



CYMRU'N COFIO
WALES REMEMBERS
1914 - 1918

**Framework Programme
for the commemoration
in Wales 2014-2018**

October 2013

The flowers left thick at nightfall in the wood
This Eastertide call into mind the men,
Now far from home, who, with their sweethearts, should
Have gathered them and will do never again.

In Memoriam (Easter 1915) by Edward Thomas

The First World War Centenary in Wales

Foreword by the Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AM, First Minister of Wales

As we approach the centenary of the First World War it is fitting that we reflect on this overwhelming event which led to tremendous sacrifice and bravery on the battlefield and quiet heroism on the Home Front. The period from 1914 to 1918, and the immediate aftermath, shaped the Wales we live in now and we need to understand not only why nations went to war but also the lingering impact of that war on our daily lives. After the war people expected better lives and better government to deliver health services and homes 'fit for heroes'. The confidence which many women had gained in carrying out vital jobs at home led to renewed calls for the right to vote. These aspirations were sadly not always met, or else were achieved slowly, however the lives of everyone were changed by the long and arduous war whether through personal loss, economic circumstance or technological change.

I want these commemorations to reach out to people of all ages to encourage them to take an interest, whether it be in the history of their own families or communities or in national and international events. Wars are sadly still a part of our world and young people can take a great deal from understanding the causes and impact of the 'Great War' into how we should resolve conflict in our own time. The Commemoration Programme in Wales will involve individuals, families, schools, local organisations as well as our national institutions and broadcasters, armed services and cultural bodies. It is intended to be a framework of activities and events stimulated by debate and discussion as well as an appropriate commemoration of important events such as the Battle of Passchendaele in 1917 where Hedd Wyn lost his life without knowing that

he had won Wales' greatest poetry prize, the National Eisteddfod Chair. That empty chair, draped in black, symbolised all the other empty chairs in homes all over Wales.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you all to get involved in our Programme which will begin in August 2014. Consider developing your own projects or activities, researching your local war memorial for the stories of those who tragically died, visiting the exhibitions and events which will be interpreting Wales's contribution to the War effort and contributing to the digital archive which I want to be a permanent legacy of these commemorations. I look forward to a commemoration in Wales which will bring people together to pay tribute to those Welsh people whose hard work and sacrifice is justly remembered by us all.





Foreword by Professor Sir Deian Hopkin, First Minister's Expert Adviser on the First World War

In August 2014 we will be embarking on a four-year period of centennial commemoration to mark the series of events, military, political, social and economic, which collectively amount to the First World War.

During these years of commemoration we will be reflecting on many aspects of the war and considering what it meant to the people of Wales, those who fought, on land, sea and air, and too often died, those who survived but were seriously damaged physically and mentally, but also those who served in wartime occupations or simply 'kept the home fires burning'. We will also be reflecting on the challenges faced by those who resisted the war or declined to participate for religious or political reasons.

The momentous military engagements of the war have long attracted the attention of historians, biographers and novelists as well as film and television directors. The literary output, from the memoirs of Robert Graves and Siegfried Sassoon to the poetry of Wilfred Owen, has become part of our literary canon. Social historians have explored the domestic impact of the war, while diplomatic and political historians have debated the cause and effect of these far-reaching developments.

The greatest legacy which these commemorations can have is to educate the nation, young and old, so that we can all gain a better understanding and appreciation of the First World War, an historical epoch which still leaves its mark on our present society.





Residents in Tal-y-bont, Ceredigion c.1910. Courtesy of Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales

Wales in 1914

In the years leading up to the outbreak of the First World War, Wales, as the rest of Britain, was experiencing both modest economic prosperity and political upheaval.

On the one hand this was a period of intellectual vibrancy, exciting technological development and a sense of change and momentum. On the other hand, the years from 1910 to 1914 have been described by historians as the era of ‘The Great Unrest’.

