



## Discovering the First World War with HLF

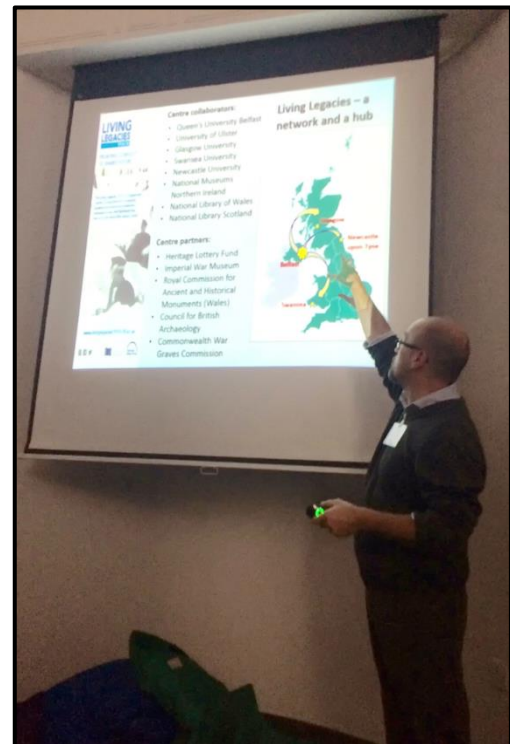
From the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> of April, the Living Legacies team were in Cardiff at a workshop organised for individuals and groups considering a bid for HLF funding to run a WW1 project.

A short video of the day is available by following this link - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VI-wZVmzAb8>



*(Left) Living Legacies Director, Professor Keith Lilley & Project Manager, Elaine Reid with Nicola Gauld, Voices of War and Peace.*

After coffee, and a welcome address from Gethin Matthews (Swansea University/Living Legacies), Prof Keith Lilley began the workshop by outlining Living Legacies strategies for engagement. He explained how the engagement centres might assist existing groups to progress their community-funded projects, alongside supporting groups in applying for funding. Professor Lilley highlighted that the First World War was “still very much alive in Northern Ireland”, emphasising the importance of geography in its Commemoration. As such, the centre, seeks to develop a transnational network to explore transnational identities and differentiated cultural experiences of the First World War and its commemoration, broadening the way in which the Centenary is commemorated.



Stephen Barlow, Development Manager for the HLF in Wales presented an overview of the HLF funding and the application process offered for the First World War ‘Then and Now’ programme. Stephen gave an in-depth summary of the processes in addition to presenting an excellent video of some successful applicant’s and their projects.



*(Left) Vivien Williams discussing the Flintshire War Memorials project.*

Eifion and Vivien Williams shared the highs, lows and “eureka moments” of their WW1 memorial project, which involved researching the names on the memorials in the Flintshire villages of Sychdyn & Northophall. The community group have now developed an extensive online, publically accessible archive presenting information on the men recorded on these memorials. Owing to the success of their project, the group are now undertaking research on the Great War Memorials in the whole of Flintshire via crowd sourcing, and intend to pursue avenues available for the preservation of their efforts for future generations.

**Website - [www.flintshirewarmemorials.com](http://www.flintshirewarmemorials.com)**



Berian Elias (*right*), from the National Library of Wales described how ‘The Peoples Collection Wales’ could be of help to current and prospective HLF projects. Their aim is to facilitate the public to commemorate, celebrate, and record the history of Welsh communities, villages, towns and cities, industries and traditions by delivering a digital home for the people of Wales to both share and deposit their research findings, thus creating an interactive digital trail of the Welsh experience of the First World War information gathered.

**Website - <https://www.peoplescollection.wales/>**



During the lunch interval, attendees browsed exhibits provided by some of the attending HLF community groups.



The afternoon showcase hosted presentations and discussions by some of those who had already received HLF First World War project support, including the following -



**'Project Zero'** developed by History Matters, and supported by HLF has recently become a centenary partner with the Imperial War Museum. As explained by Gary Ball (Left), the project aims to discover a forgotten chapter in the little remembered role the airship during the First World War, particularly amongst the communities, which once housed them.

The project involves groups across North Wales, South Wales and beyond creating a dedicated

website, a digital archive of research and images, educational outreach, community archaeology and the creation of a unique archaeological reconstruction as a centrepiece for a touring 'pop-up' museum. Contributing to current research and raising awareness of the development and use of the airship throughout the First World War.

