

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE

WORLD WAR ONE CENTENARY COMMEMORATION UPDATE

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update to the report to the Culture Committee on 26 March 2013 on activity led and supported by the County Council to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War.
2. To seek approval for activity to progress.

Information and Advice

Background

3. 2014 will mark 100 years since the outbreak of the First World War.
4. National acts of remembrance will include the centenary of Britain entering the war on 4 August 1914, the battle of Jutland on 31 May/1 June 1916, the battle of the Somme on 1 July 2016 and Armistice Day on 11 November 1918.
5. The Imperial War Museum is providing a national lead, encouraging cultural, historic, volunteer and local authorities to contribute to a fitting commemoration to such a significant historical event and providing access to some of their resources such as images and podcasts.
6. Nottinghamshire people and places are connected to the First World War, either through family history, heritage of local communities or its long term impact on society and the world we live in today.
7. A funding report will be submitted to the Grant Aid Sub-Committee to establish a fund for community projects.
8. Briefings will be organised for elected members and officers.

Current position

9. A co-ordination group led by the Group Manager, Libraries, Archives and Information, has been established to ensure the County Council co-ordinates its own activity and co-ordinates its contribution to commemorative activity across Nottinghamshire.

10. A number of projects are currently in the planning stage. The following list highlights the areas of work and the lead County Council services:

Area of work	Date	Lead Service
<p>Trent to Trenches – The Great War 1914-18 Nottingham City and County Remembers</p> <p>This is a volunteer led partnership project supported by the County Council and Nottingham City Council. The Team Manager, Archives and Local Studies, represents the County Council on this partnership.</p> <p>Trent to Trenches includes a major exhibition at Nottingham Castle, tours, war memorial talks and work with schools.</p> <p>Volunteer researchers are using resources at Nottinghamshire Libraries and Archives to carry out research for the exhibition and the roll of honour and items from Nottinghamshire Archives will be loaned for the exhibition.</p> <p>A Great War Hidden Treasures object appeal was held at Mansfield Library as part of the Local History Fair on 19 May 2013 and others will be held at County Hall on 9 November 2013 and at the Newark show ground on 16 November 2013. These will be supported by staff from Archives.</p> <p>All County Council events and activities will be marketed under the Trent to Trenches banner, promoted by Experience Nottinghamshire and fed into the Imperial War Museums national calendar of events being organised by Culture 24. A logo competition was won by a pupil at Awsworth Primary School and there will be a schools writing competition.</p>	<p>August – November 2014</p>	<p>Nottingham City Council and Nottinghamshire County Council</p>
<p>Roll of Honour of Nottinghamshire War Memorials</p> <p>A roll of honour has been created by County Council IT following research by Trent to Trenches volunteers into memorials across both the County and City. The IT development work has been supported by the County Council's Local Improvement Scheme. Mounted on the County Council website, the roll was made live at the beginning of August and has generated considerable public interest. It is hoped that a subsequent phase will allow the submission of additional information by members of the public.</p> <p>http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/rollofhonour</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>LIS IT Web Team</p>

Area of work	Date	Lead Service
<p>Commemoration of local Victoria Cross recipients of the First World War</p> <p>On 4 August 2013 the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government announced a project for local authorities to commemorate local recipients of the Victoria Cross in the First World War by laying down commemorative paving stones. In addition to recipients from the city of Nottingham, the two VC recipients from Nottinghamshire were Wilfred Fuller of Greasley and William Johnson of Worksop. The County Council will be meeting with Broxtowe and Bassetlaw District Councils to discuss this initiative and the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Victoria Cross Committee are also involved.</p>	Ongoing	LIS Highways
<p>From Home to Battlefields of World War 1: Nottinghamshire Memorials Project</p> <p>The Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded Nottinghamshire Archives a grant of £22,300 to catalogue and preserve the Wakefield Memorials collection. This collection was compiled by Mrs Patricia Wakefield of Bulwell and deposited with the Archives. It comprises her research into graves and memorials in the UK, France and Belgium of East Midlands soldiers who died in the First World War.</p> <p>The project is being undertaken by a group of home educated young people working under the supervision of a Project Archivist and assisted by some adult volunteers. It will enable the collection to be made more widely available to researchers in the run up to the commemoration of the centenary of the outbreak of the war in 2014.</p>	May 2013 onwards	Archives
<p>World War One – Exhibition</p> <p>A participatory community project based around one war memorial chosen for each district and linked with the Big Draw. Cross generational groups may explore family memories, photographs and artefacts. Artworks created will be exhibited at Rufford Gallery and communities invited to attend an event to open the exhibition. Potential for work to tour local libraries.</p>	5 October– 16 November 2014	Arts Service – Rufford Gallery