Trade unionists, organised in ever more powerful unions, were engaged in bitter disputes with their employers, some of which had led to serious confrontations with the army and police, as in Tonypany in 1910 and Llanelli in 1911. Women suffragettes were campaigning for the vote, often using unexpectedly direct methods, while in Ireland tension between Home Rulers and Unionists was mounting alarmingly.

More generally, international relations were turbulent, and mutual suspicion between great alliances led to an unprecedented arms race. Yet, the outbreak of war came as a surprise, not least the escalation from a regional dispute in the Balkans into a world conflict and one which confounded all the prognostications in August 1914 that it would ‘all be over by Christmas’.

Understanding the course of events, their causes and the context in which they took place, must be a central part of the centenary commemorations.

Military Matters

The First World War represents the threshold between traditional warfare and modern, technologically-based warfare. Contrary to unrealistic expectations that the deployment of cavalry and mobile infantry would lead to a rapid and successful conclusion, the military effort quickly ground to a halt and in due course, faced by huge and increasing casualties and the decimation of the professional and volunteer armies, compulsory military service was introduced.

Wales made a significant and continuing contribution to the war effort. It is estimated that between 1914 and 1918 some 273,000 men were recruited, either as volunteers or conscripts to serve in the Army; 250,000 served in one of the Welsh Regiments and around 185,000 served overseas at some point. 40,000 of these died, mostly in Western Europe.

Today a memorial stands in Mametz Wood in commemoration of the gallantry of Welsh soldiers and a new memorial is planned at Langemark, where the poet Hedd Wyn and so many others died during the Battle of Passchendaele. It was not only in the Western Front, however, that Welsh soldiers served but in Gallipoli, Salonika, Italy, Palestine, East Africa and even China. Welsh sailors formed an important part of the 400,000 UK sailors who served during the war, including many in the merchant marine, playing a crucial part in keeping Britain supplied, while Welsh airmen served in the new Royal Flying Corps.

Beyond these active service personnel there were many hundreds of thousands of others who served in different ways, either in supporting roles, in the medical services or in transport, not least in support of the huge army of horses involved, of which, by mid-1917 there were over 1 million in service

on the British side alone, each consuming ten times more food by weight than humans. Studying the war requires an understanding, therefore, of the huge logistical operation which lay behind every military campaign.

The Welsh at Mametz Wood, oil painting by Welsh artist Christopher Williams (1873 – 1934). © Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales.



HMS Centurion, a King George V class Battleship, pictured in 1918. © IWM (Q13955)



ORDNANCE OFFICE
WELSH DIVISION
(T.F)

The Home Front

If the First World War witnessed the confrontation of the greatest armies ever assembled, it also represented the most extensive mobilisation of the resources of a nation ever seen. Every community and every individual was affected in some way or another and the entire economic output of the country was placed at the disposal of the war effort.

Accompanying the huge deployment of men, women and materials came the introduction of unprecedented control. The Defence of the Realm Act marked the introduction of the principle of state control beyond anything which had previously existed, from the sale of alcohol and the management of food supplies, to the production of minerals and the organisation of transport, and limits on freedom of speech. Generally, the population of Britain fell squarely behind the war effort; trade unionists who had pledged to oppose war before 1914 became ardent supporters, while women suffragettes abandoned their fight for the vote in favour of supporting the Government and this was as true of Wales as much as any other part of the country. The Government itself suspended party politics and a Coalition was formed. Not everyone felt the same way; there were many, pacifists and political activists alike, who rejected the call to arms and after military conscription a significant number of young men refused to be conscripted on grounds of conscience, many facing significant hardship as a result.

As the war progressed so the call for peace became louder, but even to the end, the overwhelming majority of the population continued to contribute to the effort, notably women who took on work, even in factories and industrial enterprises, hitherto undertaken only by men. Without such effort, across every strata of society, it is inconceivable that the military effort could have been successfully concluded.

