



Kent in WW1 project evaluation report March 2015

Introduction

The Kent in WW1 project was funded through the Heritage Lottery Fund with activity commencing in August 2013 and completing in March 2015. Kent in WW1 was born of the ethos that everyone should be able to discover more about the First World War in their locality on one free, easy to access portal and that this heritage should be available to all whatever their previous knowledge. All information should be historically accurate and encourage people to take a greater interest in the First World War and especially in their own locality.

The use of maps to pinpoint where someone lived, or went to school assists in bringing the past within touching distance and gives those who lived during the First World War an identity; events in the locality are marked in the same way helping people to understand what shaped their town.

The Kent in WW1 project has always believed in supporting local historical societies and organisations, the project has been successful in building relationships around the coast because we collaborate, support and promote. Kent in WW1 always fully attributes all contributions and acknowledges historical advice and this approach has assisted greatly in building a level of trust for the project and enabled the sharing of information not previously in the public domain. On the website of the 1,000 images and information available 800 are new to the public domain.

Kent in WW1 has interacted face to face with over 17,000 members of the public of all ages during the project, we have received assistance from over 50 volunteers aged from 12 to 75 for our various events and workshops, the website has received over 15,000 hits and we have a Twitter reach of over 200,000.

Kent in WW1 is an IWM First World War Centenary partner, and has worked with University of Kent, the BBC and other local government partners such as Swale Council. We have worked on a Flanders collaborative schools project and also received support from The Belgian Tourist Office.

This evaluation document has been developed using the four criteria for the HLF award and is indexed as below:-

Section 1 - Create an interactive website covering a range of themes relating to coastal Kent communities and the First World War. Page 2 – 10

Section 2- Run activities in identified 'hub' areas (Thanet, Swale, Dover/Shepway) to develop and create content for the website and deliver heritage learning. This will include 3 focus groups, 6 heritage workshops/sharing events and school workshops. Page 10-20

Section 3- Produce a documentary film on the impact of the War on Kent. Page 20-24

Section 4- Organise a final event, including a temporary exhibition of the project with physical maps, to launch the documentary and coincide with other events planned by local groups in Folkestone. Page 24-26.

Section 1

Create an interactive website covering a range of themes relating to coastal Kent communities and the First World War.

Original target

- To work with 15 specific locations around the Kent Coast

In our initial consultations we discovered that, especially around the Medway area, each of the towns did have specific local events and strong identities, so for example Sittingbourne did not wish to collaborate with Faversham. In order to move the project forward and to respect peoples sense of community we increased the number of locations featured to 20.



The website was developed with input from coastal groups and individuals by e-mail and face to face meetings.

Each locality has a town map where we pinpoint where someone was born or remembered or where a local event happened during the First World War.



A scrolling bar running across the top of the site was developed to give interest and to feature as many images from around the coast as possible.

Kent in WW1

KENT TOWNS YOUR STORY FILMS TRAILS ROSE & JOE DISCOVERY USEFUL INFO

LADIES GENTS PAY OFFICE

LADIES GENTS PAY OFFICE

Sgt. F Rogers, Ramsgate 1917
From the collection of D Price (8RAM)

SHARE YOUR STORY [CLICK HERE](#)

Welcome to Kent In WW1, enabling you to share your stories of the towns and people of Coastal Kent in World War 1.

Visit [your town](#) to discover images of people and events and their actual locations within your town during the First World War. Ensure that your family's story is told by [contributing](#) a photograph, postcard or memory.

Journey along the coast of Kent to other towns to discover more about the rich history of Kent during the First World War; including a secret port, two restricted zones, refugees and much more.

Read actual post cards for a glimpse into life during the First World War on the [Discovery](#) tab or a fictional account of life for a young nurse and soldier on

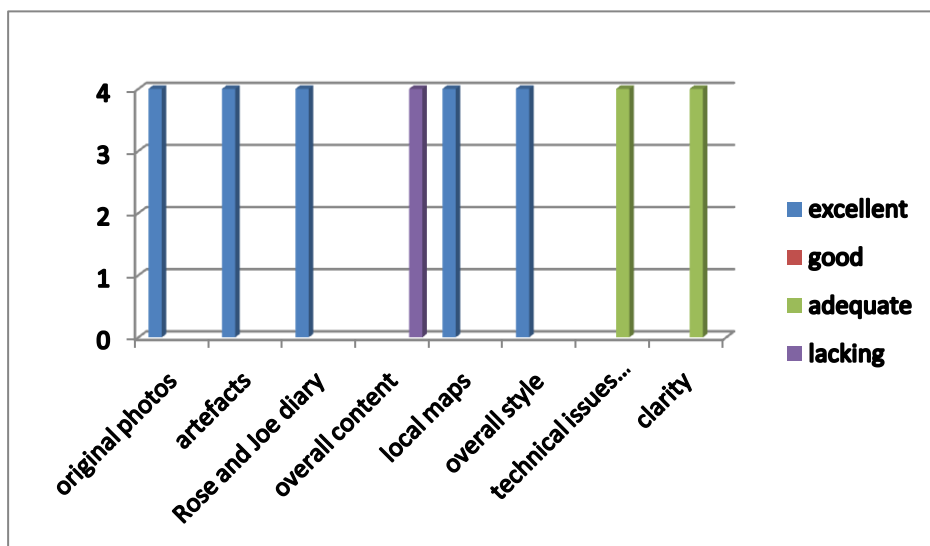
NEWS & EVENTS

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Belgian Tourist Office SCREEN SOUTH Heritage Lottery Funded LOTTERY FUNDED

Initial testing was overseen by HLF appointed advisor Martin Bazley and conducted before the website went live

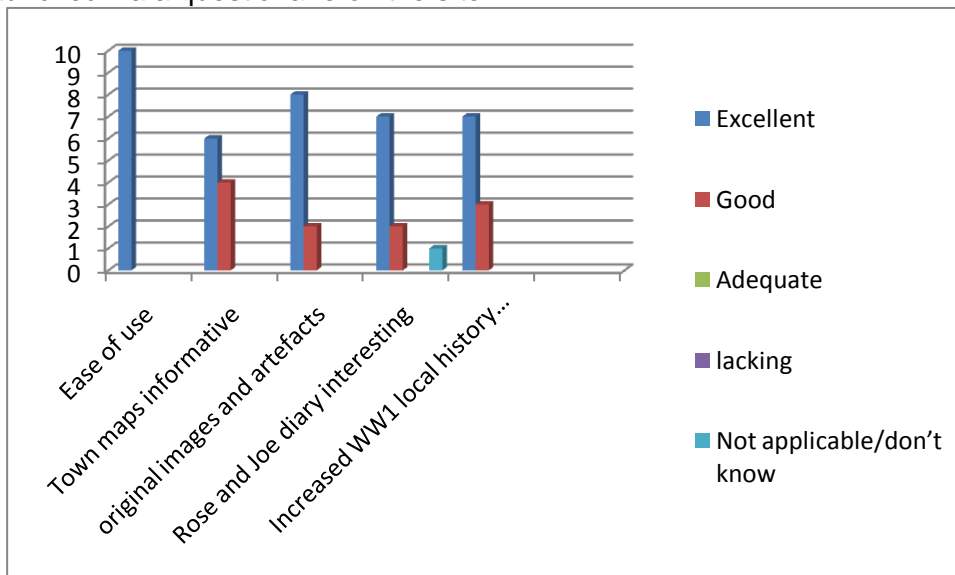
As a result of the testing we uploaded more content, repositioned some of the tabs and used different font- ensuring there was a continuity throughout the site, something which had caused confusion initially. We also renamed some of the tabs for example altering Learning Zone to Discovery to make more appealing across a wide range of people.



Tags for common themes such as Army, nurses, civilians were added to make the site easier to search and encourage more than one location to be visited.

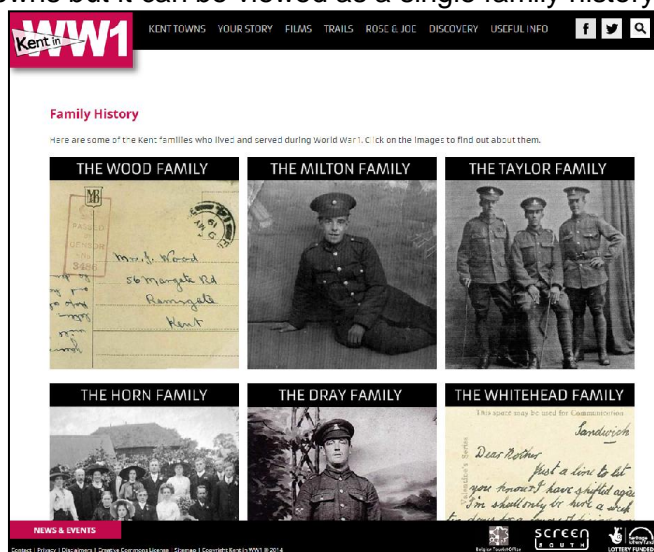


The technical issues were resolved before the website went live. More feedback was obtained as the website was launched via a questionnaire on the site.



The website has been continually enhanced through out the year, with additional features and repositioning of some pages. Google analytics have been used to check page visitors and we have reacted according to the usage. The overall content has increased since the launch when there were 30 seperate pieces of information including images, hence the finding this was lacking in our original survey to the present day when there is content of over 1,000; all located in specific towns. We have continued to upload original images, as these have proved so popular. Of the images on the site over 80% have been in private collections and not available to view by the general public.

An example of additional pages created as a result of demand is the family history page, so that not only is content loaded to relevant towns but it can be viewed as a single family history.



