



CYMRU'N COFIO
WALES REMEMBERS
1914 - 1918

PROGRAMME 2016



Foreword



First Minister Carwyn Jones

2015 was again a very active year for the First World War Centenary Commemoration in Wales, with numerous events taking place across the nation. In February I joined schoolchildren from Ysgol y Faenol at the fascinating Christmas Truce exhibition held at Bodelwyddan Castle. The exhibition was the result of a collaboration between Welsh, German, French and Belgian partners, and I was particularly struck by the opportunities it provided for children to understand the effects of the conflict for all sides. Identifying new, creative ways to interpret the period is exemplified by the technology partnership between Cardiff University, St Fagans National History Museum and the Snowdonia National Park Authority. The partnership has produced a pioneering 3-D printed copy of the famous bardic chair won by Hedd Wyn at the 1917 Birkenhead National Eisteddfod. In August I was privileged to lead the national service of remembrance at Penmaenmawr for Welshmen lost in the Gallipoli campaign. A touring exhibition is contributing to local community activities in those parts of Wales where the losses were significant.

As we look forward to 2016, the momentous events of the Battle of the Somme will form a central focus for our commemoration. On 7 July the centenary of Welsh involvement at the Battle of Mametz Wood, where so many lost their lives, will be remembered.

I am very grateful to communities and organisations for all their hard work in coming together to support the *Cymru'n Cofio* Wales Remembers 1914–1918 Programme. It is very heartening that excellent projects and events continue to mark this important period in the history of our nation.



Sir Deian Hopkin, First Minister's Expert Adviser on the First World War

In this third year of centenary commemorations some of the most notable and iconic events associated with the First World War will feature in our programme. 1916 was the year when the scale of the casualties and destruction made its greatest impact, such as the dreadful losses inflicted on the 38th (Welsh) Division at Mametz Wood in July. The annual commemoration on the site where David Petersen's notable memorial is located will have a special poignancy and significance in 2016, and the recent extensive refurbishments to the site will make access very much easier. The informative articles in this brochure also describe other events associated with Mametz, including performances by Welsh National Opera of a new opera by Iain Bell based on David Jones' remarkable memoir of the battle, *In Parenthesis*.

At the same time, there were major political developments, the ascendancy of David Lloyd George on the one hand, and the intensification of the peace movement on the other. As always, our programme seeks to encompass all aspects of the experience of war and help to deepen our understanding of the complexities of this global conflict. For example, following the Easter Rising in Ireland some 1,800 Irish nationalists, including Michael Collins and other leaders, were imprisoned in a camp at Fron-goch near Bala. This 'university of revolution' will be the subject of commemoration during 2016.

Finally, on behalf of the Programme Board I want to thank all the organisations and individuals who have contributed to, and continue to participate in, this important series of historic commemorations.

Contents



The Welsh at Mametz Wood in July 1916 02

The attack of the 38th (Welsh) Division on the German positions in Mametz Wood in July 1916, the second week of the Battle of the Somme, would cost it some 4,000 casualties. It also led to an attack on the honour of the division, as Dr Jonathan Hicks relates.

First World War: Secondary School Grant Scheme 04

A snapshot of First World War commemorative projects undertaken by Welsh schools using £1,000 grants provided by the Welsh Government Department for Education and Skills.

Remembering the First World War at the National Library of Wales 06

An exciting series of exhibitions at the National Library of Wales will focus on memory, commemoration and the representation of war in art and literature.

Women in Wales in 1916 08

For women 1916 was the year when wearing trousers became normal, at least in some situations. Although women and girls were already working on the land and in munitions, during 1916 their numbers grew enormously.

In Parenthesis 10

To celebrate its seventieth birthday and to commemorate the First World War, Welsh National Opera is performing a world première in 2016, based on an extraordinary artistic testament to the bloody experience of the trenches, as Jon Gower explains.

Recruitment, Remembrance, Recovery 12

This year Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales has an exciting programme of exhibitions, events and activities exploring the experience of living through war and the impact it had on the lives of ordinary people across the country, as Emma Routley explains.

Wales for Peace 14

The Welsh Centre for International Affairs is exploring how the impact of war has shaped Wales' contribution to the search for peace – from the First World War Book of Remembrance, movements such as the Urdd, Quakers and Anti Apartheid, through to engagement with peace today and in future generations. Craig Owen offers some questions and answers.

Ireland's 'University of Revolution' in Wales: Fron-goch Internment Camp (1916) 16

Professor Paul O'Leary of Aberystwyth University recounts the story of the Irish republicans interned at Fron-goch Camp, Merionethshire, in 1916.

Conserving our war memorials 18

Local war memorials have an important role to play in the commemoration of the First World War and in recognition of that, the Welsh Government Historic Environment Service (Cadw)'s grant scheme and conservation guidance are helping to maintain them for the long term.

The First World War Centenary Partnership and 1914.org 20

The First World War Centenary Partnership is an Imperial War Museums led initiative for all not-for-profit organisations that are marking the anniversary of the First World War (2014–2018).

Sources of Funding 22

First World War Centenary Project.

Events 24

Events listings for 2016.

The Welsh at Mametz Wood 1916: The National Service of Remembrance 32

July 2016 will mark the centenary of the Battle of the Somme which began on 1 July and lasted until 18 November 1916. Phil Davies details the commemorative events of July.

‘HELL CANNOT BE MUCH WORSE’

The Welsh at Mametz Wood in July 1916

The attack of the 38th (Welsh) Division on the German positions in Mametz Wood in July 1916, the second week of the Battle of the Somme, would cost it some 4,000 casualties. It also led to an attack on the honour of the division, as Dr Jonathan Hicks relates.



(above) Man of a working-party attending to a war grave, near Mametz Wood. August 1916. © IWM Q4095

The 38th (Welsh) Division was formed in December 1914 under the leadership of Major-General Ivor Philipps. New battalions of the Welsh Regiment, the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and the South Wales Borderers were recruited from the cities of Cardiff and Swansea, from the Rhondda, Caernarfon, Anglesey, Carmarthenshire and Gwent, as well as from London and north Wales. They eventually departed for France during the first

week of December 1915. It was the start of active service that was to see the Division involved in some of the fiercest fighting on the Western Front.

Following the early fighting on the Somme the British Army had pressed the Germans back beyond the village of Mametz and were facing them across the shallow valley to the south of Mametz Wood.

Mametz Wood was, and still is, the largest wood on the Somme, covering an area of over 200 acres. The Germans were able to bring flanking fire to bear on any approach to the wood from Flatiron and Sabot Copses to the east. Further, the German second line was 300 yards beyond the northern edge of the wood and could be reinforced easily. Amongst the German units facing the Welshmen was the Lehr Regiment of the Prussian Guard.

The attack was planned for 8.30am on the morning of 7 July and, even though the planned smoke-screen did not appear, the 11th South Wales Borderers (SWB) and 16th Welsh Regiment (Welsh) rose to their task as soon as the artillery stopped and immediately came under fire from the German machine guns. Casualties mounted and the attack petered out some 250 yards short of the wood.

The attack had cost 400 casualties. Philipps was removed, command of the division passing to Major-General Watts who immediately set about organising another attack. At 3.30am on 10 July the artillery barrage opened up and a little after 4.00am the attack began. The 16th Royal Welsh Fusiliers (RWF) lost a measure of the cover offered by the artillery fire and subsequently the battalion lost heavily in the advance to the wood.

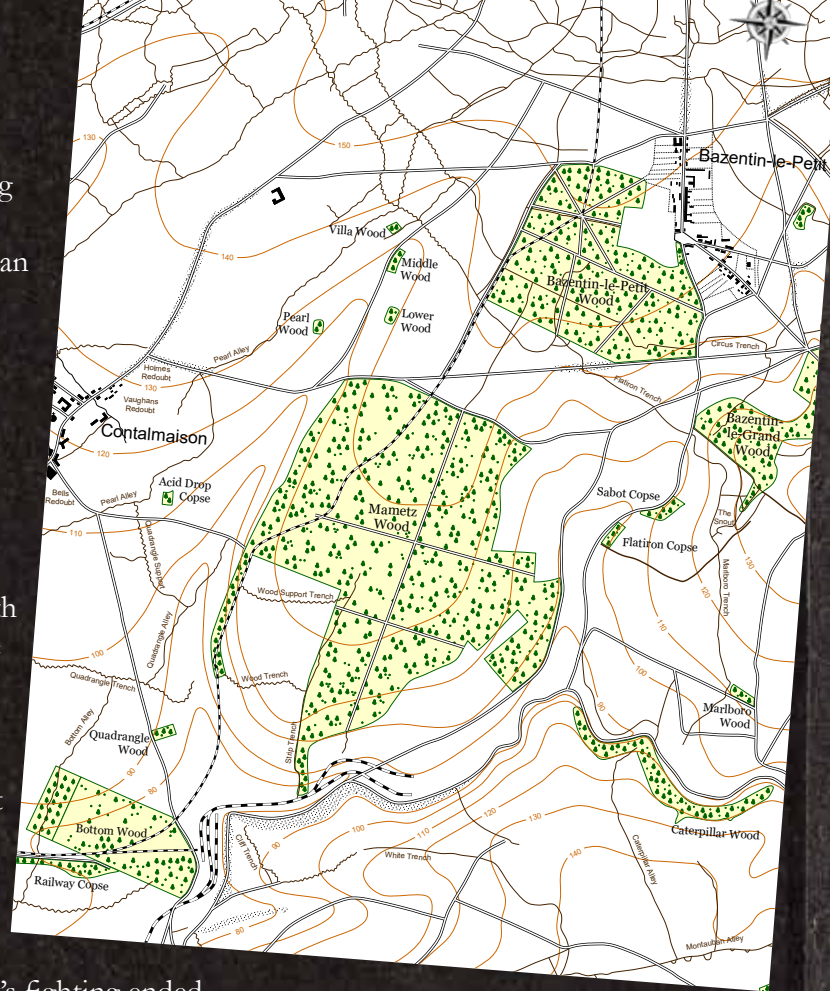
On the right the 13th Welsh also came under fire from the German machine guns. They suffered heavy casualties and were beaten back on two occasions but finally managed to get a foothold in the wood. The 14th Welsh reached the wood more or less as the artillery barrage was lifting from the edge. On the left the 14th RWF attacked close behind the 16th RWF, and Brigadier Price-Davies committed the 15th and 13th RWF to the attack almost immediately. On the right the 10th Welsh were added, making a total of seven out of eight battalions of the two brigades engaged in action.

The attack was a success with all the objectives being taken ahead of schedule, but it had not been without cost. In the seven battalions that went into battle five of the commanding officers had been killed or seriously wounded. Added to this was the loss of many of the junior officers, which resulted in the control of

the thousands of men in the wood becoming increasingly difficult. German reinforcements flooded in and this created havoc for a while amongst the attacking Welshmen, but by about 2.40pm the 10th SWB were able to get patrols out to the northern edge. By 6.30pm that day the bulk of the wood was in the Welshmen's hands. The day's fighting ended there but it left the men tired and jumpy, and throughout the night there was much wild firing.

An attack was planned for 3pm on 11 July with the 16th Welsh, 17th RWF and 11th SWB taking the lead. At 2.45pm an artillery barrage was opened up but fell short and landed among the Welsh troops. The 11th SWB reached the north-east corner of the wood by 5.40pm and there was fierce fighting throughout the rest of the day. The Germans realised that it was fruitless to continue to defend the wood, and orders were issued for their withdrawal. As dawn broke on 12 July the tired troops of the 38th (Welsh) Division were relieved.

