



# *Dewsbury Sacrifices*

## *February Newsletter*

Greetings at the beginning of this significant year

At present everything appears to be in a state of flux, we await the decision on the future of the Park Mansion, we await the outcome of our drive to enlist more support in the town and we await the results of our appeal for further volunteers to extend the secretarial skills at our disposal

This is an appeal for help with the first category, accompanying this newsletter there will be a registration for to enlist as a Friend of Dewsbury Sacrifices; the idea is to ask you to pass this on to anyone you feel might be vaguely interested in our project. Enlistment is entirely free all that is being asked as that a new member should support the activities being planned by the Committee. Further forms are available on request. Also if you know of anyone who might provide typing skills to help with the load of preparing profiles for the website, please either ask them to get in touch or submit their names to any member of the committee.

I am pleased to report that the work of making data available to schools is now underway. The idea is to provide local information to make school projects on the Great War more focussed and that the people of the town really did make a great sacrifice to save this country from foreign domination. I am hopeful that from a small acorn a great oak will emerge but of course it is early days yet and the main task appears to be to upload the vast amount of information we have discovered onto our website.

The volunteer transcribers are working flat out and have readily absorbed the new system of allocation. This is based on personal interest and because of this

the results are not linear but highlighted by peaks and troughs and this means that in some cases researchers have already reached July 1917. A terrific vote of thanks is in order for this dedicated group long may they continue to come up with the goods!

The weekly consultation sessions have had to be reorganised to Fridays at the Longcauseway Church from 10.30 – 12.30. This is because of voluntary staffing arrangements and we have found interest to be just as keen. Could I remind you that in addition to seeking information about relatives and the War this is the contact point for meeting those responsible for the running of the project and expressing your views about all aspects of our functioning.

The monthly talks appear to be popular and I would like to remind you that the next one is at the Minster on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February when Mr. Tim Lynch will give an account of his search for details about his Uncle Harold. The timing is 7.00 for 7.30 and refreshments will be available.

Following that, we have a talk in the Minster on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March by Mr Alan Stansfield from Elland on “West Vale Soldiers of the First World War” He has recently published a book on his late wife’s research of the 3439 servicemen and women on Huddersfield’s Roll of Honour which are now presented in a bound volume, this alone is worthy of viewing.

Once again admission is free and refreshments will be available.

Later in the year we are hoping to stage another commemoration this time for those who suffered the dreadful conditions prevalent at the Third Battle of Ypres more easily identifiable as Passchendaele.

All in all the forthcoming year holds a terrific challenge for our fledgling project and I trust that once more your support can be counted upon

ASK 07/02/2017