



**Finding Identities: Lancashire and
the First World War**

23rd & 24th November 2013

**Keynote Speaker Presentation
Précis and Biography**

and

Collated Abstracts

Keynote Speaker

The 1st Lancashire Fusiliers on 1st July 1916 in Films and Photographs

Andy Robertshaw, Curator of the Royal Logistic Corps Museum

During his career Andrew has lectured to international audiences on many aspects of British military history including Leadership at the Staff College, Shrivenham, infantry history at the Infantry Training Centre, Catterick and military medicine for the annual surgical course held in Norway. An Honorary lecturer at University College London and Honorary research fellow at the Centre for First World War studies at The University of Birmingham he is also a consultant to the Belgian Association for World War Archaeology on various aspects of the identification of Great War casualties. For the past fifteen years, Andy has been involved in conducting archaeological projects on the Western Front. He is the Honorary President of the archaeological group 'No Man's Land' which he helped to establish.

Andy is Director of Battlefield Partnerships Ltd and the company is currently preparing for two archaeological projects on the Western Front. Other projects include a battlefield summers school, a programme of lectures held every year at Auchonvillers on the Somme and a conference on conflict archaeology.

Andy's publications include various articles and essays, three books on military history for young people including 'A Soldier's Life'. His books for adults include 'Somme 1 July 1916: Tragedy and Triumph', 'Digging the Trenches: The Archaeology of the Western Front' was published in the spring of 2008 and is currently in a third edition. This was followed by 'Ghosts on the Somme' and 'The Platoon' an account of the experience of Private Joseph Johns Steward who was a soldier in the London Regiment from 1916 to 1919. His most recent book is '24 Hour Trench', a study of trench life and routine.

Over the past fifteen years he has regularly appeared in archaeology and military series such as the BBC series 'Two Men in a Trench', Channel 4's 'Time Team' and 'Blood and Bullets' for The History Channel. He is best known for the series 'Finding the Fallen' and 'The Trench Detectives'. He is currently working on episodes of 'Who Do You Think You Are?', 'Find My Past' and 'Time Team'. His most recent large-scale project was as military consultant for the feature film 'War Horse' directed by Steven Spielberg.

Collated Abstracts

Lancashire Voices: Exploring First World War testimonies in the IWM Sound Archive

Charlotte Czyzyk

IWM (Imperial War Museums) is the world's leading authority on conflict and its impact, focusing on Britain, its former Empire and the Commonwealth, from the First World War to the present. Our vision is to enrich people's understanding of the causes, course and consequences of war. We tell powerful stories of people and places, ideas and events through our rich and diverse collections.

In 2014 IWM North in Manchester will open an exhibition focusing upon the lives and experiences of people connected to the North West of England during the First World War. As the Researcher of this exhibition, I would like to present my findings from the Museum's Sound Archive, which allows us to reflect on how ordinary people in Lancashire lived through such extraordinary times.

The Sound Archive holds over 33,000 recordings relating to conflict since 1914. I intend to incorporate extracts and quotes from oral history interviews linked to Lancashire, as well as playing short sound clips to the conference delegates. This will outline a plurality of identities and experiences within Lancashire society (comprising both native Lancastrians and people who moved into the area), and cover themes such as life before the war, reactions to the outbreak, life on the home front, service abroad and the post-war legacies of the conflict. The final part of my presentation will advise delegates on accessing the collections and provide further information on the First World War Centenary Partnership led by IWM.

Biography

I have worked at IWM North since 2003, primarily in the Retail and Learning Departments. In April 2013 I was appointed as a Researcher for the forthcoming special exhibition about life in the North West of England in the First World War, to mark the centenary of this conflict in 2014. I have a degree in Politics and Modern History as well as an MA in Art Gallery and Museum Studies, both of which were awarded by the University of Manchester. In my spare time I regularly visit the First World War battlefields in France and Belgium and am currently undertaking training to become a tour guide.

Imperial War Museums

IWM tells the story of people who have lived, fought and died in conflicts involving Britain and the Commonwealth since the First World War.

Our unique Collections, made up of the everyday and the exceptional, reveal stories of people, places, ideas and events. Using these, we tell vivid personal stories and create powerful physical experiences across our five museums that reflect the realities of war as both a destructive and creative force. IWM's five branches are IWM London, IWM's flagship branch with six floors of exhibitions and displays; IWM North, housed in an iconic award-winning building designed by Daniel Libeskind; IWM Duxford, a world renowned aviation museum and Britain's best preserved wartime airfield; Churchill War Rooms, housed in Churchill's secret headquarters below Whitehall; and the Second World War cruiser HMS Belfast.

