

War Memorials Project: 2014-18 A Mark of Respect Information Sheet 1.

Background to the project

2014 – 2018 will mark the centenary of World War I. We will be running a project to commemorate the sacrifices made by the people of Powys in the Great War and those who have given their lives since, as well as marking an event which changed the course of world history. The project will allow local communities and especially young people to gain a deeper understanding about the 'war to end all wars' and help to preserve their local heritage. The project covers aspects of social history, education and built heritage conservation, each underpinned by community involvement. Key to the project is the aim to secure our war memorials and reinforce their significance for today's and future generations.

In 1923, the War Memorials (Local Authorities' Powers) Act permitted local authorities to use public money for the maintenance of memorials. In Powys, responsibility is currently split between the County Council (as the significant budget holder), Town & Community Councils, the Royal British Legion and the owners of buildings inside which some memorials are located. Often no one person or body is legally responsible for the upkeep of war memorials and the smaller partners are severely limited by their available budgets. When most memorials were erected, after the First World War, this problem was rarely considered and resources tended to be directed into fund-raising and construction rather than any provision for long term upkeep. This and the lack of a complete knowledge base regarding their condition and not knowing for certain their location or the actual numbers has resulted in a varying degree of attention being shown to their care and maintenance and no form of prioritisation being possible.

Project Outline

The project will be run by PCC's War Memorial Officer, Cy Griffiths, in conjunction with BBNPA War Memorial Officer, Rosie Burton.

There will be several 'strands' to this project, for which a bid is shortly due to be submitted to HLF for funding. In summary the project will last 4 years (2014-2018) with the information and resources produced being available for public use indefinitely. We will look to work with local communities and local groups such as schools, scouts, YFC, heritage groups etc to find out how many war memorials we have in Powys, where they are and in what condition. We will help communities to record them through photography, text and mapping and develop a database and website. Through workshops and resource materials we will help local communities research their local history in relation to this period. We will also seek to develop a web based resource of useful advice and information relating to the care and upkeep of the memorials and what these monuments can tell us about local history.

During the project we would seek to prioritise any repairs required and seek match funding to help us carry out these repairs, with a rolling grant programme throughout 2014-18.

Alongside this, throughout the four years, we will look to develop additional educational resource materials relating to World War I, local war memorials and local communities' participation in this international event. We will work alongside other Council departments and local community groups and schools to develop useful materials, as well as recording people's memories, photographs or artefacts relating

to WWI. We would hope to hold relevant events in local communities (e.g. identifying local heroes) and county wide competitions to publicise the work. We will also identify and assist communities in participating with national initiatives which are being planned for the 2014-18 period (e.g. In Memorium 2014).

Key outcomes for the project include:

- Securing the material fabric of the war memorials of Powys for the future.
- Ensuring the war memorials of Powys continued to be valued by local communities as local landmarks and that their significance is understood.
- Opportunities to work with local communities in the recording, research and repair of their memorials.
- The production of educational material / information will be made available for all.
- Increased awareness and understanding of the heritage of Powys.
- Consolidation of and increased access to information held regarding war memorials, WWI and other conflicts in Powys.
- Opportunities to add to the known resource materials held in standard organisations such as the archives and museums by adding people's own memories, photographs, letters etc.
- Development of web based access to information.
- Participation in the international recognition of the centenary of WWI whilst ensuring Powys' communities benefit from national schemes
- Increased / improved partnership working.

Funding the Project

Some financial support has been agreed by Powys County Council for 2014 – 2018. Funding will also be sought from the BBNPA and from other sources, perhaps for discreet elements of the project. Potential funders include:

- Heritage Lottery Fund
- War Memorials Trust
- Cadw
- National Army Museum
- Imperial War Museum
- Regiment Museum
- Church In Wales and other religious bodies
- Town & Community Councils
- Individual benefactors / community groups

Cadw and the War Memorials Trust have been already been approached for match funding and the initial response from the HLF has been very positive.

If you would like any further information, at this stage, regarding this project please contact the relevant War Memorials Officer using the contact details below:

Cy Griffiths (Lead Project Officer) for areas in Powys outside the Brecon Beacons National Park. cyllene.griffiths@powys.gov.uk 01597 827393

Rosie Burton for areas within the Brecon Beacons National Park
rosie.burton@breconbeacons.org 01874 620433