The fighting for Mametz Wood was over. It had cost 4,000 casualties – about a third of the infantry strength – but the Division was to get little credit. Another year was to pass before they were given the opportunity to show their worth, and at Pilckem Ridge near Ypres their honour was restored, but not before many more men had died.



(top) Map of Mametz Wood © Ian R Gumma (2015)
 (middle) Shells exploding in Mametz Wood. Image courtesy of Jonathan Hicks.
 (above) The 38th (Welsh) Division Dragon Memorial, By kind permission of Gary Williams



First World War: Secondary School Grant Scheme

In October 2013 the First Minister announced funding of £850,000 to ensure an educational legacy from the commemoration of the centenary of the First World War. One important element of the programme has enabled secondary schools in Wales to apply for a £1,000 grant to develop innovative projects to commemorate the First World War. Schools have been given the freedom to interpret the project as they wish.

(above & right) Aberaeron Comprehensive School pupils with their completed mural © Phill Davies

St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School, Barry

The pupils of St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School in Barry have been busy planning their own commemoration of the First World War, intent on having a lasting memorial in the form of a peace garden. Working together, learners and staff, through drama, art, words and reflection have been able to build a commemorative garden as a lasting legacy.

The project also involved six feeder primary schools' pupils and they came together on Friday, 15 May, to watch and take part in the celebration to open the garden, and create their own peace memory, and to remember that much still needs to be done to ensure peace in our world.

The project was cross-curricular, with the history department showing the link between our current streets and the addresses of those who gave their lives in the First World War. Meanwhile, the drama department offered

their own visualisation of the effects of war on those who stayed at home. There was a warm welcome also to people from the local community who were given a choral performance of 'Oh! What a Lovely War' as part of the ceremony to unveil St Richard Gwyn's peace garden.

Pupils constructed paper peace cranes, painted peace stones and placed poppies at the peace garden in the school grounds. Learners also had the opportunity to talk to members of the Barry branch of the Royal British Legion.





Ysgol Gyfun Aberaeron

A project to create a commemorative mural has sparked curiosity among pupils in Aberaeron about their area during the First World War.

Aberaeron Society members came to share stories of the war with the learners, and as part of the collaboration and the gathering of local evidence, pupils arranged an exhibition called 'Time to Remember' in association with Peniel chapel in Aberaeron town.

Learners visited the exhibition and gleaned more local stories about the Great War from Euros Lewis of the local theatre, Theatr Felinfach.

After collecting their information they began planning the mural with the help of Sam Delph Janiurek,

a former pupil, who is currently studying Fine Art at Newcastle University. Pupils from primary schools on transition day had the opportunity to design and work on the mural. It is full of local references and has been designed with powerful images and messages.

The project has deepened pupils' knowledge of the area during the War, the losses, the contribution of women, and their own personal family histories.

For further details on school projects please visit www.walesremembers.org/projects



(opposite) Pupils with the completed peace garden © By kind permission of St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School
 (left) Pupils meeting with members of the Royal British Legion at the opening of the peace garden © By kind permission of St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School

Remembering the First World War at the National Library of Wales

An exciting series of exhibitions at the National Library of Wales will focus on memory, commemoration and the representation of war in art and literature.

Our first exhibition of the year – ‘Remembering for Peace’ – will be in partnership with Wales for Peace and will focus on the Welsh Book of Remembrance. The Book will be on display from 16 January until 9 April alongside a copy which has been digitised by the Library. This touring exhibition will reflect on the impact of the First World War on communities in Wales and encourage visitors to consider how the people of Wales were led in the search for peace.

Between 30 January and 28 May visitors to the Library will have another opportunity to see Amgueddfa Cymru–National Museum Wales’ exhibition of propaganda prints of the First World War. Sixty-six lithograph prints will be on display, taken from The Great War: Britain’s Efforts and Ideals portfolio, commissioned by the Ministry of Information in 1917. The prints include works by some of the best-known British artists of the period, such as Augustus John, Frank Brangwyn and Christopher Nevinson. They were produced with the aim of re-igniting public support for the war effort, and tend to avoid the harsh realities of war in favour of a more sanitised portrayal, focusing on ideas of freedom and democracy.

While ‘Efforts and Ideals’ explores the portrayal of war in official propaganda, the ‘Words of War’ exhibition (23 January–18 July) will look at the representation of conflict in Welsh literature through the ages. For centuries Welsh poets and prose writers have chosen to write about the experience of war, of victories and defeat. This exhibition will include references to historic conflicts such as Catraeth, Cilmeri,

Bosworth and the Somme. Poignant eyewitness accounts and later reactions by artists such as Bleddyn Fardd and Gerallt Lloyd Owen will be shown alongside the narrative testimonies of contemporary and later chroniclers. Though not exclusively focusing on the First World War, the exhibition includes David Jones’ famous poem In Parenthesis (1937), which charts his harrowing experiences during the War. It will also look at how the poem was influenced by the medieval Welsh poem, Y Gododdin.

The Battle of Mametz Wood and In Parenthesis are also the focus of the final exhibition for this year, ‘Mametz’ (2 July–3 December). The horrors that unfolded in July 1916 at Mametz Wood, a 200-acre forest in the Somme département of northern France, have become an important part of Welsh history and identity. Over 4,000 soldiers of the 38th (Welsh) Division were killed or wounded. The battle is vividly commemorated in In Parenthesis; David Jones himself was wounded while fighting with the London Welsh Battalion of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. Inspired by the poem, the photographer Aled Rhys Hughes has photographed Mametz Wood as it stands today and explores the question: Does landscape have a memory? The exhibition will showcase the photographer’s powerful landscapes alongside various sound recordings, material from the papers of David Jones and other audio-visual items.

Digital commemoration at the Library

Work will continue in 2016 to develop further bilingual educational resources for schools as part of a project led by the National Library of Wales




and Amgueddfa Cymru–National Museum Wales and funded by the Welsh Government Department for Education and Skills. The resources are cross-curricular and use videos, audio recordings, images and texts about the First World War from the collections of both institutions. The materials are all freely available on the Hwb website on <https://hwb.wales.gov.uk> > Resources > First World War: Education Project.

There is also an opportunity for schools across Wales and the general public to contribute to a growing database of Welsh men and women who lost their lives during the First World War through Wales at War. Visit www.walesatwar.org or download the app from the App Store or Google Play for further information. The project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Welsh Government Department for Education and Skills and the Armed Forces Community Covenant Fund.

Material relating to the First World War in Wales is available on the Cymru1914 website, and People's Collection Wales (in partnership with Amgueddfa Cymru–National Museum Wales and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales) continues to provide support to First World War projects run by community groups.

www.llgc.org.uk

 @NLWales @LIGCymru



(background image) The Wood at Mametz © Aled Rhys Hughes.
(above) First World War recruitment posters. Courtesy of Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru - National Library of Wales



Women in Wales in 1916

For women 1916 was the year when wearing trousers became normal, at least in some situations. Although women and girls were already working on the land and in munitions, during 1916 their numbers grew enormously.

(main image) Olwen Leyshon, a munitions worker at the National Explosives Factory, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire. By kind permission of the Women's Archive of Wales

(top right) Beatrice Cope with her son Eric, Trellech, Monmouthshire. By kind permission of the Women's Archive of Wales

(bottom right) Swansea Bus Conductresses. Right, Edith Haines (nee Spridgeon). By kind permission of the Women's Archive of Wales

The Military Service Act (March) allowed for the conscription of all single men and childless widowers aged 18 to 41, followed soon afterwards by married men. Women had to step into their shoes (or boots) to keep the war machine running. Though thousands of women had registered for war work in 1915, employers were reluctant to take them on and many were left 'bitterly disappointed'. Now employers had no choice.

Agricultural Committees across Wales were desperate to encourage women onto the land. In June, for example, over 300 women in Carmarthenshire signed up for farm work. In September the Cambria Daily Leader ran a long article entitled 'The Wearing of Male Attire – a Visit to Margam', illustrated by photographs of two young women in dungarees carrying out farm work. This, the reporter said, was 'controversial' and 'indecorous', though the girls defended the garments as 'practical for work'. Another report described how the girls 'invaded the sedate streets of Aberavon ... Women in trousers, indeed to goodness, tut-tut! Whateffer next?'

Trousers were also practical for women doing heavy dangerous work in munitions factories; many were photographed in their uniforms [1]. By the end of 1916 there were more than 3,500 women working at the Explosives Factory at Pembrey in Carmarthenshire. Miss G. M. West, a member of the newly-formed Women Police, worked there, having previously been at the National Explosives Factory at Queensferry, Flintshire, where 'many girls fainted in the T.N.T. Room ... exposed to that deadly poison.' At Pembrey it was said that 'the ether in the cordite affects some of the girls. It gives them headaches, hysteria,

& sometimes makes them unconscious.'

A June report on 'Women and War Work' describes the range of activities undertaken by women: 'Countless numbers of women have entered into all kinds of occupations ... You may see them ... delivering or collecting letters, or acting as ticket collectors, window cleaners, and in some cases as luggage porters ..., and also as smart and urbanic [sic] conductors of the tramcars and omnibuses.' One of these was Edith Haines, seen here to the right of two colleagues, some of Swansea's first bus conductresses [2].

A traditional role, but one where new recruits were always needed, was nursing. Many nurses who had trained before the War joined the services, and many were sent abroad. Some died there, like Frances Brace of Pembrokeshire. Working in a military hospital in Salonika she contracted malaria and dysentery and died in Malta that September. Newspapers carried urgent advertisements for 'women and girls in Military & Auxiliary Hospitals at Home – Age from 18 to 48.' No previous training was needed. One recruit was Lottie Davies who worked as a VAD in Caerphilly. She 'nursed a young cockney soldier wounded on the Somme. They ran off on his motorbike (upsetting her family, who had other plans) and were married for over 50 years.' [3]

The Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC) was not established until December 1916, so is omitted from this review. The WRAF (briefly headed by Winifred Coombe Tennant of Neath) and WRNS followed in 1917. The Women's Archive has a number of photographs of WAACs.

Of course not all women in Wales joined the formal workforce, but

almost all became involved in the War. There were food shortages and huge food price increases to cope with, and knitting and sewing to be done. Quantities of 'comforts' for soldiers and sailors were produced. In April the Llangollen War Work Guild received 'twelve caps, 35 pairs of socks, five pairs of mittens, eight pairs of bed socks, 18 pairs of stockings, nine hospital shirts, seven bed jackets, 19 bags, and 24 white handkerchiefs.' Unfortunately 'some of the socks are rather unsatisfactory ... being so small that they will have to be given to boys.'

