

Newton St Cyres History Group



We have had some very interesting WW1 material lent for the exhibition at the Flower and Produce Show and we thank all those families who have made this rather special material available to us. Much of it is very sad and gives us some realisation of how much so many of that generation suffered. Tom Clague's Grandfather came back from New Zealand to fight and left his wife a widow with two young daughters to care for. His wallet was returned from the front. Chrissie Salter's two Grandfathers fought and both survived. One returned from Canada to fight and the other spent time in a German POW camp where he embroidered a large Khaki handkerchief in memory of his elder brother .

Geoff Jackson's father enlisted at the age of 18yrs and was on the front line in two months. He was badly injured and lay for two days in a shell hole. He was rescued and operated on by a German Surgeon. When he was invalided out of the army he was given a special badge to wear so that he would not be subject to the white feather treatment. He was disabled for life.

Tim Sedgwick has an amazing book of letters sent from the front by James Eaton, a relative of his mother , who was killed. Nigel Chambers has a series of small very neat handwritten manuals that belonged to his relative TJ Booth who was an instructor and received the Military Cross. We displayed the manual on how to deal with and how to use gas warfare together with some of his maps of the trenches.

Some very personal items have survived, the letters Brunton Smith's wife received after his death and the leave pass of James Eaton just a fortnight before his death.

Our only local exhibit was the farm diary of Norton kept by Robert Salter in which he records work done by two individual soldiers during June 1918 and the money they were paid.

Too late for this exhibition but we hope available for another was a rather lovely ,

very heavy door stop engraved with 1916. This was the year Walter Henry Mears was killed. His family lived at Venny Cleave and later at Northridge. Strangely he was an apprentice gardener at Inverary for the Duke of Argyll when he enlisted in the Territorials. Eileen James who has inherited the doorstep would like to know if anyone can throw any light on how a lad brought up at Venny Cleave should come to be an apprentice to the Duke of Argyll's gardener.

Our October meeting on Thursday the 17th will be held in the big hall of the village hall so that more people will have an opportunity to come and see Lynda's many interesting pictures of the village.

Making History

Pictures of Newton St Cyres from the early 1900s

Photographic images of the village will show the changes that took place during the last century plus some more recent events that may be of interest to future generations.



The presentation will aim to entertain and amuse rather than educate but it will also seek to remind everyone that tomorrow's audience is relying on us to provide them with equally interesting pictures.



The show will start at 7.30pm and tea and biscuits will be provided. Do come and enjoy a pleasant evening watching old and not so old pictures of your village. A charge of £2 will be made to cover costs.

The History Group Programme for the next year is printed on the next page.