



DEWSBURY SACRIFICES

# *Newsletter 1*

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Hi Everyone,

Welcome to the first edition of our periodic newsletters, Following our successful project launch, at Dewsbury Minster on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July we have had a fairly healthy response and been privileged to meet two direct descendants of two of the Fallen from that fateful day on the Somme, one hundred years ago.

The committee will be meeting at the end of August to discuss our next moves and some of the suggestions appear to cover, the showing of the original film footage taken contemporaneously and actually shown to the public whilst the fighting was taking place. Relatives could easily identify their kinsmen who were waiting to “go over the top”. This could take place around the 18<sup>th</sup> November which marks the end of the Battle of the Somme and it is hoped to promote a forum to discuss the nightmare of the conflict.

Also on the stocks is a plan to start a Friends Association whose members will receive news of the latest developments and help attract more support for the project. Speaking of which if you feel as if you could help, in any capacity we would love to hear from you, we are particularly interested in people with IT skills who could help handle the mass of raw data we are now receiving. One special plea is for a volunteer to step forward to act as secretary as, after almost three years in the job, coupled with that of Chairman and general dogsbody I am

beginning to feel a little jaded! We also need volunteers to man the research room, meet the public and answer questions concerning the fate of a particular individual.

It is hope to open a research room but at the moment, despite obtaining a generous grant from the Dewsbury and Mirfield District Committee we seem to have reached a stalemate with the Landlords of the premises in the Arcade who are now demanding a huge increase in rental charges.

In order to start the process of public access to our data we have negotiated the use of a room at the Long Causeway Methodist Church and its utilisation will be at the heart of the Committee's discussions.

Many of you will now have realised that our website [www.dewsburysacrifices.org](http://www.dewsburysacrifices.org) is now up and running and is being added to on a daily basis. We have a new webmaster, Ian Clegg who is working at top speed to make up for lost time. The profiles of the men lost on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916 are now available on line and full details can be posted to anyone who has an interest in this event. These men formed the heart of our focus at the ceremony on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. The casualty list for September is also due for publication and you will see that there was little diminution in the human cost of the battle.

Finally I would like to thank all those who supported us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July and made the launch such a success and whilst it is invidious to select individuals in what was a team effort, I cannot resist the temptation to underline the outstanding contribution made by the Reverend Kathy Robertson who gave the event a dignity that was appropriate for the marking of sacrifices made 100 years ago.

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28 July 2016