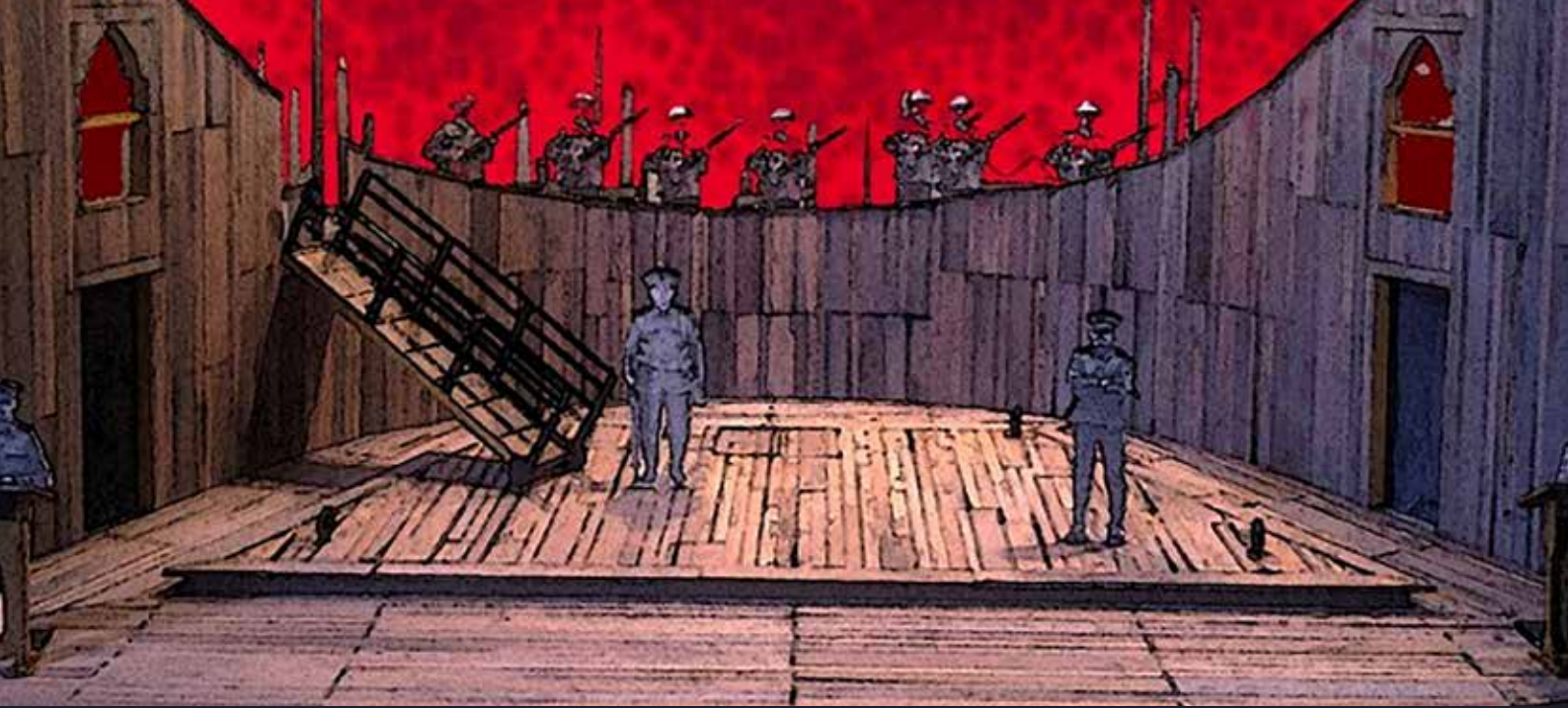
At all times there was constant anxiety about husbands, sons, fathers and brothers. One mother was Beatrice Cope of Trellech, near Monmouth. The photograph [4] shows her with her younger son Eric before he was sent to France in January 1916. He was a temporary 2nd Lieutenant, killed with thousands of others on 1 July, the first day of the Battle of the Somme, aged 18.



3

In Parenthesis

To celebrate its seventieth birthday and to commemorate the First World War, Welsh National Opera is performing a world première in 2016, based on an extraordinary artistic testament to the bloody experience of the trenches, as Jon Gower explains.



(above) Set design for *In Parenthesis* by Robert Innes Hopkins

The Battle of the Somme can be seen as a grim exercise in the bloodiest statistics. No fewer than a million men died on these killing fields, the most devastating death toll in human history. One battle, at Mametz Wood, has a particularly dark resonance. Here 4,000 men—mainly from Welsh regiments—met their end as a consequence of intemperate orders.

One of those who fought at Mametz was the poet, writer and painter David Jones, who joined the Royal Welch Fusiliers, spurning the offer of a commission and choosing to fight alongside regular soldiers on the Western Front.

Jones of course wasn't alone as a poet in the trenches. Siegfried Sassoon took part in some of those same battles, as did Robert Graves. Their poems about the experience appeared quite quickly,

as if Graves and Sassoon were shocked into reportage, while Jones's war work had a much longer gestation. It took him many years to write *In Parenthesis*. David Jones definitely didn't want to write a war book. He wanted his book to be 'about a good kind of peace ... We find ourselves privates in foot regiments. We search for formal goodness in a life singularly inimical and hateful to us.'

Creating *In Parenthesis* certainly wasn't easy: it led to a mental breakdown even as Jones worked on yet another draft, subordinating the autobiographical material to an overriding poetic intent. But the resulting work is a stunning achievement, hailed by no less an authority than T. S. Eliot as a work of genius. That long lapse of time had seemingly allowed David Jones to view the bloody events

at Mametz through the clarifying prism of memory, and to conflate all the wars of human history into one supreme and mystical moment. *In Parenthesis* is nothing less than a modernist masterpiece about war and peace, melding ancient myth and bloody reality, marrying death with resurrection.

The new opera *In Parenthesis* is young British composer Iain Bell's adaptation of this vibrant masterpiece, commissioned by the Nicholas John Trust with 14-18 NOW, the UK cultural programme to commemorate the First World War. Bell's beautiful score combines traditional Welsh song with moments of otherworldliness, terror, humour and transcendence. Indeed one such song, the near-anthem *Sosban Fach*, will be at the heart of a UK-wide programme of workshops and

events. This work is designed to engage with a broad audience of young people and communities, giving them an opportunity to participate in these commemorations.

As is so often the case in opera, the words came first, penned in this instance by creative pairing David Antrobus and Emma Jenkins. The two were well aware that writing a libretto, unlike writing for straight theatre, has its own challenges, ‘the first being that it takes four times as long to sing something as it does to speak it so you have to be minimal.’

One of the biggest challenges for Antrobus and Jenkins concerned the central character, Private John Ball. A witness to events, he says hardly a word in the poem itself. ‘In the opera, however,’ Jenkins explains, ‘he has to be our main protagonist, who hardly stops singing for the entire two hours. It is a triathlon of a role. Finding a voice, a persona and an idiom for him was a big part of our process.’

‘Initially we started trying to create a straight stage adaption,’ explains Antrobus. ‘However, it wasn’t able to communicate the allusive quality of Jones’ writing. Opera allows this process of connection.’ Co-librettist Emma Jenkins expands on the process: ‘The work is very much our response to this massive poem. In any adaptation it’s important to claim the new piece as your own. There are certainly lots of bits of text that a student of the original poem will recognise but there is also plenty of new material as well.’

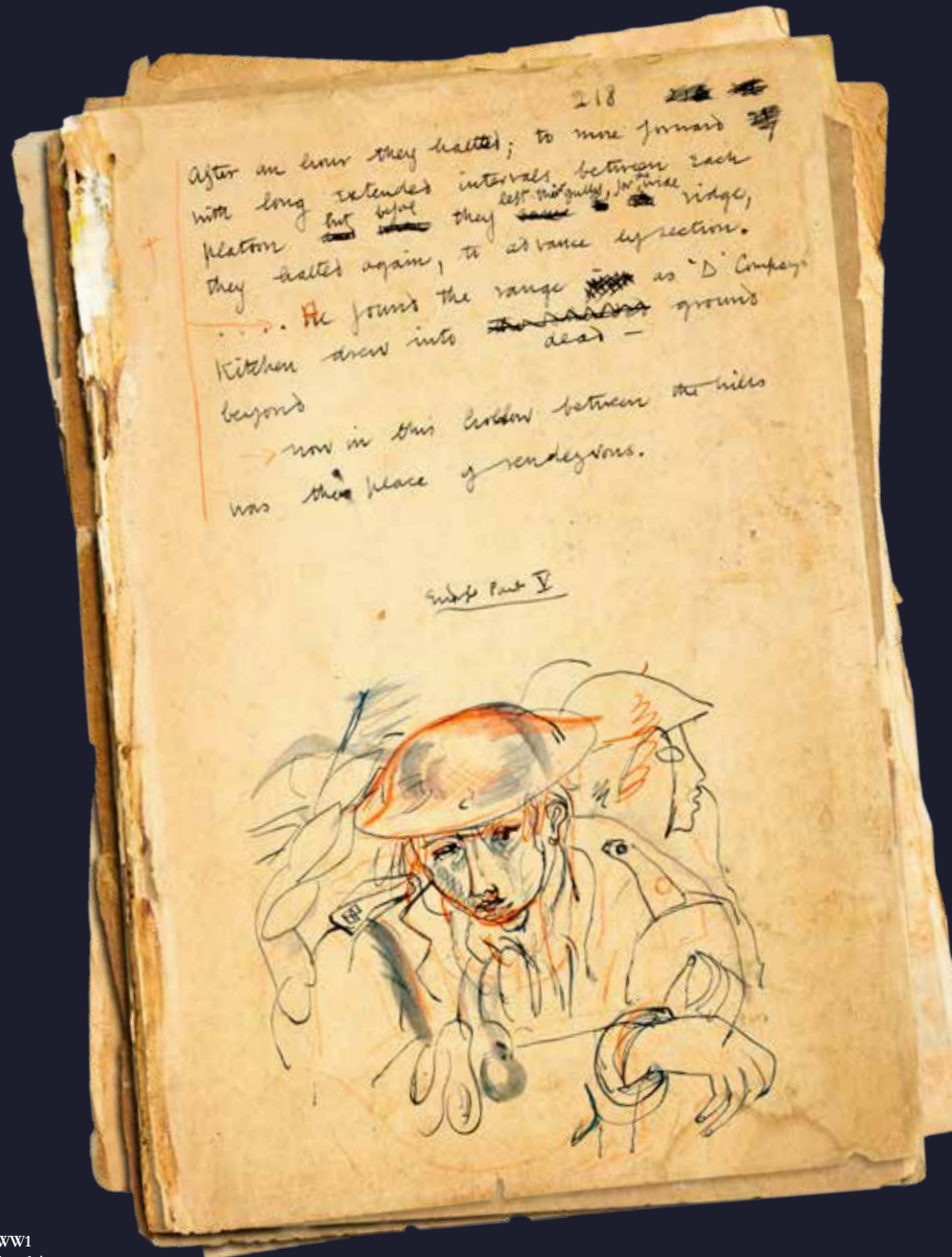
One element the librettists wanted to highlight was the concept of parallel worlds, the idea that at any moment the soldiers of the Western Front can be transformed into Arthur’s knights seeking the grail, or men at Agincourt,

or 6th century Breton warriors. We are not just experiencing this war, but rather all wars. As David Pountney, WNO’s Chief Executive & Artistic Director who commissioned the opera and will direct it, says, ‘In Parenthesis is an act of memorial. The production picks up on this idea, setting the highly poetic and reflective account of this terrible battle in a space which might be one of those touchingly isolated Welsh chapels, poised on a distant hillside. From there, the voices of the choir

ring out, echoing the profound and terrible companionship that touched David Jones so deeply in his experience of war.’

In Parenthesis will be performed in Cardiff, Birmingham and London 13 May – 1 July 2016. Further details can be found in the Events pages or visit www.wno.org.uk/parenthesis.

In Parenthesis will be streamed live on www.theoperaplatform.eu in summer 2016.



(below) Commissioned by the Nicholas John Trust with 14-18 NOW, WW1 Centenary Art Commissions, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Arts Council England, and by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

14-18-NOW
WW1 CENTENARY ART COMMISSIONS



WNO
WELSH NATIONAL OPERA
CENEGAE THŷL CYMRU

Department for Culture Media & Sport

Supported using public funding by
heritage lottery fund
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND
LOTTERY FUNDED



Recruitment, Remembrance, Recovery

This year Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales has an exciting programme of exhibitions, events and activities exploring the experience of living through war and the impact it had on the lives of ordinary people across the country, as Emma Routley explains.

