Evaluation of the National Children’s Football Alliance project, The Peace Fields Project.

August 2016

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Introduction

National Children’s Football Alliance (NCFA) is a coalition of agencies and organisations that safeguard and advance the rights of children in football. As a humanistic voice and advocate for children, the NCFA also acts as a focal point and network for those individuals and organisations seeking sustainable partnerships, information, education and/or training on child-centred approaches and children’s rights in football. The NCFA seeks to protect childhood through football.

The Peace Fields Project (PFP) is an extension to the Heritage Lottery Funded 2014 Football & Peace Project, inspired by the Christmas Truces of 1914, it considered how a symbolic moment of First World War history relates to the contemporary mission of the NCFA. A number of NCFA projects have engaged children and young people from vulnerable groups which are outside the radar of structured football. PFP linked the escapism of play with the historic and explored conflict resolution. It provided young people with the opportunity to research their heritage in the First World War through the medium of sport. The PFP provided teachers with the opportunity to engage pupils in subjects across their school’s curricular, using sport as a vehicle. It also engaged local primary schools, families and members of the community who participated in research and activities. All participants pledged to twin their designated areas of play with Flanders Peace Field, Messines, Belgium. This commitment has created a legacy for commemorating the First World War and celebrating peace through play on every anniversary.
**Outcome aims**

- School children at three levels: 5 hub schools, 50 link schools and at least 50 network schools will have gained local First World War knowledge, an understanding of their heritage and why commemoration is important.
- School learning packs and supporting resources to aid their PFPs will be produced.
- Develop the Football & Peace website’s PFPs resources and create International links with other schools, clubs and organisations undertaking First World War activities.
- School children from the hub schools will have a better understanding of the First World War through a range of different learning and produce project work aided by their experience.
- Hub schools’ commemoration events will witness the twinning of their designated area of play with Flanders Peace Field, the involvement of the Royal British Legion and other organisations.
- A project film will be produced
- Local media networks, social media and newsletters will promote the PFP.
- Hub schools’ will have their names added to the Peace Wall in Messines.
**Background / brief history**

The NCFA work closely with the Peace Village, Messines, Belgium, on developing International Football & Peace Projects. Further to the successful Heritage Lottery Funded Football & Peace Project the PFP was established in Kent when the NCFA approached 10 schools that were considered to have vibrant History and Sports departments. Following this, the History and PE teachers at all 10 schools expressed an interest in the PFP and requested details to present to their line managers and head teachers. It was felt that teachers who showed a passion for their subjects would be best placed to manage their respective school project. It was also considered that the schools participating in the PFP should represent a broad spectrum of education from across Kent.

- Letters of support for the PFP: Sean Carter, Strategic Projects and Partnership Manager, Kent County Council, 14/01/14. Helen Grant, Minister for Sport, Tourism and Equalities, 02/05/14. Francis Morton, Director, War Memorials Trust, 30/06/14. Professor Mark Connelly, Director of Gateways to the First World War, Kent University 07/07/14. Sarah Corn, Museum Development Office for Kent & Medway, 11/07/14. Matti Vandemaele, General Manager, Peace Village, 13/01/15. Rosalind Meredith, Learning Officer, Maidstone Museum, 14/01/15. (See appendix 1, page 25.)

The NCFA provide access for children to all forms of education through football. There was a clear indication from the above-mentioned experts that the need for a PFP would best engage young people from diverse backgrounds, on a level of heritage, history and sport, which had yet to be contextualised in contemporary themes. It was also considered that football would not be the sole sporting activity of the programme. Although inspired by the Christmas Truces football games, the PFP would embrace many other sports documented at home and abroad throughout the First World War.

- David Evennett, Acting Sports, Heritage & Tourism, MP, said, “It is absolutely crucial that young people are involved in the commemoration one hundred years on from the events of the First World War”. [http://www.childrensfootballalliance.com/football-and-peace/page/2/](http://www.childrensfootballalliance.com/football-and-peace/page/2/)

The NCFA focused its resources on the PFP that would actively engage partners on helping develop the programme and listen to the schools that participated. It was also important that all partners felt valued in terms of input and they were given the opportunity to extend their respective networks through the PFP’s growing profile. Hub schools where consulted as set out in the project plan [http://www.childrensfootballalliance.com/football-and-peace/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/PEACE-FIELDS-PROJECT-PLAN.pdf](http://www.childrensfootballalliance.com/football-and-peace/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/PEACE-FIELDS-PROJECT-PLAN.pdf)

Recruitment

Schools were recruited on the basis of their enthusiasm for the project, their links in the community with the First World War, their strong reputation in the teaching and learning of sport and history. The schools that participated were able to thread the PFP into their academic year with no disruption to their respective school curriculum. It was important that all the above-mentioned partners and schools were confident in delivering the project at an age appropriate level. Teachers asked their respective pupils (girls and boys) to volunteer for the project. All five schools reported that they were inundated with volunteers. Up to 25 pupils represented each school’s project team and up to a further 150 represented each school’s sports teams as well as volunteers and organisers; the average age was 15 years old.

