

BELFAST SOMME 100

Events Guide



HistoryHubUlster

Supported by



Belfast
City Council

The Guiding Principles of the Project are:

- Global connections as well as local relevance
- Contemporary methods of production
- Community based and shared space events
- Collaboration and partnership across the City
- Inclusion, access and diversity

The Objectives of the Project are:

- Dispel myths and stereotypes
- Break down prejudices and assumptions
- Promote and encourage dialogue within communities and with other communities
- Allow participants to learn about others
- Enable the development of friendships
- Allow for the exploration of shared values
- Address issues of mutual interest across the City
- Create a space which allows the development of mutual understanding
- Open shared spaces and opening up spaces perceived to not be shared
- Inspire others
- Provide equality of access to all communities

belfastsomme100.com
@belfastsomme100

Cover Image Credit: Castleton Lanterns

Samuel McCall was born in Belfast in 1898 to foreman bricklayer William Alexander McCall and Elizabeth Kerr who were married in Ballygowan in 1892. In 1901 the family lived in Rhyl in Wales and by 1911 they had made their home on York Road Belfast and Samuel was the only child, his two siblings having previously died. By 1916 the family were living in Gainsborough Drive, Belfast. Samuel worked as an advertising clerk with the Belfast Evening Telegraph and enlisted with the 14th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles on 4 October 1915. He died on 1 July 1916, on the first day of the Battles of the Somme, at the age of 19 and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, France.

BELFAST SOMME 100

Belfast Somme 100 is a programme of commemorative events marking the centenary of the battles of the Somme, and the place of the Somme campaign within the First World War. The project will focus on the personalities and stories associated with the campaign and mark its place in the social and political history of Northern Ireland and pre-partition Ireland.

The *Belfast Somme 100* project aims to raise awareness of previously overlooked or submerged stories and personal connections that both the Somme and the events of 1916 have had with the broader history and development of Northern Ireland.

The project is run by History Hub Ulster with an Advisory Panel made up of experts in the period and community leaders. It is funded by Belfast City Council.

HISTORY HUB ULSTER

History Hub Ulster is a community based organisation. We aim to promote and produce projects and partnerships which are engaging to all members of the community and to instil a sense of pride in our ancestors' achievements; To put family and communities at the centre of the historical narrative; To engage the communities of Ulster with their history by pursuing interesting and innovative projects which enhance the individual's understanding of their shared heritage.

Chair	Karen O'Rawe
Treasurer	Gavin Bamford
Secretary	Faye Rice
Project Managers	Snow Water (Carolyn Mathers and Stephen Douds)

Catherine Burrell, Nigel Henderson, Thomas Lynas,
Mark McCrea, Michael Nugent

Advisory Panel (Chair Karen O'Rawe)	
Philip Orr	Historian
Professor Richard Grayson	Historian
Rt Hon Jeffrey Donaldson MP	WW1 Centenary Committee NI
John MacVicar	Royal British Legion
Rev Mervyn Gibson	Orange Institution
Dr. William Mitchell	ACT
Bobby Foster	Spectrum Centre
Mrs Elaine Reid	Queen's University Belfast – Living Legacies 1914-18
David Hagan	Unionist Centenary Committee
Sam White	Charter NI

KEY DATES

1 July 1916 – 18 November 1916

Battles of the Somme

1 - 13 July Battle of Albert
Subsidiary Attack: Gommecourt Salient

14 - 17 July Battle of Bazentin

19 July Subsidiary action:
Attack at Fromelles (on Aubers Ridge, Artois)

20 – 25 July Subsequent action:
Attacks at High Wood

15 July – 3 September Battle of Delville Wood

23 July – 3 September Battle of Pozières

3 – 6 September Battle of Guillemont

9 September Battle of Ginchy

15 – 22 September Battle of
Flers-Courcelette

25 – 28 September Battle of Morval

26 – 28 September Battle of Thiepval

1 – 18 October Battle of Le Transloy

1 October – 11 November Battle of the
Ancre Heights

13 – 18 November Battle of the Ancre

FLAGSHIP
EVENTS

Somme Commemoration Parade Poppy Project

18th June 10.30am

Across Belfast

A parade to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the start of the Battle of the Somme on 1st July 1916 has been organised by the 2016 committee. Parades will leave North, South, East and West Belfast at approx 10:30am on 18th June meeting in Belfast City Centre for wreath laying. Poppies for every man who fell on the first day of the Somme will be carried by parade participants. The combined parade will then make its way to Woodvale Park for a re-enactment of the first day of the Battle of the Somme which will start around 1:30pm.

