

## South Gloucestershire in the First World War Project: 2014 – 2018

[www.southglos.gov.uk/ww1](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/ww1)

### **Heritage Partnership Newsletter July 2017**

The project has now been running for 3 years with just another 17 months to go. During the remaining time the main aspects, the travelling exhibitions, learning resources and war memorial information will continue to be produced and available to the public. We are currently planning for an event to showcase the achievements of the project and the project legacy.

November 2018 marks the centenary of the Armistice which will precipitate another public surge of interest and events, akin to July 2014. This project will can advertise local commemoration events for you on our web site and on the Imperial War Museum web site. Please contact me if you wish to advertise your event.

### **War Memorials website**

Many of the South Gloucestershire war memorials now have further information about their names on the new War Memorial website. These can be accessed at the war memorial itself by using the QR code or by going directly to: <https://sites.southglos.gov.uk/war-memorials/> . **More volunteers are required** for the research process; I would be grateful if you could send out an appeal to your relevant contacts list to see if anyone would like to join the team. Ask them to contact me to discover which memorials still need work. Even if you have produced a book, or information is already on your website, it still needs to be extracted and put onto the project template before being uploaded to the project website. Thank you for your support in this process.

### **New Armistice Day Investigation: school's learning resource.**

This resource has been developed to encourage engagement with the information on the project war memorials website. It is targeted at schools who want a quick topic to for the Armistice week, even though they might not otherwise be teaching about WW1.

The resource uses a list of questions which can be answered by the children. Using the website to find the information, the pupils explore the lives of the fallen, local soldiers, sailors, airman and the scope of WW1.

Some of the war memorial information is so detailed, the children could even walk around the village or town to see the houses where the men and boys had lived 100 years ago and visit the churchyard where there are sometimes graves too. This will bring the subject alive as the activity is so focused.

### **Travelling Exhibition 1** - launched 2014

An exhibition of 12 banners looking at the contributions each area of South Gloucestershire made to the war effort, with 3 banners contributed from our twinned towns in France. This exhibition has been around all the South Gloucestershire libraries and leisure centres and several large Tesco stores, with a footfall of more than 819409. This exhibition is available for loan; it makes a good backdrop for museum and other events. It has also been used in secondary schools as a learning resource and featured at *Armed Forces Day*, *Yate History Day*, *Avon 1940's Weekend* and the *Armistice 2014/2015/2016* at Yate Heritage Centre. Please see the web site for more information and contact me if you wish to book the exhibition.

### **Travelling Exhibition 2** - launched 2016

The second exhibition has 9 Banners, 5 main banners which have themes of Women, Animals, Scouts, Sport and Entertainment. There are also 3 banners with a recommended list of WW1 books for different groups. The exhibition has been travelling around the libraries accompanied by the spiral books of the three Story Telling learning resources, *The Warmley Grenadiers*, *Children in the Great War* and *Alf Flux and the Kit Bag workshop*. These workshops are being presented to school groups within the libraries by the library staff. This exhibition is available for loan; it makes a good backdrop for museum and other events. These learning resources are also available to the museums to use, please contact me for details. The footfall for viewing the exhibition is 65576. Please see the web site for more information and contact me if you wish to book the exhibition.

### **Travelling Exhibition 3** - launched 2017

This exhibition showcases the stories of a few local survivors whose lives were radically changed by the war and those that 'did their bit' at home. These few represent the many across the county and are illustrated with some fantastic local archive pictures giving a real taste of how life, whether you had been at the front or kept the home fires burning, was never quite the same again.

The exhibition will be shown first at Patchway Library from 29<sup>th</sup> August to 16<sup>th</sup> September this year. Please see the web site for more information and contact me if you wish to book the exhibition.

### **Project Postcards**

The postcards are available at most libraries and museums in South Gloucestershire. We send out the learning postcards to the schools every term to remind them about the free learning resources, school visits, loans boxes and some lessons now downloadable on the website.

***The Somme Twitter Project*** has now finished but the story can still be read on the website: [http://www.southglos.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/museums-and-galleries/ww1-museums-and-galleries/thesomme\\_sg/about-thesomme\\_sg/](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/museums-and-galleries/ww1-museums-and-galleries/thesomme_sg/about-thesomme_sg/).

### **Adult Group Talks.**

There is now an adult group lecture, *South Gloucestershire in the First World War*, which features the project stories that we have unearthed about life on the home front. This could be added to your organisation's lecture series. Please contact me if you wish to book the talk.

### **Volunteer opportunities**

There are many aspects for which the project needs to recruit volunteers:

- researching family and military history of individuals named on the war memorials
- the collating of this information onto the template for the website
- researching the war memorials, conception to dedication
- collating this information
- gathering images of the dedication ceremonies
- verifying copyright of text and images.

If you would like to join our team please contact me.

### **Project Evaluation**

We need to collect information about how many schools are engaging with museums and heritage groups with regard to WW1 for the duration of the project 2014 - 2018. Please could you send Jane Marley, Museums and Heritage Officer, the information with the date, the name of the school/group, the number of teachers and pupils and the qualitative feedback. Could you also let Jane know if they have used the WW1 project resources during the session? In

addition, how many hours did volunteers spend on this activity. If you need further training to deliver sessions to schools or to book our workshop and handling materials, please contact me.

I look forward to your continued support towards the success of this project.

**[www.southglos.gov.uk/ww1](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/ww1)** for further information

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This Project is jointly funded by South Gloucestershire Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund