

**Minutes of the First World War Centenary Community Activities Working
Group**

Friday 8 November 2013

**Video Conference between the Welsh Government's offices in
Aberystwyth, Cardiff and S4C in Caernarfon**

Present:

Lesley-Anne Kerr (Welsh Government) – **Chair**
[Welsh Government Official 1] (Welsh Government) – Minutes
[Welsh Government Official 2] (Welsh Government)
[HLF Official 1] (Heritage Lottery Fund)
[RBL Official 1] (Royal British Legion)
[National Eisteddfod Official 1] (The National Eisteddfod of Wales)
[One Voice Wales Official 1] (One Voice Wales)
[Welsh Museums Federation Official 1] (Federation of Museums and Art
Galleries Wales)
[SCL Official 1] (Society of Chief Librarians)
[ARCW Official 1] (Archives and Records Council Wales)
[WCVA Official 1] (Wales Council for Voluntary Action)
[Llanidloes CG Official 1] (Llanidloes Community Group)
[Swansea University Official 1] (Swansea University)
[NLW Official 1] (National Library of Wales)
[S4C Official 1] (S4C)
[BALH Official 1] (British Association for Local History)
[Assoc. FHS Wales Official 1] (Cymdeithasau Hanes Teuluoedd
Cymru/Association of Family History Societies of Wales)

Apologies:

[Cadw Official 1] (Cadw)
[WLGA Official 1] (Welsh Local Government Association)
[AC-NMW Official 1] (Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales)
[BBC Official 1] (BBC Wales)
[ACW Official 1] (Arts Council Wales)

1. Welcome:

- LAK thanked everyone for attending, members then introduced themselves from the three video conference locations.

2. Terms of Reference (TOR):

- LAK asked members for comments on the draft Terms of Reference (TOR), the only comments received, were to update the TOR with the full

membership of the organisations represented by the group. **ACTION: CyMAL to update the TOR and issue a final copy at the next meeting.**

3. Update from CyMAL:

- LAK gave the group an update from CyMAL on the launch of Framework Programme and programme website www.cymruncofio.org/ / www.walesremembers.org.
- Programme and Launch:
 - The First Minister launched the First World War Framework Programme *Cymru'n Cofio* Wales Remembers 1914-1918 on the 28 October at the Firing Line, Cardiff Castle, Museum of the Welsh Soldier. The event generated excellent Welsh media coverage.
 - [Welsh Government Official 2] expanded on the feedback, coverage was received from the BBC, ITV, S4C, Western mail, Daily post and regional papers. The next stage is to work with partners to expand on this positive reception.
- Website:
 - The website recently went live and will provide part of the online presence for the programme. The website received over 2,000 unique visitors on its first month, with a large spike on the Programme launch date. The website is supported by social media, which are: Twitter and Facebook. People's Collection Wales are now managing the website and are responsible for further development of the site.
 - **ACTION: All please feed content to the website: news, events or projects. Please either use: [Email address redacted] or <http://www.walesremembers.org/get-in-touch/>**

4. Update from members

- LAK requested updates from all members present at the meeting:
- [Welsh Museums Federation Official 1] the Federation of Museums and Art Galleries Wales can provide a forum of information and they are currently developing their website. The Federation also publishes a regular magazine. Lots of activities are being planned across North Wales.
- [S4C Official 1] S4C are working on a programme structure for the next four years. One such feature is film being produced for a film Festival in February/March in Berlin. This is the result of new archives being discovered in Germany and France. The film will use stereoscopic photos, appearing 3D and released in Germany first, involving eight characters, one being Welsh. The Welsh premiere will be in the summer of 2014, with an invitation for the First Minister. A 2D version will be broadcasted on TV later on in the year. This is a good example of cross-working in Europe and studying non-UK archives.

- [HLF Official 1] detailed a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) event on that was held on Wednesday (6 November 2013) in the Senedd for Assembly Members, to promote the HLF new '*First World War: then and now*' grant scheme (see this [link](#) for background on the grant scheme).
- The event generated considerable interest in the new grant programme, currently interest and applications are growing rapidly, £1.5M has been committed in Wales so far for First World War projects and activity.
- [HLF Official 1] confirmed it is available to councils as well as small groups. The range of applicants has been very mixed, such as schools and local history groups and there is a surprising lack of applications for war memorials. A tool kit has been issued to AMs for them to publicise.
- [RBL Official 1] the Royal British Legion (RBL) poppy planting campaign has gone live, in partnership with the DIY chain B&Q ([link](#)), part of proceeds go to the RBL
- [RBL Official 1] also detailed the Armed Forces Community Covenant scheme is being promoted, the campaign is being sent out to local Armed Forces champions, local authorities and local communities.
- [RBL Official 1] stated that the RBL is raising awareness about *Cymru'n Cofio* Wales Remembers 1914-1918 and the field of remembrance and they are starting to build up ideas with local members. [RBL Official 1] offered the RBL as a communication network, as they have over 16,000 members.
- [National Eisteddfod Official 1] detailed plans for next years National Eisteddfod in Llanelli, history of Mametz Woods.
- [One Voice Wales Official 1] one Voice Wales (OVW) is writing to all community councils, to encourage them to provide updates on the condition of their war memorials to the War Memorials Trust. OVW are working on a conference in March, war memorials are a major agenda item. OVW are heavily involved with the Welsh Memorial in Flanders campaign, with around two thirds of their fundraising coming from town and community councils.
- [ARCW Official 1] detailed the Archives and Records Council Wales (ARCW) position, they are at early planning stages. Gwent & West Glamorgan are arranging a travelling exhibition on the First World War, working with schools to develop a programme.
- [Swansea University Official 1] gave an update on the Swansea University's HLF bid, pan wales bid. [Swansea University Official 1] stated that he was happy to speak to members of the group on doing larger pan Wales' projects.
- [SCL Official 1] the Society of Chief Librarians is aware of various projects happening across local authorities in Wales, some good links are developing, with authorities working together, but these are at a very early stage.
- [NLW Official 1] the National Library of Wales (NLW) is currently looking at two strands of work. Mametz Wood, using recent photographs and David Jones *In Parenthesis*.

