



**First World War Commemorations in Wales: Planning for 2014-
2018**

Feedback from the 3 events held in January and February 2013

Contents

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Initial Stakeholder Planning Discussions**
- 3. Roles of CyMAL: Museums, Archives and Libraries Wales and the Heritage Lottery Fund**
- 4. The First World War Centenary Programme Board**
- 5. The View beyond Wales**
- 6. The Discussion Framework**

1. Introduction

1.1 The next few years will see a particular public focus on the commemoration of the First World War. This was a period of history that had an impact on every town, village and community across Wales with the loss of so many young men. Organisations throughout the nation are already considering how they can tell the stories of such a turbulent time.

1.2 The Welsh Government has instigated a stakeholder discussion on the planning process for First World War commemorations. The aim will be to reach as many individuals, groups, communities and organisations which have an interest in taking part in their own commemorations or working in partnership to develop joint activities.

1.3 Carwyn Jones AM, First Minister, has appointed Prof Sir Deian Hopkin to advise him and the Government on how Wales should prepare an appropriate and interesting framework of commemorative activities, exhibitions and events which will result in a lasting digital legacy for Wales.

2. Initial Stakeholder Planning Discussions

2.1 Three initial events were held in Cardiff on 22 January 2013, Llandudno Junction on 28 January 2013 and Builth Wells on 15 February 2013. A total of over 140 people attended the three events from 75 organisations (see Appendix A for a list of organisations).

2.2 The purpose of the events in Cardiff, Llandudno and Builth Wells was to begin a discussion with a wide range of organisations in Wales on how to develop ideas, partnerships and events to mark this important historical period. This note summarises the main discussions held at these events.

3. The Roles of CyMAL: Museums, Archives and Libraries Wales and the Heritage Lottery Fund

3.1 CyMAL is a policy division in the Welsh Government Culture & Sport Portfolio based in Aberystwyth. The division is co-ordinating commemoration activity for the First World War across Wales from 2014 to 2018 on behalf of the Welsh Government. CyMAL is also supporting the work of Prof Sir Deian Hopkin.

3.2 CyMAL is working closely with the Welsh office of the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). The HLF is actively encouraging projects which commemorate and explore the impact of

Updated in July 2013

the First World War on communities in Wales and it has a range of open and targeted grant programmes. It will be particularly important for funding applications to clearly outline what outcomes the project will achieve for heritage, people and the wider community. The full list can be found on www.hlf.org.uk/outcomes and a specific call for First World War projects opened in May 2013 with a minimum annual UK budget of £1 million each year for the next 6 years.

4. The First World War Centenary Programme Board

The Board is chaired by Prof Sir Deian Hopkin and includes representation from education and higher education, Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales, the National Library of Wales, Archives and Records Council Wales, Arts Council Wales, The Heritage Lottery Fund, BBC Wales, Imperial War Museums, S4C, the National Eisteddfod, Cytûn, the Welsh Local Government Association, the Army in Wales, the Royal Navy, the Royal British Legion and the British Council. The role of the Board is to support Sir Deian's work, contribute to the planning process, review progress and develop national activities as part of the Framework Programme. The Board meets on a quarterly basis at present.

5. The View beyond Wales

5.1 UK Government WW1 Commemoration Committee:

Chaired by Rt Hon Maria Miller MP the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, this Committee includes the 4 expert advisers for the home nations, Prof Sir Deian Hopkin for Wales, Dr Andrew Murrison MP for England, Jeffrey Donaldson MP for Northern Ireland and Norman Drummond for Scotland.

5.2 Imperial War Museums

Founded in 1917, the IWM was established to record the events of the First World War and the contribution made by soldiers from across the British Empire. This focus has been maintained through its close links with Commonwealth countries. IWM has received a HLF grant of £4.5m to transform its First World War galleries to re-open in 2014. The IWM is providing expert advice to the home nations and provides a representative on the First World War Centenary Programme Board. The www.1914.org Centenary Partnership website provides opportunities for individuals and organisations to receive information about First World War commemorative activities.

6. The Discussion Framework

6.1 The discussion at the planning events was framed within 4 core questions:

- ▲ What will we be commemorating and when?

- △ With whom will we be co-operating?
- △ How will we commemorate?
- △ What will be the legacy?

6.2 Following initial presentations from Sir Deian, CyMAL and HLF, table discussions were held and chosen representatives provided feedback at a plenary session. Representatives were requested to focus particularly on partnership working, subject themes, audiences and the expected legacy. It was clear that many opportunities will be created from the likely interest in First World War events, family history, tourism, curriculum materials, media programmes etc. An overarching theme which emerged was the importance of war memorials as a physical link between the First World War and almost all communities in Wales. This could be progressed as a repair and maintenance programme and an interpretation strand to research and document the stories behind the names on local and national war memorials.

