

Lofthouse Park Revisited: Locals and Aliens during World War One

Lofthouse Gate Working Men's Club, 2 Canal Lane, Lofthouse, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF3 3HN

One year on from our first Heritage Open Day dedicated to the World War One history of 'enemy aliens' interned at Lofthouse Park, we present more stories about life in and around the camp, based on research undertaken by old and new partners, both locally and further afield.

We launch a new illustrated map and again offer two guided walks. Two family historians from Germany tell us about individuals who passed through Lofthouse Park and the pork butchers of Wakefield and Yorkshire whose descendants we welcome on this occasion.

And you can dig deeper: On the day, we share information about the Lofthouse Park dead and what happened to their remains. Additionally, an archaeologist explains how you – whether you live within the confines of the former camp or not – can contribute to the Home Front Legacy 1914-18 project by joining an archaeological exploration in the autumn of 2017.

In the afternoon, the English wife of a German internee makes an appearance on stage, offering glimpses of the challenges faced by women who were in a mixed marriage in the 1910s.

We also provide information about further events to be held at Wakefield Museum/Local Studies Library in November and once again invite you to bring along your objects, knowledge and stories about the local area before, during and after the First World War.

This Heritage Open Day is for people of all ages and abilities. Younger children have access to an enclosed outdoor play area. Refreshments will be served.

Opening Times

- Sunday 10 September: 11-16.00: Information and display; 11.00 Launch of map and guided walk (c. 1h); 12.15 Meet the Germans: Two history talks and welcoming descendants; 13.45 Guided walk (repeat, c. 1h); 14.45 Disturbing the ground: Archaeological opportunities in Lofthouse; 15.30 'The Wife's Tale' (performance by History's Maid); c. 16.00 End

Booking Details

No booking required

Access

The guided tour takes us along wheelchair-accessible roads and pavements and is conducted at a leisurely pace. Dogs and children are welcome on the walk, but please note that we will be close to the main road.

Additional information

Max 20 people per tour/session.

Event contact over the festival: Claudia Sternberg.

Website

ruhlebenlofthouse.com/

Organised by

In the Wrong Place at the Wrong Time, a British German WWI project supported by the Centre for Hidden Histories and Legacies of War at the University of Leeds