

Wheatley Hill History Club

Volume 17 Issue 2

April 2014

COMMEMORATING THE FIRST WORLD WAR

11pm on the 4 August 1914 marked the beginning of The Great War where over 9 million people were killed worldwide and which paved the way for major political changes, including revolutions in many of the nations involved.

There were many reasons why large numbers of men joined the armed forces from the colliery villages of East Durham, Wheatley Hill being no exception and 189 from this village were killed and are proudly remembered on our war memorial in the cemetery. We remember them every year on 11 November, and this year, the centenary of the start of the conflict, we will join the rest of the Nation, in commemorating the part in which the men and women from Wheatley Hill played in the 5th deadliest conflict in world history.

The village commemorations will start with our July History Club meeting - "World War 1 Recruitment Records" by Dr Sarah Price on 30 July, and will run through the weekend until the evening of Monday 4 August. We have brought the date of our Local History Day, which is held in Wheatley Hill Workingmens Club, forward to Saturday 2 August to fit in with the rest of the village events.

At this event we will have our website on display with the new updates for which we received money from the Haswell Windfarms (*Jan 2014 newsletter*). This is another way in which to present historical information to another generation.

Also at our event on Saturday we will be launching the Heritage Society's new DVD - The Contribution of Wheatley Hill and Thornley People to World War 1. The DVD has been produced by Pauline Carr with a voice-over by Billy Middleton and presents in a humbling way, the sacrifices made by our local people during the War to end all Wars?

For WW1 commemoration purposes, the History Club has presented information on the village's contributions in written form, website and DVD, in order to try and reach a new generation. Our advertising will be done by social media and traditional means in order to get the word out there. See page 2 of this newsletter for a list of village events taking place over the period of the commemo-

At our local history day the following organisations have agreed to provide a contribution to our remembrance:

TIME BANDITS

An historical interpretation group who will lead a range of practical activities relevant to the Home Front

NORTH EAST WAR MEMORIALS PROJECT

Their extensive electronic records remind us of what happened and the consequences of the conflict to the people of our area

PETER JAMES

Peter is a private collector of World War 1 memorabilia who has attended our event once before. His excellent exhibition gives us a reminder

DLI MUSEUM

The DLI Museum is one of the North of England's finest military museums. It tells the story of one of the most famous County Regiments in the British Army.

More importantly, it tells the story of ordinary people who lived extraordinary lives

DURHAM COUNTY RECORD OFFICE

Will provide an exhibition about their Heritage Lottery Funded project to gather and connect information about the people, places, events and objects associated with the First World War in the historic County of Durham

BEAMISH MUSEUM

Are providing an exhibition of bicycles from the time of the War

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?

If you would like to help out at any of the events over the commemoration weekend, please let us know and if you would like to volunteer to lay one of the crosses in the memorial garden during the Sunday service in the cemetery, we should also like to hear from you - we are potentially looking for 189 willing people.

MEMORY TREE

At this time of significant mourning, the Church will make available a memory tree to remember loved ones, not necessarily connected to World War 1. I am enclosing a form on which you can state who you would like to remember on the tree in the Church. The information will be transferred to a leaf and hung on the tree. There will also be a memory box available at future meetings for your contributions

CONTACT DETAILS

CHAIR: 01429 820813
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W: wheatley-hill.org.uk



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

28 May	Forensic Artistry	Bruce Burn
25 June	Durham Coal Owners	Margaret Hedley
30 July	WW1 Recruitment	Dr Sarah Price
2 August	Local History Day & Village Commemoration	

WHEATLEY HILL REMEMBERS WORLD WAR 1

The village events to commemorate the War will begin with the July History Club meeting:

Wednesday 30 July 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Wheatley House

A Talk by Dr Sarah Price: World War 1 Recruitment Literature

Friday 1 August—Sunday 3 August 10.00am - 4.00pm

All Saints Parish Church

Flower Festival to remember the fallen of this village in WW1
(supported by local organisations)

Saturday 2 August 10.00am - 1.30pm

Wheatley Hill Workingmens Club

Exhibitions relating to World War 1 (see page 1)
Sales of Local History Information including new DVD

Saturday 2 August 10.00am - 4.00pm

Wheatley Hill Heritage Centre

New photo exhibition relating to World War 1 and release of new DVD
showing service personnel from Wheatley Hill and Thornley who took part
in the conflict

Sunday 3 August 10.30am—11.10am

All Saints Parish Church

Church service attended by British Legion standards
The service will include the blessing of the brass tablet in memory of local war dead
The Last Post will be sounded at the end of the service

