



WW1 REFERENCE GROUP BULLETIN

Welcome to the Bulletin of the WW1 Reference Group

Issue 3 – December 2014

This bulletin is aimed at those with an interest in the WW1 research and Centenary activities of Leicestershire and Rutland and is a product of the WW1 Reference Group hosted by Leicestershire County Council (contact: Tim.Webster@leics.gov.uk).

The WW1 Reference Group is chaired by Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire, Colonel R M L Colville, and its members include Leicestershire County Council, Leicester City Council, the University of Leicester, and representatives of the Royal British Legion, the East Midlands Reserve Forces and Cadets Association and more.

The Groups' aims are to promote activities marking the Centenary of World War One.

The bulletin is free and can be subscribed to by emailing the editor at Remembrance100@leics.gov.uk

You are invited to send us information on local events and projects for inclusion in future Bulletins.

Thank you for reading.



Pack Up Your Troubles – A Roaring Success!

The Lord Lieutenant's charity concert held at the Curve on 2nd October was a sell-out and roaring success.

The event was presented by Applause in conjunction with Curve and BBC Radio Leicester and raised over £8,000 for the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal.

Photographs from the amazing night can be seen on the County Council's Flickr channel:



WW1 Reference Group – Activity Update

Remembrance Day

On Sunday 9th November the Chairman joined the Lord Mayor and Lord Lieutenant at the War Memorial in Victoria Park for Remembrance Sunday. Through our support to the Leicestershire Lieutenancy we had Lieutenancy representation at some 40 services and parades across the City and County.



A service was also held at County Hall:



Vice Lord Lieutenant Helps to Launch Bottesford WW1 Project

The Reference Group's Chairperson, Col. Murray Colville, attended a launch event for one of Leicestershire's HLF-funded WW1 projects on 28th September.

Photographs by Kate Pugh and Neil Fortey:



“It was standing room only in the village hall when the Bottesford Parish 1st World War Centenary Project launch opened on Sunday 28th September. The hall was packed with people of all ages, both local and from as far a field as Torquay, who had come to find out more about the project, make their contributions and pay respect to the 1914 -1918 generation.”

www.bottesfordhistory.org.uk



Invisible heroes: The Sikhs and Commonwealth Soldiers in World War One

A free event was hosted by the Sikh Heritage and Cultural Society in association with the University of Leicester on the 18th October, highlighting the contributions made by the Sikhs and Commonwealth soldiers during the First World War. It was well attended and left the audience with an appetite for more of the history of this subject area.

Talks included:

Guest of Honour Brigadier Richard Stanford, MBE - 'WW1 and the Sikhs Involvement'

Dr. Rami Ranger, MBE, FRSA - Chairman British Sikh Association

Bobby Singh Bansal, Writer and Historian - 'SIKHS Leading to and in WW1'

Balbir Singh Flora - 'Sikhs and Commonwealth Soldiers participation in WW1'



Images forwarded by Resham Singh Sandhu MBE DL



War Memorials Project Update

Blackfordby Unveils New War Memorial

On 27th October, a new WW1 and WW2 memorial was unveiled in the village of Blackfordby, near Ashby in Northwest Leicestershire. It is located near to the ancient village spring, and was dedicated by Bishop Christopher. The memorial takes the form of a stone obelisk with inscribed plaques on its base, and was designed and made by Andy Oldfield of The Fringe Workshop in Derbyshire. Space has also been allowed for memorial wooden crosses to be planted nearby. Local school children each left a cross with a name from the war memorial. An exhibition based on wartime Blackfordby and its casualties was held in the Methodist Church (which itself contains a war memorial plaque and roll of honour). Blackfordby's Church of England church also has a war memorial clock in the tower. The new memorial was funded locally, the project receiving support from Ashby Town Council, Ashby Museum, and the local branch of the Royal British Legion.



New Website Receiving Record Hits!



The new War Memorials Project website www.leicestershirowarmemorials.co.uk has been receiving contact from the public in record numbers. The new site is more visible in search engines, so people from across the UK and around the world are finding our records for their relatives.