Area of work	Date	Lead Service
<p>Touring Productions</p> <p>The Second Minute – touring play by Andy Barrett produced by Nottingham Playhouse</p> <p>A play based on the First World War letter collection from the Archive of the Sherwood Foresters. The piece focuses on the stories of three men.</p> <p>“the second minute is a simply told and moving meditation of the experiences of the First World War, the lost art of letter writing and how hundreds of thousands of small scraps of paper survived the mud and slaughter to return to the homes of those that did not.”</p> <p>Standing in Line - touring concert by Lester Simpson & Blaize</p> <p>To mark the Centenary of the outbreak of the First World War, Lester Simpson and the musical duo Blaize present the story of Lester’s Uncle, Albert Scrimshaw, who was born in Eastwell on the Leics/Notts border, and died at Passendale.</p> <p>The show features Lester’s songs and songs from the period, alongside projected images and the poems of Wilfred Owen, Siegfried Sassoon and Rudyard Kipling.</p> <p>The Thankful Village - touring play by Badapple Theatre Company</p> <p>Set against the backdrop of World War I, the quiet village backwater of Bottledale is changed forever by the advent of the conflict. But the plaque and the roll of honour stone in the village square remain empty and un-etched as the years pass, and folk start to wonder ...</p> <p>The story is of hope, humour and humanity, about the men who went away, the women left behind and the eccentric twists and turns of daily life that led to their re-uniting, for better or worse, in the winter of 1918.</p>	Spring 2014	Arts Service – Village Ventures
<p>War Memorials – Survey and Restoration</p> <p>A survey of all free-standing externally located war memorials in Nottinghamshire has been completed. An intergenerational project around awareness, rededication and cleaning is being considered.</p>	2014	Conservation LIS

Area of work	Date	Lead Service
<p>Britain in the Great War, 1914-1918</p> <p>This living history weekend will include period music shows, dancing, cooking and military drill demonstrations, harvesting by Land Army Girls and heavy horses, troop manoeuvres, period vehicles, artillery firings and for children a Junior Boot Camp, battle interactives and a puppet show.</p> <p>28 June 2014 is the centenary of the date on which the Archduke Ferdinand of Austria was assassinated: an act which initiated a chain of events which brought about the start of the First World War a month later</p>	28 - 29 June 2014	Country Parks – Rufford
<p>Warhorse – Film showings</p> <p>Film screening at Mansfield, West Bridgford and Worksop Libraries of the 2011 film adaptation of author Michael Morpurgo's 1982 children's book. Directed by Steven Spielberg.</p>	September 2014	Libraries
<p>War Poetry</p> <p>at The Southwell Poetry Festival 2014</p> <p>Sessions on war poetry, opportunities for discussion of literature concerning the First World War and creative writing opportunities in libraries around the county.</p> <p>Children's event at West Bridgford Library with the poet and author Brian Moses around the Christmas Truce.</p>	<p>July 2014</p> <p>June to December 2014</p> <p>22 November 2014</p>	Libraries
<p>Library displays</p> <p>Displays will be mounted in Mansfield, West Bridgford and Worksop Libraries</p>	August/ September 2014	Libraries
<p>Ancestry training</p> <p>Training material has been developed to introduce library and archive users to the Ancestry website to trace military ancestors</p>	Ongoing	Libraries
<p>Turning Back the Pages on Nottinghamshire in World War One</p> <p>A special pictorial publication utilising photographs, memorabilia and manuscripts from Nottinghamshire Libraries and Archives. Images from the publication will</p>	August 2014	Libraries and Archives

Area of work	Date	Lead Service
also be used in digital screen presentations across Libraries and Archives.		

Other Options Considered

11. None.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

12. The range of activity planned and the support of the Trent to Trenches project is within the capacity and resources of the County Council.
13. In keeping with a commemorative approach, the range of activity enables the County Council to acknowledge the importance of the First World War and highlight the role of Nottinghamshire and its people.

Statutory and Policy Implications

14. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial implications

15. Activity identified within this report is allowed for in service budgets, therefore there are no direct additional financial resources required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That:

- 1) the work of the coordination group continues to ensure the County Council contributes to a fitting commemoration
- 2) the outline listing of County Council activity and support be agreed and progressed
- 3) a regular progress report continues to be provided to the Culture Committee as the programme develops.

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Constitutional Comments (NAB 12/09/13)

16. Culture Committee has authority to consider and approve the recommendations set out in this report by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (KLA 13/09/13)

17. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

World War One Centenary Commemoration – report to Culture Committee on 26 March 2013

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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