Sunday 3 August 11.30am—12noon

Wheatley Hill Cemetery War Memorial

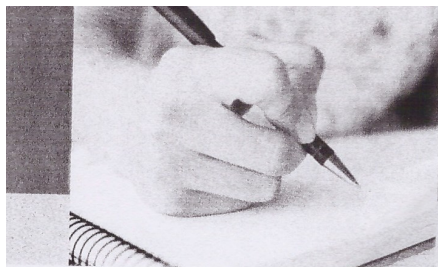
A remembrance-type service attended by British Legion standards at Trimdon Brass Band
The British Legion will lay a wreath and members of the public will plant individual crosses
In the memorial garden to the memory of the 189 men who died in the conflict

The Heritage Centre will be open to view the exhibition and for refreshments

Monday 4 August 10.30pm—11.00pm

Wheatley Hill Cemetery War Memorial

Candlelit vigil at the war memorial
The reading of war poems by volunteers
One Minute silence at 11.00pm



Letters

DISCOVER YOUR HISTORY FEB 2014



The Rosy Rapids, from left to right: Meggy Lowther, Lizzie Luke, unknown (possibly the goal keeper), Meggy Farrow, Lizzy Champley, Meggy Phillips and, kneeling with the ball, Bella Cowie.

Rosy Rapids ladies' footballers

I READ with interest the article on early football teams in your November issue, 'Origins of our Beautiful Game', and it reminded me of a photograph that I submitted to a book by Patrick Brennan in 2007, *The Munitionettes – A History of Women's Football in North East England During the Great War*.

The book tells of women during the First World War, thrown together in munitions factories, who formed football teams in order to raise money for the war effort. Until the publication of Patrick's book there was little known about this, even among family members.

As the chair of the Wheatley Hill History Club in County Durham, I submitted the photograph we had of our local women's football team for inclusion in the book, and was delighted when Mr Brennan contacted me to say that the picture was much earlier than any he had

come across in the North East of England. In his book, he states under the image, 'The Rosy Rapids may have been the first women's football team in the (North East) region.'

I was able to supply the names of most of the 1909 players, and along the bottom of the image it says, 'Wheatley Hill Rosy Rapids AFC – Engagements Wanted'.

Unlike the rest of the teams in Patrick Brennan's book, the Rapids seem to have been a local team and not one that was connected to the munitions work taking place in the North East of England.

I don't have any more information on the Rosy Rapids other than this. My history group have done research from newspapers in our area from 1830-1976, word processing all articles relating to the village and publishing them in seven volumes.

Unfortunately, there was no mention of the women's football team. Perhaps it wasn't newsworthy enough or perhaps they didn't get any games!

Patrick Brennan has a website,

www.donmouth.co.uk, which has a section on women's football and a link to the gallery of images that he has collected, and the Rosy Rapids image appears there.

Margaret Hedley, via email

This is the letter that our History Club sent to the February edition of *Discover Your History* - a monthly magazine. We were delighted when it was published, along with the photograph.

Up to now we haven't had any feedback about the photo but Patrick Brennan who is mentioned in the article has been in touch to thank us for mentioning his book.

We apologise for the quality of the reproduction, which is a direct copy from the magazine page.

RESIGNATIONS

You may not be aware, but over the past few months, both Rowland and Fred Bromilow have resigned from the History Club committee. Both have commitments that prevent them taking an active part in our work.

Owen has been a member of the History Club since May 1995 and was the main researcher for the five books we published about Wheatley Hill, Thornley and Ludworth. He spent hours every week researching in repositories around the County on behalf of the History Club, and we can never repay him for his level of commitment and dedication.

Fred joined the History Club a few years later and his and Owen's dedication to the publication of our two war books was outstanding. They travelled frequently to Europe to research graves etc, often at their own expense.

Their contribution has been exceptional and we wish them well in their future.

Wheatley Hill Community Association T: 01429 820214



OPENING HOURS
Mon-Thurs 8.30am-8.45pm
Fri 8.30am-7.45pm
Sat 9.30am-11.30am
Sun (Church only) 9am-12

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Function rooms to
accommodate 2-120 people
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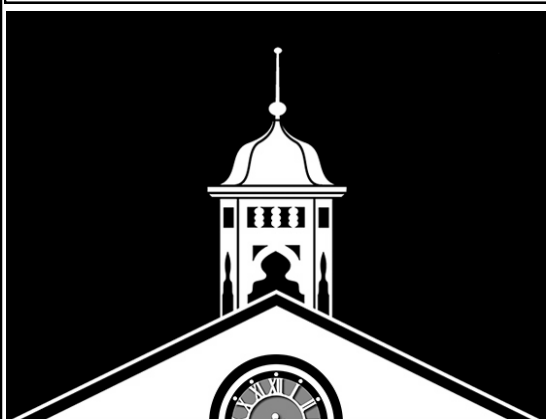
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WHEATLEY HILL HISTORY CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Will be held in

WHEATLEY HOUSE

5.00pm Wednesday 28 May

ALL WELCOME