The great news for us is that we are both able to provide information to enquirers, and are receiving it too – like this photograph of George Webb, who is commemorated on the Dunton Bassett war memorial after being killed in 1915 while in the Leicestershire Regiment. This was sent in by Tim Brown.

The project can be contacted at warmemorials@leics.gov.uk



Century of Stories Update

The project has now been running for 3 months and we are delighted with the response we have had from groups and individuals from all around Leicestershire.

Following on from the History cafes we have over 20 participants who are now researching their story with help from our senior research Buddy, John Sutton from the Western Front Association. These stories range from prisoners of war to reserved occupations.

We are beginning a Community project in Ellistown early next year which will be an intergenerational project hosted at Ellistown primary school.



Our groups of adults with learning disabilities have been very busy making poppies and are writing letters and Christmas cards to the soldiers on the Western Front.

(Left: Poppies made by the Bosworth Tommies)

Our first sharing day for all participants will be held on December 16th at Donington Le Heath Manor House where we will hear from our participants and enjoy a Christmas Banquet afterwards.

(Right: volunteers show the topics they are interested in researching)



For more information or to enquire about future History Cafe dates please visit our website www.centuryofstories.org.uk or contact the project team at centuryofstorires@leics.gov.uk.



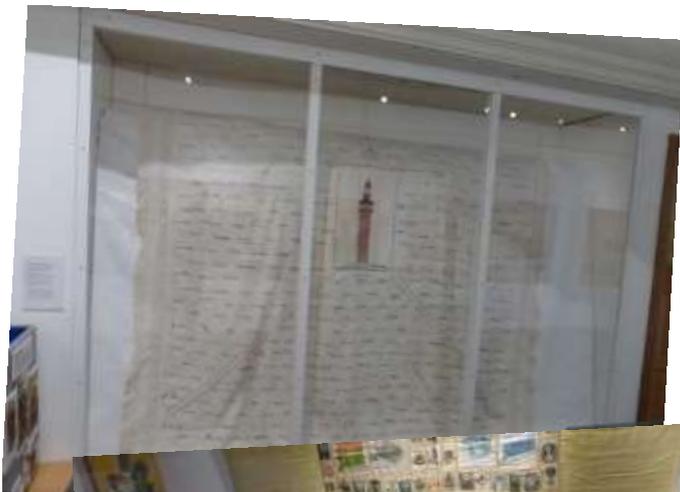
Leicester University Update

 <p>5th NORTHERN GENERAL HOSPITAL, LEICESTER</p>	<p>Work continues to be done on researching the University campus when it was the 5th Northern General Hospital during WW1. Dr Sally Horrocks is supervising some student research projects, which include using and digitising some of the University's Special Collections materials.</p>
	<p>The Fielding Johnson Building participated in a 'Lights Out' event on Monday 4 August and has been lit up red since Thursday 23 October in support of the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal</p>
	<p>Staff, students and members of the public have been crafting poppies as part of the 'Knit a Poppy Project' which can be found at Entrance 2. BBC Radio Leicester broadcast their afternoon show live on campus on Thursday 6 November as the University prepared for Remembrance Sunday. Listen again to Rupal's show here</p>
	<p>The contributions made by Sikh and Commonwealth soldiers during the First World War formed the foundations of a free public lecture, 'Invisible Heroes: The Sikhs and Commonwealth Soldiers in World War One', which took place at the University on Saturday 18 October organised by the Sikh Welfare and Cultural Society (SWCS).</p>
	<p>Literary Leicester featured lectures by Mark Bostridge on his new book, <i>The Fateful Year: England in 1914</i> and by Dr Sally Horrocks and Colin Hyde on the local oral history archives relating to WW1.</p>



Centenary Events in Photographs

Send Centenary photographs to Remembrance100@leics.gov.uk



Clockwise from top left: Whitwick Remembers 3rd August 2014; Oadby Church and De Montfort Hall light up in red, Charnwood Museum's WW1 quilt of signatures and Home Front exhibition

