

For the attention of Headteachers, Literacy and History Subject Leaders and all Key Stages 1, 2 and 3 Teachers

Kent in WW1

<http://www.kentww1.com>

A history, literacy, and cross-curricular project for pupils of all ages

Between 1914 and 1918 the county of Kent was the gateway through which personnel, machinery, munitions and supplies passed on their way to the Western Front. The influx of men and women; many from overseas and including the Belgian refugees; had a profound effect on the residents of towns and villages of Kent. The First World War also had an unprecedented effect on the Home Front, for example, it was the first time civilians were subjected to aerial attacks from Zeppelins and aircraft.

The Kent in World War 1 project provides an opportunity for pupils to research the stories of the people from Kent, both those involved in the forces and civilians. Using the interactive website, pupils will be able to discover where people lived, what they looked like, which school they attended and how everyday lives were changed by the dramatic events of the First World War.

Offer to Kent & Medway Schools

The Kent in WW1 education offer to schools for March to July 2015.

During this period schools will be able to book the Kent in WW1 education team to lead any of the assembly or workshops listed below. Please be aware that these sessions are charged for and there are a limited number of schools which the team can facilitate. If you have a certain aspect of activity you wish to concentrate on please do enquire as we will bespoke one of the workshops.

Due to support from the Belgian Tourist office we are able to offer a reduction in the fee to the first 7 schools who confirm a booking.

To date the Kent in WW1 team has visited 26 schools, and conducted 101 workshops with 8,350 pupils.

Please note: All pupils in Kent undertaking project work will have the opportunity to publish their work on the Kent in WW1 website, at no charge, and help grow interpretations and knowledge of the First World War in Kent.

Some feedback from the workshops already facilitated by the Kent in WW1 team:-

“Well planned, resourced and very keen teachers.”

1. Assembly: What happened in Kent during World War 1? Key Stages 1, 2, 3 and 4 Duration: 20-25 minutes

An assembly for a class or the whole school.

Combining multimedia, sound and images this assembly will reveal how the First World War impacted on the lives of local men and women.

Kent in WW1 have collaborated with the Belgian Tourist Office to use their resources, thus giving the pupils a wider understanding of the reason for the presence of troops in Belgium and what life was like for soldiers from Kent on the Western Front. There is also an important insight into the Belgian refugees and how their arrival from 1914 to 1917 and dispersal around Kent influenced local communities. The team has found that the inclusion of the history of Belgian refugees gives an added modern relevance and encourages engagement.

We ensure that pupils understand that men from Kent fought around the globe and in all the forces to give a fuller understanding of the impact of the First World War on those who served and the families at home.

Using actual physical artefacts has greatly engaged the pupils and provided a wider understanding of not only battlefield conditions, but what nurses were required to do and how munitions were made.

The final section of the assembly focuses on local history. Common themes which affected the whole of Kent such as Zeppelin and air raids or disasters in which there was loss of civilian life involving several towns are explored, giving a wider understanding of Kent as a whole. Specific history relating to the location of the school then gives the pupils an opportunity to discover and understand how their community and those people who lived within it were affected by the events of the First World War. We use primary source images and artefacts throughout the assembly.

Feedback from assemblies conducted:-

'The children were captivated during the assembly, especially as it was made relevant to them in their locality. The use of artefacts presented in such an organised way was extremely effective.'

2. Workshop: Read all about it! - How the First World War was reported in newspapers.

Key Stages: 2 and 3

Capacity up to 60- this is an interactive workshop and so there must be enough space for pupils to write.

Duration: up to 60 minutes

Students are introduced to a period newspaper, magazine, recruitment posters and advertisements. A presentation encourages the student to look at these resources to examine how the War was reported, what impact various events had upon national and local reporting and attitudes towards the War. The workshop includes some local history and relevant social history.

Activity:

- Design your own advertisement to promote a well known product (either historic or present day) and raise money for the Assistance for the Belgian refugees, families of serving soldiers, or comfort parcels for the troops.
- Design your own recruiting poster, or appeal for women workers or food saving poster.
- After an overview of newspapers campaigning for social change in which a focus is on the pension paid to widows of servicemen and how the change in financial circumstance affected families. Students are encouraged to design their own campaign to bring in rationing in a way that the general public and government would think it was a good idea.
- Using period images from the locality write a short letter to a newspaper about an event that took place locally in which you were either a witness or participant.
- Research how would an air raid over Kent be reported in a local paper (this encompasses DORA and press reporting restrictions) and by a German newspaper.

We are grateful to the publishers D.C. Thomson for allowing Kent in WW1 to use primary source material.

Feedback from newspaper workshops:-

“A good foray into WW1 and acting as historians looking at source material.”

‘It was really fun, I learnt a couple new things and I mega enjoyed the making our own newspaper. ‘

3. Workshop: Local history and postcards

Key Stages: 2 and 3

Capacity up to 60- this is an interactive workshop and so there must be enough space for pupils to write.

