make learning interesting and enjoyable. It was sold door to door and was used in schools. It was reissued as the monthly *New Children's Encyclopedia* and then the title changed- becoming *TheChildren's Magazine* which Kildwick School had copies of. The publication finally became *My Magazine* in 1914. Mee's religious faith and patriotism were reflected in the magazine. Included in it was a supplement of news stories which would be of interest to children entitled *The Little Paper*. The school log of 1910 said that Class 1 were subscribing to take one or two children's magazines etc. These were thought to encourage home reading and stimulated the borrowing of books from the library.

On March 10th 1916 Kildwick School's log said that a new set of geography readers-*Nelson's Highroads of Geography*- had been supplied for Standard 1 and Standard 7 had been given new copies of *Nesbit's Realistic Arithmetics*.



PUBLISHERS. CHILDREN'S ANNUALS.

THE CROSSLEY FAMILY'S BOOKS

Thomas Neilson founded his company in 1798 in a small book shop in Edinburgh producing cheap reprints of the classics. The name of the firm was changed to Thomas Nelson & Son in 1846. John Buchan was a partner and literary adviser there and he dedicated his novel *The Thirty Nine Steps* to Thomas Arthur Nelson the third. They produced *Nelson's Speedwell Readers* which had titles such *The Road that Lost its Way* (W.H. Wood) *Reddy the Fox* (Mary F Moore) and *The Royal Prince and Princess Readers*. They also produced *Highroads of History*, *Highroads of Literature*, *Highroads Dictionary* and the introductory book for the *Highroads of Geography- Round the World with Father*- which the pupils at Kildwick School used.

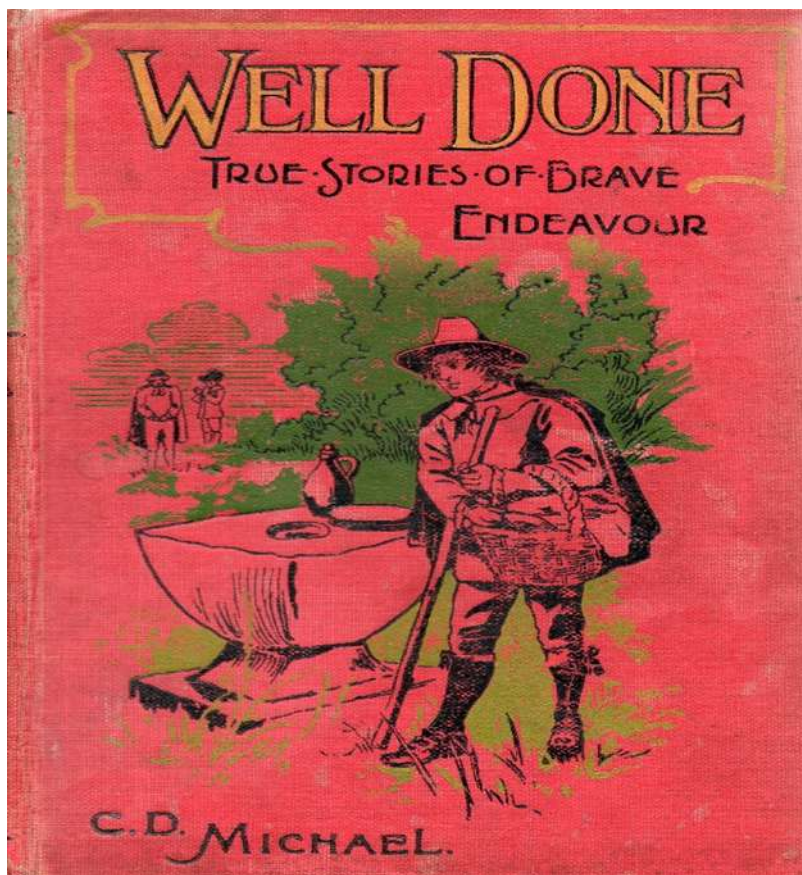
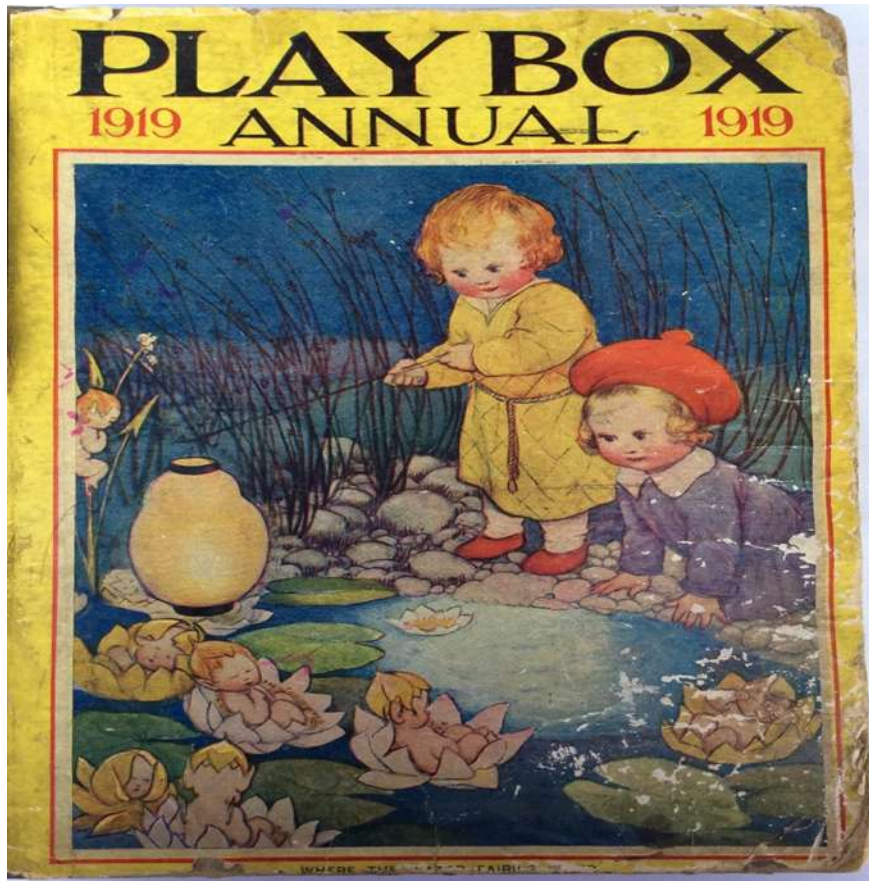
In August 1914 Wills and Hepworth published their first children's books under an imprint still familiar today-*Ladybird*. It was stated that it was 'pure and healthy literature for children.' The company was not new in 1914- going back to 1897 with a book shop opened by Henry Wills in Loughborough. In 1904, after progressing to printing and publishing guidebooks and street directories, Wills was joined by William Hepworth. The first books which appeared in the *Ladybird* series were Hans Christian Anderson's *Fairy Tales*- rewritten by E Talbot and *Tiny Tots Travel* written by M Burbridge. *Going by Train* and *Tales of the Train* followed in 1915.

Annuals have always been popular as Christmas presents and the children of 1914 would have had quite a choice. Annuals were important in juvenile literature in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Publishers came up with the idea of putting the best of the year's stories, articles and illustrations together in a volume called an annual. They were published in late autumn and were advertised as ideal Christmas presents. Early twentieth century publishers added new stories and pictures to attract young readers

The Spectator advertised quite a few in December of that year of 1914. There was the *The Children's Annual* by Blackie, the publisher of educational books, which cost three shillings and sixpence. It opened with a story by Mrs George Weymss, wife of a rich army officer and a prolific writer in the Edwardian era, and had pictures, verses and stories which were simple and easy to understand and follow. Also printed in Blackie's annual were stories like E.E.Nesbit's- *The Magic World*.

