

FIRST WORLD WAR MEMORIES



As a memorial to the terrible events of the First World War, the Parish Council is publishing personal stories of how the War affected ancestors of present day Scriven residents. Both of Steve Walton's grandfathers died as a result of the First World War and this is an account of their involvement in the war.

Both my grandfathers were born and brought up in the Derbyshire Peak District town of Tideswell and both enlisted to fight in WW1. Even though they both fought in northern France in the Somme, their journeys were very different.



GEORGE WILLIAM WALTON

was actually living in Australia and working as a carpenter when he enlisted to fight with the Australian Imperial Force in November 1915. He left Australia on 14th April 1916 on the troop ship H T Ceramic to Suez and then travelled by land to Alexandria in Egypt where he boarded a further ship the H T Invernica, finally disembarking in Marseilles on 29th June 1916.

George fought in the Somme in northern France where his military records show he also carried out tunnelling duties. In the stalemate of trench warfare one tactic was to tunnel under no man's land and lay explosives under the enemy trenches. Unfortunately on 24th May 1917 George was wounded in action suffering severe shrapnel wounds to his left thigh.

With the number of Australian Army casualties being brought to Britain particularly following the conflict in Gallipoli, an Australian Military Hospital was set up in Weymouth. George was transferred to this hospital in July 1917. A testament to the severity of his injuries is that George was not fit to leave hospital until 27th April 1918 when he was discharged from the Australian Army on medical grounds to take up a role as an Australian munitions worker in London.

George and my grandmother were married in Weymouth in the summer of 1917. She, at the

time, was working as a schoolteacher in a village near to George's home town of Tideswell. They subsequently had a child (my mother) who was born on 3rd September 1918.

Following the war George took his family back to Australia where he hoped they would all live. My grandmother unfortunately didn't settle and missed her family and life in Derbyshire. They returned to Britain on 27th February 1920 but tragically only eight days later on 6th March 1920 George died as a result of his shrapnel wounds.

JOHN FREDERICK HARRISON my other grandfather, was working as an apprentice grocer in Stockport at the start of WW1. He enlisted into the 119th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery and entered France on 24th December 1915. Interestingly the 119th Brigade was also known as the Welsh Bantam Brigade as it was for men under the height of 5 feet 3 inches who had originally been passed over.

John fought in the Somme in various battles, his brigade was equipped with the 119th Trench Mortar Battery. Unfortunately John was killed on 17th April 1918 along with seven other men from his battery. Although his military records have been lost it is presumed that this was from incoming shell fire.

John sadly did not survive to see the birth of his child (my father) on 18th November 1918.

He is buried in a small military cemetery in Morbecque Northern France.

If you have family memories of the First World War please write them down and send them to a Councillor or the Clerk for publication. The events can be on any subject and do not have to be related to Scriven. To mark the centenary, it is hoped that sufficient stories will be forthcoming to publish one in each newsletter until November 2018.

JULY
2018



SCRIVEN PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



COUNCILLORS

Mr Ivor Fox (Chair), Mrs Wendy Sanderson (Vice Chair),
Mrs Miranda Armitage, Mrs Anne Bourne, Mr Gordon Reece.

PARISH CLERK

Mrs Amanda Kennerley, 21 Abbots Way, Knaresborough, HG5 8EU
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YOUR COUNCILLORS

Following the local elections in May this year which included Scriven Parish Council, we are pleased to announce that a full quorum of five councillors are now in situ as follows:-

IVOR FOX (CHAIR)

Previous Scriven Parish Councillor and Harrogate Borough Councillor for Scriven Park.

WENDY SANDERSON (VICE CHAIR)

Served as a councillor for the last three years with Scriven Parish Council.

ANNE BOURNE

New councillor and Scriven Green resident.

MIRANDA ARMITAGE

New councillor, long standing resident of Scriven, and well-known charity worker throughout Yorkshire.

GORDON REECE

Previous Scriven Parish Councillor and long standing resident.

The new council members bring a wealth of knowledge and experience from a variety of backgrounds, all of which is sure to be an asset to the Council and the Parish.

For the benefit of those who don't already know them, a brief introduction to each councillor will be included in forthcoming issues of this newsletter. This issue includes a short statement from the new Chair.



IVOR FOX (CHAIR)

For the last 18 years my family and I have had the enjoyment of living within the Scriven Parish boundaries. It has been an honour to serve local residents for over a decade as a Parish or Harrogate Borough Councillor. However, during the last four years there have been substantive planning challenges, which have involved attendance at three Public Hearings and taken up a lot of time. Unfortunately, because we live in such an outstanding location, developers will not be going away. Although, as a community we can make improvements on "pure commercial" demands if we stand together.

Full contact details for all councillors are available on the Parish Council website at www.scriven-pc.co.uk.

Forthcoming meetings are scheduled on:

Thursday 13th September 2018

Thursday 6th December 2018

Thursday 14th March 2019

Full details of agendas and previous minutes can also be found on the website.

TRAFFIC ISSUES

Due to continuing concerns expressed by residents the parish council have again contacted the authorities with regards to traffic speeds through the village, drawing their attention to a recent accident that occurred on the corner of the green.

The Speed Protocol Administrators have agreed that more up-to-date data is required to ensure the right solution is found with regard to this concern in our community and they have sent a request to North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service to install covert monitoring equipment to measure the speed of vehicles for a minimum of seven days (24 hours a day).

The data will be collected from the most suitable location possible in line with the concerns expressed but also dependant on street furniture, road layout and Health & Safety criteria.

The data obtained will be analysed by the Roads Safety Task group along with further issues recently identified and an update will be provided once this has been done.

JACOB SMITH PARK

Knaresborough's beautiful and historic Jacob Smith Park is celebrating being open to the public for 10 years with the launch of a new website.

Packed with information about the park, www.jacobsmithpark.co.uk includes: how to plan your visit complete with nature trails free to

download; a fascinating history section shedding light on the Jacob Smith family, and the land as an iron age settlement, medieval farm and a training ground for tank crews and infantry during World War II.

You will also find news about The Friends of Jacob Smith Park's latest projects and volunteering opportunities, such as the community wildlife pond; a section for people to share their adventures in the park including photographs. An area of the website has also been dedicated to the park's young friends, and they are encouraged to jump on board with content for this section.

If you would like to find out more about getting involved with the website as a guest contributor, then you can email Jo Smalley and The Friends of Jacob Smith Park via friends@jacobsmithpark.co.uk.



**FRIDAY
10th -19th AUGUST**

feva

is Knaresborough's annual Festival of

Entertainment and Visual Arts with a wonderful array of shows and events. Visit www.feva.info or the Knaresborough Tourist Information Centre in the library for details.

THURSDAY 13th SEPTEMBER

Scriven Parish Council meeting. Park Grove Methodist Church Hall 7:30pm. All are welcome to attend. If you have an item you wish to be included on the agenda for discussion please inform the Clerk one week before the meeting.