

Friends Meeting House, 24 Kirkgate, Thirsk, YO7 1 PL

Armistice Centenary Recalls Poet's Final Yorkshire Sojourn

The bitter irony of war is vividly recalled in the final days of “The Great War” poet Wilfred Owen. Killed a week almost to the hour before the signing of the Armistice, Owen spent part of the last year of his life in Ripon. He observed his 25th birthday (18 March) sitting quietly in Ripon Cathedral. The church is dedicated to SS Peter and Wilfred.

An evening exploring his life and poetry will take place at the Quaker Friends meeting house in Thirsk at 7 on Sunday 7 October. Cambridge scholar and Owen biographer Dr Azucena Keatley, on behalf of the Wilfred Owen Association, will speak and lead a discussion on “Wilfred Owen: Beyond the Words.”

Owen, after recovering from a concussion from mortar fire, had come to Ripon's Claro Barracks (then Ripon Army Camp) in early 1918. Despite the strong objections of close friend and fellow war-poet, Siegfried Sassoon, Owen returned to France in August.

There in one of the last battles of the war he was killed crossing the Sambre-Oise canal in northern France.

Admission is free. Tea and cake will be provided.

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