

ADULT & COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORATE

BRIEFING NOTE

PREPARED FOR:	Scrutiny Panel for Leisure, Libraries and Culture		
CONTACT OFFICER:	Hannah Sami or Kate Pitt	TEL NO	01753 743950
UNIT:	Libraries Arts and Heritage	DATE	02/10/2014
SUBJECT:	For King and Country		

Background:

During the centenary commemorations of WWI, The LAHS unit has successfully secured a £93,200 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to run its 'For King and Country' project.

The project centres around the thousands of names listed on the 200 war memorials in the Royal Borough. It aims to catalogue them all in a database, chart them on an interactive map and contain these resources in a website which will be a significant research and information tool for residents and researchers alike. It will remain long after the project has completed and provide a glimpse into the life of borough residents during the Great War.

A key element to the project is the interactive map on the website, highlighting all the memorials in the borough by linking to GIS co-ordinates. At selected memorials there will be new informative signage and/or QR codes to provide the stories behind the memorial. There will also be suggested/guided walks based around the memorials throughout the borough.

The central resource will be fuelled by a set of community-wide initiatives aimed at generating further information, artefacts, documents and photographs, and also at disseminating the results of our research. The initiatives are listed below.

With the support of two new staff members (an Education Officer and Project Researcher), four partner organisations, and at least 50 volunteers, research will be carried out to provide a wealth of information and bring to life as many people named on the memorials in the Borough as possible.

The website will be an educational repository for people of all ages to learn about the lives of people who lived in RBWM, who worked in the factories and hospitals, who joined the military, who designed and built the memorials and who died or were buried in the borough during the Great War.

The project will be launched in November around Armistice Day to tie in with national commemorations.

Discussion:

Councillors may be interested in the programme of events, each of which targets different sectors of the community.

As well as building up the information on the website through a Newspaper Research Programme carried out by local volunteers, there will be a wealth of activities taking place to draw in interest from residents and visitors across the borough.

- A Christmas Truce event – celebrating the Christmas 1914 unofficial ceasefires - involving football matches and a choir
- Family history sessions with 'bring and share' artefact workshops
- Local resident drama workshops themed around stories collected for the website.
- At least 6 secondary and primary school visits as well as educational packs on the

website

- Library visits
- Interesting stories will be 'told' through existing touch screen displays at the museums and libraries across the borough
- A talks programme about the Great War will take place with at least 6 guest speakers in different venues across the borough
- A rotation of exhibitions based on the research collated will tour the borough.

Option/s: N/A

Recommendation/s:

This document is for information only.

Background papers: N/A