6.3 The representation of the war and the impact of war on Welsh culture was also an overarching theme - including the death of the poet Hedd Wyn in 1917, the great work 'In Parenthesis' by David Jones; the paintings of Christopher Williams; the poetry of Edward Thomas, Wilfred Owen, Siegfried Sassoon and Robert Graves (both of whom served with the Royal Welch Fusiliers).

6.4 Potential Framework Programme Themes

The following themes were identified following discussion at the planning sessions

Social Impact

on families, children, women;
class and social mobility.

Military Developments

conscription;
propaganda and recruitment drives across Wales;
the armed forces;
the Merchant Navy;
weapons;
battles;
the life of the soldier;
survivors' stories;
role of charitable organisations, for example the War Victims Relief Fund;
men from the British Empire who joined the war effort, for example Australia, Canada, South Africa, New Zealand, India and the Empire's role in immigration to Wales;
refugees' stories;
League of Nations;

Updated in July 2013

transition to civilian life, homes for heroes.

The Home Front

politics, role of David Lloyd George;
the roles of women;
children and education;
armed forces training;
industrial growth;
impact on agriculture;
impact on the landscape of Wales including the effect on the use of stately homes,
archaeology, forestry and victory gardens;
physical health, mental health and hospitals;
communication of war news, lack of access to media, role of 'Tallyman';
how roles in work were transferred into service roles including quarrymen into
sappers, road builders, and miners into tunnellers.

The Peace Movement

conscientious objectors;
the role of the Quakers;
foundation of Cymdeithas y Cymod / The Fellowship of Reconciliation in Wales in
1914
religious response to the war.

Welsh Culture and Identity

the Welsh language and war, use of differing propaganda in Welsh;
patriotism;
Lloyd George's Army;
culture and literature (poetry, music, the arts).

6.5 The three events all held a lively discussion on how interpretation could bring the subject themes to life, seeking ways to relate common experiences to life today, providing authentic experiences for children, challenging young people to think about the causes of war then and now, and providing opportunities for everyone to research their own family history and stories.

6.6 The end date for commemoration activities was also the subject for debate. Much of the impact of the First World War was experienced after 1918, including military action until 1919. Memorials and memorial halls were built after 1918. The IWM will continue its commemorative programme until 2029. There was a consensus that the Framework will need to encompass post 1918 events.

6.7 Establishing Partnerships

Updated in July 2013

All representatives agreed that establishing partnerships will be an important aspect of organising and delivering commemorative activities. The challenge will be to enable individuals and organisations to easily find out about emerging partnerships over the next 12 months and beyond, and also to encourage an exchange of ideas. Potential organisations to facilitate partnership working were identified as:-

CyMAL

HLF

National Library of Wales

Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales

People's Collection Wales

Cadw

Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales

Welsh military museums

Local museums, archives and libraries

BBC

S4C

The National Eisteddfod of Wales

IWM

Cymdeithas y Cymod (The Fellowship of Reconciliation in Wales)

Quakers in Wales

Community groups, local history societies and specialist interest groups

Monuments in Flanders Campaign

The Armed Forces

Western Front Association

Royal British Legion

Town and Community Councils

Re-enactment Groups

The Church in Wales

Yr Urdd

Scout and Guide Associations

6.8 Engaging Audiences

All planning events focused on the best way to engage audiences. There was general support for an inclusive approach in engaging with audiences which reflected the broad range of potential subject themes. Key audiences were identified as:

children and young people, including via schools, formal groups such as Scout and Guide Associations and Yr Urdd; less formal groups such as local or regional youth groups and young people's heritage groups; young offenders;

families;

ethnic minority groups;

academic audiences; universities and colleges;

disability groups;

tourists;

serving members of the armed forces;
special interest groups;
animal welfare organisations.

6.9 Communication

There was general agreement at all events that communication with audiences could take many different forms including social media, websites, radio, television, local and national press. Most contributors at the events supported the establishment of a Welsh website and associated social media where interested individuals and organisations could both access relevant information and contribute their own information. The website could follow the progress of life on the front line and on the home front as it developed, for example an 'On this day' feature and blogs. There was also support for linkages to the IWM website to maximise the opportunities for finding out about what was planned and to contribute information about Welsh events and activities.

It was acknowledged that the First World War Centenary is a sensitive subject which can be approached from many perspectives. Attendees felt that it will be essential that audiences are educated about why the centenary is important, and made aware that events and projects are about commemoration and reflection.

The importance of avoiding duplication in communication was highlighted with support for using existing networks and partnerships to communicate information about commemorative events. The National Eisteddfod was suggested as an event to showcase centenary projects.