Somme Commemoration Concert with the Band of the Irish Guards

28th June 7pm

Alexandra Presbyterian Church, 80 York Road, Belfast

The Band of the Irish Guards will play at this commemorative concert marking the centenary of the Battle of the Somme during the First World War. It reflects on the sacrifice of those from Belfast during the 141 days of the Somme offensive. The concert will take place in Alexandra Presbyterian Church, the home of the Castleton Lanterns project and the Castleton Lanterns photographs will be on show. Tickets £5 plus booking fee, see belfastsomme100.com for details. Supported by the Royal British Legion.

All proceeds to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.



Belfast Somme Commemoration

1st July 11am

The Cenotaph, Belfast City Hall

Annual wreath laying ceremony, this year commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme and the men from the 36th (Ulster) Division and 16th (Irish) Division who lost their lives.

Official Somme Commemorative Service

3rd July 3.30pm

St Anne's Cathedral

The service will be an opportunity not only to mark the overall loss of life in that battle, which was catastrophic, but in particular to recognise the sacrifice of many servicemen and their families whose experience of this time a hundred years ago changed the circumstances and quality of their lives forever. The preacher is to be the Dean of Belfast, the Very Reverend John Mann. The service is invitation only – to request a place please email admin@causewayinstitute.com

Event marking Guillemont / Ginchy Centenary

16th Irish Division event September

A weekend event marking the 16th Division's part in capturing the Somme Valley towns of Guillemont and Ginchy in September 1916. Over 4000 men from the division were killed in just 10 days and the event will highlight and commemorate the role they played. This event is in development, check belfastsomme100.com for updates.

Trench Art Exhibition

16th - 19th September Admission free

Farset International, 466 Springfield Road

First World War soldiers didn't spend all their time fighting. In long periods of rest and training many soldiers made highly decorated artefacts often from the ammunition around them. This exhibition will reflect the full range of artefacts made during the many battles of the Somme and reveal a hidden world of creativity from soldiers all along the Western Front.



Somme Western Front Association Conference

8th October

Public Record Office of Northern Ireland

The Western Front Association, formed in 1980 to maintain interest in the First World War, will host a day long conference in association with Belfast Somme 100. The event will reflect the Association's values of perpetuating the memory, courage and comradeship of all those who fought. Full details will be announced shortly at belfastsomme100.com

Hedge School

14th November

Venue to be confirmed

The final event of the entire Belfast Somme 100 programme will be a robust discussion of the Somme and the Great War from a variety of perspectives. Hosted by the Fellowship of the Messines Association, this will be an opportunity for thoughtful reflection, wide-ranging discussion in a cross-community setting. See belfastsomme100.com for details as they are announced.

Keith Jeffery Memorial Lecture

By Margaret McMillan

Professor Keith Jeffery who died in Feb 2016 was remembered in the Guardian as '*an affable and warm-hearted historian*'. He completed his last major work '1916: A Global History' the year before he died. Keith Jeffery was a major influence on his many students first at Ulster and then at Queen's University where he was Professor of British History. This special event will reflect Keith's special interest in the First World War and Ireland. See belfastsomme100.com for details as they are announced.

With The Men in France, the Women Didn't Dance

June - November

A project run by a group of women from Belfast highlighting the role of women on the homefront during the First World War. This project will incorporate the representation of women in the 18th June Parade (see page 5) – suffragettes, munitionettes, land girls, VADs and factory workers. It will also include a period event for all the family in the renamed 'Ulster Tower Street' on 1st July and a drama in September. Talks by the women on the role of women during the First World War are available for all communities in Belfast. If you are interested in having a talk in your community, please email Chelsea at the_base@lineone.net.

Great War at Home

29th – 30th October

11am, 11.30am, 12pm, 2pm, 2.30pm, 3pm

Ulster Folk and Transport Museum, Cultra

'World War at Home' takes you back 100 years so you can meet your ancestors in the villages, on the city streets and in the countryside where they lived to see how they fared during the First World War. Overhear the residents of Ballycultra share their fear of German spies, visit the village post office where letters from the Somme bring tragic news of deaths on the front and hear from a woman working long hours in a Belfast munitions factory. Presented by Kabosh Theatre Company, written by Philip Orr and directed by Paula McFetridge 'World War at Home' is not to be missed. To book, please see belfastsomme.100.com.

Medal in the Drawer

September

Based on real events, Medal in the Drawer by Brenda Winter-Palmer tells the story of four young men from Belfast and their journey from their home city to the battlefields of the Western Front where they fought as members of the 36th Ulster Division and the Connaught Rangers. This specially written show will be performed in communities across Belfast – see belfastsomme100.com for details. In association with Living Legacies 1914-18.

Artists at the Somme

October

Ulster Museum

More writers and poets fought at the Somme than in any other battle in history. Taken together with the visual artists and musicians who developed work in response to the Somme, the battle has a crucial significance for art in the 20th century. In this special event at the Ulster Museum, the creative work of these artists will be used to see the Somme in a new light. For more details see belfastsomme100.com.



Castleton Lanterns

1st – 14th November 9am-9pm

The Big Screen, Belfast City Hall

Images of First World War servicemen from the Castleton Lanterns Project. The Castleton Lanterns slides were found in the organ loft of Alexandra Presbyterian Church in 2013. Commissioned by the congregation of Castleton, the famous Belfast photographer Mr Alex. R. Hogg, made the slides of 'our men at the front' and were shown in December 1918 to the families of Castleton Church. They were put in a box and forgotten for 95 years. Refound, the images of men from one small community on the York Road gives us a poignant reminder of the breadth and scale of First World War Service.

First World War Poetry Exhibition

June – November in libraries across Belfast

This travelling exhibition features the poetry of local men and women and is an alternative to the war poetry which exists in the public consciousness. The poetry is 'from the streets' and tells the stories associated with the 1914-18 period and marks Ulster's place in the First World War. It aims to raise awareness of previously overlooked or submerged social history in the form of poetry and provides an artistic connection to the period. See belfastsomme100.com for locations. In Association with Libraries NI.



There will be a number of local events taking place throughout the year in Belfast. These will include exhibitions, parades, film showings, dramas, lectures, talks, debates and concerts. A small selection of these events are included below. Keep a regular check on our website at belfastsomme100.com, Facebook page, and follow us on twitter @belfastsomme100

NORTH BELFAST

Shore Road Hubb is leading on a programme of events for North Belfast. Beginning with Dawn of the Somme, a family project in Tigers Bay which will focus on families and intergenerational workshops, the programme will also include a Somme Commemorative Performance. The programme will culminate with the opening of a new memorial and lighting of a beacon at Skegoneill Avenue in November. The North Belfast programme also includes the Band of the Irish Guards playing on 28th June in Alexandra Presbyterian Church

Please see page 5

SOUTH BELFAST

South Belfast Somme along with Village Regeneration Scheme is leading on a programme of events for South Belfast. Beginning with a family day at the launch of the Somme mural in Barrington Street on 24th June as part of the Poppy Trail, the programme will include events from June to November across South Belfast. The South Belfast programme also includes events in the Belfast Book Festival at the Crescent Arts Centre.

Please see page 24

EAST BELFAST

'East Belfast Somme 100' is leading on a programme of events, which began with 'Tommy & Hugh: A Somme Drama & Concert' on 4th June in Ashfield Boy's High School. Family events are planned around the 1st July, with a Somme Community Day occurring on 24th September; the programme will conclude at the annual 'Row on Row' remembrance event at Pitt Park on 18th November. The East Belfast programme also includes the annual Battle of the Somme Commemoration Parade on the evening of 1st July.

Please see belfastsomme100.com for details.

WEST BELFAST

The Spectrum Centre is leading on the community events for West Belfast. Among the activities planned are a new activity and learning book on the Somme to be circulated free to schools and community centres in the area, interactive workshops aimed at educating children and young people and, on July 1st, a dawn service to be held at the War Memorial in Woodvale Park with large-scale community involvement.

Please see belfastsomme100.com for details.

Check out Facebook and Twitter for further information as events come up. Please note that dates and times of some events may be subject to change.



FILM EVENTS

Flanders Fields on Film

Presented by the QFT and Film Hub

Throughout July Queen's Film Theatre in partnership with Film Hub NI will be screening films that explore and represent the tragedy, heroism and horror of trench warfare of 1916. Cinema was a key vehicle for communication from the frontline to the home front, with families capturing a visual sense of what their loved ones were going through via newsreels from Europe.

The QFT will show a short season of films, and Film Hub NI members across Northern Ireland will be offered the chance to bring the films to their local communities.

Focussed particularly around the 1916 film 'The Battle of the Somme', released in August 1916 and watched by an estimated 20 million people, this will be an opportunity to develop our understating of WWI on screen.

www.queensfilmtheatre.com

www.filmhubni.org.uk



LECTURES, WALKS — AND TALKS —

A short series of history walks and talks will take place at venues across Belfast during the 141 days of the Belfast Somme 100 project. Together these events will open up overlooked and sometimes forgotten ways in the which the Somme affected the lives of almost everyone in Belfast in the summer and autumn of 1916.

Admission is free. Please register in advance at www.belfastsomme100.com

Belfast Public Memorials - Personal Perspectives With Nigel Henderson

24th June 12.30pm

Start: Foyer of Belfast City Hall

A free walking tour that tells the personal stories of some of many names on Belfast's public memorials to the Somme campaign.

The Home Front

A lecture by Dr Robert Whan

27th June 6.30pm

Central Library

Training Kitchener's New Army in Ireland – what can archeology reveal?

By Heather Montgomery

4th July 6.30pm

Central Library

**1916 Walking Tour of Belfast
merchant companies**

With Nigel Henderson

5th July 12:30pm

Start: Front gates of Belfast City Hall

This tour will focus on the Somme stories of the sons and daughters of some of Belfast's most famous merchant families.

1916 Sources Tour

With Catherine Morrow

6th July 3pm

Central Library

'Opening the Archives' of the Newspaper Library -
A free tour of the invaluable resources of historic Belfast
newspapers. In Association with Libraries NI

Inner East Belfast Walking Tour

With Jason Burke

19th August 2pm

Start: see belfastsomme100.com for details.
Presented as part of the East Belfast Festival

Campbell College Tour

With Jason Burke

27th August 11am

Start: Campbell College Reception

Few Belfast schools have as strong a connection to the Somme and the First World War as Campbell College. A highlight of this tour will be the school's Central Hall where the 126 past pupils historic who fell in the First World War are remembered.

LECTURES, WALKS
— AND TALKS —



IN THE FIELD,
1-7-'16,
- OUR SUMMER.

Green and yellow, scarlet, blue,
Charlock, poppies, cornflowers too,
All the wealth of summer new,
As we march by.

Along the trench the flowers grow,
Beneath the network's deadly row,
The cruel wires that stop the foe,
Where brave men die.

All the colours soon will fade,
Summer's gifts be disarrayed,
Autumn's debt be fully paid -
Shall we march by?



TO OUR MOURNING WOMEN.

Widowed women, whose
days are of sorrow,
With hands of the Past
on the eyes of Tomorrow;
With the hush and the wash
and the clutch of the sea
Between you and that one,
between that one and me -
Take you the solace that
our men rest,
Each with his welcome
as cherished guest,
Folded in lilies to
France's breast.

Neighbour breezes are
lipping the waves
To leave your thoughts at
those thoughtful graves;
And a gallant voice of
fulfilment comes
Back to Britain on soft
surf drama
Take you then solace,
unburden your weeping,
If your hearts are folded
in France and sleeping,
Your hearts, sad sisters,
are in safe keeping.

Hurrah for Ginchy

D Carroll, HMS Ajax
Northern Constitution 21st October 1916

[It will be remembered that Ginchy
and Guillemont, pillars of the German defence,
were the scene of the most memorable
and glorious Irish gallantry.]

Irish hearts were never prouder,
Irish praise was never louder,
You can almost smell the powder
And hear the clash of steel
As you read the thrilling story
And unprecedented glory
Of the dashing Irish regiments
Who made the "Jerrys" squeal.

They have won the approbation
And unstinted admiration,
Of every Allied nation
For their deeds of "Derring-do."
Faith, if there is any fighting
For a wrong that wants arighting
You may trust the "bhoys" of Paddy's land
To see the matter thro'.

And before the war is finished
With ardour undiminished
The "bhoys" will claim another day
To make the "Jerrys" whine;
The Murphies and the Lynches
Will spring from out the trenches
And never stop pursuing
Till the Bosches cross the Rhine.

Arrah, glory, Connaught Rangers"
You never dream of dangers,
And glory to the Dublin
and the Munster Fusiliers.
Likewise the Irish Rifles
Who never deal in trifles;
You're heroes every one of you;
Three hearty Allied sheers.

OUR HONOURED DEAD

(Composed July 12th.)

They lie asleep to-day in France,
Our brave, our noble boys
Who shared a short, short time ago
Our pleasures and our joys.

Why are our eyes so dim to-day?
And why our hearts distressed?
'Tis because the Kaiser's cruel greed
Has robbed us of our best.

The rush of work is stopped to-day,
While heads are bowed in prayer;
The voice of those we miss so much
Comes floating on the air.

Five minutes was the given time,
And what a rush of thought;
I heard a voice say "Victory,"
But oh so dearly bought.

Can time replace the happiness
That cruel greed destroys?
Ask at a home within our midst
That mourns three noble boys.

Ask the mother whose sons are gone,
Lest to her through war;
A wound so deep may sometimes heal,
But always leaves a scar.

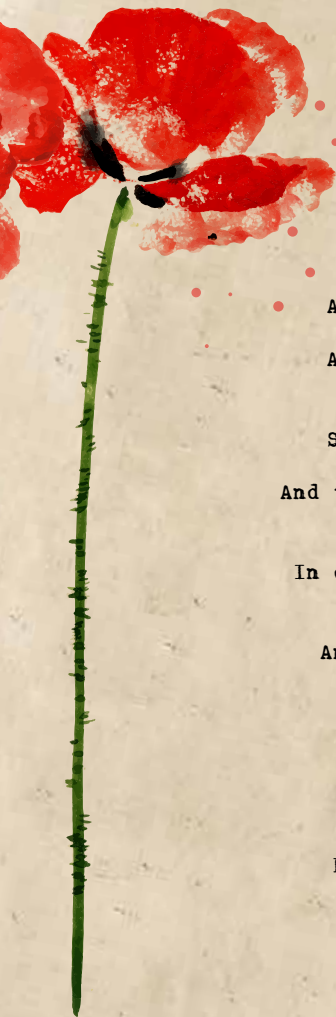
Sleep on our *****, take your rest,
You helped to turn the tide,
And though our eyes are filled with tears,
Our hearts are filled with pride.

In days to come, when strife has ceased,
And war is at an end,
We will tell about you often
And with pride will call you friend.

Some think we may forget you,
But no, we never will;
New friend may rise around us,
We will think about you still.

Will your nation ever forget you,
How you fought your country's foe?
In the name of right and justice
We would gladly answer "No."

E. FLETCHER,
Nurse, Infirmary.



LECTURES, WALKS
— AND TALKS —

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Nurses, Medics and Volunteers – Ulster and the First World War

By Dr Johanne Devlin Trew

September

See belfastsomme100.com for details

This will uncover the stories of local nurses, doctors, and volunteers whose work during the Somme campaign did much to improve healthcare for injured soldiers. This talk is built around a number of objects and diaries and reveals how the home front here in Ulster was just as important as the battlefields of France.

West Belfast Tour

By Prof Richard Grayson,
Goldsmiths, University of London

3rd September 12:30pm

Start: Cultúrlann

This high-tech interactive tour of West Belfast will cover the personal and shared history of members of the West Belfast UVF of 1913-14 from the Falls and the Shankill who served in the war. In Association with Living Legacies.

The Living Legacies 1914-18 Engagement Centre is a focal point for connecting academic and community researchers interested in how the First World War lives on in the twenty-first century world. The Centre is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) in partnership with the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). For further information please see www.livinglegacies1914-18.ac.uk

Workshops and Events

23rd July

6th of August

13th of August

20th of August

Locations across Belfast.
Admission free.
See belfastsomme100.com
for details.



Young at Art Events will be delivering a series of Somme related high quality events and interactive entertainment for children and families that enhance creativity and expression and support learning.

They will bring together professional artists with children in schools, playgroups and youth groups to explore the arts.

Tank Workshop

The First World War was the first time tanks had ever been used in military conflict. Learn more about these amazing technological advancements by making your very own tank, from recycled materials.

Nurses Hats

Nursing during the First World War was a dangerous but important job. Learn more about some of the brave nurses that saved thousands of lives in difficult circumstances by making your very own Nurses Hat.

Sailor Hats

The Royal Navy played an important role during the First World War, carrying supplies and blocking enemy ports. In 1914, Britain had the biggest and strongest Navy in the world. Get into the maritime spirit by making your very own sailor hat.

Horses

Horses played a crucial role in the First World War and because of their strength, were used to carry food and supplies to soldiers at the front. Get creative and use your imagination to make your very own war horse out of craft materials.