The Europeana Great War Archive

Alun Edwards, University of Oxford

Biography

Alun Edwards is a qualified librarian who has pursued an 'unusual' career leading to work since 2000 on various JISC or AHRC funded projects at Oxford University. Previously the manager of the Humbul Humanities Hub and now project officer for Intute, Alun is involved in promoting critical thinking about resources available on the Internet. For the First World War Poetry Digital Archive, Alun researches manuscript collections to be digitised, assists in the training of teachers to create educational resources using the archive, assists in the management of community collections like the Great War Archive and is primarily responsible for identifying other scholarly resources to be fed into the archive via Intute.

Preston's War Memorial – Well Worth the Long, Long Trail a Winding John Garlington

Sometimes, Prestonians can be accused of not really looking at or giving regard to their War Memorial, and yet the city is so lucky to have such a demonstrative Art Deco structure in its very nerve centre. Towering sixty five feet high, it is such a fantastic statement of intent to mourn and commemorate the War Dead that it may surprise many to know that the process of building it, designing it and paying for it came after such a long, drawn out, almost painful process.

Year after year, Preston held solemn Remembrance Days in front of a wooden cross which was dutifully wheeled out onto the Flag Market when neighbouring towns, villages and hamlets; schools, places of work, businesses and clubs had long commemorated their War Dead on plaques, tablets and wayside memorials. Some towns had built hospital wings and children's wards as memorials. Preston had nothing and anger grew through time.

The truth is that the Mayor and Corporation made it a far lesser priority than the one they thought was the most important – the care of war widows and orphans. The result was definitely worth the wait.

Loyal Lancashire: The Influence and Involvement of Lord Derby in Lancashire's Recruitment, 1914–1915

David Huggonson, Independent

Much has been written on the topic of First World War recruitment, particularly that of Edward George Villiers Stanley the 17th Earl of Derby. Historians have written extensively on his reputation and his involvement in the recruitment in the North-West, most notably that of Liverpool. Peter Simkins argued that: "Lord Derby, the

chairman of the West Lancashire Territorial Association and a figure of considerable influence in the political and commercial life of the north-west... .. associated himself with the work of raising the first Service battalion of the King's (Liverpool) Regiment...Liverpool therefore claimed the distinction of being the first city to enrol a complete battalion for Kitchener's army..." (1) David Silby adds that Lord Derby was: "Perhaps the...uncrowned 'King of Lancashire'..." (2) This paper will show that he was a man who was worthy of such a reputation. It will be argued that his reputation should include his work in other areas of Lancashire, particularly that of Preston and Manchester. This paper will also illustrate that his reputation was one of well respect and awe from those who lived and worked in Lancashire. Furthermore, it will be shown that he was versatile in the issues that he dealt with, that he was very decisive and active on any issue he deemed important.

(1) P. Simkins, *Kitchener's Army*, Pen and Sword, 1988 (reprinted), pp. 56-57

(2) D. Silby, *The British Working Class and Enthusiasm for War, 1914-1916*, 2005, pg. 28

Fleetwood Memorial Park: Community Engagement, Planning and the Price of Fish

Charlie MacKeith, Research Design (architecture)

Fleetwood's war memorial, Fleetwood Memorial Park, was at the heart of a 1920s urban expansion project. The paper will explore a journey from responses to loss in a fishing community, the emergence of the welfare state, the origins of modern planning, to modern day loss and vandalism that has revealed the memorial's communal significance and provided for its renewal.

In common with other Lancashire coastal towns, Fleetwood's private estate ownership passed, postwar, to district councils. The Fleetwood Estate Company expanded Decimus Burton's pre-1840 town plan. New sea defences provided promenades, marine gardens and protected new housing. At the heart of the new town extension was the memorial park: a regularised, axial, reworking of an Edwardian pleasure ground to be handed over to the new council. This was Patrick Abercrombie's first realised zonal planning project and the origin of his later rebuilding of Plymouth and the Greater London plan after the next war.