Mrs Strang's Annual cost two shillings and sixpence. It was for younger children and had chats with animals and many pictures both coloured

and black and white. *The Tiny Folk's Annual* edited by Herbert Strang was also two shillings and sixpence and it was a new annual for mothers and children alike. The print was said to be large and clear and the matter within the reach of the young reader. Herbert Strang was the pseudonym for two writers- G. Herbert Ely and Charles James L'Estrange. Herbert Strang edited a series of books written for young children titled *Little Stories of Great Lives*. The known stories include Arthur O Cooke's *Story of Lord Kitchener*, *Story of Napoleon*, *Ships and Sea-faring shown to the Children*. There was also *Story of Francis Drake* by H. Russell Ford and *Story of Joan of Arc* by Evelyn Ward. *The Spectator* also advertised more stocking fillers in December 1914- *Leading Strings*, one shilling and sixpence and two shillings and sixpence, was said to be printed on rougher paper and was a good nursery book. *The Tuck-me- upBook* by Lettice Bell was printed in bold type with the texts, stories and hymns standing out with obvious and emphatic clearness. Younger children were not forgotten with the *Fluffidown* rag books. There was *Baby Annual* -three shillings and sixpence- and the *Big Animal Rag Book*. These were printed on soft, fluffy material and they were appropriate for a little child because of their softness. So it is within the realms of possibility that when Kildwick School re-opened, on January 11th 1915, after the Christmas holidays, more than one child, of the one hundred and seven present, would be clutching one of these annuals to proudly show off to teacher and friends



Still in the possession of the Crossley family of Farnhill is a 1919 *Playbox Annual*, a playbook for children, first published in 1909 and which had artwork by Mabel Lucie Atwell. The Crossleys, mentioned before in regard to Sunday school prizes, seem to have been great and careful readers as many of their books of this period are still in the possession of their descendants. They owned local author Halliwell Sutcliffe's book *The Gay Hazard*-first published in 1916. Sutcliffe was a prolific writer and his name would be well known throughout the Aire Valley as he had been born in Bingley and spent his honeymoon at The Manor House in Embsay. Many of his novels had a local theme- one of his early books written in 1898 is *Ricroft of Withens. By Moor and Fell*, 1899, is a topographical work that explores the countryside around Haworth, Skipton and Wharfedale. His book of 1905-*Red o' the Feud*-told of the bloody feud between the Wayne and Ratcliffe families in the barren and bleak area around Haworth. Halliwell Sutcliffe was writing throughout the First World War although only his *A Chateau in Picardy*, set in 1914 and 1915, is about the war. *White Horses*, 1915, is set during the English Civil War featuring the Metcalfs of Nappa Hall, near Askrigg in Wensleydale. *The Crimson Field*, 1916, is the story of Flodden with the hero a yeoman farmer from Barden. *Lasses Love*, 1918, made allusions to the Jacobite rebellion of 1745 and *Wilderness*, 1919, is a novel which takes its name from the home of the hero Christopher Wade. Christopher Wade built the majority of Kilnsey Old Hall in 1648. The book the Crossley family read, *The Gay Hazard*, was set in the late eighteenth century around Beamsley. What a pleasant picture is portrayed as we imagine all the family sitting down on a winter's evening to read. Cecil Baugh and Harry Crossley's mother, Margaret (Walmsley) had a favourite book *The Rosary*. This was written by Florence Louisa Barclay (Charlesworth) and published in 1909. Florence Barclay was a romantic novelist and short story writer, writing in total eleven novels. *The Rosary* is a story of undying love and reflection where the heroine, a plain girl, falls in love but doubts that her lover can have true feelings for her because he has a passion for all things beautiful. When he is blinded in a hunting accident she visits him but he feels she is doing it out of pity and refuses to see her. She acquires the position of nurse under an assumed name and everything ends happily. *The Rosary*, I feel, has echoes of Brontë's *Jane Eyre* in its theme- Jane returns to find Mr Rochester badly disfigured and blind following the fire at Thornfield Hall.

But as you are rich, Jane, you have now, no doubt, friends who will look after you, and not suffer you to devote yourself to a blind lamenter like me?’

He sat in his chair-still, but not at rest- the lines of now habitual sadnessmarking his strong features. His countenance reminded me of a lamp quenched, waiting to be re-lit.

Jane Eyre -Chapter 37.

Mrs Crossley was certainly not the only person in those days to favour *The Rosary* because it was eventually translated into eight languages and made into five motion pictures. In 1910 it was the number one best seller in America.

READING FOR BOYS

The boys in the area could have been reading *Boys' Own Magazine*. This was aimed at young and teenage boys and its first issue went on sale in 1879. It was first published weekly until November 1913 when it became monthly. You can imagine boys eagerly awaiting the next month's copy to read the adventure stories- with writers like Conan Doyle, Jules Verne and R.M. Ballantyne making contributions. There were games, puzzles, and essay competitions and sport features. W. G. Grace wrote about cricket and Lord Baden Powell was another name which appeared in the pages. In 1914 the magazine had a new format- it changed from two columns to three and by 1918 the price was one shilling and sixpence. There seems to have been quite a lot of reading material for boys in the form of comics and magazines in the 1900s. *Chums* had stories about animals and sports. *The Gem* was a British story newspaper, companion to *The Magnet*, and mainly featured the boys of St. Jim's with characters Tom Merry and Arthur Augustus D'Arcy (Gussy). *The Magnet* usually had a long school story about the boys of Greyfriars School. Its main character was Billy Bunter and was aimed at working class boys who would never experience life at a private school. The principal writer for both *The Gem* and *The Magnet* was Charles Hamilton, who wrote under different pen names. He wrote as Martin Clifford in *The Gem* and Frank Richards when writing about Greyfriars School.

The Boy's Herald had Sexton Blake tales and *The Boy's Friend* featured stories of Rookwood School and had an editor's page containing information and fatherly advice.

The Boy's Realm of Sport and Adventure often had a crowd at a football match on its front cover and had a feature story- 'Fred Reckless Amateur'.

SCOUTING IN YORKSHIRE

The publication *Scouting for Boys* was launched in 1908 and which Robert Baden Powell, a lieutenant general in the British Army, had used to promote the Scout movement. A few weeks later *The Scout* appeared and both were a trigger that started the British Scout Movement. In 1916 a less successful magazine *The Wolf Club*, aimed at eight to eleven year olds in the Cub Section, was launched. *The Trail* for over eighteens participating in the Rover Scout section was started in 1918. Although the scout troop we know now as the Farnhill and Kildwick Troop was not formed until 1940 there were scouts all over the country. However in his superbly written and informative pieces about casualties of the Great War from Sutton in Craven, Andrew Monkhouse, on the Sutton in Craven Forum website, says that a troop had been formed in Sutton in connection with St Andrew's Church Kildwick. The person instrumental in this formation was Harri Willis Edwards who had joined the 1st Bradford Pals and who was a casualty of war in 1917. We know that there was a troop in Shipley and Baildon and Skipton. One of the members of the 1st Skipton group, Ernest Cowgill, was killed in the war in 1916. In Leeds boy scouts helped guard the water supplies at Eccup and Headingley and all over the land scouts were helping where they could- scout buglers sounding the 'all- clear' after air raids, helping in hospitals and making up aid parcels.

NEWSPAPER READING FOR CHILDREN HOW TO KEEP DRY- FOR ADULTS!

Local newspapers did not forget young readers. In 1914 *The Craven Herald* had a section- 'Half Hours with the Children,' which included stories and poems.

Three such appeared in March 1914.

*An orphan child was Jenny Lee, her father he was dead.
And very hard her mother worked to get her children fed.*

A Letter to the Editor

*My dearest Mr Editor do print this letter do,
I've never written one before to one so great as you.
I am a little pussy cat, with pretty fluffy fur,
And if you'll kindly stroke my head, I'll very sweetly purr.*

Mother Eve's pudding

*If you want a good pudding, to teach you I'm willing.
Take two pennyworth of eggs when twelve for a shilling.*

The name *Burberry* is well known in the Crosshills area today- the firm having a factory at Junction, employing many people. It is interesting that in *The Craven Herald*, in 1914, they had an advertisement showing models in 'weather-proof' dress, for both men and women. The advertisement also stated that a representative from the company would be in daily attendance from March 16th- March 21st at the department store, Brown Muff and Co, in Bradford. It would be quite easy for local people to take advantage of this service- a half-hour's train journey from Kildwick Station, alight at Forster Square in Bradford and then a short walk along Hustlergate to the well- known store. Readers of a certain age will remember the famous concave window there which drew people to gaze at the displays which were frequently changed and were glamorous and exciting.

Shakespeare has long been studied in schools and in Kildwick local scholars were no exception. In May 1916 the children had special lessons on the life and work of our nation's most famous bard. Some of his songs were sung and pictures illustrating his work were shown.

Lessons on Shakespeare continued and on October 20th *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was told to class 1.

Home grown talent was not forgotten as, in May 1918, class 1 had read to them a poem and a series of poems written about their own village by Mr William Hill.

The headmaster and his staff at Kildwick School would probably be familiar with *The Times Educational Supplement*. This had been founded in 1910 as a free monthly supplement to *The Times* newspaper. In 1914 the supplement became a separate paper priced 1d and in 1916 it became a weekly newspaper. How Kildwick School was affected by conscription is not known- the log indicates that apart from the headmaster the majority of the teachers were female- but the supplement reported, in 1917, that the war was causing teacher shortages. All teachers would be interested to read that in 1918 the *T.E.S* gave details of the 'Fisher Education Act' which raised the school age from twelve to fourteen.

THE WAR AFFECTS CHILDREN
 'When did you last see your father?'
 Egg and moss collections

Most people will be familiar with the painting by W.F. Yeames- *When did you last see your father*- depicting a fictional event during the English Civil War. The scene shows a young Royalist boy being questioned by a Roundhead officer. Not for generations, perhaps since that conflict, had children been as affected as they were being now by the First World War. Children were still doing all the things children had always done but changes were taking place all around them. Following the Civil War in the 1600s, wars had been fought in far-away places- on the whole by professional soldiers. Now on many a street corner in villages, towns and cities the length and breadth of the land there were posters on which General Kitchener was seen exhorting men to 'do their duty'- emphasising, with pointing finger that 'your country needs you.' Brothers, fathers, uncles had joined up and left their families, there was disruption to family life and there were many shortages. There were reports of men being wounded or missing and there was also the cloud which hung over every home that had someone serving in the forces- the arrival of the dreaded telegram. Death and mayhem, which had occurred after the bombardment in the Yorkshire town of Scarborough, was not unusual for civilians at home. Children grew vegetables in allotments and knitted and sewed articles to send to the men serving overseas. The children of Kildwick and Farnhill were no different and the girls of Kildwick School knitted socks, scarves and body belts to send to Queen Mary's Needlework Guild- which were forwarded to the armed forces.

