

The Great War Community Exhibition

Three main target areas and associated activities and links

The Roll of Honour

- Names of individuals involved in the war effort, whether fallen, wounded, citations for bravery.
- Cenotaph and monuments in the town
- Prisoners of war
- Family collections – letters, photos, postcards, diaries, medals etc.
- The Great War Battles
- Territorial armies, mobilising the army and horses – drills and training
- Stories of bravery (Rev Harlow and Canon Child)

The War at Home and War Relief

- The Red Cross – refugees, hospitals, fund-raisers, prisoner of war parcels (Mrs Kay)
- Sandbags made by young people
- Newspaper Reports
- Rationing - Allotments
- Home Diaries
- Industry – Brunner Mond, problems with agriculture
- MUDC response to the War effort and threat of Zeppelin raids – we had ‘Sopworth Camels’
- Canal/rail carrying companies
- Information posters and recruitment
- Children working the farms

The Era of the Great War

- Rise of unemployment – coal strike
- Milk strike at Anglo Swiss Milk Co.
- Band nights a regular feature, local bands such as Roberts Bakery
- Music Halls at their height, but many towns had smaller troupes who worked the Inns. 3/4 people who would sing, comedy acts, dancing and drama
- Tea dances and competitions as part of Wakes Week, travelling shows and moving pictures as a treat
- How the town looked as war broke out, what was life like for the community?
- Horse and cart transportation over rough roads

Fund raisers and activities done by our community during the Great War.

Knitting groups, Chrysanthemum Show, Merging of Horticultural and Agricultural Societies, Cheese sale, Pigeon Club, Flag Day, Council School Fete, garden parties, Peace celebrations, Parades, Tug of War, Raft Races, Cycle races.