6.10 Legacy

The general consensus was that the Framework Programme should create a legacy of digital material and resources, which will help people have a better understanding of the First World War and its impact on Wales. Other outcomes were identified as:

Encouraging and promoting resources to be used by individuals, groups and organisations throughout Wales and across the UK.

Increased understanding of the contribution that Wales made to the First World War and the variety of that contribution.

Better awareness of Wales' place in Europe and an encouragement to promote twinning and co-operation between communities in Wales and abroad.

Improved awareness about and understanding of the kinds of organisations and information available to people who are interested in the heritage of Wales.

Increasing the amount of material relating to the First World War deposited in museums, archives and libraries which enhance an understanding of the period.

Updated in July 2013

Greater community cohesion as a result of bringing diverse people together to develop commemorative activities.

Increase in visitors to Welsh heritage and cultural sites and increased engagement in local and national history groups.

Improved understanding of the growth of the Peace Movement during and after the First World War and of the work of Cymdeithas y Cymod.

Completion of a national memorial to Welsh casualties of the First World War in Langemark.

7. Next Steps

7.1 CyMAL will complete the initial stakeholder discussions by the end of March 2013 and then will progress a draft outline Framework Programme for further discussion. A further draft will be discussed with Ministers in July and planning continued during 2013 to prepare for the beginning of the centenary.

7.2 A website to support the communication of information about planning activities will be established by the end of August 2013.

7.3 The targeted HLF First World War grant programme opened to applications in May 2013. You can find out more about HLF's support for projects that remember the First World War and more about projects HLF has already funded on the HLF website.

For more information:

<p>CyMAL: Museums, Archives and Libraries Wales</p> <p>Menna Breese, Geraint Evans and Sam Wallis</p> <p>Email: cymruncofio-walesremembers1914-1918@wales.gsi.gov.uk Telephone: 0300 062 2112 Fax: 0300 062 2052 Address: Welsh Government, Rhodfa Padarn, Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 3UR Web: www.wales.gov.uk/cymal</p> <hr/> <p>Heritage Lottery Fund</p> <p>Stephen Barlow and the Development Team</p> <p>E-mail: wales@hlf.org.uk Telephone: 029 2034 3413 Address: James William House, 9 Museum Place, Cardiff, CF10 3BD</p>
--

Updated in July 2013

Web: www.hlf.org.uk

Annex A

List of organisations represented at the events to plan the commemoration of the First World War

Ancient Arts
Barry at War
BBC Cymru Wales
Broughton District History Group
Caerphilly Museums Service
CARAD
Carmarthenshire County Museum
Ceredigion Museum
Chepstow Town Council
Chirk Town Council
Civic Trust for Wales
Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust
The Community Council of Abertillery and Llanhilleth
Conwy County Borough Council
Cwmbran Community Council
Denbighshire Record Office
Dyfed Archaeological Trust
Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru
Flintshire Records Office
The Fellowship of Reconciliation in Wales
Glamorgan Archives
Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, Swansea
Gwynedd Archives
Gwynedd Council
Gwynedd Genealogy Society
Heritage Lottery Fund
History Research Wales
International Guild of Battlefield Guides
Kidwelly Industrial Museum
Llandrindod and Pales Local Quaker Meeting
Llangynidr Local History Society
Meeting of Friends in Wales, Quakers
National Library of Wales
National Museum Wales
National Trust
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Newport Museum and Art Gallery
North Wales Area Quaker Meeting
One Voice Wales
Passchendaele Society, Belgium

Updated in July 2013

People's Collection Wales

PLANED

The Regimental Museum of the Royal Welsh

Rhondda Cynon Taf Museum Service

Rhuddlan Local History Society

Rhydymwyn Valley History Society

Roderic Bowen Library and Archives (University of Wales Trinity St David)

Rossett Community Council

Royal British Legion

Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales

Royal Welch Fusiliers Museum

S4C

Shirenewton Historical Society

South Wales Museums

St Cyres School, Penarth

Swansea Museum

Swansea University

Swansea University Archives

Thomas Telford Centre (Menai Bridge)

Welsh Books Council

Wales Council for Voluntary Action

Wales Peace Institute

Welsh Government: Cadw

Welsh Government: Curriculum Division

Welsh Government: CyMAL: Museums Archives and Libraries Wales

Welsh Historical Gardens Trust

Welsh Holly

Welsh Local Government Association

Welsh Memorial in Flanders Campaign

Wireless in Wales Museum (Denbigh)

Women's Archive of Wales

Women's International League for Peace and Justice

Wrexham County Borough Council

160th (Wales) Brigade