It would not be unusual to see in local villages hen pens at the bottom of gardens or in allotments. Many owners of these hens would be familiar with a monthly magazine, *The Poultry World*, which had its own 'annual'. This magazine launched a national campaign which initially aimed to provide new laid eggs to the wounded in hospital in Boulogne. By Easter 1915 two hundred thousand eggs had been collected or purchased. In August over one million eggs had been received. Donors were encouraged to write names and addresses on the eggs with a message to the troops. The famous graphic artist Donald McGill produced an amusing card. It showed a clergyman in his pulpit saying '*It would greatly assist the collection of eggs for wounded soldiers if, upon coming to church, each lady would lay an egg in the font!*' The National Egg Collection gradually wound down after the signing of the armistice,

ending altogether in March 1919. It was said that over forty one million eggs had been collected. In April 1916 the children of Kildwick School had made a special effort and collected eighty one eggs to send to wounded soldiers. Perhaps the hens of the district had made a special effort themselves for on the previous week the number collected was forty nine!

A little further afield, at the girls' school in Casterton near Kirkby Lonsdale, sphagnum moss was collected. This moss was used as a wound dressing at the Front. The acidic moss prevented growth of bacteria and fungi- all too prevalent in the trenches.

LESSONS ABOUT THE WAR AT KILDWICK SCHOOL

Children seem to have been kept very well informed about the war from its onset. Perhaps for some children, who had not travelled much further than Keighley or Bradford, it would be the first time that the difficulties and dangers for those living in less tranquil surroundings were really evident. People were forced to leave their homes and even their own countries for safety. In October 1914 a number of Belgian refugees, including a teacher of French, visited Kildwick School. A Mr Fisher acted as an interpreter and the children sang for these refugees and gave them three hearty cheers.

The headmaster and staff at the school were obviously prepared to be flexible with regard to lessons in these war years. On January 15th 1915 playtime was taken from twenty minutes past two to twenty five to three in order that the children were able to see the Bradford Pals Battalion march through Kildwick on its way to Skipton. In September the children were taken out of school for ten minutes to watch the 186th Duke of Wellington's Transport Section pass through the village on their way to Bingley. It was said that the children were very interested in the many horses and mules and field kitchens. On a more sombre occasion, in September 1916, the children would observe one hundred and twenty wounded soldiers from the military hospital in Keighley be escorted, by some of the older children, through the school yard and church yard to avoid unnecessary walking.

Schools had many visiting speakers and lecturers who spoke on differing topics regarding the war and the pupils often had special lessons. These were more sombre than perhaps they had been in the years preceding the war. For example in 1912 one of the children brought a hedgehog into Kildwick School and a lesson was given on that! At the school in July 1915, in place of the usual Geography composition, the children had special lessons on France and one boy sang *The Marseillaise* in French. In October most of the children in school attended a lecture on 'War Deeds'. This was given by Mr A Hartley of Skipton and was illustrated by one hundred lantern views. In many a village hall and institute magic lantern shows were held and the men of Farnhill- home on leave- attended such shows in the Institute. In that same month, instead of the usual citizenship lesson, Kildwick children heard about Nurse Edith Cavell- with emphasis on her forgiving spirit. Edith Cavell was a British nurse celebrated for saving the lives of soldiers on both sides without discrimination and helping two hundred

Allied soldiers escape from German occupied Belgium. She was arrested for treason and executed in October 1915. Therefore it is evident that the headmaster and staff at Kildwick were very much up to date with happenings and shared this information as soon as possible with their pupils. As early as September 1912 a school lesson had been given on the Balkan troubles.

In July 1916 the school had a special lesson on Sir Henry Newbolt. Sir Henry Newbolt had been brought into the War Propaganda Bureau by the government to promote Britain's interest in the war and maintain public opinion in favour of it. He also had another powerful role as a government advisor particularly with regard to the study of English in England. On that day in 1916 at Kildwick three of his poems were read or recited:

Admirals All- a ballad, *Drake's Drum*- a drum owned by Sir Francis Drake will beat in times of national crisis and the spirit of Drake will return to aid his country, *Gillespie*- this was a bloodthirsty tale about Vellore, the first significant military rebellion experienced by the British in India.

In August 1916 the headmaster explained the work of the War Savings Association and twenty children gave in their names as members. This movement was introduced by the government in June 1916. They were described as simple, down to earth and affordable for ordinary people. A one pound certificate cost fifteen shillings and sixpence and could be redeemed free of income tax five years later. For the government the War Savings Certificates were a way to attract war finance from the population and used to finance the deficit of government spending over tax revenues. By the end of the war two hundred and seven million pounds worth of War Savings Certificates had been sold. They were renamed National Savings Certificates after 1918.

DANGER ON THE HIGH SEAS AND THE WAR COMES TO YORKSHIRE

Many children would have heard about the sinking, in 1912, of the ship *Titanic*, and the terrible loss of life. The dangers on the high seas at this time were brought home again to the children at Kildwick School in a lesson, in November 1916, about the hospital ship *Britannic* which had sunk in the Aegean Sea on the 21st of that month. *Britannic* was actually the sister ship of *Titanic* and had been requisitioned by the government to serve as a hospital ship and had had five successful voyages bringing back wounded British troops to England from various parts of the world. On that day in 1916, carrying crew members, three hundred and fifteen members of the Royal Army Medical Corps, seventy seven nurses but no patients, near the Gulf of Athens a violent explosion rocked the ship. It was abandoned and although thirty people died- it was thought that the life boats were launched prematurely and were sucked into the propellers of the ship- over one thousand souls were saved. The cause of the explosion was thought to be a mine which *Britannic* had hit. The children could possibly have been told of the extraordinary story of Violet Constance Jessop, a nurse who worked on the *White Star Line*, who survived both the sinking of the *Titanic* and the *Britannic*. What is remarkable, also, is that she was on the sister ship *Olympic* when it was in collision with *HMS Hawke* in 1911. Violet died in 1971 at the ripe old age of nearly eighty four.

Nearer to home readers of *The Daily Mirror*-many who perhaps had taken a day trip to the east coast of Yorkshire- would be shocked to read within the newspaper's pages that on November 2nd 1914 the hospital ship *Rohilla* had met with disaster. This hospital ship, en route to Dunkirk to pick up wounded soldiers, ran aground, in treacherous weather, just off Whitby. Eighty five people lost their lives and *The Daily Mirror* carried the caption on its front page -**Men jump into raging seas and swim for their lives.**

Just a few weeks later, in December, the German Navy would attack the Yorkshire coast. Scarborough, Whitby and further north Hartlepool and West Hartlepool saw severe shelling. In Scarborough the castle, *Grand Hotel*, three churches and other properties were hit. Yorkshire holiday makers who had huffed and puffed up the one hundred and ninety nine steps in Whitby would be saddened to learn that the abbey had also been a target, together with the coastguard station and many other buildings. It was said these raids, in which there were one hundred and thirty seven fatalities, five hundred and ninety two

casualties- mostly civilian- had a deep effect on British public opinion. There were cries against Germany for its attack on civilians and criticism of the Royal Navy for being unable to prevent it.

RELAXATION. LECTURES

The war could not be entirely forgotten even in more light hearted lessons. On November 1st 1916 the first class at Kildwick had a lantern lecture consisting of *Cartoons from Punch*. *Punch* was full of bad puns and misinterpretations. At first it was very much pro-war but gradually became totally disillusioned. The sort of cartoons that *Punch* produced included the following, which may have been shown to the children.

Soldiers sitting on top of a cauldron with the words '**Balkan troubles**' written across it.

A family strolling together with the caption '**But Father if we have already conquered why does the war go on?" Be silent and eat your Hindenberg rock.**'

Soldier in the trenches writing a letter
'Wot day is it?"The 14th'
'Wot month?"October'
'Wot year?'

In April 1916 there had been a school concert in Kildwick and songs made popular by the war were in evidence.

The Orderlies' Song was one of them and had been written at Catterick Camp and you can imagine the children singing it with great gusto.

'Six o'clock on a shiny day we start our little day and all day long we're making meals or clearing meals away.

It's orderly squash, orderly tosh, orderly tea this way.

Oh who would be an orderly upon an un- orderly day.'

Chorus.

'Oh orderly, orderly oh the orderly day.

Poor sore orderly tra-la.' (tra- la, sung ten times)

It was thought that *squash* was marmalade or butter and *tosh* was toast.

Although the work of the orderly was portrayed light heartedly in that song, it is very clear that it was far from that and, although suffering many deaths, terrible injuries and dangers themselves, with determination, heroism and improvisations they saved hundreds of thousands of lives.