Who was involved.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Project team</th>
<th>Twinning Ceremony, exhibition &amp; sports event</th>
<th>Staff/Volunteers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abbey School, Faversham</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>10 female / 15 male</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herne Bay High School</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>12 female / 13 male</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Weald Academy</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>14 female / 11 male</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oasis Academy Isle of Sheppey</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>12 female / 13 male</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thamesview School</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>13 female / 12 male</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘The Peace Field Project was the perfect tool to engage pupils that find history boring and in reverse engage pupils that find sport challenging. Many of our pupils took ownership of the project and produced outstanding pieces of work.’ Jack Long, Project Manager, Abbey School, Faversham.

‘Recruiting students for The Peace Field Project was easy – mention football and the project team was signed up in a flash’. Chris Gregory, Project Manager, Herne Bay High School, Herne Bay.

‘It was interesting to witness the number of girls that participated. The inclusivity of different sports helped’. Joe Swash, Project Manager, High Weald Academy, Cranbrook.

‘We had no problems recruiting students for this project in fact we were over-subscribed with candidates’. Paul Murray, Project Manager, Oasis Academy, Isle of Sheppey.

‘Our history students made up the majority of the PFP team. A good mix of girls and boys produced some great work’. Ed Martel, Project Manager, Thamesview School, Gravesend.
‘We were pleased to hear that the call to Army Cadets led to the British Army being represented at all twinning ceremonies.’ Bill Thompson, British Army F.A.

‘It was great to work with so many school children who were eager to learn more about the First World War.’ Dr Emma Hanna, University of Kent.

‘The project enabled me to gain a valuable insight into some of the activities and events my colleagues within the Organisation are involved in running, as my primary role an observer job shadowing one of the project partners. I was also able to participate and assist with the running of the events which enabled a greater level of interaction with the project and was an enjoyable experience.’ Hardeep Hunjan, Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council.

‘The Peace Field Project is one of the best projects I have ever worked on in terms of cross-curricular and intergenerational relationships. Many members of staff including myself have enjoyed the experience and learnt a lot in the delivery from young people. It really is a unique project that brings people together and as a shared experience I would like to see us do it again.” Rosalind Meredith, Maidstone Museum.

‘The Royal British Legion working alongside young people to commemorate the First World War can only be a good thing for the future.’ Richard Cast, The Royal British Legion.

‘War Memorials Trust is delighted to be represented in the Peace Fields Project and give the young people involved an introduction to our work protecting and conserving war memorials.’ Ruth Cavandar, War Memorials Trust.
Activities

Each hub school project team researched their heritage at home, at school and in the community. Online resources and research tools were provided by The NCFA, Kent University’s Gateways to the Frist World War, Kent Libraries, and Registration & Archives, Maidstone Museum and the Kent Messenger’s Press Online. Further online links to National, regional and local resources, meant that the teams could use the PFP website to discuss their work and upload their projects.

Outreach workshops facilitated by the NCFA, Kent Libraries, Registration & Archives (KLR&A) supported the respective hub schools’ projects with a short film, presentation and discussion, which contextualised the project teams’ work. Some students took part in filmed interviews giving their opinions about why commemorating WW1 is important, which later featured in the PFP short film. Students were supported by KLR&A which provided them with guidance in terms of their project work which was later featured on their school’s respective Twinning Ceremony’s Exhibition Day

‘I found it enjoyable & rewarding to link local archive & local history resources with this imaginative cross-curricular participative project. I enjoyed my experience of working with the PFP manager, plus the teachers & students of 5 different Kent schools. All project participants were open to explore the material that I presented and the stories within it.’ Rob Illingworth, Community Heritage Service Officer, Kent County Council.

‘The PFP class was a new experience and taught me about how Faversham was affected in WW1’. J West, Students, Abbey School.

‘It was fun’. Addy, Student, Herne Bay High School, Herne Bay.

‘We learnt a lot about the football teams in the war and people from Cranbook in the war’. G Pettitt, Student, High Weald Academy, Cranbrook.

‘It was fun and educational’. K Kerswell, Student, Oasis Academy, Isle of Sheppey.

‘I learnt about the soldiers that lived near me’. Maddie, Student, Thamesview School.

Thamesview School. Students being interviewed 12th October 2015 for the PFP film which is featured on the Football & Peace website’s PFP pages, http://www.childrensfootballalliance.com/football-and-peace/peace-field-project/. The picture features the Peace Poppy Football which was donated to the PFP by International Children’s Football Alliance partners, One World Play Project. Also featured in the picture above are PFP 2016 medals which were presented to all students that participated in the project.
Schools attended a lecture and interactive learning session at Kent University facilitated by PFP partners Gateways to the First World War. This was the first time students had experienced a university environment. The experience provided them with a good insight into further education and a level of First World War knowledge by experts. The 40-minute lecture, given by Dr Emma Hanna from the Gateways to the First World War project, gave an overview of the conflict of 1914-1918. It provided the historical context of the war both at home and abroad, and helped to draw out some themes in relation to the subjects the schools had chosen to study in further detail. After the lecture there was a question and answer session, many students took part showing their enthusiasm for the subject. Herne Bay High School received an award for quality of their questions. The second part of the event was an interactive workshop designed around historical sources relevant to each hub school’s chosen focus.

