



Craven and the First World War Project

Newsletter



Summer 2018

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

A German plea to return home

Pleading their case for repatriation following the end of the war, the German POWs imprisoned in Raikeswood Camp built a paper balloon which they stuffed with leaflets expressing their wish to return home. The balloon was released into the skies above Skipton and found its way to Sheffield where it landed in the garden of a local businessman. It was not until almost a year after the Armistice that the prisoners were finally allowed to return home in October 1919.



Find out more about life for the prisoners at Raikeswood Camp by visiting the new website at www.skiptonww1camp.co.uk

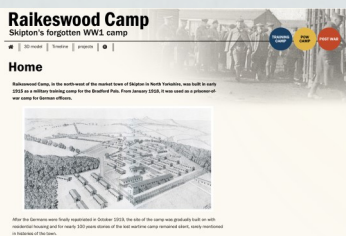
Archive seeks information on Hodder Valley WW1 men

Sladburn Archive are looking for information about any of the 135 men who are listed on the memorials in the villages of the Hodder Valley for an exhibition and book launch commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Armistice on Saturday 10 November. Anyone who has information about any of the men on the memorials are asked to contact the Archive on 01200 44616 or enquiries@slaidburnarchive.org

Craven News

New Raikeswood Camp website launched

A new website exploring the history of Skipton’s WW1 military training and POW camp is now live.



The website includes a 3D model of the camp, a timeline of its history, and information about the German prisoners and British guards, taken from accounts written and illustrated by some of the POWs who wrote a book, entitled *Kriegsgefangen in Skipton*, giving details of their daily lives and experiences of imprisonment at the camp.

Using material from the book, as well as archival research, the website aims to rewrite the story of this forgotten WW1 camp back into the history of Skipton, reshaping accounts of the town and its past.

The website will be officially launched at an event taking place at Skipton Town Hall on Wednesday 27 June (more details overleaf) where there will also be a chance to find out about the latest research being carried out into the camp and to hear about the exciting plans for this years archaeological dig.

The new website can be viewed at www.skiptonww1camp.co.uk

Raikeswood Camp dig

Young archaeologists from schools across Craven will return to the site of Skipton’s former WW1 camp for one final time this summer. The dig, which will take place from 30 July - 3 August, will carry out further excavations in the field at the top of Raikeswood Drive, and, as an exciting addition to this years dig, will include a number of small-scale digs in residents gardens.



There will be a chance for the public to get hands on with a behind the scenes look at the dig at an open day event on Wednesday 1st August, 2 – 7pm (more details overleaf)





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Craven Events

Tunstill's Men performances

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

The true story of a recruiting campaigner during World War 1 is brought to life in this promenade performance as part of this years Grassington festival.

Tickets: £8. Available to buy on 01756 752691 or online at

www.grassington-festival.org.uk/product/tunstills-men/

'1918: The Long Last Mile' exhibition

26 June – 22 December, 1-4pm every day - The Folly, Settle

The final year of WW1 took the greatest toll of lives among the men of North Craven and in this, the next in our series of commemorative exhibitions, we look at their stories, the part played by the newly formed RAF, the development of motor transport and how life was for those at home.

Admission: Adults £2. 16 and under: FREE

Raikeswood Camp information evening

Wednesday 27 June - Skipton Town Hall, 7pm - 8pm

Come and hear the latest research about Skipton's WW1 training and POW camp. We will also be launching a brand new website about the camp and there will be a chance to hear about the exciting plans for this years archaeological dig, as well as to see some of the artefacts unearthed in previous digs. FREE to attend.

'Upper Wharfedale 1918' exhibition

Saturday 14 & Sunday 15 July, 10am-4pm—Grassington Town Hall

An exhibition by local volunteers from the Upper Wharfedale Arts and Literature Society (UWALS) giving visitors an opportunity to learn about all aspects of life in Upper Wharfedale at the end of WW1. Not only will there be photos and written accounts but also demonstrations of local crafts, performances about Yorkshire women of the period and a chance to hear ballads and folk songs once so familiar in Yorkshire, now rarely heard. FREE to attend thanks to funding from the Big Lottery.

Raikeswood Camp dig open day

Wednesday 1 August, 2-7pm – Top of Raikeswood Drive, Skipton (BD23 1NA)

A chance to unearth Skipton's hidden WW1 past with a behind the scenes look at the latest archaeological dig taking place on the site of the town's First World War training and POW camp. FREE to attend

Regional events

'Recovery? From Flanders to Afganistan' exhibition

Thackray Medical Museum

Until 31 Dec 2018 - £7 adults

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

www.thackraymedicalmuseum.co.uk

Ambulance Trains exhibition

National Railway Museum

FREE

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

www.firstworldwar.nrm.org.uk

'Huddersfield's Great War Stories' exhibition

Tolson Museum, Huddersfield

Until 31 Dec 2018 - FREE

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

www.kirklees.gov.uk/museums

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