The strategy for the memorial was simple: town elders addressed youth disaffection and 'delinquency' by placing responsibility for delivery on the young. It was to be their memorial from fundraising to tree planting to unveiling ceremony (immortalised on film wearing their dead fathers' medals). The proportion of loss matches that of Preston but the paper will explore the impact of merchant marine loss at sea and how this might have resulted in a set of unique commemorations culminating in the memorial park.

Abercrombie's work in Fleetwood is the untold sequence in the story of modern planning and has not been published before.

Research for the Fleetwood Memorial Park project to secure funding was revealed by Michelle Statham and Rachel Stevens and developed by Charlie MacKeith. Following HLF stage 1 funding, research was verified and developed by landscape historian Maria Luczak through a client team led by Mark Fenton of Wyre Council

(with direct public support including, among many, Michelle Statham, Dick Gillingham and the veterans responsible for the memorial).

The project design is led by Rachel Devine of Landscape Projects.

Biography

Charlie MacKeith established the architectural practice, Research Design, in 2003. The practice was part of the competition winning team led by Landscape Projects, with Charles Quick of Uclan as lead artist, for the reordering of Preston's Flag Market and Sir Giles Gilbert Scott's war memorial.

The designs for the memorial evolved from a landscape response to the square and a detailed study of forms of private and public commemoration. The competition winning scheme for Preston City Council is to be phased with the war memorial restoration and additions to be completed in 2013. Charlie presented the project to Uclan's 2011 symposium 'The Monument and the Changing City'.

His practice restored and operates from a seventeenth almshouse mausoleum chapel in southeast London. The building is open to the public as a gallery and information centre. Prior to establishing his practice Charlie was a director at Ian Simpson Architects for 10 years delivering the Manchester Museum project from feasibility to completion.

'A foe far worse than the Germans': The Work of the Lancashire & Cheshire Band of Hope and Temperance Union in the Great War

Annemarie McAllister, University of Central Lancashire

The Band of Hope began, and is best known, as a movement for children, but from 1902 the Lancashire and Cheshire regional Union had incorporated the region's main organisation for adult temperance. Work with children was nevertheless seen as most fruitful, at least before and after 1914-18. However, with the outbreak of war the organisation reviewed its identity and purpose, maintaining its work with children in the North West but also undertaking an heroic effort to influence national policy and, above all, win adults, whether home front workers or in the services, for the temperance cause. In the first five months of the war, for example, the Union printed and sent out a million and a half 'War' leaflets, 550,000 'Service' and 137,000 'civilian' temperance pledges, 300,000 medical manifestos, and over 12,000 posters and pictorial placards. This dual focus and effort was maintained throughout the war, despite losing many of the male volunteer workers, and this paper will illustrate and examine the many innovative strategies the organisation developed between 1914 and 1918. The argument will draw on minutes and reports as well as publicity material, photographs, and periodicals designed for volunteer workers to present a case study of a remarkable period in which this north west Union inscribed its identity as the most influential Band of Hope group in the UK.

Biography

Dr Annemarie McAllister is Senior Research Fellow in History at the University of Central Lancashire, and works on the history of the temperance movement. She is particularly interested in representation and the creation of identity, and directs the

'Temperance and the Working Class' project, which was awarded a grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2012 and has enabled much public engagement work. See www.demondrink.co.uk for an online exhibition which she has curated as part of the project. She is currently writing a book about the Band of Hope.

War Memorials Trust Submission

Frances Moreton, War Memorials Trust

War Memorials Trust will give an introduction to war memorials and the work of the charity. The talk will then focus on how people look after their war memorials today. Key issues such as ownership, changing environments and the role of the community will be discussed. This will include examples of recent projects support in Lancashire.

Other issues to be covered will include the changing perception of war memorials and their role, looking at who and what people seek to commemorate on or through their war memorials. The role of learning and education in ensuring that tomorrow's war memorial custodians will continue to preserve our memorials in the future will be considered. And the talk will conclude with thoughts of how you can get involved.

Biography

Frances Moreton has worked at War Memorials Trust since 2003. Her degree in War Studies provided the historical context of war memorials which is now combined with an understanding of the wider place of war memorials in our society and the importance of appropriate conservation.