‘It was great to work with so many school children who were eager to learn about the First World War’. Dr Emma Hanna, Gateways to The First World War.

‘I learnt a lot and everyone got involved’. J West, Student, Abbey School.

‘It was fun because I enjoyed having a lecture about entertainment during the war’. F Howell, Student, Herne Bay High School, Herne Bay.

‘I learnt a lot of new information in a really enjoyable way’. A Farley, Student, High Weald Academy, Cranbrook.

‘I learnt how important WW1 is to Britain and the allies’. J Bangs, Student, Oasis Academy, Isle of Sheppey.

‘It was fun’. S Willis. Student, Oasis Academy, Isle of Sheppey.

Herne Bay High School pick up a PFP award at Kent University, 7th December, 2015. The award was presented by Dr Emma Hanna to the school that offered the most input and interesting questions about the First World War in Kent whilst engaging in the workshop. The packed audience watched a number of short films which provided further resources and information for all the PFP hub schools.
School’s project teams visited **Maidstone Museum**, Maidstone, where they discussed their project work with museum staff, as well as with volunteers and enthusiasts. A drama based presentation was given by The Queens Own West Kent Living History Group, ‘They Shall Grow Not Old’, which enabled students to inspect relics and items from the First World War. Many students dressed up in various uniforms from the period and took part in various scenarios, re-enacting recruitment situations and first aid methods. Some students were interviewed for the PFP film and talked about their experience whilst taking part in the class.

‘We are really pleased with how the project was received here at the Maidstone Museum. I heard great comments for students. One of the boys said, ‘This was so amazing’. When the boys were being dressed in uniform. I was chatting with some of the boys who said they didn’t realise it would be so interesting’. Roz Meredith, Community Education Officer, Maidstone Museum.

‘It taught me about how the war was fought and what weapons were used which I found most interesting’. B Rickard, Student, Abbey School.

‘I liked learning about what people got and how different their jobs were according to their class’. O Newman, Student, Herne Bay High School, Herne Bay.

‘A really good day enjoyed and learnt so much’. Chelsea’, High Weald Academy, Cranbrook.

‘I liked the museum the most because it was interesting to know what soldiers had in the war’. C Fisk, Student, Oasis Academy, Isle of Sheppey.

‘It was entertaining and we got to dress up’. D Greenway, Student, Thamesview School, Gravesend.

Thamesview School’s students’ first aid role play. A number of students were given the opportunity to wear authentic First World War uniforms to empathise with the soldiers and nurses of the day. All students were fully engaged in the interactive workshops where they could see, touch and smell artefacts from the period.
The Twinning Ceremony, Exhibition and Sport Events Day; each Hub School invited local primary link schools to participate in their Twinning Ceremony with Flanders Peace Field, Messines, Belgium.

Each hub school organised their own ceremony to commemorate the First World War which included the Last Post performed by a local Royal British Legion, Army Cadets, local priest to bless the designated area of play and key speeches from special guests.

Oasis Academy, Isle of Sheppey, twinning ceremony which took part on the designated area of play where distinguished guests, primary link schools, volunteers and participants witnessed key speeches, readings of First World War poetry, The Last Post and the signing of the Declaration for Peace.

The Last Post at the Oasis Academy was performed by a year 9 student who was later invited to join the local cadets and play the last post at a number of their ceremonial events.

High Weald Academy’s Army Cadets volunteered to be the flag bearers at their school’s ceremony. Reverend Ann Pollington blessed the designated area of play and primary link schools’ children sowed poppy seeds in the garden of remembrance. Reverend Ann Pollington blessed the High Weald Academy Peace Plaque too and said, ‘The peace field is a legacy for a moment in history for all who play their sports and games on it’.

One of the most important experiences witnessed in all the schools’ ceremonies was the respect shown by all young people at the moment when The Last Post was performed. Paul Cooper, National Projects Director, said, ‘The Abbey School ceremony was very touching and speeches were very moving. The Last Post was clearly observed by many young people for the first time which made the occasion very special’.
Schools organised and assembled their PFP exhibition with meticulous attention to detail. Students, staff, volunteers, project partners and members of the public, viewed the exhibitions with many parents and carers commenting on the standard of work. Faversham Councillor Tom Gates said, ‘I am so impressed with the standard of work on display. It is a credit to the school and to the community which will benefit all that play on the peace field’.

Abbey School, Faversham, PFP Exhibition. 21st June, 2016. Special Guest Helen Whately, MP for Faversham said, “It was wonderful to be at Abbey School in Faversham to celebrate the official twinning of their sports pitch with Flanders Peace Field, the site of the 1914 Christmas Truces. It was a touching tribute to all those who gave their lives in the Great War and it was fantastic to see so many young people get involved in this centenary year.”

Herne Bay High School, Herne Bay, PFP Exhibition 28th June, 2016, was in conjunction with First World War history lessons for primary link schools facilitated by Herne Bay High School pupils. Special Guest, Councillor George Metcalf, said, ‘It was a very thoughtful exhibition of work and very interesting local history in a time of war’. An estimated 500 people viewed each hub school’s exhibition. Each school’s events were covered by local press and uploaded onto PFP and school websites, as well as broadcasted on social media (see page 23).
Each hub school invited special guests to support their event. One of the highest profile special guest speakers was the Head of Education at the Peace Village, Messines, Belgium.

