

Summary for Melksham Area Board Meeting 7 November 2018

After months of planning the *Melksham Remembers* Project began in earnest in September 2017 with the appointment of a project coordinator since that time the following has been achieved:

Events and public engagement

- Volunteer recruitment event (19 October 2017) (18 people attended)
- Attended Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre History Day (28 October 2017) (35 people)
- Public Drop in session (9 November 2017) (12 people)
- Two Blenheim House reminiscence and poetry workshops (2 & 9 February 2018) (8 residents)
- Broughton Gifford Friendship Club presentation (12 February 2018) (26 people attended)
- Melksham Guides, Brownies and Rainbows visited the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre (24 February 2018) (28 people attended)
- Melksham Guides, Brownies and Rainbows held a scrapbook session inspired by their visit (18 April 2018) (around 50 young people involved)
- Drop in session with the Mobile Museum (29 May 2018) (around 25 people attended)
- Two days at the Melksham Food and River Festival (1 & 2 September 2018) (spoke to around 378 people)
- School visit to Forest and Sandridge Primary School (5 November 2018) (around 120 young people)
- Forest and Sandridge will be creating some animations with the filmmaker Jamie McDine in November and December (c120 young people)
- The Manor School and River Mead School will be attending a schools' session on Friday 9 November. (c60 young people)
- Active Facebook MelkshamRemembers account
- Active Twitter account @MelkshamRemem

Total 12 events

c.880 people engaging directly with the Melksham Remembers project

Volunteers

- 23 volunteers were recruited in total
- Volunteers from Melksham, Broughton Gifford, Steeple Ashton and Semington have been actively engaged with the project.
- Of these around 15 have been most active in the project with others involved and dropping out for personal reasons or staying on the edge of activities.
- Over 500 hours of research
- More than 55 hours of public engagement with many more to come over the exhibition period
- 10 monthly meetings
- 2 training sessions were held
- 22 updates have been circulated to keep volunteers in touch

- Volunteers have participated in Steeple Ashton's remembrance activities
- Volunteers attended a showing of the film *They Shall Not Grow Old* together in Bath

Training sessions

- Introduction to using the History Centre and research
- Oral History training

Skills Development

Many volunteers have developed new skills with IT and using archives as a result of the project.

Press

- Regular mentions in the Melksham Independent News and Wiltshire Times
- Featured on heritage special over May Bank Holiday weekend on BBC Wiltshire

Mobile Exhibition

The following places will be hosting our exhibition during November / December:

- Village Hall, Broughton Gifford 17 November
- Village Hall, Bowerhill 21 November
- Christ Church Shaw 23 – 28 November
- Church of the Holy Cross, Seend 30 November – 7 December
- Semington (TBC)

We would welcome any further requests to host this exhibition

Acknowledgement

The Project has received a great deal of support from the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre and in particular the Heritage Manager, Terry Bracher, the Principal Archivist Claire Skinner and Ruth Butler the Heritage Education Officer. The volunteers have found the staff to be very helpful and friendly and they have enjoyed talks held at the Centre as well as using the archive services.

Thank you to the Melksham Town Council staff for their ongoing support.

Thank you to Jon Hubbard and the Canberra Centre for allowing the volunteers to meet there.

Thank you to Lisa Ellis and The Well House Collection for her assistance and hosting many of the volunteer meetings.