Exhibitions

Some of our popular exhibitions from last year will be touring to other Amgueddfa Cymru museums and institutions, giving people in different regions of Wales the opportunity to see them. 'Efforts and Ideals: Prints of the First World War' goes on display at the National Library of Wales from January to May. The exhibition, displaying images of propaganda,

contains prints from some of the most celebrated artists of the period. 'Working for Victory – Welsh Industry and the First World War' will be at the National Wool Museum in Dre-fach.

The National Slate Museum looks at the response of the slate-quarrying communities to the recruitment campaign in the exhibition 'For Freedom and for Empire' which runs until the end of June and will then be displayed

at the National Wool Museum.

'War: What is it good for?' As the song says, 'absolutely nothing'. But is that true? The National Roman Legion Museum will highlight the medical advances that have occurred during wars over the centuries, focusing on those revealed by the Roman Army and during the First World War.

'Forget me not: Postcards from the First World War': during

the War postcards and greeting cards became key means of communication between serving soldiers and their families. From mass-produced embroidered cards sent from France to photographic portraits of soldiers and sentimental illustrations of separated lovers, the exhibition at the National Waterfront Museum offers an insight into the everyday experiences of ordinary men and women whose lives were touched by war.

July marks the centenary of the Battle of Mametz, one of the most significant and bloodiest battles for Welsh soldiers. 'War's Hell! ... The Battle of Mametz Wood in Art' opens in April at National Museum Cardiff. The star exhibit will be the Christopher Williams painting, 'The Welsh at Mametz Wood', commissioned by Lloyd George to commemorate the battle. A series of gallery talks will accompany the exhibition.

As part of the public programme for the exhibition the Museum is working in partnership with the Welsh National Opera, Cardiff University and the Voices of War and Peace: First World War Engagement Centre on 'Come and sing at the Museum – songs from the trenches' which will take place in the main hall of National

Museum Cardiff on 3 June. The event will bring together young writers' groups from across Wales, London and Portsmouth, opera singers from 'In Parenthesis' and local choirs who will all perform a selection of popular First World War songs, including 'Sosban Fach'. The event will be streamed live on social media by the youth forum from National Museum Cardiff.

Cofeb Mawr opens at the National Slate Museum later in the year. The Museum is working with the local community to discover more about those listed on the war memorial, and a skills programme will be developed.

St Fagans Castle Publication

On 22 March 1916 the Red Cross opened an auxiliary hospital in a banqueting hall at St Fagans Castle. During the First World War the Castle was home to the Earl and Countess of Plymouth who were both actively involved in the war effort. To mark a century since the opening of the hospital, this book will outline its history and uncover some of the personal stories of those who worked, convalesced and lived at St Fagans Castle during the War. Publication is planned for March 2016.

Talks, Tours & Family Activities

Amgueddfa Cymru has an extensive engagement programme planned for the year ahead. The programme includes: print-making workshops, talks including 'Our Museum during the Great War', which focuses on some of the poignant staff stories of the period, family activities, looking at food and communications during the First World War, and guided tours around the grounds of St Fagans Castle, shining light on the hidden history of the estate during that period.

Digital Heritage

In 2016 work will continue on the online digital database of First World War objects from the Museum's collections with the addition of material from Art and Archaeology: www.museumwales.ac.uk/first-world-war/

For full details and dates of all Amgueddfa Cymru exhibitions and activities, please visit www.museumwales.ac.uk or follow us on Twitter: @AmgueddfaCymru

(top left) Make an Aria project performance at St Fagans castle © Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales
(below) Students taking part in the Museum's Workshops for potential Army Officers project © Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales



Wales for Peace

CYMRU DROS HEDDWCH
WALES FOR PEACE



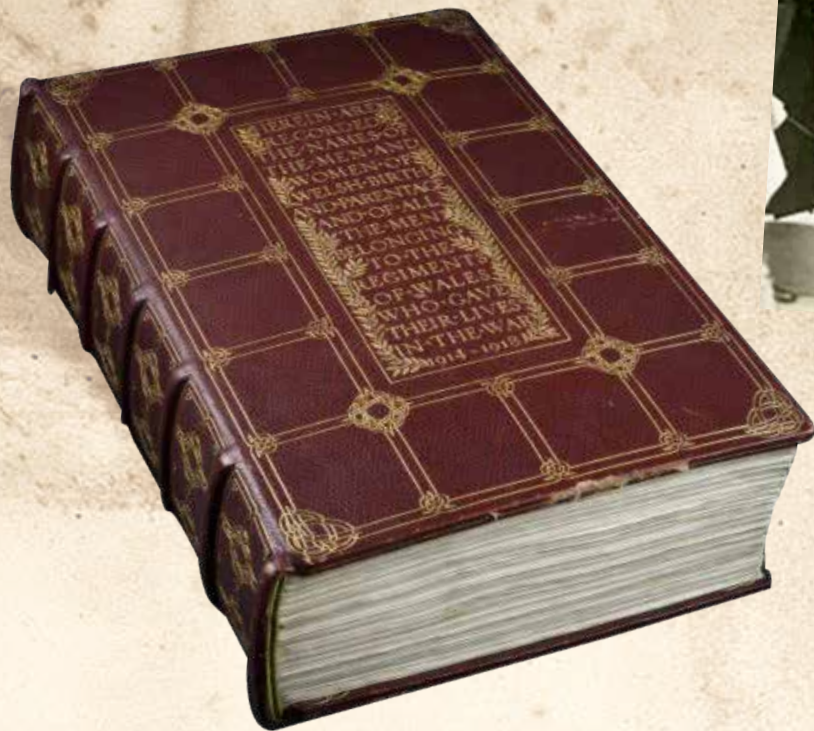
In the hundred years since the start of the First World War, how has Wales contributed to the search for peace? Craig Owen offers some questions and answers.

Supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and managed by the Welsh Centre for International Affairs (WCIA) alongside 10 partners, this unique 4 year project is bringing together communities and schools across Wales to explore people, movements and stories that have become part of Welsh identity – and through learning about our ‘peace heritage’, to inspire future generations to work for a world without war.

Remembering for Peace: the impact of war

In 1938, Lord David Davies of Llandinam and Mrs Minnie James of Tongwynlais - a bereaved mother who had lost three of her sons in the Great War - opened the door to Cardiff’s new ‘Temple of Peace and Health’ in Cathays Park: “a memorial to those gallant men from all nations who gave their lives in the war that was to end war”. The beautifully gilded Welsh National Book of Remembrance was carefully placed in a crypt beneath the Temple, where it remains to this day.

During spring 2016, working with The National Library of Wales, we hope to complete the work



(top) The White Poppy was adopted by women’s movements in the 1920s, in opposition to increased adoption of the red poppy for military recruitment. The Wales for Peace icon is a ‘modern take’ which fuses the two poppies together – representing the debate, dialogue and understanding fundamental to maintaining peace between people, local to global.

of digitising and transcribing the Book to make it accessible and searchable for a worldwide audience. For the first time ever the book will travel to venues across Wales, where we will work with communities and schools to discover more about the people behind the names. The first exhibition will be at The National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth from January to April 2016; and as the project progresses, working with Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales we hope to reunite Wales’ Books of Remembrance from both the First and Second World Wars.

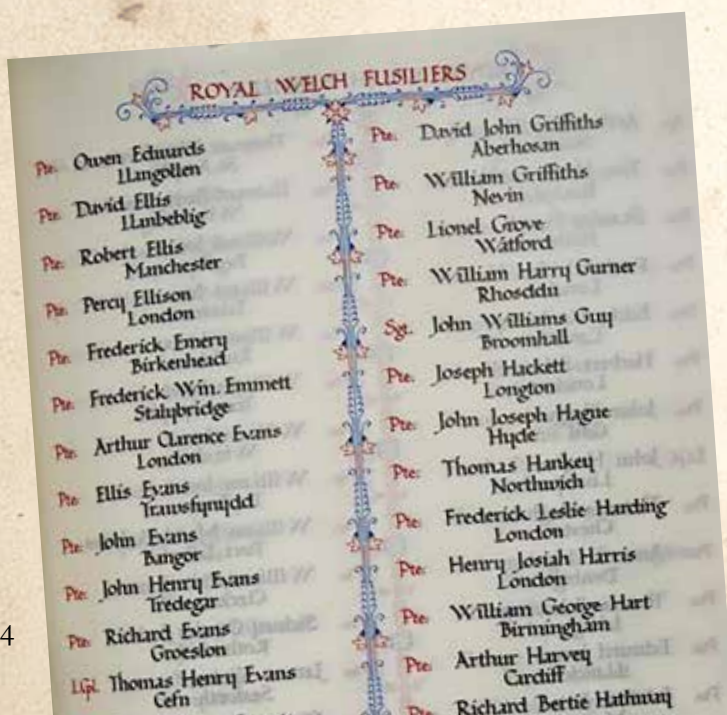
From spring 2016 – the centenary of the Military Service Act – we will also explore the stories of conscientious objectors and pacifists, and the impact of conscription on Wales’ communities – including from May 2016 a travelling joint exhibition with Quakers in Wales, exploring ‘Faith and Action.’

The Peace Builders: the legacy of war?

It is estimated that around three million people in

(left and above) The Welsh Book of Remembrance

This contains the names of 35,000 soldiers who died in the First World War, and behind every name lies a life story. Private Ellis Evans of Trawsfynydd is perhaps one of Wales’ most celebrated peace figures – as the poet Hedd Wyn. He lost his life at Passchendaele just weeks prior to winning the 1917 National Eisteddfod chair – and his prize, the Black Chair, came to symbolise one empty chair too many throughout Europe, for a young generation lost to war. (image on left © National Library of Wales, digitised with the Welsh Centre for International Affairs. Image above © Welsh Centre for International Affairs Archive).





(left) The Women's Peace Pilgrimage. On 27 May 1926, 2,000 women from Snowdonia descended on Pen-y-groes near Caernarfon, carrying the blue flag of peace – and, involving fifty towns and villages, began a march to London. They were part of a Wales-wide movement calling for the creation of a League of Nations (image © Archives and Special Collections, Bangor University). In 2013, in the Temple of Peace Library (above), a binding was found for a petition to the women of America, signed by 390,296 women across Wales. (image © Welsh Centre for International Affairs Archive).

Britain lost a close relative in the First World War. The years following both World Wars were a time of great social change, as a bereaved nation tried to rebuild lives following loss on a personal and national scale. For many the horrors of war led to a determination to work for peace; a story of bereavement, conscience and principles, individual beliefs and community activism.

Peace movements have shaped Wales' national psyche – the women's movement, the Urdd, Quakers and nonconformists, Campaigns for Nuclear Disarmament, the Anti-Apartheid movement, civil rights and equality activists – all are part of our peace heritage.

Starting in spring 2016 with the Urdd and the Quakers, we will work with communities to collect these stories and, with volunteers doing detective work in the archives and attics of Wales, to find 2,000 objects that will be digitised through the People's Collection. The 'Wales for Peace' exhibition will thread this 'whole story' together, touring Wales in 2017–18.

Peace now and for future generations

We hope to engage young people not only to collect and share this heritage, but to inspire debate on the world of today, and a vision for the next hundred years.

- How did Wales welcome thousands of Belgian refugees during the First World War, and is there a comparison with our reaction to the Syrian crisis today?
- What inspired the young people of Wales to broadcast the first message of peace and goodwill to the world in 1922, and what do they feel the

message from Wales should be in 2016?

