



Diary of Local Events 1914

| Date | Event |
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| Tue 04 August 1914 | England declared war on Germany at 11 p.m. Railways taken over by the Government; Territorials mobilised. |
| Tue 04 August 1914 | Jubilee of the Rev. Father Unsworth, of Leigh: Presentation of illuminated address, canteen of cutlery, purse containing £160, clock and vases. |
| Wed 05 August 1914 | Leigh and Atherton Territorials mobilised at their respective drill halls: Leigh streets crowded with people discussing the war. |
| Wed 05 August 1914 | Accidental death of Mr. James Morris, formerly of Lowton, and formerly chief pay clerk at Plank-lane Collieries. |
| Fri 07 August 1914 | Leigh and Atherton Territorials leave for Wigan: Mayor of Leigh addressed the 124 Leigh Territorials in front of the Town Hall. |
| Fri 07 August 1914 | Sudden death of Mr. Hugh Jones (50), furniture dealer, of Leigh. |
| Sat 08 August 1914 | Mrs. J. Hartley invited Leigh Women's Unionist Association to a garden party at Brook House, Glazebury. |
| Sat 08 August 1914 | Wingate's Band gave recital at Atherton. |
| Sun 09 August 1914 | Special honour conferred by Leigh Buffaloes upon Bro. R. Frost prior to his going to the war. |
| Mon 10 August 1914 | Several Leigh mills stopped for all week owing to the war; others on short time. |
| Mon 10 August 1914 | Nearly 300 attended ambulance class at Leigh. |
| Tue 11 August 1914 | Leigh Town Council form Committee to deal with distress. |
| Wed 12 August 1914 | Death of Mr. T. Smith (77), of Schofield-street, Leigh, the oldest member of Christ Church. |
| Thu 13 August 1914 | Meeting of Leigh War Distress Committee at the Town Hall. |
| Thu 13 August 1914 | Percy Southern (18), a Leigh piecer, drowned in the canal whilst bathing. |
| Fri 14 August 1914 | Report of Leigh engineer's exciting adventure in Alsace appeared in the "Chronicle." |
| Fri 14 August 1914 | Golden wedding of Mr. (70) and Mrs. John Blane, of Leigh. |

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| Fri 14 August 1914 | The new County Court judge, Mr. H. E. Gurner, welcomed at Leigh. |
| Sat 15 August 1914 | Death of Mr. J. Winder, chief carder at Barnfield mills. |
| Wed 19 August 1914 | The Beautiful Leigh Society awarded the prizes in the garden and window box competition: Mr. James Boardman, 234, St. Helens-road, won the prize for the best garden in the borough. |
| Fri 21 August 1914 | Names and addresses of Leigh and Atherton Territorials appeared in the "Chronicle." |
| Fri 21 August 1914 | Railway companies resume excursion bookings. |
| Fri 21 August 1914 | "Leigh Chronicle," for this week only four pages, owing to threatened paper famine. |
| Fri 21 August 1914 | Wm. Cox (42), carter at Leigh Brewery, died through falling from a scaffold. |
| Tue 25 August 1914 | Leigh, Atherton and Tyldesley shopkeepers at meeting at Leigh Town Hall, decide to close at 7 o'clock on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, and 9 o'clock on Fridays and Saturdays during the war. |
| Wed 26 August 1914 | Leigh Guardians discussed relief for soldiers' and sailors' dependents. |
| Fri 28 August 1914 | Death of Mrs. Ralph Tyldesley (60), widow of the late Tyldesley baths manager. |
| Sat 29 August 1914 | Leigh Angling Society annual match. |
| Sat 29 August 1914 | Howebridge Sunday School Gardeners' Society first annual show. |
| Tue 01 September 1914 | Funeral at Lytham of Mrs. John Bennett (70), widow of a Tyldesley grocer. |
| Wed 02 September 1914 | William Yates (57), a blind rag-gatherer, killed by motor lurry by getting jammed against a Leigh public-house wall. |
| Wed 02 September 1914 | Idris Jones (4), of Astley, killed by a motor lurry. |
| Thu 03 September 1914 | Ladies' rifle corps formed at Leigh. |
| Fri 04 September 1914 | Photo of Atherton Ambulance Brigade on active service appeared in the "Chronicle." |
| Fri 04 September 1914 | List of Leigh special constables appeared in the "Chronicle." |
| Sat 05 September 1914 | Rev. J. V. Pughe, new Welsh Baptist minister, welcomed at Tyldesley. |
| Sun 06 September 1914 | Mayor and Corporation attend special intercessory service at Leigh Parish Church: Rousing sermon by Canon Smith. |

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| Mon 07 September 1914 | Recruiting station opened in Bradshawgate, Leigh. |
| Mon 07 September 1914 | Death of Mrs. John Hardman (76), newsagent, of Tyldesley. |
| Wed 09 September 1914 | Death of ex-Colour-Sergeant John Boydell (48), of Leigh. |
| Fri 11 September 1914 | Photograph of Leigh Territorials, who left on Wednesday for Egypt, appeared in the "Chronicle." |
| Fri 11 September 1914 | List of special constables for Culcheth, Glazebury, Kenyon and Lowton appeared in the "Chronicle." |
| Thu 17 September 1914 | Winifred Gough (8) fell from Westleigh Mill bridge into flooded river and was drowned. |
| Fri 18 September 1914 | List of Atherton, Tyldesley, Astley and Croft special constables appeared in the "Chronicle." |
| Fri 18 September 1914 | Peter Riley (42), butcher, of Leigh, died through being gored by a cow on Monday. |
| Fri 18 September 1914 | Death of Mr. Wm. Cooling (65), formerly headmaster of Tyldesley Congregational School. |
| Sat 19 September 1914 | Leigh Cricket matches with Newton cancelled owing to Newton cricketers having joined the army. |
| Sat 19 September 1914 | Atherton Swimming Club annual gala. |
| Sat 19 September 1914 | Leigh Evening Continuation School prize distribution by the Mayor. |
| Mon 21 September 1914 | Thrilling lecture at Leigh Co-operative Hall on "Why we are at war," by Dr. J. Holland Rose, of Cambridge University. |
| Tue 22 September 1914 | Presentation by Leigh Watch Committee to Mr. F. Stockton, cemetery superintendent, on completing 21 years' service. |
| Fri 25 September 1914 | Names and regiments of Leigh and Tyldesley recruits appeared in the "Chronicle." |
| Sat 26 September 1914 | Bolton and District Baptist Union autumnal meeting at Leigh. |
| Sat 26 September 1914 | Tyldesley Wakes. |
| Mon 28 September 1914 | 500 blankets sent away from Atherton for the troops. |
| Mon 28 September 1914 | Inspiring lecture at Leigh by Dr. A. H. Fison, secretary of the Gilchrist Trust, on "Educational Ideals and the Work of the Gilchrist Trust". |
| Wed 30 September 1914 | Death of Alderman H. Cowburn, J.P. (72), of Leigh. |
| Wed 30 September 1914 | Lecture on "Belgium," by M. Paul Blaise, of Louvain, in Leigh Co-operative Hall to packed audience. |

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| Wed 30 September 1914 | Leigh Grammar School annual swimming competitions. |
| Thu 01 October 1914 | Ex-Warrington man sent to gaol at Knutsford for stealing a Leigh reporter's bicycle. |
| Thu 01 October 1914 | Dr. Veitch lectured at Leigh for the Workers' Educational Association on "The Eastern Question." |
| Fri 02 October 1914 | Interview with Boothstown survivor of the mined H.M.S. "Hogue" appeared in the "Chronicle." |
| Sat 03 October 1914 | Death of Mr. Tom Naylor (33), of Leigh, traveller for the C.W.S. |
| Mon 05 October 1914 | Imposing funeral at St. Paul's churchyard, Westleigh, of Alderman Cowburn. |
| Wed 07 October 1914 | Leigh Guardians decide to spend £9,000 on various alterations. |
| Sat 10 October 1914 | Dr. Haigh, ex-Wesleyan president, lectured at Leigh on "The Great Yellow Peril." |
| Sat 10 October 1914 | Sudden death of Mr. John Holland, J.P. (56), of Astley. |
| Mon 12 October 1914 | Mr. John Bromilow, of Leigh, won the Blackpool bowling sweep. |
| Mon 12 October 1914 | Presentation to Mr. Isiah Barker, after 43 years' service as headmaster of Chowbent Unitarian School. |
| Tue 13 October 1914 | Atherton Technical School prize distribution by Mr. Miles Bullough. |
| Tue 13 October 1914 | Leigh Harriers' annual meeting. |
| Tue 13 October 1914 | Leigh swimming championships decided. |
| Tue 13 October 1914 | Blackburn defeated Tyldesley at Atherton by 3 to 2 in the final for the Bolton and District League championship. |
| Tue 13 October 1914 | Leigh Town Council discuss relief works for the unemployed. |
| Tue 13 October 1914 | Belgian lady refugee and her two children arrived at Mr. M. F. Burrows', Atherton. |
| Thu 15 October 1914 | Prof. Ramsay Muir lectured at Leigh on "The War as the Culmination of 19th Century History." |
| Fri 16 October 1914 | Article by the Mayor on the Belgian refugees appeared in the "Chronicle." |
| Fri 16 October 1914 | Article on "Shooting Stars," by Mr. J. W. Saville, appeared in the "Chronicle." |
| Fri 16 October 1914 | Joseph Williams (18), of Tyldesley, killed by fall of roof in Cleworth Hall pit. |

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| Fri 16 October 1914 | Thirty Belgian refugees arrived at Astley. |
| Sat 17 October 1914 | Presentation of championship cup and medals to Bedford Wesleyan Cricket Club. |
| Sun 18 October 1914 | Dr. J. Kendrick Pyne gave organ recital at Leigh Parish Church. |
| Mon 19 October 1914 | Prof. Bottomley, of King's College, London, gave first Gilchrist lecture at Leigh on "Microbes, friendly and otherwise." |
| Tue 20 October 1914 | Rev. Fr. Day lectured at Leigh on "Christianity and the War." |
| Wed 21 October 1914 | Local church choirs' festival at Leigh Parish Church. |
| Thu 22 October 1914 | Leigh Grammar School annual prize distribution by Prof. Tout. |
| Fri 23 October 1914 | Large photograph and full page description of the Belgian refugees at Astley, including a Belgian's story of their flight, appeared in the "Chronicle." |
| Fri 23 October 1914 | Exciting experiences of Leigh ambulance man at Antwerp appeared in the "Chronicle." |
| Fri 23 October 1914 | James Griffiths (11) killed by motor car at Howebridge. |
| Sat 24 October 1914 | News reached Leigh that Patrick Tobin (30), of Leigh, of the Irish Guards, had been killed. |
| Mon 26 October 1914 | Twelve wounded soldiers arrived at Leigh Infirmary in motor cars. |
| Mon 26 October 1914 | Atherton Conservative Club annual meeting. |
| Mon 26 October 1914 | Leigh Conservative Club annual meeting. |
| Tue 27 October 1914 | Leigh Town Council discuss allowance for soldiers' and sailors' dependents. |
| Tue 27 October 1914 | Councillor G. Hunter appointed alderman vice the late Alderman Cowburn. |
| Wed 28 October 1914 | Opening of Leigh Grand Cinema, Leigh-road. |
| Wed 28 October 1914 | Bedford Liberal Club annual meeting. |
| Wed 28 October 1914 | Leigh Liberal Club annual meeting. |
| Wed 28 October 1914 | Tyldesley Technical School prize distribution by Mr. W. H. Dale. |
| Thu 29 October 1914 | Funeral at Atherton Cemetery of Mrs. Thomas Heaps, whose remains had been brought from Canada at a cost of £88. |

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| Thu 29 October 1914 | Prof. Daun, of University College, London, lectured at Leigh on "France in the 19th Century." |
| Fri 30 October 1914 | Article on "Sidelights of the life at Astley of the Belgian refugees" appeared in the "Chronicle." |
| Fri 30 October 1914 | Fourteen Belgian refugees arrived at Hindsford House, Atherton. |
| Sat 31 October 1914 | Dr. J. C. Russell lectured to Atherton Literary Society on "Bernhardi and His School." |
| Sat 31 October 1914 | Leigh airman, Mr. A. G. Cook, married to Miss Maud Hilton, of Leigh. |
| Sun 01 November 1914 | Death of the Rev. Dr. Karfoot, J.P. (66), of Leigh. |
| Mon 02 November 1914 | Gilchrist lecture at Leigh: Sir B. Windle, of Cork, on "Primitive Man." |
| Mon 02 November 1914 | James Green (57), of Atherton, killed by a fall of roof at Chanter's pit. |
| Fri 06 November 1914 | Photographs of the 12 wounded soldiers at Leigh Infirmary appeared in the "Chronicle." |
| Fri 06 November 1914 | Report re Lance-Corpl. Moore, of Leigh, in the Distinguished Honours list appeared in the "Chronicle." |
| Fri 06 November 1914 | A column of war news in the Flemish language appeared in the "Chronicle." |
| Fri 06 November 1914 | Presentation to Dr. Wynne at Wigan, on his leaving for the Front. |
| Sat 07 November 1914 | Richard Albert Hughes (29), of Leigh, died through injuries received at Bolton whilst putting guns on railway wagons. |
| Sat 07 November 1914 | Rifle Club behind the Sovereign pits, Westleigh, opened. |
| Sat 07 November 1914 | 52 Belgian refugees arrived at the Corporation houses, Butts Bridge: A baby was born the following day. |
| Sun 08 November 1914 | 150 special constables paraded at Lowton St. Luke's Church. |
| Mon 09 November 1914 | Leigh Town Council: Councillor Ashworth re-elected Mayor. |
| Mon 09 November 1914 | Atherton Wesley Guild annual rally. |
| Wed 11 November 1914 | Sporting wedding at Glazebury: Mr. Fred Kemp, the Leigh cricketer, and Miss Edith Peters, of Glazebury, the County hockey player. |
| Wed 11 November 1914 | Death of Mr. John Edge (69), a prominent Boothstown Wesleyan. |
| Thu 12 November 1914 | Dr. Spencer Holt, H.M. inspector of schools, lectured at Leigh on "The Rise of Nationality in Europe during the 19th Century." |

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| Thu 12 November 1914 | Atherton veterans' tea party to celebrate the gift to them by Mr. J. S. Burrows of a hut in the park. |
| Fri 13 November 1914 | Photographs of the Belgian refugees at Leigh appeared in the "Chronicle." |
| Sun 15 November 1914 | Mayor and Corporation attended Leigh Wesleyan Church: Rev. S. Harris preached. |
| Tue 17 November 1914 | Athletes' Volunteer Force formed at Leigh: Mayor convened meeting at the Town Hall. |
| Wed 18 November 1914 | Tramway Co.'s whist drive: Nearly £30 raised for the War Relief Funds. |
| Wed 18 November 1914 | New organ at St. Paul's Church, Westleigh, built by Mr. T. Pendlebury, of Leigh, opened by Mr. R. H. Mort, F.R.C.O., who gave a recital. |
| Thu 19 November 1914 | Death of Mrs. J. H. Ellis (40), of West Bank, Hindsford, a prominent Tyldesley Wesleyan. |
| Fri 20 November 1914 | Photos of the German camp at Leigh and of the Belgian baby's christening appeared in the "Chronicle." |
| Fri 20 November 1914 | Atherton Guild of Help annual meeting: Mr. A. Pilling, J.P., of Bolton, gave eloquent address on the new note in national affairs. |
| Sat 21 November 1914 | Westleigh Miniature Rifle Club first competition. |
| Mon 23 November 1914 | Mr. W. H. Shrubsole, late Hungarian representative in England, lectured at Leigh Literary Society on "Hungary and the Carpathian Mountains." |
| Mon 23 November 1914 | Leigh Technical School prize distribution by Mr. J. L. Paton, High Master of Manchester Grammar School. |
| Tue 24 November 1914 | At inquest in Leigh it was stated that a couple's ten children had all died under six months. |
| Tue 24 November 1914 | Leigh Guild of Help first annual meeting. |
| Tue 24 November 1914 | Lewis Jones (69), a retired Leigh collier, found drowned in the canal near Hall House Bridge. |
| Wed 25 November 1914 | Opening of a tuberculosis dispensary at 13. Church-street, Leigh. |
| Wed 25 November 1914 | Bishop Neligan, of New Zealand, spoke at annual church missionary meeting at Leigh. |
| Wed 25 November 1914 | Death of Mr. Richard Hardman (65), a Tyldesley Councillor and tradesman. |
| Thu 26 November 1914 | Mr. F. R. Barnes, of Manchester University, lectured on "The Napoleonic War compared with the Present War." |
| Thu 26 November 1914 | Paul Jacques, a Tyldesley collier, killed in the mine. |
| Fri 27 November 1914 | Interview with and photographs of the wounded soldiers at Mr. Miles F. Burrows' house appeared in the "Chronicle." |

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| Sat 28 November 1914 | Leigh Cage Bird Society's tenth annual show. |
| Sat 28 November 1914 | Tyldesley and District Feather Society annual show. |
| Mon 30 November 1914 | Gilchrist lecture at Leigh: Prof. A. Hill on "The Senses." |
| Tue 01 December 1914 | Leigh Trades Council decide to recommend more Labour magistrates. |
| Thu 03 December 1914 | Death of Mr. B. Bratt (48), carder at Butts mill and well-known Leigh musician. |
| Thu 03 December 1914 | Leigh Belgian refugees entertained to hot-pot. |
| Fri 04 December 1914 | Photos of three Leigh fighting step-brothers (one killed) appeared in the "Chronicle." |
| Fri 04 December 1914 | Death at Bournemouth, of the widow (89) of the Rev. J. Brame, first incumbent of St. Paul's, Leigh. |
| Fri 04 December 1914 | Fire at Butts Spinning Co.'s mill: £600 damages. |
| Mon 07 December 1914 | News reached Leigh that Private John Cunningham (33), of Leigh, who was in the Irish Guards, was killed in action on Nov. 3rd. |
| Tue 08 December 1914 | Leigh Town Council decide for contract labour as against direct labour in the erection of Corporation houses. |
| Tue 08 December 1914 | Presentation to the Rev. G. A. Ferguson, the Unitarian minister, on his leaving Leigh. |
| Wed 09 December 1914 | James West (18), of Leigh, killed in the Kermishaw Nook pit. |
| Thu 10 December 1914 | Rev. Dr. Karfoot's will proved at £4,364. |
| Thu 10 December 1914 | Ralph Boardman (67), a Leigh fitter, dropped down dead in the Albion Ironworks. |
| Fri 11 December 1914 | Earl of Crawford, Mr. S. Walsh, M.P., Alderman P. W. Raffan, M.P., and others addressed big recruiting meeting at Leigh. |
| Fri 11 December 1914 | Article on Leigh folks' cruise in Norwegian Fjords appeared in the "Chronicle." |
| Fri 11 December 1914 | Photo of Canada's gift to Leigh appeared in the "Chronicle." |
| Fri 11 December 1914 | Report appeared of thrilling experiences of wounded soldiers who had been brought to Leigh Infirmary. |
| Sun 13 December 1914 | Death of Mrs. J. Ashworth (72), of Leigh, aunt of the Mayor. |
| Mon 14 December 1914 | Dr. J. Holland Rose gave Gilchrist lecture at Leigh on "Napoleon the Great." |

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| Mon 14 December 1914 | News reached Astley that Gunner James Goodwin (37), of the Royal Horse Artillery, was killed in action on Nov. 5th. |
| Mon 14 December 1914 | Presentation to Mr. T. Lowe, of Leigh, for his work for trade unions. |
| Tue 15 December 1914 | Great patriotic concert at Leigh Co-operative Hall. |
| Tue 15 December 1914 | Volunteer Defence Corps formed at Tyldesley. |
| Wed 16 December 1914 | Three Leigh soldiers escape injury during Scarborough bombardment by German cruisers. |
| Thu 17 December 1914 | Atherton higher Grade School annual children's concert. |
| Thu 17 December 1914 | Atherton soldiers' dependents entertained to tea at the Volunteer Hall. |
| Fri 18 December 1914 | Sergt. J. Grundy, of Atherton, and of the 2nd Lancashire Fusiliers, awarded Distinguished Conduct medal. |
| Fri 18 December 1914 | Canadian food gifts to Leigh distributed among 930 persons. |
| Sat 19 December 1914 | Death of Mr. J. Brierley (74) proprietor of the Tyldesley Theatre. |
| Mon 21 December 1914 | Gold watch and chain presented to Miss Edith Weilding, of Astley, for pluckily assisting the police. |
| Mon 21 December 1914 | Last Gilchrist lecture at Leigh: Prof. Lewis on "Water and its Work." |
| Wed 23 December 1914 | Leigh Freemasons give treat to 800 poor children. |
| Thu 24 December 1914 | Interview with Trooper Stevenson, the Mayor's attendant, re his war experiences, appeared in the "Chronicle." |
| Mon 28 December 1914 | St. Joseph's Amateurs play "Leah the Forsaken." |
| Thu 31 December 1914 | Photos of officers and non-coms. at German Camp, Leigh, and two Canadian soldiers, appeared in the "Chronicle." |
| | [Suicides and Police Court cases are purposely omitted from this Diary in order to avoid giving pain to their relatives.-Ed.] |