



# Craven and the First World War Project

# Newsletter



Spring 2017

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

## The Great Escape...to Skipton!

The translation of the book, *Kriegsgefangen in Skipton*, written by German POWs interned at Raikeswood Camp has revealed some remarkable stories of how some of the prisoners arrived in Skipton. This includes joint editor of the book, Sachsse, who was captured by a combination of British and Japanese forces while defending Kiautschou, a former German colony in China. Imprisoned in Japan he escaped and after many adventures was discovered as a stowaway on a ship sailing eastwards across the Atlantic. To find out more about the German prisoners and the British guards who were at Raikeswood Camp, visit [arts.leeds.ac.uk/kriegsgefangen/](http://arts.leeds.ac.uk/kriegsgefangen/)

## Love Transcribathon

People across Europe have been invited to transcribe love letters sent during the First World War as part of an online crowdsourcing campaign.



The Love Transcribathon, launched by Europeana – a digital platform for cultural heritage – features more than 40 love stories depicted in handwritten letters and documents donated by the public. They uncover stories of romance, betrayal and heartbreak, and can be transcribed

## Craven News

### CFWW project seeks additional funding

The Craven and the First World War project is applying for additional funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to cover the final two years of the centenary commemorations.

The project, which received funding in 2014, will come to an end in May, but it is hoped that the extra funding will allow the project to continue with it's centenary programme which will explore the legacy of war on Craven's people and places.



As well plans for a number of exhibitions to mark the final year of war, the next phase of the project will focus on 100 years since the arrival of German prisoners to Skipton's Raikeswood POW camp. Plans include further archaeological excavations of the site and a website where visitors can get a look at what life would have been like in the camp through an interactive 3D virtual model of the camp.

### Wharfedale War Memorial Project

The Wharfedale Family History Group who started their War Memorial Project over a year ago as an aid to those researching family members involved in various conflicts have since recorded the names of several thousand men and women from over two hundred War Memorials and Rolls of Honour. Stanley Merridew from the group, said:

"Many local groups are carrying out similar projects. This differs in that the group are seeking memorials not just to those who died but also to those who served in all wars"



A full list of those transcribed so far can be found at the groups website [www.wharfedalefhg.co.uk](http://www.wharfedalefhg.co.uk) where the possibility to search for individuals is also available. If anyone is aware of further Memorials or Rolls of Honour in the parishes that have been covered or if anyone would like to be involved in the project please contact the group by email at [president@wharfedalefhg.co.uk](mailto:president@wharfedalefhg.co.uk).

### Visit to Skipton's twin town

Craven and the First World War Project Officer, Rob Freeman, took a trip to Skipton's twin town of Simbach in Germany to discuss ideas for a project in 2019 that will bring together young people from both towns to mark 100 years since the signing of the Treaty of Versaille which marked the end of the First World War.



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### Craven News continued...

The visit involved meeting up with representatives from the Simbach-Skipton Twinning Association and teachers from local schools, as well as a visit to the Simbach museum which hosted a WW1 exhibition last year.



The trip was funded by a travel grant from the International Council of Museums UK (ICOM UK) and it is hoped that the project will be able to take place with EU funding from the Europe for Citizens 'European Remembrance' programme.

### Regional events

#### 'Recovery? From Flanders to Afghanistan' exhibition

Thackray Medical Museum  
Until 31 Dec 2018 — £7 adults

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

[www.thackraymedicalmuseum.co.uk](http://www.thackraymedicalmuseum.co.uk)

#### Ambulance Trains exhibition

National Railway Museum  
From 7th July 2016 — 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](http://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](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/museums)

### Craven Events

#### Introducing the Farnhill WW1 Volunteers Project talk

Friday 24th March, 7pm - Kildwick & Farnhill Institute

A talk which will explain how the HLF-funded Farnhill WW1 Volunteers Project aims to research the lives of the 68 men from Farnhill who had already volunteered to serve in the forces before conscription was introduced early in 1916. The group will also be presenting some of the information and stories they've already discovered about the Volunteers and life in Farnhill during the First World War, as well as providing details of how people can participate.

Free admission.

#### 'A Forgotten World War One Disaster' talk by Christine Walton

Thursday 27th April, 7.30pm—Swadford Centre, Skipton

A talk given by Christine Walton about a forgotten First World War disaster which will follow the Skipton and Craven History Society AGM.

Tickets: £3 for non-members on the door.

#### Western Front 2017 trip

Sunday 30th April—Thursday 4th May

The Western Front Association North Lancashire Branch are planning their 2017 battlefields tour from Sunday 30 April to Thursday 4 May. The cost of the tour is £349 (TBC) per person in twin/double rooms (For single room occupancy the cost is £465) and includes the cost of the tour, two nights aboard the ferry in two berth inside cabins and two night's hotel accommodation. Please contact Allan Hartley with any queries and to confirm your reservation on [HartleyAlmal@aol.com](mailto:HartleyAlmal@aol.com) or 015242 61173.

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](mailto:RFreeman@cravenc.gov.uk)