Simon Louagie, Head of Education, The Peace Village, said, ‘There is a future for peace in twinning designated areas of play with Flanders Peace Field. The Peace Village is delighted to welcome PFP schools to this very special legacy’.

Adam Holloway, MP for Gravesham, said, ‘The PFP is a great idea and a wonderful learning tool for young and older people to contextualise a period in history’.

Reverend, Simon Young and Paul Cooper, National Projects Director at the NCFA speak about the importance of remembrance at the Abbey School PFP Ceremony 21st June 2015
The signing of the **Declaration for Peace** was an integral part of the twinning ceremonies which officially twinned the designated area of play with Flanders Peace Field. The Declaration of Peace recognises the United Nations Annual pledge to peace on International Day of Peace 21st September.

The **Declaration for Peace and The PFP Plaque** exist on site of the designated area of play and a duplicate of the Declaration is kept at the Peace Village, Messines and a duplicate plaque is displayed on the Peace Wall over-looking the site of the 1914 Christmas Truces, Flanders Field.

PFP Plaque displayed at High Weald Academy, Cranbrook. 29th June, 2016.
Each PFP Plaque and Declaration for Peace were issued with authentication codes which will be kept on record and held at the Peace Village, Messines, Belgium. A Declaration of Peace was signed by the Head Teacher of each hub school and a member of the NCFA pledging to uphold the spirit of the 1914 Christmas Truces on their respective Peace Field.

Head Teacher, Herne Bay High School (left) and Colin Farley, Founder Member, National Children’s Football Alliance (right) sign the Peace Field’s Project Declaration for Peace.

Caitrin Woodend, Head Teacher, Abbey School (left) and Jack Long, Project Manager, Abbey School (right) unveil the PFP Plaque which officially twins their designated area of play with Flanders Peace Field, Messines, Belgium.

Harry Ingham, Headteacher, Herne Bay High School (left) and John Carmichael, NED, International Children’s Football Alliance, sign the PFP Declaration for Peace.
Presentations; PFP commemorative medals were presented to students in recognition of their hard work. Tee shirts were distributed amongst all participants and commemorative poppy balls were presented to primary link schools.

Abbeys School students proudly display their PFP medals 21st June, 2016.

Herne Bay High School present Peace Field Poppy Balls to their guests from primary link schools, 28th June, 2016.

High Weald Academy’s guests from local primary link schools plant poppy seeds in the school’s memorial garden, 29th June, 2016.
Sports; an estimated 500 attended and participated at each of the sports event. The games ranged from football, rounders, rugby, tug of war, canon run, mine field and javelin. All the sports were facilitated by volunteers from the respective Schools Sports Leadership Programmes.

Each hub school invited local primary link schools to enter a sports team that took part in the Twinning Ceremony Sports Event Day. Before the activities took place, a twinning ceremony commemorating The First World War facilitated by the hub school and PFP partners was observed by up to 500 people at each event.

After the sports activities hub schools presented PFP medals and tee shirts to their project teams. They also presented each primary link school with a peace poppy ball. A token for the respective primary schools to kick start their PFP and twinning their designated area of play with Flanders Peace Field.

Some of Abbey School’s primary link schools line up before their peace football tournament, 21st June, 2016

Herne Bay High School, cannon run, 28th June, 2016.

High Weald Academy, javelin completion, 25th June, 2016.
Oasis Academy, kicked off their primary link schools’ peace tournament with a friendly match played in the spirit of the 1914 Christmas Truces. All players were dressed in memory of First World War soldiers, 15th June, 2016.

Thamesview School serve up a rounders tournament for their primary link schools, 30th June, 2016. All sports activities were closely linked to the respective schools’ communities and their communities in the First World War.

‘The students found it interesting connecting sports that they play today in the community with the sports that were played in the war in the same community’. Jack Long, Project Manager, Abbey School.

‘The idea of featuring a canon run was from the pupils. They put their heart and soul into organising the races which the staff found very encouraging’. Chris Gregory, Project Manager, Herne Bay High School.

After they viewed the exhibition and visited the memorial gardens, the sports games proved to be very popular with the primary link schools’. Joe Swash, Project Manager, High Weald Academy.

‘The re-enactment of the Christmas Truces football game was very popular with our primary link schools’ pupils. The peace football tournament too was very well attended and enjoyed by everyone’. Paul Murray, Project Manager, Oasis Academy.

‘The sport chosen to commemorate the First World War by our students was rounders. We think the spirit of the Christmas Truces played a part in the all inclusivity of it’. Ed Martel, Project Manager, Thamesview School.
Outcomes Achieved

- Students from five hub schools; ninety-three hub school students out of 125 completed their feedback forms.

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<tr>
<th>A. Please tick</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Did you enjoy the first Peace Fields Project workshop given by the Kent Libraries? Please explain why?</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

'It was a good insight to WW1'. Ryan, Herne Bay High School.

