



**Cannock  
Chase  
National  
Landscape**

## **The Great War Hut**

We interviewed Trevor Warburton who works as a volunteer at the Great War Hut to find out more about the work of the volunteers and what the Great War Hut is all about.

### **What is the Great War Hut?**

It is an original soldier's accommodation hut from the Great War Camps on Cannock Chase. After the Camps closed, they were all sold off and it was purchased by Lord Harrowby of Sandon Hall and given to Gayton Village to be used as their Village Hall.

### **What is there to see in the GWH?**

The Hut is part Museum and part set out as it would have looked during 1915-1919. 34 men would have spent 12 weeks there training for the Western Front.

### **Why is it there and what was it before?**

The Hut was used by the Village of Gayton for 85 years, when plans were submitted to build a new one, it was dismantled, repaired and used as an Interpretation Centre to tell the story of the largest Training Camp in British Army history.

### **How long has it been there?**

It has been in use at the site at Marquis Drive Visitor Centre since 2008 and is run by volunteers.

### **As a volunteer what is your role?**

The main role of the volunteer is to welcome visitors and if necessary, inform them about the Great War Camps and the display items.

### **What qualities do you think you need to have to be a volunteer?**

Friendly, helpful and welcoming.

### **Do I need to have a lot of knowledge about the Great War to become a volunteer?**

You would not need any prior knowledge of the Great War or the Camps on Cannock Chase, all this information will be given to you and can be delved into as much as you wish.

### **How many volunteers work there?**

At present there are eleven volunteers and their commitment per month is from 1-4 attendances. Whatever you are able to commit to would be very welcome.

### **When are you open?**

We try and open the Hut every weekend and Bank Holiday's from 11-3pm. This is totally dependent on having at least two volunteers on duty on each occasion. If the weather is poor and not many visitors are on the Chase, it can close early or not open at all.

### **Do you have a lot of visitors?**

The number of visitors is increasing year on year as more and more people have "found" Cannock Chase. Not all are interested in its rich history but a good proportion are.

### **Who visits the Great War Hut?**

Locals do visit but more and more visitors from out of the area are coming in as they holiday locally, sometimes tracing their ancestors who were stationed on Cannock Chase in either in the Great War or World War 2.

### **Is there anything else I need to know?**

The Great War was probably the most influential event in Cannock Chases rich history but there is so much more and it is interesting to learn other aspects but not necessary.

### **Can I visit the GWH and speak to the volunteers who are currently working there to find out more?**

Anyone is more than welcome to come along to observe and get a feel for the role before committing, help and support will be given from the start to allow you to have a very



rewarding experience.