Brickmaking in South Wales c. 1918. © IWM (Q28439)





*Nurses ensuring the recovery of soldiers at a hospital established in St Fagans:
National History Museum. © Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales*

Impact of War

Wales in the years after 1918 was a changed society. Whether this was due to the impact of the war itself or whether the war accelerated processes already in train is a matter of historical debate. But the change was manifest, not least in politics. The extension of the franchise in 1918 trebled the electorate, gave women the vote for the first time and led, within a very few years, to a fundamental change in political power with Labour replacing the Liberals as the main alternative to the Conservatives in Wales as elsewhere, a shift which has persisted to the present day. A new awareness of international politics was evident, as witnessed by the establishment of the first ever Professorial Chair in the subject at Aberystwyth in 1919.

Mass mobilisation and military service abroad had broadened the vistas of many people who would otherwise have hardly ventured beyond their locality but it also made them acutely aware of the perils of war. The search for peace became a powerful theme in the 1920s and 1930s encapsulated by the optimism of the League of Nations and its associated international agencies. At the same time, there was an outburst of creative optimism, perhaps stimulated by the horrors of war. Meanwhile technological developments, introduced or enhanced for military purposes, began to influence everyday life; motor vehicles, the radio, new medical treatments and much more. The Government's pledge for 'Homes fit for Heroes' contributed to a huge wave of urban construction and development. The experience of war created a new resolve for a better society.

In reflecting on this during the centennial period, it is important to appreciate all these significant changes but at the same time to why, in the end, the First World War was not also 'the war to end all wars.'



The Call for Patriotism.

DAME WALES: Welshmen! In the hour of danger our Navy asks for coal. It shall not ask in vain. We will show the world that the blast of my horn, resounding in the hills of Wales, can be responded to by men as patriotic as any the world can boast!

A troublesome episode in the Welsh Coalfield. The colliers eventually hearkened to the call of patriotic duty in order to keep the British Fleet well supplied with Welsh smokeless steam coal.

Tuesday, August 4th, 1914.

Cymru'n Cofio Wales Remembers 1914-1918 Framework Programme

Aims and Objectives

The aim will be to deliver a successful and memorable commemoration in Wales that enables everyone to participate at a time and in a way that best suits their interests and aspirations.

There are many perspectives on the causes and the course of the war as well as the transformational impact it had on life in Wales. The objectives for the Programme will be:

- to identify and mark significant anniversaries, working with Welsh organisations and services, other UK Home Nations and international partners
- to support an educational programme that encourages schools and young people's organisations to fully participate in commemorative activities
- to develop and support productive partnerships to deliver activities and events throughout the commemorative period to diverse audiences
- to support vibrant cultural and historical interpretation events and activities by our cultural and heritage bodies reflecting different perspectives on the period
- to work with the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and other funders to support community projects telling the story of Wales and the First World War
- to ensure that information about the commemoration in Wales is easily available to everyone within Wales and beyond
- to leave a rich digital legacy of the commemoration for future generations.

How the Programme will be organised

The delivery of the Programme will reflect the strong partnership ethos which emerged from the initial planning events held in early 2013. Over 140 people representing 75 organisations discussed how the commemoration in Wales could be a catalyst for projects and events which not only recognised the historical significance of the commemoration but also demonstrated its relevance to contemporary Wales.

The approach for the Programme will be to encourage partnerships which focus on aspects of the First World War in Wales.

These could involve new activities or take the form of a particular focus at existing events during 2014-2018 – agricultural shows, eisteddfodau, cultural and religious festivals, sporting events and historical re-enactments. In addition, annual programmes organised by community organisations and societies could involve an event which investigates the First World War in their area of interest.

This Programme document will be re-issued annually during the commemorative period to reflect new activities and events.

Programme Website

A website (www.walesremembers.org) and associated social media, *Cymru'n Cofio* Wales Remembers 1914-1918 provides information about events, relevant news, project information, funding information and signposting services for activities relevant to Wales. The website provides links to other useful information sources, including the Imperial War Museums' First World War Centenary Partnership website (www.1914.org).

The website is being developed by the People's Collection Wales, a digital platform for Welsh history and culture managed as a joint service by Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales, the National Library of Wales and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW). At the conclusion of the commemoration, this digital legacy will be preserved for the nation and form part of the Hwb educational digital service for Wales.