Pigeon Postcards

Inspired by 'Cher Ami' the famous carrier pigeon who delivered messages during the First World War and saved hundreds of lives. Our pigeon postcards encourage you to get creative, and write a message to someone you care about.

HMS CAROLINE

Family Open Day

2nd July 10am – 5pm

A range of partners will join forces for a family day at HMS Caroline. Creative Centenaries will run green screen activities allowing you to go back in time on board the ship.

Cost: Normal visitor admission applies

Laser Cutting Workshops

6th & 28th August 10am – 5pm

Use some of the latest digital fabrication technologies, including laser cutting, to reimagine and recreate parts of the cruiser. In partnership with FabLab Nerve Centre.

Cost: Normal visitor admission applies





Creative Centenaries at the Ulster Museum

Led by the Nerve Centre

3rd June - 18th September

Five zones bring together extensive photographic and video archive material from leading heritage organisations including the Imperial War Museum, National Museums Northern Ireland, National Library of Ireland, and PRONI. For more events and the latest information on Decade of Centenaries activities across Northern Ireland, go to www.creativecentenaries.org.

Interactive Workshops, Education Zone, Ulster Museum

Presented by the Nerve Centre

Admission free (workshop participants will receive a free book exploring the Battle of the Somme). To book visit www.nmni.com

Green Screen Workshop

4th June, 15th July, 16th July
10.30am, 12.30pm, 2.30pm

Suitable For: Ages 8-14 Use iPads and green screen technology to place yourself at key events in 1916 and produce a news broadcast detailing the Battle of the Somme.

Virtual Reality Workshop

18th June, 22nd July, 23rd July
10.30am, 12.30pm, 2.30pm

Suitable For: Ages 8-14 View virtual reality films about the Easter Rising and Battle of the Somme created by the BBC, then build your own 3D viewer to view iconic stereoscopic images taken in 1916.

Programme a Game Workshop

29th July, 30th July 10.30am, 12.30pm, 2.30pm

Suitable For: Ages 8-14 Learn new facts about some of the key events from 1916 and programme your own quiz game to test your friends and family.

Animating with iPads Workshop

8th July, 9th July, 6th August 10.30am, 12.30pm, 2.30pm

Suitable For: Ages 8-14 Use laser-cut characters and props and green screen technology to create a stop motion animation about the Battle of the Somme.

The events above are in association with Creative Centenaries.

Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching Towards the Somme

By Frank McGuinness

5th - 16th July Tickets from £10 at lyrictheatre.co.uk

Lyric Theatre

On 1 July 1916, the 36th Ulster Division took part in one of the bloodiest battles in human history. The Battle of the Somme. In the extraordinary circumstances of World War 1, eight ordinary men are changed, changed utterly. An Abbey Theatre, Headlong, Citizens Theatre and Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse Theatre co-production.

Belfast Book Festival

Reflections of WW1 – A Musical Journey

18th June 6.30pm Tickets £6/£4

Crescent Arts Centre

When Tracey McRory discovered her great-uncle's WWI journals, little did she realise the journey it would take her on. Her WW1 compositions embrace both musical cultures in Ireland and are performed by both flute bands and traditional Irish groups.

Stretcher Bearer, The Last Days of Mankind

3rd June – 30th July Admission free

Linen Hall Library

Artist Leslie Nicholl's research in Dublin, Belfast, London, Belgium, France and Germany, was emailed to his friend the poet Sam Burnside who used the emails as postcards from a different time. Featuring poems from Forms of Freedom by Sam Burnside.

The annual Battle of the Somme Commemoration Parade

1st July

See belfastsomme100.com for details

The Lily and the Poppy

27th June – 19th December

Tue – Sat, 10am – 5pm

Admission free, (Open 11th and 13th July)

Museum of Orange Heritage, Schomberg House,
368 Cregagh Road

The Lily and the Poppy, Remembering the Somme, is an exhibition highlighting the contribution of Orangemen at the Battle of the Somme. Presented by the County Grand Orange Lodge of Belfast and the Museum of Orange Heritage.





Paul Pollock's War

The Ulster Scots Agency has published 'Paul Pollock's War' as part of the Ulster and the Great War series. Paul became one of the fallen at The Somme and the title documents the story of a remarkable Ulster Scots family. For further information see ulsterscotsagency.com.