Through schools conferences, learning resources, volunteer placement opportunities and training, links with international youth movements and intergenerational work in communities, we hope to inspire the next generation of peace builders and help them gain the skills that they need to collect, question and discuss Wales' peace heritage, and to create a legacy that will continue to inspire in another hundred years' time.



(above) International Message of Peace and Goodwill Broadcast every year since 1922, the Urdd's Message of Peace and Goodwill gives the young people of Wales the opportunity to create and send a message to young people around the world. At the May 2016 Urdd Eisteddfod in Flint, an exhibition will be launched alongside a call for stories from people who have been involved in the history of the Message. And alongside international volunteering partners such as UNA Exchange, we hope to develop opportunities for exchanges and reciprocal messages from youth movements worldwide. © Craig Owen (Welsh Centre for International Affairs).

Ireland's 'University of Revolution' in Wales: Fron-goch Internment Camp (1916)



(above) Prisoners of war at Fron-goch camp, Merionethshire, 1914-18 © Meirionnydd Archives, Gwynedd Archives Service 2015

Professor Paul O'Leary of Aberystwyth University recounts the story of the Irish republicans interned at Fron-goch Camp, Merionethshire in 1916.

Strange as it may seem, the site of a disused whisky distillery in a small, remote village in north Wales has left an indelible mark on modern Irish history. Fron-goch in Merionethshire, a few miles from Bala, was an unlikely place for nurturing Irish revolutionaries. Yet that is precisely what happened during the First World War. What took place there during 1916 helped shape the political careers of some key figures in Irish public life. The name of Fron-goch still resonates in the story of the struggle for Irish independence.

Before the First World War, the Irish were promised Home Rule after many decades of determined campaigning. 'Home Rule' was a form of devolution and fell far short of independence but mainstream Irish nationalists accepted it. Under Home Rule Ireland would have its own parliament but remain a part of the United Kingdom. Mainstream nationalists backed the war effort after 1914 to demonstrate that they could behave responsibly when eventually they were given self-government. Hundreds of thousands of Irishmen volunteered to fight in the British army and many died.

But the events of Easter week in 1916 changed the relationship between the majority of the Irish and Britain.

An armed rebellion was organised by a small revolutionary organisation called the Irish Revolutionary Brotherhood. Their idea for an Irish republic went far beyond the limited plans for Home Rule. It claimed 'the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland' and promised equality to both women and men. The superior British forces in Ireland crushed the rebellion after six days of fighting and the main leaders of the rebel forces were executed. But what would the authorities do with the other rebels? Many people with republican connections (and some with none at all) were rounded up. Around 1,800 of them were transported to Fron-goch.

So why Fron-goch? The village had one useful feature for the authorities: a disused whisky distillery. The company that owned it went bankrupt in 1910. After the outbreak of the First World War the site was turned into a prisoner of war camp for German POWs. In 1916 it was decided that this remote location would be an ideal place for the Irish prisoners. The Germans were re-located to make way for the Irish. The village was still connected to the rail network and trains brought the new prisoners to their temporary home in June 1916.

The inmates included Michael Collins, who would become an influential figure in the IRA (the Irish Republican Army). He was an important figure in the events that led to Irish self-government, one of the negotiators of the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921 and Commander-in-Chief of the army in the Irish Free State. Collins used his time in Fron-goch to cement his leadership position in the republican movement. He also honed his skills as a revolutionary at the camp. He taught other prisoners lessons in 'guerilla warfare'. It was a formative period in his life.

Living conditions in the camp were awful. It consisted of two parts – North Camp and South Camp – connected by a road. South Camp was made up of the distillery buildings themselves, while the North Camp was composed of wooden huts. In a letter home Michael Collins commented on the cramped conditions: 'Not too much room to spare!'

These buildings were poorly ventilated, insanitary and rat-infested. Even so, the prisoners taught each other lessons, including the Irish language, to keep up morale. They observed the strength of the Welsh language among local people, some of whom worked

in the camp. Michael Collins befriended a local boy, Robert Roberts, and obtained a Welsh dictionary from him to learn Welsh.

Prisoners were limited to one letter a week. These were censored, but some friendly guards posted additional letters outside the camp on behalf of the men. In fact they smuggled goods in and out of the camp in defiance of regulations. Prisoners often refused to co-operate with the camp commandant.

Other prisoners went on to hold posts in Irish governments, among them Arthur Griffith, the founder of Sinn Féin. Later, he was president of the Irish parliament, Dáil Éireann, during 1922. Like many others he had been swept up by the authorities in Dublin and interned. These people were sifted out and the number of prisoners declined sharply by August 1916.

Questions were asked in parliament about conditions in the camp and it became an embarrassment to the government. Eventually it was emptied in December 1916 when David Lloyd George became prime minister. The Irish presence in Fron-goch had been short-lived but its consequences lasted a long time. Fron-goch became known as 'the University of Revolution' and was a symbol of the revolutionary period in Irish history. Few disused distilleries can boast that.



(above) Memorial Plaque at Fron-goch site © Crown Copyright

Conserving our war memorials

Local war memorials have an important role to play in the commemoration of the First World War and in recognition of that, the Welsh Government Historic Environment Service (Cadw)'s grant scheme and conservation guidance are helping to maintain them for the long term.



(above) Ken Skates AM, Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism, at the newly refurbished Llantwit Major War Memorial © Crown Copyright (2015) Cadw

There are up to 5,000 war memorials in Wales, offering a focal point for family and community acts of commemoration. They are a physical presence in almost every community and are about real people. Caring for these memorials is a way of honouring the memory of the thousands of ordinary Welsh men and women whose lives were touched by war.

During this period, as Wales remembers a hundred years since the First World War, they are even more important. People came together and raised money to help build them. People have wept beside them for many years. Not only do these memorials hold personal ties but they continue to play an important role in the identity of communities today.

Memorials are not always plaques or pieces of sculpture. Wales has many memorial parks, hospitals and village halls, built by public subscription, all of which form part of the legacy of remembrance for communities.

Cadw has worked with the War Memorials Trust to publish new guidance aimed specifically at helping communities to care for their memorials. A grant scheme was also launched in April 2014, offering financial support for conservation work. The aim of both the guidance and grants scheme is to safeguard our war memorials, helping communities bring them back to a good state of repair and keeping them that way, making sure they can retain a living role in the future.

A number of war memorials have already benefited from Cadw's grant scheme:

The **Llantwit Major War Memorial** is listed grade II and dates from 1921. It is located in a prominent roadside position in the centre of the village. The memorial is in the form of a sandstone Celtic cross on a medieval base of four square stone steps and surrounded by iron railings. The base of the cross has a bronze plaque inscribed with the

names of the fallen in the First World War and the front of the cross has a white marble 'Book of Honour' inscribed with the names of the fallen in the Second World War. The memorial commemorates residents who lost their lives or went missing in action.

Following an application from the Llantwit Major Town Council, Cadw awarded a grant of £1,662 in October 2014 to sharpen up or deepen existing lettering where the letters are no longer legible, helping to ensure that those important names commemorated by the memorial are not lost.

Neath War Memorial clock and bells at St David's Church, Neath, have also benefited from almost £10,000 of Welsh Government funding to restore and protect them into the future.

St David's church is listed grade II* and dates from 1864–66. The memorial is located within the Vaughan Tower of the church, which is in a prominent roadside position in the centre of Neath. The memorial is in the form of four clock faces, each to one side of the tower, which chime with a peal of bells on the hour and were placed in the tower as a memorial to the men of the town who fell in the First World War. The funding has helped secure the restoration of the clock faces, operating mechanisms and supporting steel work associated with the bells.

Trewalchmai Community Memorial Clock in Anglesey has the inscriptions, addresses and age of all First and Second World War servicemen from the area who lost their lives. The clock is situated in the centre of the village and is a local focal point. Welsh Government funding of £10,000 has helped secure the future of the memorial through repairs to the supporting tower and restoration of the clock mechanisms.

Other memorials to benefit from the funding under this scheme include Prestatyn War Memorial in Denbighshire and the Drill Hall Site Memorial in Newport.

For further details of Cadw's grant scheme for war memorials, which will be running throughout the centenary period, visit: <http://cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/help-advice-and-grants/grants/grantsforwarmemorials/?lang=en>



(right) Lampeter War Memorial © Crown Copyright (2015) Cadw



The First World War Centenary Partnership and 1914.org



LED BY IWM

The First World War Centenary Partnership is an Imperial War Museums-led initiative for all not-for-profit organisations that are marking the anniversary of the First World War (2014–2018). As of 19 November 2015 we have 3,489 local, regional, national and international organisation members from 57 countries, which include everything from museums, archives, libraries, universities, colleges, performing and visual art organisations through to embassies, government offices, and special interest and community groups.

By joining the Partnership not-for-profit organisations can work strategically together with a collective voice to commemorate this iconic anniversary to a wide and diverse audience.

Members are able to use the First World War Centenary logo alongside their own brand, as a marker that their events and non-commercial products are part of the First World War centenary commemorations.



(above) © IWM

As a member of the Partnership you can access an exclusive extranet website www.1914.org/partnership which allows all members to share ideas and expertise, update each other on their plans, ask questions, distribute resources and form partnerships for planned activities. You can also add your events to the public-facing 1914.org calendar.

To join the First World War Centenary Partnership, please register on www.1914.org/partnership. It is free and more than one person from each organisation can register.

Resources:

The types of resources on offer are a Do It Yourself exhibition, photographs, images of objects, art and documents, short film extracts, soundbites, timelines, audience research documents, reference documents, useful guides and other online resources.

The useful guides cover the following subject areas:

Art, Collections and Research, Evaluation, Communication, Learning and Interpretation and Social Media.

2016

Centenary Partnership meetings:

Three Centenary Partnership meetings will be held in 2016. These are a fantastic opportunity for networking with fellow Partnership members and for sharing plans. The meeting in Wales will take place on 28 January 2016 and the meetings in Northern Ireland and Ireland will take place in the autumn. The Welsh meeting promises a wealth of speakers ranging from National Institutions to local projects. There will also be an opportunity to watch the 'Battle of the Somme' film (1916) and discuss plans for the future.



Year of the Film:

2016 will mark the 100th anniversary of the release of the 'Battle of the Somme', a documentary film that transformed cinema-going in Britain and engaged millions with footage of life at the Front. In Britain the film was seen by 22 million people, nearly half the population, and was also distributed around the world.

The Imperial War Museums' ambition is to replicate this mass engagement with the 'Battle of the Somme' in 2016 by making the film and a range of resources available to members of the Partnership across the world. From 1 July 2016 until 15 July 2017 members of the Centenary Partnership will be able to hold screenings of the 'Battle of the Somme' film at their venues.

Sources of Funding – First World War Centenary Projects



© National Library of Wales © Llyfrgell Cenedlaethol Cymru

If you are planning a project to commemorate the First World War Centenary in Wales, here's some advice about organisations that can offer grants and other funding support.

Heritage Lottery Fund, First World War: 'Then and Now' Programme

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) 'First World War: Then and Now' programme is providing grants of £3,000 to £10,000 for communities to mark the Centenary of the First World War.

Funding is available to help groups, communities and organisations mark the Centenary by exploring, conserving and sharing the heritage of the First World War from memorials, buildings and sites, to photographs, letters and literature. It's a rolling programme which means you can apply any time and applications are assessed in eight weeks.

