

Fauldhouse and Bangour War Hospital

Fauldhouse helped Bangour War Hospital in various ways. They collected food and other provisions, notably eggs, for the soldiers of Ward 20, the village's adopted ward:

‘EGG COLLECTION FOR THE WOUNDED.

The Fauldhouse Flag Day Committee have accepted the responsibility of henceforth supplying, with the aid of the inhabitants, House 20 in Bangour Hospital with eggs or other articles of diet, which may be received in the course of collection. The house is occupied by 70 wounded soldiers and on their behalf the ladies of the Fauldhouse Committee take a monthly collection in Fauldhouse and district, of eggs, money, etc., which they take to Bangour and deliver personally at House 20. Messrs A. Mancini, J. Brown, and J.D. Browning have each very cordially consented to give the free use of their motor in turn for this generous and worthy cause. The ladies collected last week in the districts of Leavenseat, East Benhar, Bents, and the west side of the village, and the splendid sum of £11 1s 10½d was realised, along with the following: 224 eggs, 1 box biscuits, 1 tin pears, 2 tins cocoa and milk, 4 cakes, 1 currant loaf, 1 tin of herring, 6 pots of jam, 1 packet of biscuits, 1 parcel of tomatoes, 2 cakes shortbread, and 13 packets of cigarettes, along with a number of ash trays, which were specially requested.

Fauldhouse has done well in flag day collections, etc., and now that they have the supplying of the wounded heroes in House 20 at Bangour, they will make sure that it is well done. They realise that House 20 is now their own in the matter of egg supply, etc, and we are sure Fauldhouse people will welcome this new privilege, and the lady collectors will experience no difficulty in getting all the supplies they require.’

Midlothian Advertiser 16 Aug 1916

Fauldhouse clubs, churches and schools brought parties of wounded soldiers to the village and entertained them to concerts, filmshows and teas:

‘The Fauldhouse Bowling Club generously entertained 30 of the wounded soldiers at present stationed in the Fauldhouse Ward at Bangour Hospital. The guests, along with their two nurse arrived per motor bus at the Bowling Green about 2.30p.m., where they were very cordially welcomed by Mr Findlay, on behalf of the Club. The guests were then given a light refreshment and each was presented with a packet of cigarettes. The whole company was then photographed, a great many ladies being present. The weather was all that could be desired and was conducive to the very large attendance of visitors. A mixed game of bowls was then engaged in, two civilians and two soldiers comprising each rink, while prizes were to be awarded to the soldiers in the highest up rinks.... At the finish of the game, the soldiers and nurses were entertained to a most substantial tea by the bowlers. The whole assembly thereafter adjourned to the Palace Theatre, where the management gave the soldiers free seats and presented each man as he went in with a large packet of cigarettes and a box of matches... A splendid programme of pictures was witnessed.’... The soldiers departed amid great enthusiasm and cheering, and carried with them many mementoes of their happy day.’

Midlothian Advertiser 11 Aug 1916.

‘ENTERTAINMENT TO WOUNDED TOMMIES

On Wednesday last, the employees of Crofthead Co-op Society entertained a large party of soldiers from Bangour Hospital. The party arrived about 2 o'clock, after an enjoyable motor run in charge of Sister Gow. Mr McEwen, manager, welcomed the Tommies, and in a few well chosen remarks, complimented the soldiers on the great part they had played in this great war. The company then had a splendid luncheon, purveyed by the above society. An interesting

programme of games was afterwards entered on. This was followed by a musical programme, the Tommies also contributing to the programme. Parlour games were next and were taken up with great enthusiasm. Immediately after, the company sat down to a sumptuous tea, which, as the Tommies said, was “spiffing”. The company numbered over a hundred, and all enjoyed themselves. The Tommies were presented with cigarettes on arrival and when they left.’
West Lothian Courier 17 Nov 1916

‘WOUNDED TOMMIES’ THANKS

(To the Editor, *West Lothian Courier*.)

Dear Sir.- Would you kindly allow us to thank the ladies of Fauldhouse Co-operative Guild for their kindness to the patients of this ward. We are all unanimous in the opinion that the above Guild is foremost as regards looking after wounded Tommies’ interest. Many of us are a good distance from home, and are proud to find the spirit of kindness, as well as cheerfulness, in our friends at Fauldhouse. Our more unfortunate comrades, who are confined to bed, although unable to take part in the joyrides, games, etc, wish to tender their hearty thanks for the many luxuries, and kind visits, which are so much appreciated. Wishing you all success in the good work which is being done.

We wish you health, we wish you wealth,
We wish you gold in store;
We wish you heaven when you die-
What can we wish you more?

Hoping to see your smiling faces shortly, -

Yours sincerely

STAFF AND PATIENTS, WARD 20’

West Lothian Courier 17 Nov 1916

On other occasions, Fauldhouse folk went to Bangour to provide concerts for the troops in the ward:

‘ENTERTAINMENT AT WARD ‘20’, BANGOUR

On Christmas Day the patients of War 20, numbering 170, were entertained to a high tea by the Commiee, with the proceeds of the Saturday nights’ dancing class. Presents of chickens were given by Messrs Arbuckle, Ford, Forbes, Strong, Weir, and Wuper. The War was beautifully decorated by the soldiers. After tea, a whist drive was entered into, and prizes were given b Mrs A. Cartwright, Messrs J. Brown, A. Drysdale, A. MCNeill, and A> Steele. A concert programme followed, sustained by the patients and members of the Committe, and dancing was afterwards engaged in. Mr Richard Morrision, whose son is in Ward 20, gave a handsome donation of cigarettes to the soldiers.’

West Lothian Courier 4 Jan 1918

Note how the number of patients in Ward 20 has increased – from 70 or 80 in 1916, to 170 in 1918 as the war entered its fiercest phase of fighting.

Mr Forrester, owner of the Palace Theatre and cinema in Fauldhouse, provided variety acts and filmshows to entertain the troops at Bangour:

‘That Mr Forrester’s entertainments are being appreciated by the Bangour Tommies is evidenced by the fact that over 500 of them attended the show given in the Y.M.C.A. Hut last Wednesday, while another 200 could not be accommodated and had to be turned away. The artistes were

Aazelia (?) with her amazing clairvoyancy act, and Irma Claire, the fine soprano vocalist. These and the splendid show of pictures were much enjoyed by all present. The sum collected at the Theatre last week for defrayment of expenses was 12s 2d.'

Midlothian Advertiser 25 Oct 1918

Not only food and cigarettes were provided for War 20, but also wheelchairs:

'Throughout the winter a dancing class was held in the Masonic Hall every Saturday evening, the proceeds of which went to the wounded soldiers. Some time ago the committee gave a splendid entertainment to the soldiers of Ward 20 at Bangour Hospital, and now with the remainder of the funds the committee have purchased two wheelchairs which they have presented to Fauldhouse Ward at Bangour Hospital.'

West Lothian Courier 17 May 1918

Even individual families sometimes entertained small parties of soldiers:

'At the invitation of Fauldhouse United F.C., 17 wounded soldiers from Bangour Hospital were entertained on Saturday afternoon. The soldiers were taken to the football field, and a game was indulged in, Mrs Wm Steele kicking off. The result was a draw. A number of the soldiers were then entertained to tea at Mrs Millar's, West End, and the others were entertained by Mrs Wm. Steele at Bridge St. Dancing was later engaged in at the Masonic Hall.'

West Lothian Courier 31 May 1918