Guides to Take Visitors through the Labyrinths': First World War training and the Public in Blackpool

Nigel Neil, Neil Archaeological Services

Blackpool became an important training town with the billeting of a reported 14,000 troops in November 1914. Third Line Reserve Battalions of the 55th (West Lancashire) Division arrived in the town in September 1915 and Watson Road, South Shore, was one of several locations where practice trenches were constructed. The training site comprised the whole of what is now Watson Road Park, a Blackpool Council public park, adjacent 1920s and '30s housing having been built on the site of the former 'No Man's Land', extending as far as Lytham Road.

Following the departure of these troops in June 1916, the Watson Road trenches – considered by the military authorities to be 'the best in the North of England' – were opened to the public 'in aid of the central fund of the King's Lancashire Military Convalescent Hospital, Blackpool' as 'The Loos Trenches'. This highly successful public educational facility cum tourist attraction, with a guide-book, and convalescent soldiers as tour guides, remaining open for Blackpool's 1916 holiday season, and was re-named 'The Arras Trenches' for 1917 and (possibly) 1918. Whilst practice trenches were ubiquitous throughout Britain, the only other recorded

instances of public opening were briefly at Kensington Gardens and Knightsbridge Hall, both in London.

Biography

Nigel Neil undertook an archaeological desk-based assessment of this site between September 2012 and May 2013: Historic Environment Record data, film and audio (interview) archives, maps, postcards, aerial and ground-based photographs, newspapers on microfilm, and written archives including Blackpool Corporation minutes were accessed.

Civilian versus Military Understandings of the Battle of the Somme

Jonathan Phillips, University of Central Lancashire

This paper is based on my undergraduate dissertation and is entitled, “How did Civilians and Soldiers differ and concur in their understanding of the battle of the Somme?” This paper utilizes a wide range of general and specialised literature on the First World War and the Battle of the Somme itself, alongside locally sourced primary material (including Preston Guardian articles, and letters and remembrances from soldiers of the Loyal North Lancashire, East Lancashire and South Lancashire Regiments) to examine the similarities and differences between civilians’ and soldiers’ perspectives and perceptions of the battle. The first half of the paper investigates the limitations of both soldiers’ and civilians’ knowledge of the battle, how this affected their view of and interest towards it and finds that neither had any strong interest in the conduct or progress of the Battle of the Somme itself with soldiers focusing primarily on the battle in terms of how it effected their day to day lives and activities and civilians focusing on the effect the battle had on the shape of the war as a whole. The second half of the paper addresses soldiers’ and civilians’ opinion of the battle through an examination of the positive and negative experiences of both groups during the battle. Ultimately this paper argues that both soldiers’ and civilians’ opinions of the battle were focused on the overwhelming casualties involved which reinforced a desire to see an end to the fighting, but that both groups’ negative opinions were moderated by their continued belief in a justification for the fighting and their access to channels of relief through which both could emotionally and mentally unburden themselves, although the exact nature of the justifications and support channels used were different for soldiers and civilians.

Biography

Jonathan Phillips graduated from the University of Central Lancashire in 2012 with a First Class BA (Hons) degree in Modern World History and was awarded the Sydney Lee Prize for History. Jonathan is currently undertaking a Master’s degree, by research, at the University of Central Lancashire, investigating the Communist Party of Great Britain’s policies on war, peace and fascism 1935–39.

Westfield War Memorial Village: A Study of Survival

Martin Purdy

In 1917 an internationally renowned landscape architect and town planner from Lancashire, Thomas Hayton Mawson, published a highly personal account of how he believed Britain could honour its debt to the tens of thousands of men arriving home from the Great War with disabilities. It was the author's ambition that the book, *An Imperial Obligation*, be used as a blueprint for the creation of a series of large industrial settlements that would strive to provide a practical and nurturing environment to aid the social rehabilitation of these ex-servicemen and their families. In general, Mawson's vision was favourably met, however, few of the villages were ever built. Furthermore, as we approach the centenary of the Great War, it would appear that only one is in a position to celebrate survival – the Westfield War Memorial Village in Lancaster. This paper will use primary research, gathered as part of an ongoing doctoral study, to discuss some potential explanations for the success of the project at Westfield and the way it has coped with the numerous social, financial and political challenges that have threatened its existence over the course of the past century.

The Memorial Park Fleetwood Lancashire – Past, Present & Future

Chris Pye, University of Central Lancashire

At the conclusion of the First World War thousands of war memorials began to be constructed all over Britain. Less common was the creation of memorial parks and Fleetwood is one example of just three such parks which are Grade II Registered Parks and Gardens and its accompanying war memorial sculpture is also Grade II listed.