Visit their website for application forms, guidance and examples of projects

www.blf.org.uk

or email: wales@blf.org.uk

Our Heritage Programme – Heritage Lottery Fund

The Our Heritage Programme is for any type of project related to national, regional or local heritage in the UK. Grants are available for more than £10,000 and up to £100,000, applications are welcomed from not-for-profit organisations, private owners of heritage (including individuals and for-profit organisations) and partnerships. www.blf.org.uk

Young Roots Heritage Lottery Fund

The Young Roots programme is for projects that engage young people, aged 11 to 25, with heritage in the UK. Grants of more than £10,000 and up to £50,000 are available to fund partnerships of heritage and youth organisations to help young people shape and deliver their own projects in safe environments. www.blf.org.uk

Cadw – Grants for War Memorials in Wales

Developed in partnership with the War Memorials Trust, this scheme will help to safeguard memorials for future generations, with grants of up to 70% of the eligible costs (up to a maximum of £10,000) available for conservation and repair.

In addition to this scheme Cadw also offer other grants to contribute to the costs of repairing and restoring historic assets as well as match funding community, local authority and third sector-led projects.

For more information and guidance, visit the Help, Advice and Grants section of the Cadw website: www.cadw.wales.gov.uk

War Memorials Trust

Grants are available to repair and conserve war memorials from the War Memorials Trust. The Trust can also advise on appropriate conservation methods.

You can find further details on the War Memorials Trust website: www.war memorials.org or telephone: 020 7233 7356.

Memorials Grant Scheme

Additional help may be available through this scheme run by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in Wales and England, which refunds VAT incurred in the construction, repair and maintenance of memorials.

You can find further details on the memorials grant scheme website: www.memorialgrant.org.uk or by telephone: 0845 600 6430.

Federation of Museums & Galleries in Wales Small Grants Scheme

Under this scheme grants of up to £5,000 are offered to Museums in Wales, twice a year, with priority given to supporting smaller projects. Successful projects include conservation and specialist equipment, outreach and lifelong learning projects, development of partnership working and professional advice. Museums must be Accredited and be a member of the Federation. For more information visit the Grants page of: www.welshmuseumsfederation.org

Arts Council Wales

If a project has a cultural or artistic dimension it may be possible to apply for support from the Arts Council of Wales www.artswales.org.uk
They also offer advice on how to apply for funding and give details of a number of other sources of funding available to arts organisations and individuals.

Schools

Thanks to new funding from the Welsh Government, every secondary school in Wales has the opportunity to apply to receive up to £1,000 to develop creative and innovative projects to commemorate the First World War.

Each school is able to decide how best they can do this, and they could also work with other schools and undertake collaborative projects. Schools interested in applying should e-mail:

FWWCommemorationGrant@Wales.gsi.gov.uk
to receive a grant application pack.

In addition to the public bodies listed here, private charities or commercial businesses may be prepared to support commemorative projects, especially if they are directly related to the charity or business enterprise itself.

Online help in finding grant-giving bodies is provided by www.grantnet.com and the Charities Aid Foundation publishes a regular Directory of grant-aiding trusts, often available at local libraries.

Fund-raising requires imagination and persistence: there is no limit to the number of potential sources. Good luck.

Discover more about how Wales is remembering the First World War and other ways you can get involved: www.walesremembers.org

Events

NOVEMBER 2013

28 Nov 2013 - 11 Nov 2018

Launch of the Great War and the Valleys Online Exhibition

Merthyr Tydfil

<http://merthyrww1.lgco.org.uk/en/items/show/13>

During an event at The College Merthyr Tydfil on Thursday, 28 November John Griffiths AM, the then Minister for Culture and Sport, launched The Great War and the Valleys digital exhibition, created by historian Dr. Paul O'Leary of Aberystwyth University. The exhibition looks at a series of specific events in Merthyr Tydfil and the Cynon Valley but also addresses how we can commemorate the diverse and controversial set of events that occurred during 1914-18.

It details the harrowing experience of war in the trenches but also documents the opposition to war and the impact of the conflict on civilian life. The 'home front' is an important part of the exhibition. It draws attention to how women's lives were changed by the war and how controversial events like the miners' strike of July 1915 were reported. It also sheds light on the 'spy scare' of 1914 and the arrival of groups of Belgian refugees.

Dr. O'Leary's online presentation will remain at The College Merthyr Tydfil for the benefit of its staff and students. The digital exhibition drew heavily on material digitised as part of the The Welsh Experience of the First World War online digital archive, which was also launched at the event (please

The Welsh Government is not responsible for events arranged by external organisations, individuals or groups. Some events may require booking or involve an entry fee. Please contact the event organisers directly for details.

see www.walesremembers.org/the-national-library-of-wales-launches-the-welsh-experience-of-the-first-world-war/).

The Minister said: "This new digital exhibition is the culmination of widespread collaboration between local and national institutions that will help our communities better understand the impact of the First World War and the resultant enduring changes to Welsh society.

"It is a further contribution to the wide-ranging programme to commemorate the First World War, which is being developed by the Welsh Government."

The Welsh Experience of the First World War was developed as a collaborative initiative led by the National Library of Wales, in partnership with the Archives and Special Collections of Wales (partners are Aberystwyth University; Bangor University; Cardiff University; Swansea University; the University of Wales Trinity St David; BBC Cymru Wales, The People's Collection, Wales, and archives and local records offices that are part of ARCW: the Archives and Records Council of Wales). The project was funded by a £500,000 grant from the Jisc-Content programme as part of their work in support of education and research, and through support from the partner organisations.

AUGUST 2014

1 Aug 2014 - 11 Nov 2018

Travelling Exhibition - "Gwent in the

Great War"

Various locations in Gwent

www.walesremembers.org

Organised by the Western Front Association Gwent branch, and in Partnership with MALD and Gwent Archives.

This travelling exhibition will be displayed at a variety of locations across the county of Gwent during the four year commemorative period.

Contact: strong@btinternet.com or 01291 425638

NOVEMBER 2015

15 Nov 2015 9:00am - 30 Apr 2016 5:00pm

In Remembrance of our WW1 Heroes & Heroines

Llandysul Library, Llandysul, Ceredigion, SA44 4QS

www.hanesllandysulhistory.co.uk

An Exhibition dedicated to all those who served from Llandysul and the surrounding areas.

The Exhibition is on the first floor of Llandysul Library (lift available).

Monday to Friday 9am – 5 pm and Saturday 10 am – 1 pm. FREE Entry.

Exhibited are pictures of some of the 390 men and women who served from the area in the First World War.

Our exhibition contains photographs, clippings from newspapers and memories from relatives.

Limited exhibition space means that we can only show a small number. Please look in our Archive Folders where you will see the information which we have found.

Volunteer researchers are continuing to work on this project. If you have additional information on those shown here, or about anyone we have not yet recorded, please make contact and we will be pleased to include this in our Archive.

Contact hanesllandysul@gmail.com

AUGUST 2015

22 Aug 2015 9:30am - 31 Jan 2016 5:00pm

When Dai Became Tommy

National Wool Museum

www.museumwales.ac.uk/wool/visit

A look at the personal stories of miners who went to war as tunnellers. It will involve communities by asking them for personal stories from their families in all fields of war.

OCTOBER 2015

10 Oct 2015 - 13 Mar 2016

Poppies for Remembrance

National Waterfront Museum,
Oystermouth Road, Maritime
Quarter, Swansea, SA1 3RD

www.museumwales.ac.uk/swansea

A natural history exhibition looking at the poppy and how it has become a symbol of remembrance.

An Amgueddfa Cymru Touring exhibition

NOVEMBER 2015

11 Nov 2015 10:00am - 21 Feb 2016 4:30pm

The National Assembly for Wales Remembers

Pierhead Street, Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff, CF99 1NA

www.assembly.wales

Discover the hidden histories of soldiers who fought in the First World War and their families, told through the voices of their descendants.

Assembly Members and Commission staff have delved into their family histories to tell the tales of relatives who were involved in the war. This exhibition features a wide range of photographs and postcards to loved ones as well as many physical items including a biscuit rasher, French bayonet, scrap books, newspaper clippings and many other fascinating items.

We hope this exhibition will inspire our visitors to return home and explore their own family's history and involvement in the Great War.

30 Nov 2015 - 11 Feb 2016

Death at a Distance

National Roman Legion Museum,
High Street, Caerleon, Newport,
NP18 1AE

www.museumwales.ac.uk/roman

From the dawn of time we have looked for the best way to kill each other. Artillery, objects that can shoot, can be objects of great beauty but also inflict great pain and suffering.....

This small exhibition looks at the development of artillery warfare from the bow and arrow of the ancient world to the machine gun and heavy artillery of the First

World War. It also considers the psychological and physical impact of these weapons.

For further information please contact the Museum directly on 0300 111 2 333 or via email roman@museumwales.ac.uk

DECEMBER 2015

Dec 2015 - Dec 2016

First World War Faces project

Royal Welch Fusiliers Museum,
Caernarfon Castle

www.rwfmuseum.org.uk

Collecting and displaying the details and photographs of every Royal Welsh Fusilier who fell in the First World War.

A nationwide search for photographs, helped by historical societies, war memorial projects, county and school archives as well as volunteers to find almost 11,000 photos of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers who were lost in the First World War. Help us bring these boys back together – forever.

Contact us on 01286 673362 or on rwfmuseum1@btconnect.com if you can help us or if you need more information.

Dec 2015 - Dec 2016

First World War workshops for schools

Royal Welch Fusiliers Museum,
Caernarfon Castle

www.rwfmuseum.org.uk

We are offering free workshops for schools about the First World War. The whole class can dress up as a First World War Tommy and handle real and replica artefacts.

Contact us for more details on 01286 676463 or rwfmuseum1@btconnect.com

7 Dec 2015 - 31 Jan 2016

Working for Victory: Welsh Industry and the First World War

Big Pit National Coal Museum

www.museumwales.ac.uk/bigpit/

On tour from National Waterfront Museum, this display looks at the impact of the war on Welsh Industry.

0300 111 2 333

bigpit@museumwales.ac.uk

JANUARY 2016

25 Jan 2016 - 26 Feb 2016

The Welsh at Gallipoli Travelling Exhibition - Gregynog Hall, Tregynon, Montgomeryshire

Gregynog Hall, Tregynon, Nr. Newtown, Powys, SY16 3PW

www.gregynog.org

The exhibition tells the story of the Welsh soldiers who served throughout the Gallipoli campaign. It initially focuses on the Penmaenmawr 'Quarry Boys', Territorial soldiers who worked together at the local quarry, landed at Suvla Bay on 9 August 1915 and went into battle the following day. As the exhibition travels it will also relate the stories of men from other parts of Wales who fought at Gallipoli.

Core elements of the exhibition consist of bilingual travelling panels, accompanying digital material available on the People's Collection Wales website, a commemorative brochure and educational material.

The exhibition has been developed by Mrs Anne Pedley, a Trustee of the Royal Welch Fusiliers Museum.

The exhibition will be displayed

at the following locations:

Penmaenmawr Museum, Conwy
(10 August – 11 September)

Ladywell House in Newtown
(15 September – 8 October)

The National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth
(13 October – 3 November)

The Regimental Museum of the Royal Welsh in Brecon
(6 November – 28 November)

Firing Line Museum at Cardiff Castle (7 December – 20 January)

Gregynog Hall, Montgomeryshire
(25 January – 26 February)

For further information regarding the exhibition's display at Gregynog Hall in Tregynon, near Newtown in Montgomeryshire, please contact Gregynog Hall on 01686 650224. The exhibition will be on display from 10am – 5pm on Monday – Friday between 25 January – 26 February. Please note that it is recommended that visitors call Gregynog Hall in advance to ensure that the Hall is open to the public on the day on which you intend to visit.