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<tr>
<th>B. Please tick</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Did you enjoy the lecture at Kent University? Please explain why?</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

'It was cool and I have never done anything like this before'. K Carnish, Abbey School

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<tr>
<th>C. Please tick</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Did you enjoy the workshop at Maidstone Museum? Please explain why?</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>0</td>
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</table>

'Lots of activities to join in with. Information presented in affective way'. E Wright, Thamesview School


- Produce school learning packs and supporting resources to aid their PFPs.

All hub schools and link schools received learning packs with introduction notes from project partners: NCFA, Kent Libraries, Registration and Archives, Maidstone Museum and Gateways to the First World War, University of Kent.

Supporting resources from [Kent Messenger’s Press Online](http://www.kentmessenger.co.uk/) was made accessible for hub schools to help aid their project research.

Additional information was added to the PFP learning packs: War Memorials Trusts leaflets providing information about local memorials and how to volunteer plus The Royal British Legion leaflets providing information about the importance of remembrance.

A copy of The Black Football Heritage Book featuring First World War footballers was also inserted into the PFP learning pack. Project managers were asked to use the book as a reward to a student that produced the most interesting work.

Further information about PFP partners [The Peace Village](http://www.peacevillage.org.uk/) was place in to the packs along with a packet of Flanders Poppy Seeds.
Develop the Football & Peace website’s PFPs resources and create International links with other schools, clubs and organisations undertaking First World War activities.

The Football & Peace website’s PFP pages now features pages for primary and secondary schools to submit their project work for uploading. All hubs schools now have their PFP pages which continue to be updated and serve as their school’s virtual memorial to The First World War as well as their celebration of peace on their twinned designated area of play:

- ABBEY SCHOOL, Faversham.
- HERNE BAY HIGH SCHOOL, Herne Bay.
- HIGH WEALD ACADEMY, Cranbrook.
- OSAIS ACADEMY, Isle of Sheppey.
- THAMESVIEW SCHOOL, Gravesend.

School children from the hub schools will have a better understanding of the First World War through a range of different learning and produce project work aided by their experience.

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<th>D</th>
<th>Please tick</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Did the Peace Field Project help you learn about local history in World War One? Please explain how?</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘Yes, we found out about different local schools in the war’. K Kersell, Oasis Academy

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<th>E</th>
<th>Please tick</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Does the Peace Field Project help you make links between history and sport? Please explain how?</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘It connected sport with history’. G Pettitt, High Weald Academy.

‘I learnt that at one point in history the soldiers all realised they were human and opposing armies played football with each other’. B Rickard, Abbey School.

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<th>F</th>
<th>Please tick</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Did the Peace Field Project help you discuss WW1 with members of your family or older people in your community? Please explain why?</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘Discussed it with my parents at home and grandparents too’ N Francis, Oasis Academy

‘I wondered if my dad could give me any extra information because he knows quite a lot about the wars and was something we could share an interest in’. Anonymous, Thamesview School.

‘It enabled me to provide interesting information that my whole family enjoyed learning about’ A Farley, High Weald Academy.
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<th>G</th>
<th>Please tick</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Did the Peace Field Project make you feel differently about modern day football &amp; sport? Please explain how?</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘I now feel sport should be about peace throughout the world’. F Todd, High Weald Academy.

‘Because back then people played football for peace – now it’s for money’. D Greenway, Thamesview School.

‘Yes, I now play my football differently’. C Kershaw, Abbey School.

‘It reinforced that today’s football is too commercial’. J Bangs, Oasis Academy

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<th>H</th>
<th>Please tick</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is it important to have a Peace Field at your school? Please explain why?</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

‘We need one’. Claire, Herne Bay High School.

‘It makes our school more well-known and promotes football without arguments’. B Rickard, Abbey School.

‘Yes, it is so much more than just history’. M Robbins, Thamesview School.

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<th>I</th>
<th>Please tick</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Have you used the Peace Field Project website? Please explain how?</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

‘I was interested in finding out more information about the project and visiting the website really helped.’ E Humphreys, High Weald Academy.

‘I looked at the schools’ webpage to learn more about the project’. K Oliver, Herne Bay High School.

- Hub schools’ commemoration events will witness the twinning of their designated area of play with Flanders Peace Field, the involvement of the Royal British Legion and other organisations.

Hub schools’ commemoration events were supported by the Royal British Legion, local churches, local MPs and local Army Cadets.

The forty-four link schools out or fifty attended the hub schools twinning ceremonies, exhibitions and sports events. [http://www.childrensfootballalliance.com/football-and-peace/primary-schools/](http://www.childrensfootballalliance.com/football-and-peace/primary-schools/) They all received a commemorative Peace Poppy Ball along with information on how to get involved in the PFP

The forty-six networks schools that contacted the NCFA regarding further information on the PFP all received project leaflets and access to their schools PFP online webpage.

- Produce a project film.

The PFP film features interviews from students, dignitaries, local MPs and government ministers. The films highlight the work achieved by the students and discusses the legacy of The PFP in the centenary years.

Due to the popularity of the PFP the film covered each of the project partners’ workshops and featured all of the ceremonial events.

The PFP film is uploaded on to the Football & Peace – PFP pages and linked to the National Children’s Football Alliance website. All schools will have links to the film which will continue to promote the Peace Fields Project.

