

Sheffield Cares for the Wounded: a story of dedication and bravery

Great Yorkshire Show – Tuesday 8th to Thursday 10th July 2014

Great Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate, Yorkshire

A team of staff, students and volunteers from the Medical School were privileged to be invited by the BBC to take part in their World War One at Home exhibition in their 'Pals Tent' at the Great Yorkshire Show in July.

As well as displaying copies of the exhibition flyers, bookmarks and the '*Sheffield Cares for the Wounded*' book edited by Dr Derek Cullen, we had a "Guess the Object" game with a replica of the JR Clarke skull plate displayed in the Exhibition in the Medical School with a daily prize. This proved very popular with all visitors both young and old. For the younger visitors we had a "Teddy Bear Hospital" area which encouraged younger children to come and help "mend teddy" by using bandages and plasters. York Museums Trust also donated a number of children's WW1 era nursing uniforms which many of the children enjoyed dressing up in.

We held hourly demonstrations just outside the tent over the 3 days (weather permitting!) led by Foundation Year 2 doctor Joe Rowles who showed how the treatment and management of two soldiers with the same wounds, one from WW1 and one from now, varied. The student volunteers over the three days were given rather gruesome injuries by a talented local make-up artist, Alice Bartle. These were so realistic that we had to reassure some visitors that we really hadn't fractured the femurs of our volunteers!

In the tent next door to us; 'The Briefing Room', there was a full programme of talks, poetry, dance, theatrical and Q&A sessions at which both Dr Cullen and Dr Rowles participated, in addition to both doing live radio broadcasts at various points over the 3 days.

Just after lunch on the second day it was confirmed that there was going to be an important visitor and just as Joe had finished his demonstration and asked "are there any questions?" Princess Anne stepped forward through the crowd. She seemed very interested in the demonstration and asked lots of relevant questions and made well-informed comments.



Princess Anne visits the Medical School Team at the Great Yorkshire Show

Everyone who took part agreed, although extremely tiring, that this was such a wonderful event to be part of and that we are very thankful to the BBC for inviting us to be one of their Partners for this event. An estimated 25,600 visited the BBC World War One at Home exhibition over the 3 days of the Show and it was a marvellous opportunity to engage with the public.

Catherine Davison and Vikki Hattersley

Special Thanks to:

Dr Derek Cullen
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