At the same concert in 1916 the girls had sung *Knit, Knit, Knit*-a war action song- and there was probably audience participation as the pupils sang the popular *Keep the home fires burning*- written by Ivor Novello in 1914, and *Pack up your troubles in your old kit bag*. This latter song had won a contest for a marching song for the troops. A simple optimistic song- which within weeks the troops were singing as they headed off to war. The poet Wilfred Owen was sure to have heard this song and would probably have sung it himself. He uses the refrain in his satirical poem *Smile, Smile, Smile*, written in September 1918.

How other countries were involved in the war was not forgotten as in April 1917 President Wilson's speech to Congress on 'War with Germany' was read to class I in Kildwick. On 3rd February 1917 Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States, had addressed Congress to announce that diplomatic relations with Germany were severed. Four days later Congress overwhelmingly passed the 'War Resolution' which brought America into World War 1.

In May 1918 a lecturer from the Yorkshire' Band of Hope' came to Kildwick School and gave an interesting lesson on 'Food and its uses.' The children then wrote essays about what they had heard.

Throughout the war children corresponded with many serving overseas- sending letter and cards- and soldiers, such as Private A. Bower of the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment and other 'old boys', home on leave, visited the school. The headmaster read out extracts from the diary of another old scholar, Corporal W.B. Holmes, a signaller with the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment.

So the lessons at Kildwick School during those war years were diverse and it is obvious that the children were very literate and well taught. As records show, they were kept up to date and very well informed about all aspects of the conflict- both in Britain and on foreign soil. It would be with great excitement, and probably not without some sadness, that on November 11th 1918 news of the Armistice reached the school at 11.30am. The Union Jack was displayed, and as the children sang the 'Old Hundredth'- *All people that on earth do dwell*' and all gave lusty cheers, the factory hooters all over the local area were blowing. The war was over! Richard Holmes in his book *Tommy*- a study of the Great War, which profiles the soldier's lot- writes- **Let us not forget that generation whose courage and endurance lift my spirits and breaks my heart. And let me do better for their great grand-children than we did for them.** Children would have been told that the war between 1914 and 1918 was supposed to be the war to end all wars. History shows that it did not

and descendants of those men who paid the ultimate sacrifice- including those who were associated with the pupils of Kildwick School- are now learning much about those dreadful years. However children all over the world are still suffering as fighting and atrocities continue. There is a question to be asked about Holmes' statement- 'Have we done better for their grandchildren?' Millions would answer with an emphatic, 'No.' Women still weep and children remember playing with fathers who will never return home.

READING FOR ADULTS

What were the books adults were reading in the years leading up to the First World War? There had been many new books appearing in the late 1800s and Charles Dickens, who had left a plethora of reading material, had only been dead thirty years when the century turned.

In 1890 Oscar Wilde produced his only novel- *The Picture of Dorian Grey*. This novel had offended the moral sensibilities of some British book reviewers.

In 1897 Yorkshire people would surely be interested in Bram Stoker's Gothic, terror novel, *Dracula*, as it is partly set in Whitby where a Russian ship runs aground and an animal resembling a large dog is seen leaping ashore.

If 'Dr Who' fans had been around at that time I am sure they would have made a bee-line for H. G. Wells' science fiction novel- an early portrayal of time travel- *The Time Machine*.

Conan Doyle's stories featuring his pipe smoking, opium addicted detective first appeared in a collection of short stories- *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*.

Thomas Hardy was writing at this time and *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* quite possibly his fictional masterpiece, was made into a motion picture in 1913.

There was a novella in the Gothic ghost genre by Henry James- *The Turn of the Screw*, and *The King in Yellow and Other Horror Stories*, by an American writer, Robert W Chambers, was a book of short supernatural weird stories.

In the early 1900s new authors were appearing. Jack London wrote *The Call of the Wild* in 1903 which was set during the 1890s in the Klondike gold rush and E. M Forster's *Howard's End*, a novel about the codes of conduct and personal relationships at the turn of century, was written in 1910. Round about this time the name D. H Lawrence came on the scene. Lawrence's *Sons and Lovers*, 1913, which draws on the author's provincial upbringing, had, at first, a luke-warm reception and there were allegations that it was obscene. At this time E.M. Forster completed his novel *Maurice* which had a theme of male homosexual love. However this was not published until 1971.

In September 1914 J.R.R. Tolkein, an Oxford undergraduate, wrote a poem about *Earendil*. This was the first appearance of his mythopoeic legendarium.

Of Human Bondage- a semi- autobiographical work by W. Somerset Maugham- was for sale in bookshops in 1915.

John Buchan's thriller *The Thirty Nine Steps* was published in 1915 and is set on the eve of the First World War.

It seems there was plenty of material for both young and old to read- which may have helped, if only for a short time, to take their minds off the war.

MAGAZINES AND PERIODICALS A YORKSHIRE MYSTERY

There were many periodicals and magazines around at this time. In 1914 a new publication *New Members* appeared. It was a quarterly collection by the 'Dymock' poets. The 'Dymock' poets were a literary group of the early twentieth century who made their homes near the village of Dymock in Gloucestershire. The group was composed of people like Robert Frost, Lascelles Abercrombie, Rupert Brooke, Edward Thomas, Wilfred Wilson Gibson and John Drinkwater and it was in *New Members* that Rupert Brooke's *The Soldier* was published- the words so familiar, even today.

If I should die think only this of me – that there's some corner of a foreign field that is forever England.

How prophetic Brooke's words would come to be as after, dying from of an infected mosquito bite, he was buried on the island of Skypos.

The death, in 1917, of Edward Thomas who had joined the army in 1915 and who was killed at Arras, saw the breakup of this community.

Between 1914 and 1919 there was a London literary magazine, founded by Dora Marsden, called *The Egoist* (subtitled- *An Individualist Review*). Ezra Pound had an editorial position and early modernist poetry and fiction was published. James Joyce's semi- autobiographical novel *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* was published in it, as were parts of his controversial work *Ulysses*. Joyce seems to have been very busy in the first year of the war as in June 1914 his *Dubliners*– a collection of fifteen short stories depicting life in and around Dublin in the early twentieth century- appeared. George Moore, another Irish born novelist, had *Vale*, the final part of his three volume autobiographical *Hail and Farewell* published in *The Egoist* in March 1914. Moore had mixed reviews. The weekly British Conservative magazine, *The Spectator*, said to be the most influential of all the London weeklies, was not wholly complimentary in an article of 27th June 1914.

This is the third and concluding volume of Mr Moore's artless and informal biography. We regret to say that it combines some very interesting and even beautiful passages with many which only a total absence of good taste could permit anyone to publish. It tells us that it has always been his 'petit luxe' to be ridiculous and it is no doubt to this aspiration that we must ascribe the blots on his book.

Perhaps they did try to soften what they had said when they concluded- ***Yet it contains many pages which are worth reading.***

When the assistant editor of *The Egoist* joined the army in 1917 T. S. Eliot took his place.

BLAST was a magazine produced by the Vorticism movement- a short lived modernist movement in Britain- whose art and poetry were partly inspired by Cubism. It was short lived- only two editions appeared, one in July 1914 and the second- and last- a year later in 1915. The magazine cost two shillings and sixpence and had a bright pink cover with **BLAST** splashed across it. It had contributions from the likes of Ezra Pound and Rebecca West and many illustrations by Jacob Epstein. World War One would destroy Vorticism and when many members were killed or were fighting at the front the survivors became disillusioned.

The Strand magazine, started in 1891, was a monthly magazine compiled of general fiction and articles of general interest. Arthur Conan Doyle's *Sherlock Holmes* stories were first published in it and with the serialization of his - *The Hound of the Baskervilles* -sales reached a peak, with readers waiting outside the headquarters of the magazine to get their next instalment. Another writer who made contributions was Agatha Christie, her tale - *The Secret Adversary* - is set in 1919. This is the first of four novels where young fictional detectives Tommy and Tuppence appear. The story begins when Tommy Beresford has been recently demobilised and he meets 'Tuppence' -Prudence Cowley who has served as a voluntary aid detachment- a VAD. Other contributors were Rudyard Kipling, Dorothy L. Sayers, P.G. Wodehouse, George Simenon and Winston Churchill. In addition to fictional pieces and illustrations it was well known for ground breaking 'brain teasers'. In 1914 there was a fictional story *Danger! Being the Log of Captain John Shires* by Conan Doyle. Further on in the magazine there was a piece stating that the proofs of this fictional story had been given to naval experts and their invited responses were given there. A name, still familiar today, also appeared in 1914 with an amusing article by W Heath Robinson, with accompanying drawings, entitled *The Perfect Policeman*. In that same year it was announced that the next instalment of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *British Campaign in France* would be postponed for the present as the military authorities considered that the narrative was drawing too close to what was happening at the present time and if published might prove an advantage to the enemy. After the War- in 1920- Conan Doyle wrote an article for *The Strand* about something local to the Bingley area - 'The Cottingley Fairies'. In 1917 two cousins there used illustrations of fairies from a book and

photographed them. A spiritualist, a friend of Doyle's, reported that they were genuine and thus the legend was born. In 1922 Conan Doyle published a book about the sightings and it was not until 1983 that the two girls admitted that the photographs were fake.