Duration: up to 60 minutes

A short presentation discussing some of the events which occurred during the First World War and the people who lived near the schools locality. Topics covered include the role of the postal service, the importance of an efficient postal service to morale for both service personal and those at home, and how the postcard was the equivalent of a text nowadays.

Students are encouraged to investigate actual postcards written by the men and women of the First World War. Students will be able to handle authentic WW1 postcards and read primary source material.

Activity:

- Be a postcard detective, using the primary source materials provided pupils will learn how to discover the background to the postcard and be given an insight into the life of the sender and recipient.
- Students will be provided with local images and the historical background and create their own postcards. A valuable insight into the use of language.
- Using primary source material, discover how to research an image and what resources are available to further knowledge about an event or family member. Create a flow diagram to show how a certain image would be researched.
- Bring back the postcard- write your own campaign to bring back the postcard using the resources available.
- Use the postcard collection to compare language from the period to the everyday language we all use today.

Feedback from postcard workshops:-

'Over the years, we have had a number of workshops for Year 6. However, this workshop stood out. Not only were the staff incredibly knowledgeable and passionate about WW1 History, but the interlinked activities enabled the children to experience analysing primary evidence. The accompanying power point gave the children interesting visual stimuli whilst I know that they savoured the opportunity to handle some of the artefacts first hand.'

"I liked seeing the original postcards because I never thought I would see artefacts from 100 years ago".

4. Workshop: World War 1 Cartoon Workshop

Key Stages: 1, 2 and 3

Duration: up to 60 minutes

Numbers: 30 per session ideally but can facilitate more providing there is enough space for the students to draw.

- This is an opportunity for your pupils to work with Dave Chisholm, the Kent WW1 project artist.
- In this workshop Dave help pupils develop their historical understanding of WW1 in an accessible, engaging manner.
- Dave will explore in this workshop how cartoons can be used as a vehicle to promote writing; this strand is achieved by Dave's development of the fictitious Kent in WW1 characters of Rose (who became a V.A.D. nurse and Joe (who enlisted at the beginning of the War). Their diary and journal can be viewed on the website and students can write their own interpretation supported by the development of the cartoons.
- Schools interested in pursuing this line of enquiry might also like to introduce their pupils to the work of Bruce Bairnsfather and other prominent British humorists and cartoonists of the period.

Feedback from the cartoon workshops

“The children were extremely engaged throughout the sessions and thoroughly enjoyed them. All of the children said that they had learnt a lot about WW1 from participating, and were disappointed when the workshop came to an end!”



Further Information

Kent in WW1 is a member of the centenary partnership with the Imperial War Museum. The project tells the story of the people and towns of Kent during World War 1 by providing site visitors with the opportunity to see, via individual town maps, where people lived and events which happened.

The website gives the opportunity for individuals to share their family history with those who live in their town and the wider Kent community, painting a picture of Kent during the First World War. By using film as well as audio, stories, photos and artefact images as well as weaving in other footage, we help to illustrate individual and local stories which will inspire an interest in the heritage of Kent during the First World War.

The Kent in WW1 education package for schools includes downloadable workshop packages found on the Learning Resources tab in the Discovery section. The education packages give suggestions for activities and indicate the appropriate Key Stages.

Screen South is a not for profit Creative Development company operating in the wider creative and cultural community. As well as managing and delivering creative projects Screen South is involved with wide ranging partners to deliver educational programmes using various medium including film and other creative practices. Screen South is the home of award winning uScreen which has, for over four years, enabled young people with disability work on a par with their peers in creating their own films and creative works. For the Kent in WW1 project the experienced team at Screen South has been augmented by a specific Heritage Learning advisor to deliver the educational element of the Kent in WW1 programme.

Please complete the enquiry form at the end of this document and one of the team will be in contact.

Kent in WW1

Enquiry Form

School:	
Address:	

Member of staff:	
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Tel: No:		E-mail:	
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List below which event you would like to book. Offer up to 3 possible dates.

These must be the same date for all activities and either morning, afternoon or all day. Please note charges are based on a half day or whole day and not per workshop. For example in a half day the team can facilitate at least an assembly and 2 workshops.

Event Number:	Event Title:	Date 1:	Date 2:	Date 3:

Completed enquiry forms should be e-mailed or posted to the addresses below by 1st March 2015 in the first instance. Please note we will accept bookings after this date if we have available dates. The team will advise you of the costs of the programme of activity you have chosen. This form is to reserve a date, once the booking fee has been agreed the date will be confirmed.

E-mail enquiry forms to: education@kentww1.com

Post enquiry forms to: [Head of WW1 Heritage, Screen South, The Wedge, 75-81 Tontine Street, Folkestone, Kent CT20 1JR](#)

For further information about The Kent in WW1 workshops please contact: education@kentww1.com or info@kentww1.com alternatively, phone 01303 259777 to speak to Darrienne Price, Head of WW1 Heritage.