

## Year 7 Curriculum Visit - Dunham Massey

### "A Sanctuary from the Trenches"



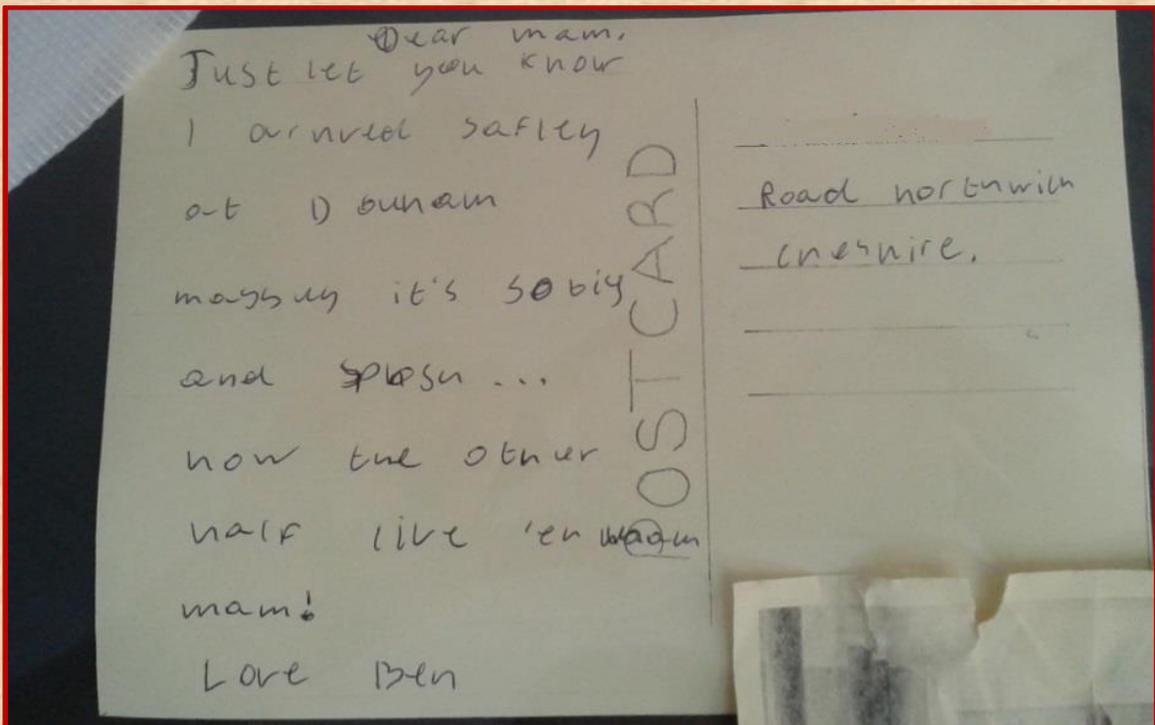
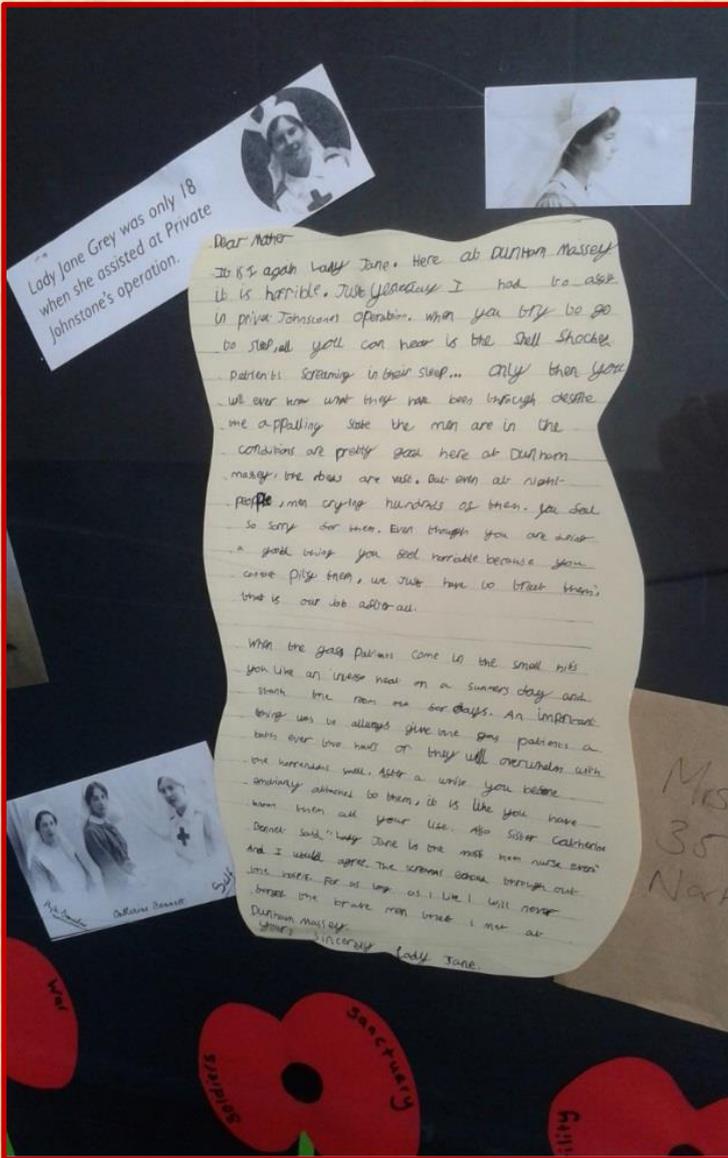
During the First World War, Dunham Massey, set in a magnificent deer-park, was transformed into a military hospital, becoming a sanctuary from the trenches for almost 300 soldiers.

As part of their English project on World War I, year 7 students from Cloughwood Academy discovered what life was like for the hospital patients and how the war changed everything for those who lived and worked at Dunham Massey. During the trip the students experienced the ward, the recreation room and the operating theatre in '**Stamford Hospital**' as it once was; learning about the horrors and heroes of the war.

The visit allowed students to learn about the lives of WWI injured soldiers and those who cared for them. Once back at school, the experience was used to inspire creative writing and students imagined they were injured soldiers or hospital staff and sent postcards and letters home reflecting on their life during the war.

"Dear Mother

It is I again, Lady Jane. Here at Dunham Massey it is horrible. Just yesterday I had to assist in Private Johnson's operation. When you try to go to sleep all you can hear is the shell-shocked patients' screaming in their sleep. Only then you will ever know what they have been through. Despite the appalling state the men are in the conditions are good here at Dunham Massey, the rooms are vast. But even at night people, men crying hundreds of them, you feel so sorry for them. Even though you are doing a good thing you still feel horrible because you cannot pity them, we just have to treat them. That is our job after all. . . ."



"Dear Mum and Dad,

Sorry I haven't written back to you in a while, it's just that I've been in a bit of trouble. I was on the patrol with Eddie, Jack and Billy when all of a sudden two Jerry's ran at us! They shot at us violently. I suddenly felt a sharp pain in my leg. They had shot me in the leg. Then Eddie and Jack shot them both in the head! Sadly Billy had been shot in the throat and died instantly. I'll never forget him. He was a good soldier and a good friend...

I couldn't sleep for weeks, how could this happen to us? I hate war and those good for nothing Germans... and you know what really gets on my nerves is those generals. They sit on their backsides telling us to fight their battles and we end up dying or being shot in a war that we didn't even want to start!"