Website - <http://projectzerohistorymatters.blogspot.co.uk/>



## First World War – ‘Steel Remembered’ and the Orb Works War Memorial, Newport Steelworks;

Led by Suzy Bowers, the project researches the lives of the workers at the Orb Steelworks who fought in the First World War. 121 men are remembered on the work’s memorial. The project has engaged local community groups to

encourage research into the Orb Steel Works of Lysgaghts during the First World War, uncovering real-life stories of the Orb steel workers who went to war 1914-1918, those who came back and those commemorated by the Orb Steel Works War Memorial.

Website - <http://www.steelremembered.org/memorial.html>



## ‘Dusty’s First World War Project’

Led by Dr Stephanie Ward (left) and David Wyatt: Cardiff University’s CAER Heritage team, based in the school of History, Archaeology and Religion.

The Ely garden village, established as a model housing estate provided ‘Homes Fit for Heroes’ in the aftermath of the FWW (1920’s). This project involved intergenerational

research co-produced in the community with people living in Ely today, young and old working together to discover the fascinating origins of the estate and the broader history of Dusty’s Forge.

The team worked with the ‘Healthy Wealthy Wise community group and local artists to gather oral histories, old photographs, letters, diaries, newspaper clippings, personal memories, family stories and heirlooms, to tell the story of Ely and its housing estate after the First World War.

Website - <https://caerheritageproject.com/2016/07/29/dustys-first-world-war/>

## The Role of Basket Making & Willow growing during the FWW



Led by Greta Bertram, Everyday lives in War.

There was a regional Willow growing industry developed in Great Britain during the First World, established to provide balloon frames, artillery-shell transport baskets, rehabilitation of blind veterans through basket therapy and the construction of carrier pigeon baskets.

Researchers have now revived the craft skills involved in the basketry of the First World War period. The team have expressed in artistic terms, through basketry, the stories of everyday lives during the war, and issues of legacy, emotion, and memory, highlighting the importance of basket making to the military effort. The project also seeks to understand the changing uses of ‘willow’ since the end First World War period.

Website - [https://everydaylivesinwar.herts.ac.uk/?page\\_id=3066](https://everydaylivesinwar.herts.ac.uk/?page_id=3066)

### **'Views of an Antique Land': Imagining Egypt and Palestine in the First World War'**

Dr Stephen Mills & Prof. Paul Nicholson, University of Cardiff lead this project. It offers a different perspective



on the First World War using images taken in Egypt; focusing on collecting, and making accessible images of Egypt and Palestine, as people would have seen them during the First World War.

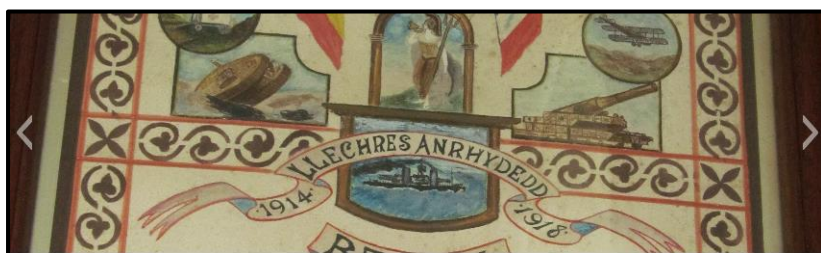
The aim is to collect photographs taken by service personnel, postcards, lanternslides and stereo-views.

The project leaders undertook a series of roadshows in England and Wales, to along with the development of the interactive website aimed at providing opportunity for direct public participation in the project and offering new otherwise unseen views of some archaeological sites, military installations and cities, as they appeared during the First World War.

Website - <http://sites.cardiff.ac.uk/ww1imagesegypt/>

### **Welsh Memorials to the Great War, Living Legacies and Swansea University**

Led by Gethin Matthews and Meg Ryder



The Welsh Memorials to the Great War project offers a database of unofficial war memorials around Wales. In addition, by working closely with Wales at War (run by the National Library of Wales) and community groups who wish to find and

research the unofficial memorials in their area. The project seeks to analyse the data amassed from this research, providing a public accessible resource of the existing war memorials and honour rolls throughout Wales. One important area of research assisted by this project will be the exploration of how the First World War affected upon local communities. These 'unofficial' memorials commemorate the contribution of members of a select local group to the war, and as such they can be analysed both for what they tell us about individual lives, and for what they convey about the community's involvement in the war.

Website: <http://www.livinglegacies1914-18.ac.uk/> and <http://war-memorials.swan.ac.uk/>

The event was a great success, and provided the stage for very informative, educational and entertaining discussions.