FEBRUARY 2016

2 Feb 2016 10:00am - 1 Aug 2016 5:00pm

Tenby and the First World War

Tenby Museum And Art Gallery, Castle Hill, Tenby, Pembrokeshire SA70 7BP

www.tenbymuseum.org.uk

An exhibition exploring the effect of the First World War on the town of Tenby whilst putting these local events into a wider historical context. Themes explored range from the use of typewriters through to life in the trenches, tanks, refugees, blackouts,

agriculture and peace time celebrating, to name but a few. The exhibition will be made up of a series of bilingual panels and will also feature artefacts, recreations, photographs, letters and personal memorabilia. There will also be a section, created by students from the local secondary school, examining contemporary views of the War from students one hundred years after the outbreak of the War who would have been at or nearing conscription age. The exhibition, along with a publication entitled Tenby Remembers, has been funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

17 Feb 2016 11:00am - 17 Feb 2016 3:00pm

"From Me to You" - First World War Postcards and Propaganda

Firing Line, Cardiff Castle Museum of the Welsh Soldier, Castle Street, Cardiff, CF10 3RB

www.cardiffcastlemuseum.org.uk

During the First World War postcards were often the only way serving soldiers could communicate with their families. These postcards tell stories and show us how people's lives were touched by war.

Come along and have the opportunity to handle some of the postcards that are in our collections but families can also draw inspiration from these and create their own to send to serving soldiers.

MARCH 2016

1 Mar 2016 and 18 Apr 2016

Make a medal family activity

Royal Welch Fusiliers Museum,

Caernarfon Castle

www.rwfmuseum.org.uk

Come and visit our fantastic medal gallery and First World War VCs. Children get to make your own medal to take home. Free activity and free entry to the Castle. Sessions will be drop-in 10am to 4pm on both days.

5 Mar 2016 12:30pm - 5 Mar 2016 1:30pm

Call Them To Remembrance

Firing Line, Cardiff Castle Museum of the Welsh Soldier, Castle Street, Cardiff, CF10 3RB

www.cardiffcastlemuseum.org.uk

As part of the Cardiff Remembers project Gwyn Prescott will be talking about his book 'Call Them to Remembrance'. The book includes the stories of the Welsh Rugby Internationals who died in the Great War.

APRIL 2016

30 Apr 2016 12:00pm - 2 May 2016 3:30pm

Forget me not postcards

National Waterfront Museum, Oystermouth Road, Maritime Quarter, Swansea, SA1 3RD

www.museumwales.ac.uk/swansea

Taking inspiration from the heartfelt postcards sent to and from the trenches during the First World War, make your own special card using simple embroidery or colouring techniques. There will also be the opportunity to handle some original card specimens.

Drop in workshop.

For further information please contact the museum directly on 0300 111 2 333 or via email: waterfront@museumwales.ac.uk

MAY 2016

6 May 2016

The Battle of Mametz Wood

National Museum Cardiff, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NP

www.museumwales.ac.uk/cardiff/

To accompany the exhibition "War's Hell!" The Battle of Mametz Wood in Art this talk will introduce the history of the Battle of Mametz Wood and the involvement of Welsh troops in the context of the wider Somme offensive.

The talk will be given by Professor Chris Williams, Head of School of History, Archaeology and Religion, Cardiff University

Time TBC – For further information please contact the Museum on 0300 111 2 333 or via email Cardiff@museumwales.ac.uk

13 May 2016 7:15pm

In Parenthesis

Wales Millennium Centre, Bute Place, Cardiff, CF10 5AL

www.wmc.org.uk/Productions/2016-2017/WNO/259317

World première,
Music by Iain Bell

Libretto by David Antrobus and Emma Jenkins (after David Jones)

In Parenthesis is young British composer Iain Bell's adaptation of the epic poem by Welsh poet, writer and artist David Jones. In Parenthesis is commissioned by the Nicholas John Trust with 14-18 NOW, the UK cultural programme to commemorate World War I.

Private John Ball and his comrades

in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers are posted to the Somme. In Mametz Wood they enter a strange realm – outside of time, dream-like but deadly. Rather than simply reporting the horrors of the Somme, In Parenthesis dares to offer hope. Even here amid the destruction, a fragile flowering of regeneration and re-birth can be found. Bell's beautiful score combines traditional Welsh song with moments of otherworldliness, terror, humour and transcendence. David Pountney's period production is both an evocation and a commemoration of the events of the Somme.

In Parenthesis will be streamed live on www.theoperaplatform.eu in summer 2016.

Wales Millennium Centre

Fri 13 and Sat 21 May & Fri 3 June

Birmingham Hippodrome

Fri 10 June

Royal Opera House

Wed 29 June & Fri 1 July

13 May 2016 6:00pm - 13 May 2016 6:45pm

Come & Sing - Sosban Fach

Glanfa Stage, Wales Millennium Centre, Bute Place, Cardiff, CF10 5AL

www.wno.org.uk/event/parenthesis

As part of Welsh National Opera's 'In Parenthesis Engage & Participate', there will be an opportunity for individuals and community groups to come and take part in one of WNO's Come & Sing events. The famous traditional Welsh folk-song Sosban Fach ('Little Saucepan') will be at the heart of the events. This popular rugby-stand song (with origins in Llanelli) was sung in the World War I trenches and is

referenced by David Jones in his epic war poem, *In Parenthesis* – which has been adapted into an opera by Iain Bell for WNO's Summer Season 2016. *Sosban Fach* is scored as the opening of Act II.

21 May 2016 7:15pm

In Parenthesis

Wales Millennium Centre, Bute Place, Cardiff, CF10 5AL

www.wmc.org.uk/Productions/2016-2017/WNO/259317/

World première
Music by Iain Bell

Libretto by David Antrobus and Emma Jenkins (after David Jones)

In Parenthesis is young British composer Iain Bell's adaptation of the epic poem by Welsh poet, writer and artist David Jones. *In Parenthesis* is commissioned by the Nicholas John Trust with 14-18 NOW, the UK cultural programme to commemorate World War I.

Private John Ball and his comrades in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers are posted to the Somme. In Mametz Wood they enter a strange realm – outside of time, dream-like but deadly. Rather than simply reporting the horrors of the Somme, *In Parenthesis* dares to offer hope. Even here amid the destruction, a fragile flowering of regeneration and re-birth can be found. Bell's beautiful score combines traditional Welsh song with moments of other-worldliness, terror, humour and transcendence. David Pountney's period production is both an evocation and a commemoration of the events of the Somme.

In Parenthesis will be streamed live on www.theoperaplatform.eu in summer 2016.

Wales Millennium Centre
Fri 13 and Sat 21 May &
Fri 3 June

Birmingham Hippodrome
Fri 10 June

Royal Opera House
Wed 29 June & Fri 1 July

For more details visit
wno.org.uk/parenthesis

28 May 2016 12:30pm - 28 May 2016 3:30pm

Morse Code Beady Bracelets

National Waterfront Museum, Oystermouth Road, Maritime Quarter, Swansea, SA1 3RD

www.museumwales.ac.uk/swansea

Create a secret code message hidden in a code bead. Suitable for families. Drop in workshops.

For further information please contact the museum directly on 0300 111 2 333 or via email: waterfront@museumwales.ac.uk

28 May 2016 - 29 Jul 2016 and 30 Jul 2016 - 20 Sept 2016

Sir Henry Jones Museum summer exhibitions 2016

Sir Henry Jones Museum, Y Cwm, Llangernyw, Abergale, LL22 8PR

www.sirhenryjonesmuseum.co.uk

The Sir Henry Jones Museum, Llangernyw, will be focusing on War and Peace for its summer exhibitions during 2016.

The museum's first exhibition tells the story of the effect of the World Wars on the local community and will run from Saturday 28 May (2pm launch) until Friday 29 July. The exhibition will remember the soldiers who went to War and will show their pictures, families, stories and some

of their personal kit. The second exhibition will focus on the well-known pacifist Waldo Williams, whose grandfather was Sir Henry Jones's brother. This exhibition will tell Waldo's story through pictures and objects, and will start on Saturday 30 July at 2pm, running until 20 September.

A range of educational activities and events will accompany the summer programme, with more information available on our Facebook page: SirHenryJonesMuseum.

31 May 2016 11:00am - 2 June 2016 4:00pm

Family Printmaking Workshops

National Museum Cardiff, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NP

www.museumwales.ac.uk/cardiff

"War's Hell!" The Battle of Mametz Wood in Art

The Battle of Mametz Wood during the First World War was one of the fiercest battles involving Welsh regiments. Take inspiration from the powerful images and poetry on display in the exhibition and make your own print.

Workshops held at 11am, 1pm and 3pm. Places must be reserved in advance.

JUNE 2016

3 Jun 2016 7:15pm

In Parenthesis

Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff, Bute Place, CF10 5AL

www.wmc.org.uk/Productions/2016-2017/WNO/259317/

World première
Music by Iain Bell

Libretto by David Antrobus and Emma Jenkins (after David Jones)

In Parenthesis is young British composer Iain Bell's adaptation of the epic poem by Welsh poet, writer and artist David Jones. In Parenthesis is commissioned by the Nicholas John Trust with 14-18 NOW, the UK cultural programme to commemorate World War I.

Private John Ball and his comrades in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers are posted to the Somme. In Mametz Wood they enter a strange realm – outside of time, dream-like but deadly. Rather than simply reporting the horrors of the Somme, In Parenthesis dares to offer hope. Even here amid the destruction, a fragile flowering of regeneration and re-birth can be found. Bell's beautiful score combines traditional Welsh song with moments of other-worldliness, terror, humour and transcendence. David Pountney's period production is both an evocation and a commemoration of the events of the Somme.

In Parenthesis will be streamed live on www.theoperaplatform.eu in summer 2016.

Wales Millennium Centre

Fri 13 and Sat 21 May & Fri 3 June

Birmingham Hippodrome

Fri 10 June

Royal Opera House

Wed 29 June & Fri 1 July

For more details visit wno.org.uk/parenthesis

3 Jun 2016 2:30pm - 3 Jun 2016

3:15pm

Come & Sing - Sosban Fach

National Museum Cardiff, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NP

www.wno.org.uk/event/parenthesis

As part of Welsh National Opera's 'In Parenthesis Engage & Participate', there will be an opportunity for individuals and community groups to come and take part in one of WNO's Come & Sing events. The famous traditional Welsh folk-song Sosban Fach ('Little Saucepan') will be at the heart of the events. This popular rugby-stand song (with origins in Llanelli) was sung in the World War I trenches and is referenced by David Jones in his epic war poem, In Parenthesis – which has been adapted into an opera by Iain Bell for WNO's Summer Season 2016. Sosban Fach is scored as the opening of Act II.

JULY 2016

1 Jul 2016 10:00am - 29 Jul 2016

4:30pm

Flintshire Soldiers at the Somme
Flintshire Record Office, The Old Rectory, Rectory Lane, Hawarden, Flintshire, CH5 3NR

www.flintshire.gov.uk/archives

The exhibition will tell the stories of some Flintshire soldiers who fought at the Battle of the Somme. It will be available to view during Record Office opening hours (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday, 10am to 4.30pm) during July and will then be touring other venues in the county. For details of venues or any other information, please e-mail archives@flintshire.gov.uk

1 Jul 2016 11:00am - 13 Aug 2016

5:00pm

WW1 - The Trenches

Powysland Museum, Canal Wharf, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7AQ

www.powys.gov.uk/en/museums/visit-your-local-museum/powysland-museum/

Following on from previous years this exhibition on World War 1 focuses on the warfare in the trenches and using the museum's own collection depicts life and death on the Western Front.