Designed by the nationally renowned architect and planner Sir Leslie Patrick Abercrombie, the park consists of bowling greens, tennis courts grassed play areas and formal gardens. Along with the war memorial with the names of local men inscribed upon it from both world wars, a Remembrance Avenue was lined with Elm trees each one dedicated to a Fleetwood family who had lost a relative.

The park was completed in 1927 and remains the focus of Remembrance Day when the local community gather to pay their respects as was intended by the original design.

This paper will briefly outline the history of the park and update the reader on its current use and condition. As the park is currently subject to a successful £2.4m Heritage Lottery Fund bid in order to improve and conserve the parks landscape and features, the paper will go on to analyse the main steps undertaken to secure the funding and the future vision for the park as a place for memorialisation and community activities will be revealed.

Biography

Chris Pye is a Senior Lecturer in Building Surveying at the University of Central Lancashire with a research focus on war memorials and has been involved in the research into the biographies of some of the individuals named on the war memorial within the park.

Remembering and Commemorating the First World War : HLF funded projects in the North West

Claire Selby, Volunteer Coordinator, Preston Remembers

Since April 2010, HLF have awarded over £12million to projects which explore the heritage of the First World War through their Centenary programme. Many of these projects are based in the North West, and the conference provides an occasion for the first time for many of them to come together and present their work, explore the opportunities given and identify the challenges they face.

From large scale projects, including Preston Remembers and work on the Fleetwood Memorial Park, to smaller but no less important work, the range of projects presented will show how central work in the North West is to the commemorations of the First World War.

The Chorley Pals – Two Years in the Making

Steve Williams, Chorley Remembers

The concept was simple enough – men who lived, worked, worshipped or played together, would join up together, train together and fight together; with that the "Pals" concept was born. In 1914, Chorley was the only town in the country to be officially allowed to form a 'Pals' Company by the War Office. Men from the town and surrounding villages soon joined up and by November recruitment was complete. 'The Chorley Pals' eventually became 'Y' Company of the widely known 'Accrington Pals' Battalion (11th [Service] Battalion [Accrington], East Lancashire Regiment) and went over the top at the start of the Battle of the Somme on the 1st July 1916, attacking German trenches in front of the heavily fortified village of Serre.

Chorley based First World War historian and author, Steve Williams (who is also Co-Founder & Secretary of the Chorley Pals Memorial Trust and Project Manager of the Chorley Remembers project) presents a short narrative about the men – their backgrounds, how they were recruited and what happened to them at Serre. Next to them were the Leeds Pals and the comment by one of their number, Private A.V. Pearson, "... the date of 1st July is engraved deep in our hearts, along with the faces of our 'Pals', a grand crowd of chaps. We were two years in the making and ten minutes in the destroying" could apply to almost all the Pals Battalions on the Somme that morning.

Remembering the Great War in Lancashire: Memory, Narrative and Identity

Ross J. Wilson, Senior Lecturer in Modern History and Public Heritage, University of Chichester

This paper examines how the remembrance of the war in Lancashire structures issues of identity, place and politics across the county. With the advent of the centenaries of the Great War, the memory of the conflict and its meaning for

contemporary society in Britain has become the focus of attention for academics, museum professionals and the wider public. However, the focus on the 'British popular memory' of the war has obscured how different regional remembrances are constructed across Britain. These associations with the war enable contemporary populations to utilise the conflict as a means of expression both within communities and to others. Using recently constructed memorials, commemorative activities, local newspapers and the work of regional history groups, the narratives used to represent the war to current society will be analysed in this discussion to assess how the conflict is used to frame the experience of the present as much as to understand the past. The remembrance of the war in Lancashire will constitute the core concern of this paper, but alternative regional narratives of remembrance across Britain will also be examined to demonstrate how the memory of the war forms a significant element in how communities construct a sense of self. Rather than ascribe to the theory that the memory of the Great War in Britain is a singular construct which emerged from the media representations of the conflict, this paper will demonstrate the agency, diversity and the significance of the remembrance of the war.

Biography

Ross Wilson graduated from the University of York in 2007 with a PhD that examined the history of the British Army during the Great War in Britain and the wider memory of the conflict. He has continued this research and published work on the experience of British soldiers during the war and the representations of the conflict through museums, memorials and the wider media. His current area of research is the analysis of the cultural legacies of the war in Britain