Cymru'n Cofio Wales Remembers 1914 - 1918 Programme Board

A wide-ranging Programme Board has been established to support Sir Deian in his advisory role and monitor the delivery of the Framework Programme. There are representatives from Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales, National Library of Wales, Arts Council Wales, the Army in Wales, the Royal Navy, the Royal British Legion, HLF, the National Eisteddfod, Cytûn, Imperial War Museums, BBC Cymru Wales, S4C, the British Council, Welsh Local Government Association, Archives and Records Council Wales, the Royal Welch Fusiliers Museum Trust, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

and the Welsh Government. The Board meets every two months and is chaired by Sir Deian, who also represents Welsh interests on an UK Advisory Group.

Individual work groups to progress the co-ordination of educational resources, historical interpretation, communication and community-based activities have been established. The aim will be to ensure that the Framework for the Programme clarifies who is doing what and how everyone can get involved.



Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery, Artillery Wood. © By kind permission of Gary Williams

The Scope of Programme Activities

All events of the period are potentially within the scope of the commemoration. However there will be a particular emphasis on key commemorative dates. Initial events which have been identified for commemoration include:

- 4 August 2014: Britain declares war on Germany following its invasion of Belgium. This will be commemorated by a Commonwealth Service at Glasgow Cathedral. Members of the public will be invited to participate in a candlelit vigil in the evening, extinguishing the candles at 11pm symbolising the lights going out all over Europe.
- August 2014: Unveiling of the memorial at Langemark, Flanders to all Welsh people who served during the First World War.
- October 2014: Centenary of the Battle of Gheluvelt, which included engagement by the South Wales Borderers.
- 9 August 2015: 53rd (Welsh) Division land at Gallipoli.
- 31 May 2016: Welsh sailors take part in the Battle of Jutland.
- 1-14 July 2016: First Battle of the Somme including the engagement by the 38th (Welsh) Division at Mametz Wood.
- 31 July 2017: Battle of Passchendaele including the engagement by the 38th (Welsh) Division at Pilckem Ridge where Hedd Wyn is killed.
- 11 November 2018: Armistice Day when the Allied forces and Germany sign the Armistice at Compiègne ending the fighting at 11am.

Stimulating Interesting Ideas

The Programme Board is keen to encourage imaginative ideas for projects which stimulate interest in Wales and the First World War.

Welsh Government funding for the commemoration will be mainly found from existing budgets and grant schemes. HLF has announced that £6 million will be available from 2013 to 2019 to support projects in the UK. In addition, other HLF grant programmes will consider First World War projects. HLF recently announced the first successful Welsh project, 'Brecon Remembers' which will investigate the stories of the 119 men on the Brecon war memorial. Swansea University has also received HLF funding to digitise the cartoons of Joseph Staniforth which appeared throughout the war in the Western Mail newspaper. Working with a range of community, historical and youth groups the project will crowd-source reaction to and information about the cartoons, simultaneously discussing and disseminating the Welsh public's response to the conflict, utilising talks, exhibitions and a conference.

The Armed Services in Wales have an important story to tell about the conflict and projects under discussion include developing a trenches experience in partnership with Bodelwyddan Castle, Denbighshire on the site of practice trenches dug by First World War soldiers.

The Gregynog Festival will be focusing in 2014 on the generosity of Margaret and Gwendoline Davies, Gregynog in supporting Belgian artists and composers in Wales during the war period.

Original Voices

In order to provide historical material for public use, the National Library of Wales and partners will be completing a major digitisation project “The Welsh Experience of the First World War” (www.cymru1914.org), funded by the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC), during the Autumn of 2013 which will provide 190,000 pages of texts, 50 hours of audio and 20 hours of film relating to the First World War in Wales as it affected all aspects of Welsh life, language and culture.

The records include the records of the Welsh Corps, Welsh newspapers during the period 1913-1918, diaries, letters, and oral history recorded by the BBC and the South Wales Miners’ Library.

The archives of major First World War poets in Welsh collections will also be made available for educational use. This digital archive will be a major resource for schools, organisations and individuals in developing their projects and events.

Young Voices

The Welsh Government intends to inspire schools to develop their own approaches to commemorating the First World War and to utilise the imagination of teachers and pupils and the innovative practice in our schools to stimulate exploration of the issues that are generated by the study of the many and varied aspects of the First World War.

Every secondary school will be given the opportunity to apply for funding to support projects that are important to their own communities – projects that they themselves will have initiated. This will give schools a leading role in developing commemorative activities which will lead to a wider and more varied range of activity in Wales over the next five academic

years. The Welsh Government will provide schools with some basic criteria along with a list of possible ideas to explore such as working with schools in other countries or working alongside feeder primary schools to present an exhibition on local and national war poetry. This Programme will act as a catalyst to generate local interest in history and ensure that pupils across Wales are able to understand the impact the war had on their own community, on Wales, on the United Kingdom and on the world. Working closely with the National Library of Wales and partners, the Welsh Government will develop exciting, cross curricular bilingual resources that are ‘tailor-made’ for Welsh schools.

In addition the digital platform, Hwb will facilitate an online forum for schools to share ideas and experiences.



Stories from the Past

Between September 2013 and May 2014 the National Library of Wales will stage an exhibition to mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of former Prime Minister David Lloyd George, which will include papers from the National Library's seven discrete archives of correspondence and papers relating to Lloyd George, and also personal items from the Lloyd George Museum.

The National Library will also stage a major exhibition in 2016 on the theme of Mametz Wood. This will be based on work by the photographer Aled Rhys Hughes, inspired by David Jones' 'In Parenthesis' which is part of the National Library's collection. There will be multimedia components of the exhibition, and it is being developed in consultation with academic experts on the topic. Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales' future programme will feature Christopher Williams' work *The Welsh at Mametz Wood*, telling the story of Welsh soldiers at Mametz Wood.

The Museum has been working with young people, community groups and diverse partners to develop a 5 year programme of events, exhibitions, learning and engagement programmes, digital resources and publications to commemorate the First World War. The underpinning philosophy of Amgueddfa Cymru's programme is to tell the story of the people of Wales through the Museum's collections and to explore the unique impact of the War on the country and Welsh life. The aim is to explore and better understand why the First World War happened, the key events and the legacy today.

The Museum's programme opens in spring 2014, with all Amgueddfa Cymru sites hosting launch events to raise awareness of exhibitions and activities held across national museums in Wales.

From 2 August 2014, National Museum Cardiff will host 'The Great War: Britain's Efforts and Ideals' – a series of lithograph prints from the Museum's collection, commissioned by the Ministry of Information in 1917 with the aim of encouraging a war weary public and to raise support for the war effort. The exhibition will explore the varying attitudes such as the changing role of women as a result of the War.

The National History Museum will share stories about the castle at St Fagans, which was a place for rehabilitation and recuperation for injured soldiers during the First World War. Big Pit: National Coal Museum will focus on the Welsh coal miners who transferred their skills to become tunnellers on the Western Front.

At the National Slate Museum and the National Wool Museum, there are plans to examine the resistance to the call to war, the exploitation of Welsh folklore and the language used to persuade men to join the war. Remembrance and the use of poppies for remembrance will be explored across the sites and the period reflecting on war, loss and the future.

Debating the War

The centenary of the First World War provides an important opportunity to reflect on the different views held on the significance of the First World War for Welsh history. A major Welsh historical conference planned for 2016 at Cardiff University will invite leading historians of the period to debate the issues.

Researching, Repairing and Restoring our War Memorials

Working with the War Memorials Trust and One Voice Wales which represents Welsh Community Councils, the Programme will include a grant scheme managed by Cadw to ensure that local war memorials are maintained and conserved as a lasting memorial to the sacrifice of Welsh men and women. Local schools and community organisations will be encouraged to research the stories of the individuals included on local memorials. These stories will form part of the digital legacy of the commemorations and the People's Collection Wales will provide support to capture the stories for future generations.