- Local media networks, social media and newsletters will promote the PFP.

The PFP worked closely with the Kent Messenger Media Group on covering all the Hub Schools ceremonial events. All events were extensively broadcasted through social media and the NCFA produced features in their newsletter throughout the project. Samples of media links below:

  - KM, Abbey School Make History with the Peace Fields Project
  - Facebook, The High Weald Academy Peace Field Project
  - Twitter, Another Great Peace Fields Project Twinning Ceremony Today at Thamesview School
  - NCFA Newsletter, Peace Fields Project Plaques

- Hub schools’ will have their names added to the Peace Wall in Messines.

The First Peace Fields Project Plaques Unveiled is a short film featuring the hub schools’ plaques being unveiled at the Peace Village, Flanders, Messines, Belgium.
Media

The PFP had a six-point media campaign (see appendix 2, page 31) which achieved all its social media, press and newsletter targets. Hub Schools featured in all the regional Kent Messenger Group Newspapers which provided the hub schools with comprehensive project cover.

NCFA Press Release and leaflets were accessible via the website, it featured the Heritage Lottery Fund’s logo and thanked HLF for the grant. Kent Messenger and Kent FM Radio both featured articles on the PFP hub schools’ ceremonies.

CONCLUSION

There was, and remains, a need to provide young people with access to discovering their heritage as illustrated in the PFP. The introduction to the PFP witnessed a demand that far out-weighed provision. All project managers highlighted the PFP popularity amongst students across their school’s respective curriculum.

The PFP brought a diverse selection of young people together; it enabled them to express themselves, research their heritage, engage with their school’s extended community and take a sense of ownership for future years of commemoration. Young people found a heritage connection within their community, family and with their school, to the First World War.

Participants now recognise that it is important to commemorate the First World War and that sport throughout the period played a vital role in comradeship, community cohesion and propaganda. They discovered the humanitarian qualities fostered through sport’s recreation and competition. They learnt how to investigate their heritage and utilise community and online resources.

Through guided discovery the history and sport aspect of the PFP proved that intergenerational relationships are very important when maintaining respect and building intergenerational trust. Students experienced a testing set of workshops delivered by experts at an age appropriate level. The outreach workshop from the NCFA and Kent County Council’s Libraries, Registration and Archives, proved to be an effective introduction to the PFP. The visit to Kent University’s Gateways to the First World War was a challenging workshop with many students benefitting from the experience and the visit to Maidstone Museum proved to be the most popular, employing a kinaesthetic approach to learning through a living history group performance.

The PFP exhibition was the culmination of all the participants’ hard work. The numbers that viewed the exhibitions were above and beyond expectations. In addition, the exhibitions were considered of such interest that Maidstone Museum displayed them online for a further four weeks following the respective hub schools’ events.

Project partners and project managers at the twinning ceremonies witnessed many young people discovering remembrance for the first time. The intergenerational factor of young and mature people standing side by side discussing the PFP was recorded in interviews captured on film. Many mature people found the interaction with younger people refreshing and enlightening in terms of context and how sport can be a passage to peace.

The PFP film documents young voices 100 years on from the First World War. The film captures a new generation questioning their history and learning from their research. The film illustrates the importance of twinning designated areas of play with Flanders Peace Field and the spirit of the 1914 Christmas Truces. Students contextualised their local heritage and sports traditions with their modern day roles, participating in games and sports on their twinned playing fields.
The twinning ceremonies sports games were played in the spirit of the Christmas Truces. All primary link schools played in mixed teams with mixed ability and mixed gender. This proved to be a unique popular method with many of the link schools keen to run a PFP event within the centenary years. There was clearly a feel good factor on display throughout the PFP. (See Appendix 3, page 33. Project Managers Feedback).

Network schools now have their school’s PFP web page on the Football & Peace website. Once again, interest was high and further funding would meet demand in terms of uploading their commemorative First World War work, twinning their designated areas of play with Flanders Peace Field and creating the respective school’s virtual online memorial.

Many young people consider football and sport differently now that they have participated in the PFP. They found time to consider how they felt about sport in the context of the Christmas Truces and sport played in the First World War. A major factor to the success of the PFP was that it was not mandatory. The participants volunteered to take part; it was indeed over-subscribed and unfortunately there were not enough places to meet demand. Ultimately, the PFP has left a legacy with all those that took part in the historical twinning of areas of play with Flanders Peace Field and in so doing, the PFP has created peace makers for the future.
Appendix 1

1. Letters of support for the PFP.

Ernie Brennan
National Children’s Football Alliance
26 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4AE

Education and
Young People’s Services
Room 2.61
Sessions House
County Road
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XQ
14 January 2015

Dear Ernie,

Re: Peace Fields Project

I am writing to confirm Kent County Council’s (KCC) full support for the NCFA application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the ‘Peace Fields Project’ (PFP).

There is a great deal of interest in commemorating WW1 in Kent. We feel this project will engage young and older people to explore Kent’s role in the conflict; and provide areas of contemplation through research projects and games related activities. KCC would like to promote the twinning of school play areas with Flanders Peace Village, Messines, Belgium, the site of the Christmas Truce. We believe this unique Peace Fields Project will offer schools and communities opportunities to commemorate WW1 and utilise their designated play areas to benefit all participants.