Twenty three thousand women were recruited in the First World War to work full time on the land to replace men who had left to fight. There were three sections; Agriculture, Forage (hay making- making food for horses) Timber Cutting. *The Landswoman* magazine was the official monthly magazine of the Women's Land Army and the Women's Institute. Launched in January 1918 it was first priced at tuppence but the price increased to threepence in May due to rising costs in printing and paper. It had adverts, articles, poems and pictures. In that first issue there was an advertisement aimed at outdoor workers, *Oatmeal Face Cream- Use it and Prove it*, and an article by R.E. Prothero the President of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries- entitled 'The Women's Land Army.'

Pioneers in the Women's Land Army are praised as they have conquered difficulties and smoothed the way for the increasing numbers who will follow in their steps. To the Women's Land Army they have been what the first seven divisions were to the men.

The article went on to say;

These women hold the home front as the men are holding the lines by sea and land.

It ended with Walt Whitman's words;

Now I see the secret of the making of the best persons. It is to grow in the open air and to eat and sleep with the earth.

There was some humour within the publication –certainly in the pages entitled *Nursery Rhymes for the Next Generation*.

Little Bo-Peep has all her sheep and knows just where to find them. She's joined, you see, the Land Armee (sic) and we've taught her how to mind 'em.

In similar vein-

Drive a crock hoss(sic) to Banbury Cross, they've taken my men and my sound hoss(sic). But milk's at the station and pork's in the pot, all along of that good little land lass!

The December 1918 edition was headed *Christmas Greetings to the Land Army* and was still advertising 'land' outfits for women – overalls, blouses and even trousers. There was an article, again praising these women, by Admiral Sims who had commanded U.S. naval forces in Europe during the conflict. He wrote;

Everyone knows that farm work is not an easy or enticing occupation But no consideration of ease or comfort seems to have had weight with your stout-hearted young English women when the crisis dawned. They went in their thousands to the dairy, the stable, the cattle shed, the field and the garden when the military call came for the older men. Their enthusiasm and grit, their determination to make good, their irresistible conviction that they were helping to save the life of the British Empire carried them through every difficulty.

The People's Friend, founded in 1869 and still published today, is the oldest women's weekly magazine in the world- a magazine said to be for ordinary people by ordinary people. Within its pages, from the onset, have been short stories, serials, factual articles and craft projects. The cover has always been a picture of somewhere in Britain. During the First World War readers were kept up to date with happenings overseas and were encouraged to help with the war effort. In August 1914 there was a drawing of a postman handing a letter or a telegram to a woman. How often would this scenario be played out on many a door step throughout the land during the next four years?

The ladies residing in the grand houses of the district- Mrs Brigg of Kildwick Hall, the wife of Sir John Horsfall of Hayfield Hall in Glusburn and Mrs Bairstow of Springfield, Sutton in Craven could very well have been reading *The Lady*. This old established magazine was founded in 1885 by the maternal grandfather of the Mitford sisters and had early contributions from Nancy and also Lewis Carroll. It was notable for its advertisements for domestic servants and childcare.

Peg's Paper was a new weekly British women's magazine which first came out in 1919. It was said to be the first romantic fiction magazine and was aimed at working class female readers.

READING MATERIAL FOR THE TROOPS

A popular magazine read in the trenches was *War Illustrated*. This publication was first released at the beginning of the war and issued regularly throughout. It ended with the February 1919 issue but returned at the start of World War 2 and ceased production, finally, in 1947. During those First World War years it contained personal articles by war correspondents and writings by H.G. Wells and Winston Churchill. However its main focus was photographs and illustrations. At first, events carried out by German troops were fabricated but after 1916 onwards it was more correct in its reporting. In 1915 the magazine published an article about how soldiers found solace in reading and that books should be sent from home. Ordinary soldiers, it was said, read on a daily basis, anything they could get their hands on, as they were waiting in the trenches.

They were reading the works of Rudyard Kipling, H.G.Wells, John Buchan and Nat Gould. Gould, the son of a Lancashire tea merchant, died just after the end of the war. He had worked on several newspapers, gaining experience in that field, in Australia and on return to England started to write fiction- many books concerned with horse racing. He wrote an average of four novels a year, was very popular and it was said that he told a simple story in an unaffected way. One of the most popular books read by soldiers was Mrs Gaskell's *Cranford*. Perhaps it was not surprising that, to escape the horrors of the rats, mud, and barbed wire, they chose to read that novel with its affectionate portraits of people and customs in a small genteel town which was beginning to change.

The Wipers Times was produced 'in house' by the 12th Battalion Sherwood Foresters of the Nottingham and Derbyshire Regiment stationed at Ypres in Belgium. A printing press was discovered, abandoned in some ruins, in 1916 and this publication began. It was a satirical magazine. Wipers was slang for Ypres and it featured jokes, reflections, poems- in the main written by soldiers- and satire and portrayed cheerfulness and comradeship. The reality of life in the trenches was rarely shown and the covers had mock adverts such as sales of no-man's land- ***Build that house on hill 60***. There were stories such as a rat and his wife opening a tin of sardines, eating them and then sealing the can again- which would then be found by a soldier expecting to find a feast inside.

POETRY

Paul Fussell an American cultural and literary historian, author and university professor, born in the twentieth century, in his book *The Great War and Modern Memory*, describes the literary response by English participants in World War1 to their experiences of combat- particularly in trench warfare. Fussell said that many soldiers relied on poetry as a method to cope with the atrocities and horrors of the war. There were many writers and poets who now found themselves literary entrenched in terrible and unimaginable conditions.

Siegfried Sassoon was twenty eight when war broke out and was from a reasonably wealthy family. In 1914 he enlisted and was later commissioned in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. The poetry he writes at this time seems to be patriotic and he comments on the nobler aspects of the war. His poem *The Glory of Women* however is a somewhat ironic and sarcastic poem and could be called a criticism of women's attitudes at that time. Some women were told only things that it was thought appropriate for them to know- with anything distasteful left behind on the battlefield.

You love us when we're home on leave or wounded in a mentionable place.

Sassoon gained the nickname 'Mad Jack', because of his daring and recklessness and he was awarded the Military Cross for bravery and leadership. By 1917 he was becoming disillusioned and was writing poems condemning senior officers and how the war was being run. He wrote a letter *Finished with the war- A soldier's Declaration* which appeared in the now defunct newspaper *The Bradford Pioneer* which was published between 1913 and 1936.

I believe that the war upon which I entered as a war of defence and liberation has now become a war of aggression and conquest. I have seen and endured the sufferings of the troops and I can no longer be a part to prolong these sufferings for ends which I believe to be unjust and evil.

Expecting to be punished Sassoon was saved by his friend and fellow officer Robert Graves who persuaded the authorities that Sassoon was suffering from shell shock. It was at Craiglockhart hospital in Scotland that Sassoon met another poet Wilfred Owen. Owen had gone to Craiglockhart also suffering from shell shock and here he began to write his poetry. His poem *The Dead Beat* emphasises the callous attitude sometimes portrayed by fellow soldiers and doctors.

He dropped, more sullenly than wearily, lay stupid like a cod, heavy like meat and none of us could kick him to his feet.....

***We sent him down at last, out of the way. Unwounded; stout lad too,
before that strafe. Malingering? Stretcher bearers winked' Not Half.'***

More of Owen's poems were drafted or written in Yorkshire. Discharged from the Edinburgh hospital in 1917 he was stationed in Scarborough, staying at the Clarence Gardens, which is now the Clifton Hotel on the North cliff. Here in a turret bedroom, with a window overlooking the North Sea, he wrote his poem *Miners*. *Miners* was in response to the 'Minnie' pit disaster, in Staffordshire, where, on the 12th January 1918, 156 men and boys died. However by the end of the poem the dying miners are intertwined with the deaths of soldiers at the Front. Many hospitals created hospital journals and magazines and these in themselves were a form of therapy. The magazines were a tool through which the patients could express their experiences. So it was at Craiglockhart and the magazine there *The Hydra* was edited in 1917, for six issues, by Wilfred Owen. Poems and short stories written by patients and nurses told about the day to day activities at the hospital and, in some cases, the reaction of local people. One poem, accentuating this and published anonymously, is simply entitled *Stared At*.

***Now if I walk in Princess Street or smile at friends I chance to meet or
perhaps a joke with laughter greet- I'm stared at.***

The journal produced by the Leeds Territorial Hospitals, which included Beckett Park Hospital in the city, tells in 1917 of Christmas and New Year celebrations.

Then pianos arrived in the wards and even a barrel organ. Decorations then came, coloured paper, ivy, holly, mistletoe and paper chains.

In December 1917 a poem about The Royal Army Medical Corps appeared in the Leeds journal-*Dedicated to the R.A.M.C*-which starts somewhat scathingly but ends with admiration.

**We called you the 'Linseed Lancers'
You men of the R.A.M.C;
We looked upon you as 'wash outs'
The pets of the old maids and their tea.....**

**Now its "Well done, you Linseed Lancers"
You chaps of the R.A.M.C
You've worked harder than any department
Of battalions of infantry.....**

**So forgive us for what we've called you
We're now sorry for what we've said.....**

**We'll tell them in "Blighty" with pride,
That the R.A.M.C stretcher bearers
Were the heroes on every side.**

A brave, local man, who was awarded many medals, Lance Corporal Joseph William Nelson, of Sutton in Craven, died of wartime injuries in August 1922, at Beckett Park Military Hospital, in Leeds. He had been severely wounded a few days before Armistice.

Even before the Great War many regiments in the British Army had produced Christmas postcards. Cards showed cheerful soldiers putting Union Jacks on Christmas trees, smiling whilst eating Christmas puddings in trenches. These cards were sent to and from the Front.

Stories of the unofficial truce between British and German troops on Christmas day 1914, were well reported in the press and in letters from the Front. A picture of fraternising enemies in No-Man's-Land appeared in *The Daily Mirror* in January 1915.

INFORMATION RECEIVED NEWSPAPER AND MAGAZINES

It seems that, just as children in schools all over the country were being kept well informed about the war, so were the adults even though there were no televisions and radios with the 'breaking news' reports we have frequently today.

The Tatler magazine was founded in 1901 by Clement Shorter and focussed on news and pictures of high society balls, charity events, fashion and gossip. Clement Shorter would be very familiar with the West Riding of Yorkshire as he was, as well as a writer and editor, a literary critic and collector. He focussed on the works of the Brontes and wrote two books about Charlotte and two about the family. He edited Mrs Gaskell's *Life of Charlotte Bronte*. In 1914 *The Tatler* had included a picture of Winston Churchill showing him as First Lord of the Admiralty with the caption ***Bravo Winston***. In 1915 it was encouraging its readers to escape the trials and tribulations, shortages and misery of the war. It is easy to surmise that its readers were not working class people with the headline;

**A Haven of Rest in Wartime. The Finest Climate in the World.
Go for the Winter and Early Spring to the Island of Madeira.**

Clement Shorter was the first editor of another publication *The Sketch* which again focussed on high society and aristocracy. In March 1915 it had an advert promoting some kind of pick-me-up for children- today the word 'chemical' in anything for children would certainly sound warning bells!

**Ferocal Squires Chemical Food for quickly growing and delicate children.
The King's Chemists, Oxford Street.**

Perhaps readers would be more interested to read the May edition of that year when the front page showed a picture of Rita Jolivet. An English actress in the theatre and silent films, she survived the sinking of the *Lusitania*- which was torpedoed by a German U boat and sank off the coast of Ireland on the 7th.

An alarming article appeared in January 1915 in *The Illustrated London News*;

Of late the Germans, as usual hesitating at nothing, have taken to sending fire into the French trenches. Men occupying one of the trenches thus taken saw a thick volume of smoke rising over the parapet of their earthworks. The defenders of the trench felt heated air blowing over the

parapet and in a few seconds were flooded with a scalding liquid which they think was pitch.

The Illustrated War News in January 1915 had a graphic picture of a sinking ship- drawn by Norman Wilkinson. Its caption was;

'The moment before the U12 sank. A British boat going to rescue the survivors of the German submarine.

Drawn by Norman Wilkinson on material supplied by a naval officer present at the action.'

Norman Wilkinson was 93 when he died in 1971 and during World War 1 he served in the Royal Naval Reserves. He was assigned to submarine patrols in the Dardanelles, Gallipoli and Gibraltar. In April 1917 German submarines, or U boats, achieved great success in torpedo attacks on British ships. Wilkinson invented what was known as 'Dazzle Camouflage' or 'Razzle Dazzle.' This consisted of a complex pattern of geometric shapes in contrasting colours- interrupting and intersecting one another. This was misleading for the enemy making it difficult to estimate the targets' range, speed and heading.

The Bystander was said to be very popular during the war- particularly the *Old Bill* cartoons, by Bruce Barnsfather, which featured a rotund, griping, cartoon soldier. Later some of the early writing of the first editor's niece, Daphne Du Maurier, would appear in *The Bystander*. In 1915 the magazine had a large picture of a Dutch soldier on its front page.

'Attitude of Holland- Watch out.

Dutch infantryman as sentry on the Dutch-German frontier.'

John Bull magazine, owned by Liberal M.P. Horatio Bottomley, a celebrated propagandist, was said to be Britain's largest selling periodical and advertised itself as the most patriotic publication of a patriotic time.

Its cover in 1914 certainly confirms this with a picture of a bulldog and a soldier, with sabre in hand, standing on the British flag and the caption; **For Country and King. Come the three corners of the world in arms and we shall shock them.**

The Sphere had weekly issues and was another paper connected with Clement Shorter and it covered news stories from the United Kingdom and around the world. During World War 1 these were called 'war numbers' and two hundred appeared between 1914 and 1919. Its front

page of December 30th 1916 showed a smiling soldier, carrying parcels, outside a sand bagged trench.

The heading was;

'The Arrival of the Mails- Parcels From Home.'

'The Christmas Mail for the Front has been larger than ever this year and the Post office have been despatching parcels for the soldiers at the rate of a quarter of a million a day.'

The Daily Sketch was a British tabloid, founded in Manchester, and was said to be Conservative in its politics. In 1913 it was reporting the death of the suffragette, Emily Davison who had been knocked down by the King's horse at Epsom Derby. In 1914 its headlines were equally sensational as there were reports on the funerals of the victims of the German bombardment of Scarborough, Hartlepool and Whitby.

'The Stigma of Baby- Killers will stick to them.'

The paper was also telling of the exploits of the British Flying Cor.

'Our Flying men's duels in the Air.' and showing pictures of Lord Jellicoe telling readers that he was 'the Admiral who will lead our fleet.'

The newspapers of the time, right from the beginning of the war, were keeping everyone very well informed and encouraging men to join the forces.

On August 5th 1914 all the papers announced that Britain was at war.

The Daily Express exhorted **'England expects that every man will do his duty.'** **'War declared on Germany.'**

The Manchester Guardian- **'England declares war on Germany.'**

'Decision taken late at night.'

The Daily Telegraph- **'The storm of war has broken.'**

The Times- **'Britain at War.'**

In September 1914 readers of the Yorkshire newspaper, *The*

Leeds Mercury, who received letters from men serving at the Front, were invited to send them to the paper. Some of them made solemn reading:-

The death toll has been terrible on both sides.

War is hellish.

I got hit on the 14th. Went in by the wrist, turned on the bone and came out long ways on.

It is murder in the trenches.

Later in November 1915 *The Times* reported that the country were told, by Asquith, who made up the War Commission of the Cabinet- Asquith, Lloyd George, Balfour, Bonar Law, and McKenna. They also stated that Churchill had resigned as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

Towards the end of 1916 *The Daily Sketch* had headlines which showed that changes were afoot in the government- **'the end of wait and see, the King sends for Bonar Law.'**

'The inner history of last night's dramatic developments in Downing Street.'

Unfolding tragedies abroad were reported, in 1917, on the front page of *The Daily Mirror*.

'The ex-tsar a prisoner in his own palace. The red flag conceals the trappings of the old regime.'

'Russian Tsar Nicholas II and his family under house arrest and held prisoner in their own palace.'

LOCAL NEWSPAPERS

Local newspapers were similarly certainly keeping abreast with things happening at home and abroad.

In the edition of *The Craven Herald* of 18th September 1914 there was an article about weekly war pictures. It stated that there were several weekly publications that the war had called into being and the ordinary individual was perplexed by the variety offered. It said that *The War Weekly* was well worth buying.

On the 6th November 1914 *the Bradford Daily Telegraph* printed the names of the first one thousand men to enlist in what was to become 16th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment. This would be a Pals' Battalion - men who had lived, worked and socialised together joined up together and, as at the Battle of the Somme, died together. *The Bradford Pals* lost 1770 men in the first hours of the offensive at the Somme, *The Leeds Pals* lost 750 in that battle and this pattern was repeated across the North of England.

There was an advert in November 1914 in another local paper *The Keighley News* saying that due to increasing demand *The Weekly War Album* would be on sale that day (Saturday) and it would be priced at one penny. On November 28th the same paper had an article entitled 'A Keighley Soldier's experience' and there were articles about the Battle of Mons and the struggle in Belgium. There was even a piece for Belgian readers who had settled in the area. In the same edition you could read that the village of Crosshills was holding a patriotic concert and Farnhill were requesting a telegraph office.