For further information please contact the museum on 01938 554656 or powysland@powys.gov.uk

2 Jul 2016 9:30am - 3 Dec 2016 6:00pm

MAMETZ - Aled Rhys Hughes

National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY23 3BU

www.llgc.org.uk/blog/?p=8597&lang=en

An exhibition showcasing stunning photographs of Mametz Wood by Aled Rhys Hughes alongside various sound recordings, works by the poet David Jones and other audio visual items from the National Library of Wales Collection.

5 Jul 2016 - 8 Jul 2016

The Mametz Wood Centenary Classic Car Run

The George, Mumbles, Swansea, SA3 4EH

www.walesremembers.org

An opportunity to join 100 British classic cars in a journey from Swansea to Mametz, France, to commemorate the Battle of Mametz Wood, a First World War Battle in the Somme, France.

Between 7– 12 July 1916, 3500+ Welsh casualties were recorded following the “Battle of Mametz Wood” with over 1000 Welsh soldiers having sacrificed their lives in a prolonged battle to capture the Mametz Woods from the German army.

Details of the run:

5 July 2016: Depart The George, Mumbles, Swansea at 12 noon
Arrive at Portsmouth for night crossing to Caen, France

6 July 2016: Travel to Hotels by driving through the tranquil countryside of Normandy arriving at Amiens by 6pm

7 July 2016: Attendance at Service at Mametz Wood and public display of the cars at Amiens (tbc)

8 July 2016: Return journey to Caen for ferry to the UK (details of times to be confirmed) and onward journey to Swansea

The Package:

The Inclusive package will include:

Ferry crossings – 1 car 2 passengers

Accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis in 3* hotel – twin or double room

Transport to the Centenary service

Administration costs

Cost: approx £450

To register your interest in the Mametz Wood Run, please e-mail landeg@ntlworld.com

7-10 Jul 2016

Mametz Remembered

Royal Welch Fusiliers Museum,
Caernarfon Castle

www.rwfmuseum.org.uk

A service of remembrance and costumed interpreters helping to tell the story of the Battle of Mametz at Caernarfon Castle.

AUGUST 2016

5 Aug 2016 - 1 Aug 2017

Poppies for Remembrance

National Wool Museum, Dre-fach Felindre, Llandysul,
Carmarthenshire, SA44 5UP

www.museumwales.ac.uk/wool

A natural history exhibition looking at the poppy and how it became a symbol of remembrance.

An Amgueddfa Cymru Touring Exhibition

0300 111 2 333

wool@museumwales.ac.uk

24 Aug 2016 10:00am - 29 Jan 2017
5:00pm

For Freedom and For Empire

National Waterfront Museum,
Oystermouth Road, Maritime
Quarter, Swansea, SA1 3RD

www.museumwales.ac.uk/swansea

“If the men of Arfon choose to shelter beneath the mountains of Snowdonia, and therefore neglect their duty, then they will eternally lose the prime ideal of Nationalism – namely the opportunity to fight for freedom and for empire....”

These are the words of Canon RT Jones, Bethesda in 1914. It's often assumed that all communities and industries across Wales responded enthusiastically to the recruitment campaign which preceded conscription. The exhibition looks at responses in the slate quarrying communities of Wales, explaining if and why these communities found it difficult to respond.

For further information please contact the museum direct on 0300 111 2 333 or via email: waterfront@museumwales.ac.uk

SEPTEMBER 2016

14 Sept 2016

The Meanings of 1916 in Ireland and Wales: A Conference Sponsored by the Ireland-Wales Research Network and the Welsh Government

Aberystwyth University

<https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/history/staff/ppo/>

This conference examines the significance of the Frongoch POW camp in north Wales, where Irish republicans were imprisoned following the Easter Rising of 1916. The year 1916 was of immense significance for Ireland, but it also had great importance for developments in Wales where support for the war was tested in different ways. The conference uses events in 1916 to ask broader questions about the histories of both countries during and beyond the war years.

Contact: Prof. Paul O'Leary,
Aberystwyth University.

OCTOBER 2016

12 Oct 2016 - 20 Nov 2016

Caernarfon Castle hosting the 'Weeping Window' poppy installation

Caernarfon Castle, Caernarfon,
Gwynedd

www.rwfmuseum.org.uk/

The Weeping Window poppy sculpture, part of the original Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red, will open at Caernarfon

Castle on 12 October 2016, and will be specially presented by 14-18 NOW to mark the centenary of the First World War.

It will remain at the castle until 20 November 2016, meaning it will be in place for Remembrance Day and the centenary of the end of the Battle of the Somme.

Weeping Window is from the installation Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red, a display of 888,246 poppies; one to honour every death in the British and Colonial forces of the First World War which was installed at the Tower of London in 2014.

Weeping Window is the cascade of poppies that was seen pouring out of a high window down to the grassed moat below.

The Weeping Window sculpture has been saved for the nation by the Backstage Trust and the Clore Duffield Foundation, and gifted to 14-18 NOW and Imperial War Museums.

As with all 14-18 NOW projects, the presentation of the sculptures to new audiences aims to prompt a new, nationwide dialogue around the legacy of the First World War.

NOVEMBER 2016

11 Nov 2016

First World War Faces projection

**Royal Welch Fusiliers Museum,
Caernarfon Castle**

www.rwfmuseum.org.uk

Projection of all the names and the photos of the Fallen (if we have them) onto the Castle Walls.



© Philip Davies, South Wales Branch of the Western Front Association

The Welsh at Mametz Wood 1916: The National Service of Remembrance

The Welsh at Mametz Wood 1916: The National Service of Remembrance in July 2016 will mark the centenary of the Battle of the Somme which began on 1 July and lasted until 18 November 1916. This was arguably the most significant battle of the First World War, with 419,654 British and Commonwealth soldiers killed, almost 20,000 of them on the first day, and many more wounded. It made a lasting impression on the nation's psyche. The first of July is often remembered for the sacrifices of the 'Pals' battalions of Kitchener's New Army, the citizen army, made up of volunteers raised from specific neighbourhoods, workplaces and professions who joined up with their friends and work colleagues.

On 7 July 1916 the 38th (Welsh) Division was brought into the battle and tasked with the capture of Mametz Wood, which was essential to the second phase of the great battle. The 38th (Welsh) Division contained the Welsh equivalent of the 'Pals' battalions of the English towns and counties. Many Welshmen were serving and had served in other units of the British Army, but the 38th (Welsh) Division was composed of battalions raised from Welsh volunteers. There were battalions of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, the Welsh Regiment and the South Wales Borderers raised from the Rhondda, Cardiff, Swansea, Carmarthen, Gwent, North Wales and from the London Welsh.

'Parchwn eu Hymdrechion Parhaed ein Hatgofion'



Many were recruited locally, men who had worked and socialised together and who had a common heritage and outlook on life. This was a microcosm of Welsh life and was dubbed Lloyd George's 'Welsh Army'.

The actions of the Welsh at Mametz Wood and the loss of life had a profound effect on Welsh society at the time, which may still be felt in many Welsh communities today. As a consequence of the battle the 38th (Welsh) Division suffered over 4,000 casualties of whom over 1,000 were killed. Some of these still remain buried in the wood as over 750 had no known graves and are commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial.

*'Parchwn eu Hymdrechion
Parhaed ein Hatgofion'*

The South Wales Branch of the Western Front Association is co-ordinating the National Service of Remembrance on 7 July and additional events on subsequent days, to be held at Mametz Wood, Picardie. The main act of commemoration and remembrance will take place at the site of the magnificent Welsh Dragon Memorial, wrought in iron and steel by the blacksmith sculptor, David Petersen, and facing the wood. It is hoped that a large number of descendants of those who fought and died and others will make their way to Mametz Wood to participate in the services of remembrance and reconciliation. The Treorci Male Voice Choir and the band of the Royal Welsh Regiment are already committed to leading the service and the proposed programme follows.

Thursday 7 July

On **7 July 2016, at 11.00am**, a service of commemoration and reconciliation will be held at the Memorial to the 38th (Welsh) Division, Mametz Wood, which the South Wales Branch of the Western Front Association commissioned in 1987. This will be followed by wreath laying and concerts in the afternoon and evening in the village of Mametz and/or its newly rebuilt 'Salle des Fêtes'. It is planned that in the afternoon the band will perform on the village green at Mametz and that in the evening the Treorci Male Voice Choir will give a concert in the Basilica of Albert. This will replicate the events of 11 July 1987, and engage the local community and visitors to

the commemoration, as well as young people from Wales and the locality. Children from the Mametz village school will sing and participate at points in the proceedings.

On subsequent days a series of events will be held which will link in with the commemoration.

Friday 8 July

On **Friday 8 July 2016** there will be a short service of remembrance at **Flat Iron Copse Cemetery** (a.m.). In this cemetery are about 90 Welsh soldiers killed at Mametz Wood and it is hoped to position one child/young person/relative at each headstone to lay a poppy/wreath. Information will be provided on each soldier and this will be given to each poppy/wreath bearer prior to the event.

In the afternoon of 8 July a series of talks/exhibitions and walks will be held at Mametz/Mametz Wood. People can opt into these as they wish. A number of people have already been approached and will be happy to give their services. This will form the heritage/legacy element of the process of remembrance and will again engage those attending.

It is hoped that contributions will include the following:

- David Petersen will talk on creating the Dragon memorial.
- A photographic exhibition staged by Aled Roberts and an exhibition by the David Jones Society.
- Gwyn Prescott author of 'Call Them to Remembrance' will talk about the two WRU Internationals killed at Mametz Wood, Company Sergeant Major Richard 'Dick' Thomas and Captain John Williams, both of 16th Welsh (Cardiff City) Battalion.
- A visit to the memorial of Harry Fellowes located in the wood and a reading of his poem.
- Organised walks through the wood.

- Dr Jonathan Hicks will talk about his latest book on 'Mametz'.
- Lieutenant-General Jonathon Riley will talk on 'Llewellyn Wyn Griffith at Mametz Wood'.
- A talk on the 130th Field Ambulance which dealt with many of the casualties from the battle.

Saturday 9 July

On **Saturday 9 July** a short service of remembrance will be held at **Dantzig Alley Cemetery** (a.m.) followed by a joint remembrance with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) at the Thiepval Memorial to the missing. The CWGC theme for this particular day will be the Welsh missing of Mametz Wood. In the afternoon there will be a service of remembrance at **Heilly Station Cemetery** (where many of the wounded were taken). There are a similar number of Welsh casualties from the Battle of Mametz Wood in these cemeteries. At the cemeteries a child/young person/relative will be positioned at each headstone to lay a poppy/wreath. Information will be provided on each soldier and given to each poppy/wreath bearer.

On **Sunday 10 July** (for early risers) a Dawn Vigil will be held near the site of Strip Trench from where some of the attacks of 10 July were launched.

These activities will be supported by the Welsh Government, the people of Mametz Village, the Royal Welsh Regiment, the Treorci Male Voice Choir, Old Comrades Associations, the Royal British Legion, the Western Front Association and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

If you require any further information please contact Philip Davies, Secretary to the South Wales Branch of the Western Front Association philgreenisha@btinternet.com.



(left) Veterans and guests at the Mametz Memorial dedication ceremony in 1987 © Philip Davies, South Wales Branch of the Western Front Association
(above) Mametz villagers and guests outside the Mairie © Philip Davies, South Wales Branch of the Western Front Association