If successful, KCC will provide information regarding the PFP to Kent schools via our bespoke schools’ bulletin and help identify areas where PFP may like to work with local museums, libraries and sports clubs to help with the pupils’ research and activities.

Kent Libraries Registration & Archives aim to provide 5 workshops for schools on researching local First World War history using the resources in our archives and local history collections

As an authority we are very keen to play an active role commemorating WW1 in our communities and we feel that this project potentially gives opportunities for different generations in Kent to work together to commemorate and remember WW1, to consider the wider impact of war on the families and communities of Kent, as well as those actively serving on the battlefields.

We wish you every success with the application and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Sean Carter
Strategic Projects and Partnership Manager
Education and Young People’s Services
Dear [Name],

Thank you for your e-mail of 28 April following my visit to Maidstone for the Football and Peace Day. It was inspiring to see so many young people both enjoying and being inspired by the combination of sports and First World War centenary commemoration activity. It was also very good to see your guests from Germany involved.

You asked for support for the extension of the Football and Peace and for the Flanders Peace Fields projects. Unfortunately, there is no Government uncommitted centenary funding. However, my officials have spoken to their HLF counterparts and if you worked up applications for an extension of the Football and Peace project into other locations, they would certainly be willing to consider them. For the Flanders Peace Field proposal, I assume that you have tried local sources such as local councils and Primary School Partnerships. If not, you may wish to do so. My officials have also mentioned this project to HLF colleagues but their response was that, as outlined, Peace Fields does not have enough of a heritage aspect to meet their criteria. They also do not generally support projects with expenditure outside Britain. That, plus the absence of an overt increasing participation objective, is also likely to preclude support from the Sports Lottery.

You may, however, wish to see whether the Big Lottery Fund might be interested in your idea. They do not have a dedicated First World War funding strand but you could approach them to see if support might be available through their various strands aimed at reaching and strengthening communities. As I understand it, the projects bi-national nature would not, of itself, be an inhibitor. The relevant webpage is: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

I hope this is helpful and wish you and your projects well for the future.

With warmest wishes,

Helen Grant MP
Minister for Sport, Tourism and Equalities
07 July 2014

Dear Sir

I am writing as Principle Investigator of *Gateways to the First World War*, an Arts and Humanities Research Council-funded Co-ordination Centre for Public Engagement with the First World War Centenary. As such I can confirm that we are working in close collaboration with the National Children’s Football Alliance and that *Gateways* will be supporting the project by providing academic research expertise on the First World War. Of particular importance is Dr Emma Hanna of the University of Greenwich who acted as academic advisor to the ‘Football Remembers. 1914 Christmas Truce’ education pack produced by the British Council, the Football Association, the Football League and the Premier League. *Gateways* is delighted to assist the National Children’s Football Alliance in its project, and Dr Hanna is working closely with the Alliance on the shaping of the project, as we believe that it has the potential to enhance knowledge of the reality of the conflict greatly and encourage young people to consider closely their own role as citizens.

If you require any further information, please do contact me.

Yours faithfully

Professor Mark Connelly

Director of *Gateways to the First World War*

Director of Centre for War, Propaganda and Society

School of History

University of Kent

Canterbury

Kent, CT2 7NX

M.L.Connelly@kent.ac.uk
11th July 2014
Dear Ernie,

RE: Peace Fields Project
I am writing to confirm the South East Museum Development Programme’s support for the NCFA application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the ‘Peace Fields Project’. There is so much interest in the First World War Centenary: every museum and heritage organisation is more than likely commemorating it in some way over the next four years and looking to make contact with their local schools: this project provides another avenue. It is crucial that we all work together on our various initiatives and projects in order to avoid duplication, but also to provide the most engaging, informative and through-provoking experiences for children and wider audiences as possible.

If successful, the SEMDP will disseminate information and opportunities regarding the project to our regional museum clients via our website and bespoke newsletters and keep up to date with the project’s progress through various FWW co-ordination initiatives implemented in the region.

We wish you every success in your bid and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,
Sarah Corn
(Museum Development Officer for Kent & Medway)
Concerning: Peace Fields Project

Dear Mr Brennan,

Peace Village, Messines, Belgium, fully support the NCFA application to Heritage Lottery Fund grant for the ‘Peace Fields Project’ and hope to work in the future as a partner in this exciting project.

The schools that take part will twin their designated area of play with the Peace Village’s Flanders Peace Field, site of the 1914, Christmas Truce.

The Peace Village will provide an area where the school’s name will be placed over-looking the site of the Christmas Truce. An official declaration of peace will be signed by the school and Peace Village pledging to commemorate WW1 and celebrate peace through play. Online links through the NCFA with the Peace Village will support the schools project work and create forums with other project schools around Europe and the rest of the world.

We wish you every success with the application and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind regards

Matti Vandemaele
General Manager Peace Village Mesen
Dear Sirs;

I am the FT Learning Officer at Maidstone Museum and Bentlif Art Gallery. I can confirm that we are working in close collaboration with the National Children’s Football Alliance and their Peace Fields project.

