



FOR VALOUR



UNVEILING OF
THE ROLAND BRADFORD VC
COMMEMORATIVE STONE

SATURDAY 11TH MARCH 2017

PROGRAMME



10.00am	Meet at St Paul's Church	1.30 - 2.00pm	Village Hall: Community performance of: 'The Fighting Bradfords' View between 1.30pm - 4pm exhibition panels from the DLI collection telling the story of the Victoria Cross and the Durham soldiers who were awarded the medal during WW1.
10.30am	Memorial Garden Commemoration Service • Unveiling of the Roland Bradford VC stone • Unveiling of a unique art sculpture with a 'brothers in arms' theme, sculpted by Ray Lonsdale.		Methodist Chapel: There is the opportunity until 2.30pm to handle and see some real WW1 objects from the DLI Collection. Learning Officers from the DLI Collection have some WW1 original objects for visitors to discover. These objects represent the lives of DLI soldiers during WW1 and are used in the handling collection. Rolling presentation of : 'A pictorial history of the places and people between 1914 - 1919 who belonged: Witton Park' Refreshments available
11.45am	Witton Park Village Hall Performance of 'The Fighting Bradfords' A young persons adaptation. Invited guests only. The most celebrated brothers in British military service, the Bradfords were Witton Park, County Durham's own. Drawing on first-hand accounts, correspondence and family anecdotes, an original play by Carina Rodney, and adapted for this special commemoration by Jane Crawford & Debbie Connell, tells the story of this highly decorated family of First World War soldiers: Roland the born leader and a natural soldier; George, who heroically volunteers for a seemingly suicidal mission; James who joins the war under pressure from his brothers; and the eldest brother, and only survivor, Thomas. Influenced by a domineering father and artistic mother, the boys' childhood was filled with imaginative role playing and intensely competitive sport. They were bare-knuckle boxers and lovers of poetry, strong soldiers and accomplished musicians, but above all else they were selflessly brave in their determination to play the game, whatever the cost. The Fighting Bradford explores what drove this remarkable family from Witton Park to become national as well as very local heroes.	2.45pm	'The Wear at War' Film Produced by Lonely Tower Film and Media. Introduced by Mark Thorburn 'The 4th of August 1914: Life along County Durham's River Wear would be forever altered. The communities that worked the river's banks and shaped the land would fuel the battalions and industry at the heart of the war effort. A poet cut down down on the Somme. A family of Victoria Cross heroes. A young girl lost at home. Just some of the stories of the Wear at War.' The film was produced by Lonely Tower Film & Media for a project organised by Wessington U3A and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. <i>The running time is 1hr 25 minutes</i>
12.15pm	Light buffet lunch		St Pauls Church: Between 12pm and 4pm enjoy the exhibition banners located in the church provided by Durham County Record Office that tell the story of Roland and George Bradford. Come and view the progress of the Rose Window currently under restoration, that is dedicated to Roland Bradford.
1.00pm	Close		



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