- [NLW Official 1] informed the group that the NLW was launching the CymruWW1 project in Merthyr on the 28 November.
- [BALH Official 1] informed members of the upcoming 83rd Anglo-American conference, on the 3-4 July 2014 at the Institute of Historical Research, University of London, the conference theme is *the Great War at Home*.
- [BALH Official 1] stated that her organisation was keen that a Welsh presence was present at the conference and that papers by academics and local/community historians with a strong Welsh representation were presented. **CyMAL has already circulated further information to members by email.**
- [BALH Official 1] informed the group that the British Association for Local History has published a book and that it has had a high take up among school children. A magazine is also regularly published.
- [WCVA Official 1] detailed the main role for Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) is to provide communications to and from the third sector. The WCVA has excellent reach across Wales and can signpost the third sector to the website (*Cymru'n Cofio* Wales Remembers 1914-1918), and pass on any information throughout their network.
- [WCVA Official 1] continued that the WCVA can provide volunteers, provide funding advice and signposting.
- [Assoc. FHS Wales Official 1] the Federation of Welsh Family History Societies is in process of collating data of projects/events planned across Wales. They are holding an event on the 17 May 2014 as a family history day with a First World War theme. [Assoc. FHS Wales Official 1] stated that the organisation can communicate information through their mailing lists and Facebook page.
- [Llanidloes CG Official 1] gave the brief history of Llanidloes Community Group, two years of research on their war memorial names and it is supported by digital resources. Collected over 70 photos and a large digital database of newspapers. The group is now at the dissemination stage, they have held market stalls, four community presentations and that there is a community presentation scheduled for the 21 November.
- They are developing a First World War themed walking route and an e-book, which is being supported by the United Services institute. Funding would be required to produce a hard copy of book.
- [Llanidloes CG Official 1] stated that they have shown interest on a recent HLF First World War grant awarded to Powys Council; they are keen to work with schools to ensure work is not repeated.
- LAK summarised the information from members: very impressive level of work going on across Wales, many events at community level.

5. Collaborative working

- LAK requested thoughts on collaborative working between members to share resources such as volunteers and projects, to work together.
- LAK asked members to think about providing any papers to *the Great War at Home* conference, perhaps Hedd Wynn as a Welsh topic.
- [BALH Official 1] suggested that the NLW could provide a talk on First World War material that is now available digitally, or the Llanidloes community project.
- [One Voice Wales Official 1] suggested that as all the groups are undertaking activities, perhaps a register of activity should be undertaken, as to increase awareness of member's work and the potential for collaboration.
- LAK summarised that the register could encourage brokering between organisations, such as the need for volunteers.
- [Assoc. FHS Wales Official 1] stressed the need to avoid duplication of work and pooling of intelligence.
- [Welsh Museums Federation Official 1] highlighted that she was aware, that there are lots of projects on war memorials, but was unsure of the finer details.
- [One Voice Wales Official 1] offered that Once Voice Wales could try to identify war memorial projects already underway.
- [S4C Official 1] stated that S4C are keen to work together with the BBC, radio and the NLW on a Mametz Wood production.
- [Welsh Museums Federation Official 1] informed the group that the 'One Show' had been in touch, for a Dan Snow, Lloyd George piece. They have an interest in what collections museums in Wales hold on the subject. LAK asked if there was a need to survey what is in the sectors collections on the First World War. [Welsh Museums Federation Official 1] suggested a survey could be part of the already established *Spotlight* survey of museums in Wales. To determine what collections are held now and what collections are held in the future, looking at legacy.
- [NLW Official 1] highlighted that the Llanidloes community group is an excellent case study. [Llanidloes CG Official 1] added that the Newtown group was very similar and successful.
- It was summarised that there is a wealth of information out there, which needs to be shared effectively and to ensure a lasting legacy is left behind.

6. Future meetings

- LAK asked the group, how members saw the work of further meetings developing; for example with members submitting agenda items and leading discussions.
- The group is keen on a register of local events. **ACTION: CyMAL will request a list of local events to be submitted before the next meeting.**

- [Swansea University Official 1] added a word of caution to the group, to be wary of information/stories written after 1929, as there was a cultural shift and disillusionment element after this time. It is often forgotten how enthusiastic the population was in 1914.
- [S4C Official 1] stated that S4C was looking at a feature based on diary written in 1920's and to publish an e-copy in a range of languages, it originated from a resident of Trawsfynydd.
- The group concluded that it was very useful to hear people's/organisations updates.

7. Any other business

- [Welsh Government Official 2] gave a brief update on the Communications working group, that they are developing a communications plan over next four years. The group has developed effective communications channels.
- **ACTION: CyMAL to provide updates to the group on the activities of the other working groups.**

8. Date of next meeting

- The confirmed date of the next meeting is the **24 January 2014 10:00-12:00**, in Cardiff and Aberystwyth, with the potential for a VC site in North Wales again. Please contact cymruncofio-walesremembers1914-1918@Wales.GSI.Gov.UK to confirm attendance, location and if you require any car parking.