We will be providing WW1 workshops based on life in the trenches and at home at the time, through an excellent living history re-enactment group, and providing the space for this to happen. There will be 5 workshops with the re-enactment group over 3 days. These will be facilitated by my team. Schools will be able to use objects of the period demonstrated by the living history group, and relating to the Queen’s own Royal West Kent Regiment.

We are happy to be working with the National Children’s Football Alliance in its role within the Peace Fields project as it highlights the importance of remembering those who fought for and supported those who fought for our country, in a way that will engage young people and connect them to their past.

If you require any further information, please do contact me.

Roz Meredith

Rosalind Meredith
Learning Officer
Museum Education
Maidstone Museum and Bentlif Art Gallery

Maidstone Museum & Bentlif Art Gallery
St. Faith’s Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1LH
t. 01622 602838 (Direct Line: 01622 602853) e. museumeducation@maidstone.gov.uk w. www.museum.maidstone.gov.uk
**Peace Fields Project Media Campaign**

The mission is to raise the Peace Fields Project awareness.

**A six-point publicity campaign using the following:**

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<th><strong>Website</strong></th>
<th>Press Release download / contacts /</th>
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<th><strong>Email</strong></th>
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<th><strong>Social Media</strong></th>
<th>Blogs, online networks; Twitter, Facebook, MySpace? LinkedIn</th>
<th>Press Release to feature on social media with links to NCFA website.</th>
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<th><strong>Radio</strong></th>
<th>National and regional. Plug press release to accessible stations</th>
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<th><strong>Television</strong></th>
<th>Plug press release to Regional Broadcasters April 25th Peace Day Celebration</th>
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All forms of publicity to feature NCFA logo & HLF, web and contacts.
Appendix 3

**Project Managers Workshop – Evaluation Form**

All 5 project managers completed their Project Managers Workshop – Evaluation Form

### A. Please tick

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<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
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<tr>
<td>Did the PFP benefit you as a teacher?</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Did the PFP benefit your pupils?</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did the PFP benefit your school?</td>
<td>5</td>
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‘It provided positive media coverage for the school’. Chris Gregory, Herne Bay High School.

‘Pupils were fully engaged and thoroughly enjoyed it’. Joe Swash, High Weald Academy.

‘It was a great project to work on’. Paul Murray, Oasis Academy.

‘The students and staff enjoyed the experience’. Ed Martel, Thamesview School.

### B. Please rate the success of the PFP according to the following criteria:

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<th>Outstanding</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Satisfactory</th>
<th>Un satisfactory</th>
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<tr>
<td>Degree of usefulness to you within your role</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Degree of usefulness to your school/project group</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Potential impact on future working projects</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Quality and style of delivery</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Quality and usefulness of online resources</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quality of administrative arrangements prior to undertaking the work</td>
<td>5</td>
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### C. Please tell us how you felt your Ceremony met the needs of the PFP in terms of commemorating the First World War and celebrating peace:

‘It was a valuable introduction to commemoration’. Jack Long, Abbey School

‘Our ceremony was very well attended and included key speeches, re-enactors, a blessing from the local reverend and a two-minute silence’. Chris Gregory, Herne Bay High School.

‘The ceremony was impeccable with our students in the cadets bearing the flags for the two minute silence’. Joe Swash, High Weald Academy.

‘Our student that played the Last Post now is playing for the British Legion / Buffs’. Paul Murray, Oasis Academy.

‘Our ceremony featured a guest speaker from the Peace Village, Belgium, which was well respected by our students’. Ed Martel, Thamesview School.

How will your school utilize their newly twinned peace field in terms of cross curricular formal and informal learning / activities?

‘Our school will now formally be called the Abbey Peace Pitch’. Jack Long, Abbey School.
| ‘Our school will use the peace field as part of our GCSE unit’. Chris Gregory, Herne Bay High School |
| ‘The HWA field will promote fair play and sportsmanship’. Joe Swash, High Weald Academy |
| ‘The field will be used to inspire students at Oasis Academy’. Paul Murray, Oasis Academy |
| ‘The Peace Field will bring history and sport at the school closer together.’ Ed Martel, Thamesview School |

Where in the PFP do you feel there is room for improvement?

| ‘Resource packs with more work sheets’. Jack Long, Abbey School |
| ‘Nowhere, I felt very well supported the whole way through’. Chris Gregory, Herne Bay High School |
| ‘I felt the PFP supported every area of learning’. Joe Swash, High Weald Academy. |
| ‘There is a need for all staff to realise the value of the PFP’. Paul Murray, Oasis Academy |
| ‘It was a very well organized project’. Ed Martel, Thamesview School |

Do you plan to contact any of the organizations that you have worked with on the PFP?

| ‘We intend to enquire about funding with HLF’. Jack Long, Abbey School |
| ‘Yes’. Chris Gregory, Herne Bay High School |
| ‘Yes’. Joe Swash, High Weald Academy. |
| ‘Already working with them in Last Post’. Paul Murray, Oasis Academy |
| ‘Yes’. Ed Martel, Thamesview School |

Thank you to all the PFP partners and a very special thank you to the Heritage Lottery Fund.