

Joint Museums Committee

22 September 2014

6. FIRST WORLD WAR 100TH ANNIVERSARY PROGRAMME

Recommendation

1. **The Museums General Manager recommends that the Museums Worcestershire programme to mark the 100th anniversary of the First World War be noted.**

Background Information

2. Museums Worcestershire has been part of a group of heritage organisations in Worcestershire working together to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the First World War. The group was originally convened by Worcester City Councillor Mr D Tibbutt during his mayoral year.

3. With Worcestershire Archives as the lead applicant, the group submitted an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund and was successfully awarded £310,500. That this is one of the largest WW1 anniversary grants awarded and shows HLF's support for the county-wide partnership of 12 heritage organisations and an even wider group of associated organisations.

4. Museums Worcestershire was awarded £107,000 to fund projects across the four years of commemoration. This will fund seven projects including exhibitions at all three Museums Worcestershire sites and family activities and outreach projects. It will also fund a part-time member of staff for part of the project duration. In addition, both the Worcestershire Regiment Museum Trust and the Worcestershire Yeomanry Museum Trust have been awarded grants to undertake small displays within the Worcestershire Soldier galleries at Worcester City Museum & Art Gallery relating to the key battles their regiments fought.

5. The first project has been a military-style bell-tent which has given the project a presence at many commemorative events this summer and autumn. The tent will offer an outreach facility throughout the project, with community groups able to book it and an artist, re-enactor or poet to add a WW1 remembrance link to their community events. The bell-tent's next appearance is the events taking place on 31 October at Gheluvelt Park, commemorating the centenary of the battle described at the time as 'when the Worcesters saved the Empire' and at which a third of the Worcestershire Regiment 2nd Battalion lost their lives.

6. The first large exhibition opens at Worcester City Museum & Art Gallery on 25 October. Bringing together loaned objects and documents from many different sources,

it aims to tell the story of the early part of WW1 using the voices and experiences of Worcestershire people.

7. Future projects include family activities at Worcester City Museum & Art Gallery over November and Christmas; touring material and events relating to Vesta Tilley and an exhibition celebrating Hartlebury Castle's history as a Voluntary Aid Detachment hospital. Throughout the project, the aim is to create materials that can be shared by other Worcestershire heritage organisations and by schools.

8. With advice from Museums Worcestershire's Marketing Manager, the partnership as a whole has commissioned joint marketing under the project title "Worcestershire World War 100", and information about all the events and the project research can be found at the project website, www.ww1worcestershire.co.uk.

Supporting Information

- None

Contact Points

Specific Contact Point for this report:

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the Museums General Manager there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report: