



Cymru'n Cofio Wales Remembers 1914-1918 and Imperial War Museums Partnership Day

MedRus Centre, Aberystwyth University

Thursday, 28 January 2016

Group discussions on plans and ideas for 2016 commemorations

Attendees were asked to form groups and were invited to consider two of the following three questions per group:

Q1 'Discuss the support, funding and partnerships that would be available to you in 2016'

Q2 'What are your First World War Centenary plans/ideas of plans for 2016? Which audiences would you like to target in 2016?'

Q3 'Would your organisation like to tie in with the Year of the Film? If so, what are your ideas for projects?'

Q1 'Discuss the support, funding and partnerships that would be available to you in 2016'

Support

- Sources of support could include:
 - The *Cymru'n Cofio* Wales Remembers 1914-1918 website and associated social media
 - The National Library of Wales
 - Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales
 - People's Collection Wales website
 - First World War Centenary Partnership members and sites
 - HLF
 - Local networks e.g. local radio and newspapers, community groups and archives
- Existing facilities, e.g. those of the National Library, can be used to avoid duplication in the aims of projects etc.
- Subscription to the HLF newsletter is a good way to keep informed of organisations who are arranging similar projects.

Funding

- Having support (e.g. from HLF staff) in preparing bids is very beneficial
- Funding sources identified included Cadw, the Department for Education and Skills, HLF, local authorities, Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) and the Arts Council. Further sources of funding are included in the *Programme 2016* brochure (see pages 22 and 23).
- Crowdfunding is another source of funding that can be explored, and there are existing examples of projects that have successfully raised funds in this way
- Timescales for funding application can sometimes be a bit daunting, as well as criteria for funding claims – perhaps requirements could be simplified, particularly for community groups, as these groups are not able to commit as much time to a given project?
- Funds can be raised from the private sector, such as major supermarkets, energy companies etc.

- The importance of evaluation was raised, as a means of focussing on and identifying outcomes and ensuring that targets are met.

Partnerships

- Events such as this Partnership Day are very useful in identifying possible partnerships – they are an opportunity to network, make connections and to share ideas
- Possible partners include People's Collection Wales, local libraries, FWWCP, AHRC Engagement Centres, local and national museums and historical societies
- The importance of community partnerships in creating collections of relevant material was raised
- Delegates identified different types of partnerships – e.g. with the voluntary sector. In this way technical expertise, and also people to support projects can be drawn in.

Q2 'What are your First World War commemoration plans and ideas for 2016? Which audiences would you like to target in 2016?'

Plans and ideas

- Events taking place or being arranged include: centenary events in Fron-goch on 11 June; *Remembering for Peace* (including a variety of events, such as talks and lectures on refugees from Belgium who came to Wales) and many other exhibitions and events at the National Library of Wales, such as contributing to the 'Wales at War' website; a variety of exhibitions and events at Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales, such as the 'For Freedom and For Empire' exhibition and an extensive programme of talks, tours etc.; a season of programmes focussing on the First World War on the BBC; at Denbigh Museum historical societies have worked with people of all ages to research the period to create an exhibition; the community of Llansteffan, Carmarthenshire, is arranging a series of events during the August bank holiday looking at the area's role in the War, including a drama to be performed by local children, designing a stained-glass window for the school; the Women's Institute is arranging a music hall event, and these activities will be drawn together to publish a book at the end of the project; the involvement of Laugharne during the War is also the subject of a local project; InterAct Wales are planning on bringing a Welsh Centenary theatre piece to the Edinburgh festival; there are plans to publish a book based on the findings of the 'War Memorials of Dyfed' website; and a project at Aberystwyth University will engage students in researching the war memorial to the staff and students from the university who went to war housed in the Old College building. Many other projects were also discussed – representatives can be contacted through the delegate list
- Project leads could link with organisations such as the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, for example on project involving war graves, connect with other similar projects, involving schools and local societies and then link in with the national commemoration
- Links could be made with the Centenary Woodland project, focussing on environmental, youth and animal themes
- There are many opportunities to link project work and activities, particularly those of schools, with commemorative events relating to Hedd Wyn
- A project focussing on how the roles of women changed during the war – a website could be created, perhaps also focussing on posters. It was also suggested that the focus should not only be on how the role of Welsh women at home changed during the war, but also the tasks that they performed in the theatres of war, and women who are named on war memorials

- Workshops are a different and effective means of increasing awareness of the War, including poetry workshops
- It was suggested that cookery sessions could be held, using recipes from the war period
- The importance of projects leaving a lasting legacy was stressed.

Audiences

- The target audience is potentially everybody, but especially schools
- Communities must be engaged in a meaningful way. There is great enthusiasm among local archives, museums and volunteers
- Audiences who are currently the same age as the average soldier who went to war could be targeted – sharing the experiences of those who went to war and people of the same age today – potentially the same age as Hedd Wyn, and looking at Hedd Wyn's experiences of the War
- Means of reaching audiences could include: blogs; Twitter; websites; leaflets; and information panels.

Q3 'Would your organisation like to tie in with the Year of the Film? If so, what are your ideas for projects?'

Year of the Film and 'Battle of the Somme' film

- Ideas for showing the film included:
 - Showing it outdoors (i.e. open area in the woods, Woodland trust)
 - Showing in unusual settings, like the existing "reconstructed trenches"
 - Screening it in a performing arts sixth form college
- It could be used it as a medium to engage with local communities in each region
- A couple of organisations had already shown interest/made plans for screening, including a screening with live orchestra and a screening in a FWW-memorial hall that sits 400 and a possible screening in a school hall.
- Participants wanted to view the film first as that would give them ideas on how/when they should screen it and what additional programming they could organise around it.
- Participants were discussing how they could work together so that each region/community in Wales had the opportunity to engage with the film
- It was suggested that the Battle of the Somme film might be made available for use free of charge (Note from FWWCP – it will be for members!)

Film and Heritage

- Film allows organisations to work with different audiences (e.g. youth panel, community groups, young farmers), and develop their skills (e.g. periscope) so that they are able to film and to use different film-related techniques.
- A lot of the focus seems to be on commemoration in a Welsh context – there is a need to involve other countries which were involved in the conflict
- Possibility of showings of films from other countries – perhaps an international film festival giving an alternative perspective of the war
- Suggestion of a film focussing on local projects
- Important to look at the social context of war, e.g. changes to society, agriculture, economic changes etc.

- Films could be used as educational resources
- A film could be produced looking at the history of music in the war
- Groups/project coordinators could explore the existence of film archives that include coverage of the First World War, e.g. IWM and perhaps the National Screen and Sound Archive of Wales.

Battle of the Somme film

The following observations were made following the showing of the film:

- The film is a propaganda film.
 - The FWWCP is very keen to engage with and discuss this through the free resources, including research packs and 'talking head' films, made available to members alongside the film.
- It still resonates with contemporary wars, and gives an insight into the conditions experienced by humans and animals on the front
- A delegate asked about the possibility of showing a similar film produced in Germany. IWM explained that they do not have the necessary rights to show the film
- IWM staff explained that the film will be released with an optional contemporary score.