Links Beyond Wales

The commemoration provides opportunities for Wales to reinforce links with activities within the UK and beyond, and to promote the history and culture of Wales to new audiences. A partnership with the community of Langemark in Flanders, Belgium is developing a new national memorial for all Welsh people who served during the First World War, near the place where the poet Hedd Wyn was killed in July 1917. The existing dragon memorial to the soldiers of the 38th (Welsh) Division in Mametz, France will be restored in time for the centenary of the battle in July 2016.

A shared interest in family history provides opportunities to link with other countries, including the Commonwealth, and explore the stories of Welsh people across the world. The potential for Welsh schools to develop international links will be actively pursued and early discussions are under way to join European commemorative activities, for example under the aegis of the British Council in Wales.

Commemorating the Christmas Truce of 1914

The Royal Welch Fusiliers Museum is developing a joint exhibition commemorating the Christmas Truce of 1914 with the Saxony Regimental Museum, Dresden and the French municipality of Armentières. The project will tell the story of the brief lull in the fighting at Christmas 1914 in Armentières when gifts were exchanged between soldiers on both sides. The exhibition will be displayed in Cardiff after visiting Armentières and Dresden with educational resources developed interpreting the event.

Floral Tribute

The Royal British Legion has announced the Centenary Poppy Campaign. The national campaign will see the Legion encouraging the public and local authorities to purchase Flanders poppy seeds to plant on their own land. The funds raised by the campaign will go towards the £1.6 million the Legion spends each week on vital care and support to the Armed Forces community. The campaign, which was officially launched at the beginning of October 2013, will see the UK awash with poppies during the centenary period in commemoration of all those who lost their lives in the First World War.

Wales Remembers, the Legacy

For the Welsh Government, the Commemoration Programme in Wales is characterised by a determination to involve everyone, either within their local community, or contributing to national events and activities. Our approach is to encourage all interested people to work together and create a worthwhile legacy of our collective histories. To ensure that the events, activities and research are preserved for the future, a digital record will be produced as a legacy of how Wales remembered the First World War, one hundred years on.



For more information:

Cymru'n Cofio Wales Remembers 1914-1918:

Website: www.walesremembers.org

Twitter: [@walesremembers](https://twitter.com/walesremembers)

Facebook: [Cymru'n Cofio Wales Remembers 1914-1918](https://www.facebook.com/Cymru'n-Cofio-Wales-Remembers-1914-1918)

If you would like to contact the Welsh Government regarding the commemoration:

E-mail: cymruncofio-walesremembers1914-1918@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Telephone: 0300 062 2112

The Programme Board brings together key organisations from across Wales to support the First World War centenary commemoration in Wales. Organisations currently represented on the Programme Board are as follows:

Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales: www.museumwales.ac.uk

Archives and Records Council Wales: www.archiveswales.org.uk

Arts Council Wales: www.artswales.org.uk

Cytûn: www.cytun.org.uk

Commonwealth War Graves Commission: www.cwgc.org

Heritage Lottery Fund: www.hlf.org.uk/InYourArea/Wales/Pages/Welcome.aspx

Imperial War Museums: www.iwm.org.uk

Imperial War Museums Centenary Partnership: www.1914.org

National Library of Wales: www.llgc.org.uk

Royal Navy: www.royalnavy.mod.uk

S4C: www.s4c.co.uk/hafan/e_index.shtml

The Army in Wales: www.army.mod.uk/structure/28224.aspx

The National Eisteddfod of Wales: www.eisteddfod.org.uk/english

The Royal British Legion: www.britishlegion.org.uk

The Royal Welch Fusiliers Regimental Museum: www.rwfmuseum.org.uk

Welsh Government: www.wales.gov.uk/?lang=en

Welsh Local Government Association: www.wlga.gov.uk/english

Western Front Association: www.powell76.talktalk.net