CINEMAS, FILMS AND THE STARS

The CosyCorner Picture House, which was in Low Street, Keighley, was advertising what they called the greatest of all patriotic films- 'It's a long way to Tipperary'. 'The Keighley Picture House', on North Street, opened in 1913 whilst 'The Gem'- later to be re-named 'The Plaza' opened on Sackville Street in Skipton in 1912. The good people of Farnhill and Kildwick would be able to watch silent films, accompanied by appropriate music played on the violin, at 'The Picture House' in Station Road Crosshills. This opened in 1913 and had a capacity of seating eight hundred people. As they entered the building cinema goers would have seen someone playing a piano to welcome them and the films they could have watched were varied - adaptations of classics such as Dickens' *The Old Curiosity Shop* and Conan Doyle's *A Study in Scarlett* came out in 1914. 1915 saw *A Welsh Singer*- the story of a Welsh shepherd who falls in love with a local girl but as they pursue their careers, him as a sculptor, she as an opera singer, the couple become separated. In 1916 a biographical film *Disraeli* tells how the eponymous statesman gained control of the important Suez Canal and there was a film of a completely differing genre- the romance *Sally Bishop*. Also showing that year was *The Lyon's Mail* based on a popular stage work of the Victorian era- *The Courier of Lyons*. The first film directed by the four Warner brothers- a silent war drama- *My Four Years in Germany* could be seen in 1918.

Britain's first purpose built cinema opened in 1907 and by 1914 there was a total of five thousand. Later some cinemas were forced to close as staff were called up for service. The first British newsreel was issued in 1910- silent- showing all the week's news. During the war items such as Mrs Pankhurst's arrest outside Buckingham Palace, in May 1914, and the German occupation and destruction of the Belgian town of Louvain in August of the same year were shown. British Pathe had films of footage of soldiers in a trench loading guns. Others showed them enjoying festive fare under terrible conditions in Christmas 1914 and sailors getting their traditional rum rations. Another film showed very primitive gas masks being fitted on children by a nun.

Charlie Chaplin's 'The Tramp' character came to cinema screens in 1914. He achieved worldwide popularity and his films were shown to injured soldiers- in many cases with images specially projected onto ceilings in field and base hospitals so that immobile patients could see them. Later Chaplin would be castigated for not enlisting with either British or

American forces. However subsequent reports revealed that he had been rejected for being underweight and undersized.

A childhood friend of Chaplin- Fred Evans- music hall and silent film comedian- became famous himself during World War 1. Using slapstick humour, his character 'Pimple' appeared in more than two hundred short films- films like *Fat Man on a Bicycle (1914)* –probably now politically incorrect- and *Pimple in the Whip (1917)* which showed a thrilling race scene with pantomime horses! Evans' films were extremely successful in Britain.

A.V. Bramble- Albert Victor- was a prolific English actor and a film director. In the war years he directed five films- *Fatal Fingers* -1916, *When Paris Sleeps*-1917, *Profit and Loss*- 1917, *The Laughing Cavalier*- 1917, based on the novel by Baroness Orczy and *Bonnie Mary*-1918, a romance which tells of the feud between a laird and a farmer. As an actor he appeared in no less than thirty two films in the years 1914-1918. Some of these films were - *The Suicide Club*-1914 which was based on a short story by Robert Louis Stevenson and in the same year there was *The Loss of the Birkenhead* an historical silent drama based on the sinking of 'HMS Birkenhead' in 1852. The next few years saw Bramble extremely busy as he appeared in a comedy *Honeymoon for Three*-1915 and *A Soldier and a Man* in 1916. *The Cost of a Kiss* followed in 1917 and *Towards the Light* in 1918. Therefore we do know that romances, dramas and comedies were all popular in those times but in August 1916 millions of Britons descended on cinemas to see something completely different- a documentary and propaganda war film. The film, seventy seven minutes long, which premiered in London on 10th August, would later appear in cinemas all over the country and would eventually be shown in eighteen countries. Called *The Battle of the Somme* it showed compelling footage from the front line- trench warfare, British troops waiting to attack and the treatment of wounded soldiers from both sides. It was shot by two cameramen -representing British newsreel producers and supported by the War Office- between 20th June and 7th-9th July. The film could not truly replicate the horrors of first-hand experience but it did engage viewers emotionally and was said to be gruesome to watch. The film was such a success that apparently it held the record for a British audience until *Star Wars* was released.

In the summer of 1914 *The Craven Herald and Wensleydale Standard* was telling readers how to invest their monies- *The Equitable Building Society* would pay interest of three, three and three quarters and four and a half per cent interest. If readers were thinking of emigrating to

Canada they were advised to book by the Allan Line. The Premier Picture Palace in Keighley Road Skipton was showing *The Golden Beetle* - said to be an enthralling story bristling with sensation and they also advised readers that the great film, *The British Army*, would be coming soon. However articles of a more sombre nature were appearing as early as June 1914 in *The Craven Herald*. In the section 'In Parliament' it stated

'It really does seem that many Radical representatives are like the ostrich of fable. They bury their heads in the local committee rooms and imagine that the outer world has no knowledge of what is going on.'

On July 31st 1914, the same day the paper reported the swimming gala at Kildwick, anyone reading the headlines '**The European Crisis^Austria Declares war**' could not fail to have a sense of foreboding.

'Within the short space of a week the peace of Europe has been disturbed. Austria Hungary has declared war on Serbia. Hostilities have commenced and the situation as regards other powers- especially Russia- is one of extreme delicacy. The troubles may be said to have arisen out of the terrible crime committed recently in Sarajevo.'

Although those headlines would fill many at home with dread it was still something happening in a faraway place but on August 7th *The Craven Herald* brought the reality of war on to the very doorsteps of local people.

'Europe in Arms.'

'Germany declares war on France and Belgium.'

'Army and Navy mobilised.'

'Territorials called up.'

'Britain's Assurance to France.'

There was even an account of the impassioned statement Sir Edward Grey, the Foreign Secretary, had made to the House of Commons on the outbreak of war. He defined the British attitude and policy with regard to the European war. He said that we had obligations of honour and friendship. Later that day Grey remarked to the editor of *The Westminster Gazette* - '*The lamps are going out all over Europe. We shall not see them lit in our lifetime.*'

In the Sutton in Craven news item, of the same paper in that week, it was reported that notices had been posted at Sutton Mills (T & M Bairstow) urging employees to stay at home during the holidays and save their funds as, in all probability, short time would be commencing in the near future.

Patriotism was certainly to the fore in print locally on August 14th.

'England! With all thy faults I love thee still, my country.'

'How to Help.'

'At a time when we are engaged in a life and death struggle which necessarily brings in its train economic problems of a pressing nature it is the duty of every British citizen to do all in his power to help his country.'

On September 6th an article appeared in the *Craven Herald* emphasising the seriousness of the situation.

'It is a sad confession to make but it undoubtedly true that to enlightened Craven there are some who do not thoroughly understand the causes that have brought about the greatest war the world has ever seen.'

WHITE FEATHERS. CASUALTIES

There have been many films made based on the book by A. E.W. Mason - *The Four Feathers*-an adventure novel of 1902 which had a background of the Mahdist war. The hero leaves his commission in the army and is subsequently given four feathers- the sign of cowardice. The editor of *The Craven Herald* may have had that in his mind when he headed an appeal, by Sir William Robertson Nicholl to young

Non- Conformists, with the title- *The White Feather- Why all Non-Conformists must enlist.* **'I call on all Non-Conformists who can fight to set down their names in this hour of crisis and to enlist without delay.'**

Sir Robertson Nicholl was a Scottish Free church minister, journalist and editor of the *British Weekly* and in his paper on August 6th 1914 had appeared the influential headlines- **United We Stand.'**

The same month news came through the Skipton paper of dreadful casualty numbers **'The Casualties. 15,000 officers and men.'**

It was also reported that Canada had made a gift of flour to Britain. The Canadian steamer -*Rothesian*- had arrived in the port of London with 47,000 bags of flour- the first instalment of a Canadian gift of one million bags. They would be used partly to ease the market and partly to relieve distress.

On the 18th September *The Craven Herald* was talking about weekly publications that the war had called into being. It said that were several and the ordinary individual was perplexed by the variety offered. The paper stated **'A few like the six penny *The Great War*, will be an enduring record of the stormy time through which we are passing. But a sixpence is a sixpence in these hard times and many of the public are keenly interested in the passing events that a great permanent history will skip or forget. That is where *The Penny War weekly* will find acceptance. It is undoubtedly the best penny weekly at the moment. It is claimed to be packed with war pictures. It gives a bird's eye view of things and the excellent photography with which its pages are crowded convey to the mind the daring of our men, their cheerfulness on the route or in camp, their comradeship with their allies and the hard work they are up against. *The Penny War Weekly* is well worth buying.'**

'DO NOT HESITATE'

On October 2nd readers had described to them the hardships the men of the Expeditionary forces were enduring-unable to remove their boots or putties for days together. Those joining the ranks were advised to harden their feet by soaking them in strong salt and water and then should allow the brine to dry on their skin. On the same day the battle of the Somme was described as the longest in history.

The men of the area were being exhorted to enlist. There was a long article entitled -'**Who said Enough?**'

'There are many in the district who have not yet enlisted perhaps because someone has told them- 'They've had enough already.' That is entirely a mistake. You must not hesitate any longer. If you are of service age you should enlist at once. It is your duty to yourself as a true Briton and your duty to your home and family. You must remember if they get the chance the Germans would destroy English homes as ruthlessly as they have destroyed German ones. It is your duty to King and Country. It will betime to talk about 'enough' when the Kaiser admits he's had enough.' That article certainly didn't pull any punches!

In August 1916 readers in the Aire Valley would be saddened as *The Craven Herald* published the names of every man from Craven who had died since the start of the war.

MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR AND REJOICINGS

In the January 1918 edition of the Parish Magazine the Reverend Hodge, vicar of Kildwick, had a message for his parishioners- **Admittedly serious times are before us, not least in the matter of food supplies. It is a wearisome subject to be always talking upon. I would but remind you that it is a matter in which we must not wait for one another. If I think someone else is not playing the game that does not excuse me, for two blacks never yet made a white. In the meantime courage and steadfastness are the notes we have to strike. We entered into this war with great aspirations of justice, truth and right. They are the great wings that will carry us through to the end, if we keep steadfast.**

On the 25th May 1918, although still naming local war casualties, perhaps *The Keighley News* was sounding more optimistic.

The headlines '**War News of the Week**' '**The Allied Aerial Offensive**' '**Invasion of Germany**',' **Mr Lloyd George on the Outlook- Speech at Edinburgh- Beating the U Boats.**' could have made better reading for local people.

In the *Keighley News* of 19th October 1918 the Palace Picture House in Cavendish Street, Keighley was advertising the films-*Brother Officers* and also *The Prisoner of Zenda*. There was an article by Mr W. Clough M.P.-'**Thewar position of the conscientious objector**'and there were still local war casualties listed.

What a change there was in the same paper on 16th November 1918.

There were headlines of- '**Armistice Rejoicings," The tidings of Keighley.**' '**The mayor on our glorious victory**'and there were pictures of local heroes of the war. Prices, outfitters of 'The Fashion Corner', in Low Street Keighley, had a large advert;

'After demobilisation. Women's Costumes, tweed coats and fur trimmed coats.

The men were not forgotten- '**Make do no longer -with peace insight. Raincoats and Trench coats 37/6d to 65s'**

They certainly knew how to market with the following- tugging at many a heart string I should imagine- '**You're proud of your boy out there- Make him proud of his little one at home- with boys' clothes made from the same cloth as the men's**

Stocks everything for boys- call today and let us rig your little one up.'

We can forgive anyone who, after four long years of a war which would see casualties on a scale never seen before, skip over a piece in that paper on the same day- '**How the Germans Won. Startling views on the Armistice Term by Public Writers- exclusive in the National News tomorrow.**'For those readersthe war was over and

just as the children of Kildwick school had sung- probably with great gusto- *'For why the Lord our God is good, His mercy is for ever sure, His truth at all times firmly stood and shall from age to age endure'*, the adults all over the country would be rejoicing that the conflict was over and loved ones who had survived would be returning home and life could get back, hopefully, to some normality.

LET'S HAVE A PARTY!

In London church bells which had been silenced for four years were joyfully ringing, crowds were gathering, flags were waving and people were dancing in the Strand. The Prime Minister Lloyd George said, 'The sons of the people of this land have done it.' Many sons, fathers and brothers from the whole of Yorkshire had done just that- they had indeed 'done it' and in most towns and villages there would be street parties with young and old celebrating. A lot of preparation would be required as cakes were baked, sandwiches made and large tea pots unearthed from the backs of cupboards. There had been shortages for a long time but if anyone was in the vicinity of Oakworth Road, Aireworth Street, Worth Village or Utley in Keighley, J.J. Akeroyd, retailer of reliable groceries, could supply all that was needed. Their advert in the *Keighley News* on 16th November 1918 would whet many an appetite and make those shortages in the hard years of the war a fading memory.

Peace Offerings

Plenty of Jam

Plenty of nice bacon 1/6d

Plenty of Irish bacon 1/10d per pound

Plenty of Salmon/Sardines/Crab etc

Plenty of tinned milk

Plenty of potted meat and ham and tongue galatine.

All without coupons.

For adults, children, writers, poets, editors, reporters, photographers- for readers and non-readers the war was at last over. Headlines which were splashed across local and national newspapers told them so.

An article in the *Daily Mirror* of the 12th November 1918 said;

History has no more glorious day than yesterday which saw the end of the Great World War and the triumph of Great Britain and the Allies. Germany beaten in the field, menaced by certain invasion and overwhelmed by internal revolution capitulated to the Allies and accepted what will be probably the sternest terms of all time.

THE SUPREME AND FINAL SACRIFICE

The poet, Wilfred Owen, sent the first draft of a poem he had written whilst at Craiglockhart Hospital to his mother, which was published posthumously after his death- *Dulce et Decorum est pro patria mori*. I am not sure that she and countless families across the land - including those in the Aire Valley whose loved ones are named on the War Memorial at Kildwick- would agree with the translation of his title whilst they mourned their losses- *it is sweet and honourable to die for one's country*. Life for them would never be the same again- their world had changed forever. However to the words with which Owen ended that poem they would probably have all said a veritable 'Amen.'

My friend, you would not tell, with such high zest, to children ardent for some desperate glory, the old lie; Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori. The same sentiments would probably apply to words well known and still well used today. Gustav Holst wrote his orchestral work *The Planets* between 1914 and 1918. Original text by diplomat Sir Cecil Spring Rice was reworked in 1918 to reflect the terrible losses of World War 1. Later music from the section of Holst's *Jupiter* suite was adapted to fit the words. It is so appropriate and very necessary, nearly a hundred years later, that we should echo that 'Amen.'

*I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above,
Entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love.
The love that knows no question, the love that stands the test,
That lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;
The love that never falters, the love that pays the price,
The love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.*

SOURCES

Helen Moran- Crossley and Baugh books and Farnhill Methodist Chapel Sunday School

Skipton Reference Library

News cuttings from Daily Sketch/John Bull

Kildwick Church of England School's Log Book

The Years 1912-1918 written by the headmaster Thomas Appleby

Information held in the archives at Sedbergh School-

Clergy Daughters' School at Cowan Bridge and Casterton School

Bibliography

Tommy- The British Soldier on the Western Front 1914-1918

By Professor Richard Holmes 2004

The Great War and Modern Memory by Paul Fussell 1975

The Local: A History of the British Pub by Paul Jennings 2007

Stories from the War Hospital written and compiled by
Richard Wilcocks 2014

Wounded, From Battlefield to Blighty 1914-1918

by Emily Mayhew 2013

Testament of Youth by Vera Brittain

First published by Victor Gollancz in 1933

The Life and Works of The Revd. William Carus Wilson 1791-1859

By Jane M. Ewbank 2009

Selected online sources

Spartacus-educational.com/FWW.htm

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scouting_magazine_\(The_Scout_Association\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scouting_magazine_(The_Scout_Association))

Skiptonmechanicsinstitute.org

<https://www.biography.com/people/william-thomas-stead>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swite-Smith>

founderstory.carnegie.org

<https://www.theguardian.com>

www.frnhill.co.uk/History

<https://archive.org/details/bub>

www.Kennethgrahamesociety.net

www.thomasnelson.com

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ladybird-Books>

archive.spectator.co.uk

www.goodreads.com/Romance/Historical

www.history.co/this-day-in.history

www.alamy.com/stock-photo-1914-daily-mirror

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Newbould

www.mirror.co.uk

[https://en.wikipedia.org/.../List of early-20th-century British children%27s magazines](https://en.wikipedia.org/.../List_of_early-20th-century_British_children%27s_magazines)

www.rbsremembers.com/banking-in-wartime

<https://www.theguardian.com/books>

<https://www.amazon.co.uk>

<https://www.sutton-in-craven.org.uk>

www.cravenherald.co.uk

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TES\(magazine\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TES(magazine))

www.mylearning.org/sending-eggs-to-wounded-soldiers

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DailySketch>

<https://www.theguardian.com/World.Firstworldwar>

<https://www.theguardian.com>

www.telegraph.co.uk

www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

www.thetelegraphandargus.co.uk

www.noglory.org

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fred_Evans-\(comedian\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fred_Evans-(comedian))

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A._V.-Bramble

www.1914.org/the-battle-of-the-somme-film/

www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwone/mirror07

www.womenslandarmy.co.uk

<https://www.dcthomson.co.uk>

www.lady.co.uk

www.culture24.or.uk/history-and-heritage/arts62508

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_War-Illustrated

www.bbc.co.uk

<https://en.wikipedia.org/File:Illustrated-London-News>

www.cphc.org.uk/the-making-of-john-bull-magazine

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Sphere_\(newspaper\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Sphere_(newspaper))

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/siegfried-sassoon>

www.warpoetry.co.uk/owen1.html

www.keighleynews.co.uk

www.punch.co.uk

<https://redeemingqualities.wordpress.com/early-20th-century-bestsellers>

<https://www.bl.uk/20thcentury/fiction-for-children>

<http://dymockpoets.org.uk>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Egoist

<https://wikipedia.org/wiki/Blast>

https://www.arthur-conan-doyle.com/index.php?title=The_Strand_Magazine

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tatler>

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems>

Any mistakes this writing undoubtedly contains are all my own work

Isobel M Stirk 2017.