Kabosh presents The Box

By Carlo Gébler

5th – 19th June 12pm and 3pm

Ulster Museum Tickets £5 from www.nmni.com

Kabosh is delighted to bring to life the incredible archive of Co. Down nurse Olive Swanzy. Serving as a nurse during World War I Olive kept a book of autographs that documented her time and those she encountered.

Battle of the Somme Centenary Concert

Presented by the 36th (Ulster) Division
Memorial Association

12th November

Ulster Hall, Bedford Street

The Lost Lives of the Battle of the Somme

21st June 6.30pm - 9pm

Banqueting Hall, Belfast City Hall

Nigel Henderson and Philip Orr will deliver a presentation on some of those who lost their lives at the battle of the Somme, focussing on the impact that this had on communities in Belfast. For further information, please email goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk

Féile an Phobail

3rd – 14th August

West Belfast

Féile is delighted to be hosting a series of talks around the anniversary Battle of the Somme, were the lives of so many young men were tragically cut short. See feilebelfast.com for details.

Woodvale Re-enactment

18th June 1.30pm

The “Going over the Top” event is organised by Greater Shankill Initiatives, and will form part of a citywide event to mark the anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, with marches going to the City Hall Cenotaph, and then on to Woodvale Park for a reenactment. It also includes the planting of a commemorative oak tree to mark the 100 year anniversary.

Letters from the Front

13 August 8pm

St. Patrick’s Church, Newtownards Road, Belfast

Tickets £12 available from www.eastsidearts.net

During the First World War, many soldiers wrote to their families back home in Ulster, giving thanks for the care parcels they had received and sharing harrowing first hand accounts. This event includes actors Sam and Joan McCready, in company with the Brass Quintet from the Ulster Orchestra. Part of the Eastside Arts Festival.

Belfast Boys Exhibition

10th August - 15th August

Farset International

This exhibition looks at the untold story of how Belfast’s Unionists and Nationalists put aside their Home Rule differences and fought together as one during The Great War 1914-18. A joint exhibition between the Unionist Centenary Committee and the 6th Connaught Rangers Group.

‘Row on Row’ Remembrance Event

18th November

Pitt Park

The annual Row on Row remembrance events in East and West Belfast mark the Somme Centenary. Please see belfastsomme100.com for details as they develop.

Taylor MAC: The WW1 Years and More

October 2016

The MAC

In his first Northern Ireland appearance, the Obie Award-winning New York performer Taylor Mac will present The WW1 Years and More, a series of special, participative concerts, as part of 14-18 NOW, the UK’s official arts programme for the First World War centenary. Part of Belfast International Arts Festival.

From the exhibition Stretcher Bearer at the Linenhall Library



NATIONAL EVENTS

Commemorations in France

To mark the Centenary of the Battle of the Somme on 1 July 2016, a national commemorative event will be held at 12pm (11pm GMT) at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Thiepval Memorial in Northern France. More details can be found on the Somme 2016 Ballot website at www.Somme2016.org There will also be a commemorative event at the Ulster Tower at 2.30pm (1.30pm GMT).

A National Commemoration of the Battle of the Somme Evening Concert

1st July 7.30pm

The Hallé Orchestra will play several well known pieces linked to the First World War and the concert will also feature a range of letters, poems and diary entries depicting the lives of those affected by the Somme. For free tickets gov.uk/government.

For a full list of events taking place across the United Kingdom, please see rememberingsomme.culture.gov.uk/events/

Commemoration at Islandbridge

A military ceremony will take place in Dublin on July 1, followed by a State-led commemoration on July 9 at the War Memorial Gardens in Islandbridge in conjunction with the Royal British Legion. A military ceremony at the same venue on 1 July, honouring the Irish regiments that fought at the Somme and WW1.

For details see deww.taoiseach.gov.ie

Vigils memorials across Belfast

The NI national vigil will be held at the Somme Heritage Centre from 7pm on 30th June to 7am on 1st July. A service will be held at 7am in each location until 7.28am when the 36th Ulster Division went over the top. Vigils will be replicated at War Memorials across Belfast.

For locations and details please see www.sommeassociation.com

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LIVING MEMORY PROJECT

The Living Memory project will take place for the full 141 days of the Somme centenary from July 1 to November 18. Everyone is welcome to join the project and access our free resource pack and website. In addition, we are providing an expenses scheme to support 141 groups in the UK.

**For further information,
please contact livingmemory@cwgc.org
www.livingmemory.org.uk**



CWGC
Commonwealth War Graves Commission