We have conducted an in depth case study with a family history contributor:-




<u>Questions for case study</u>	<u>Responses</u>
Have you contributed your WW1 research to the Kent in WW1 website?	Yes
How did you hear about the Kent in WW1 website?	I saw it I think on Face book when I was looking for 1914/18 war sites to follow.
What made you decided to choose Kent in WW1 to submit your research?	It was obvious to me that it was the right place to record my family's history as they were part of Kent.
How easy did you find it to submit your research to Kent in WW1?	Very easy, the page comes up for the story so you can't go wrong.
How do you feel about the inclusion of the Family Histories section on the Kent in WW1 website?	I like it. Families were the backbone of the war effort.
Would you recommend the Kent in WW1 website to our friends and family?	Yes I have told friends and family about it.
Have you been contacted by anyone outside of the Kent in WW1 team as a result of submitting your research to the site?	Yes. I am in touch with the family who now live in Forge Farmhouse where my family lived during WW1 and also the people who did the research and set up the site of the Boughton, Hernhill and Dunkirk War Memorial site.
How would you rate your overall experience?	For me, the last of my generation of the Horn family, it has been exciting. I have been so pleased to be able to remember and honour my father and his family in the place where they lived.
In your own words how have you benefited from the experience?	I am sure that I have. I don't like sitting at the computer but I have discovered facts about the family that I did not know before. I have had to look closely at dates and cards that were written and increased my knowledge not just about the family but about Faversham and about the War it.
Any other comments:	I have also enjoyed sending emails to Barbara and Darrienne and feel we are friends (at a distance) Thank you to them both, it must have been a tremendous effort.

We also had this comment from another contributor to the family history page

'I did get a call last week from a lady who had seen some Dray bits on the Kent in WW1 site and was so thrilled to know I had information of her grandfather Ed Dray who died in Mesopotamia and I am at this moment in time creating a tree for her and have quite a few bits for her that go down her ancestor line.'

Both of these contributors have uploaded previously unseen images and would not have had the opportunity to share the information without access to the Kent in WW1 website.

The website gives the public opportunity to get involved with some of the images, an example being on the Discovery page, where we have some of the transcribed postcards where we have added some more useful background information to help people develop their knowledge base and enable them to possibly discover more about their own family.

Kent in WW1 KENT TOWNS YOUR STORY FILMS TRAILS ROSE & JOE **DISCOVERY** USEFUL INFO   

Discovery


Here in the Discovery area of the website we are featuring some interesting contributions which shed light on life in Kent in the First World War and also some non area specific contributions which would have been used or seen by everyone who lived in the United Kingdom during this period.

We have included some further information and links with each item to assist anyone to discover more about these contributions but will also be useful for researching their own family history.

This area will be continually updated with new contributions, if you have something that you would like to share do contact the team at info@kentww1.com




Postcards Ration Book

These are the transcribed postcards which are also found on the town pages. We have transcribed them directly as they have been written, including abbreviations and spelling and grammar errors. With each of the postcards there is some more background information including some useful websites for anyone who wishes to discover more background information about the First World War. Click on the images below to download the activity sheet.



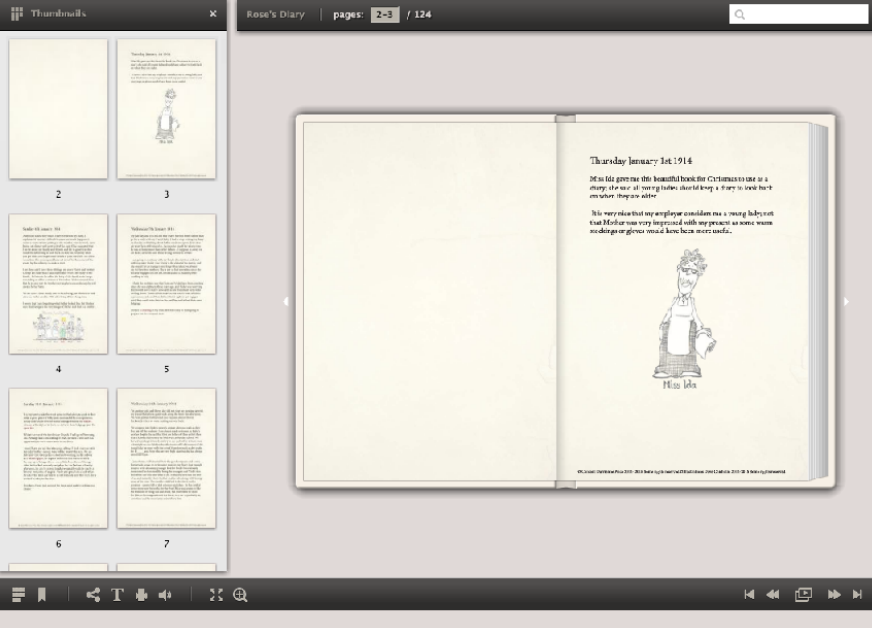
NEWS & EVENTS

Page | 5 | Home | Copyright Kent in WW1 © 2014

Another popular page with visitors is Rose's diary and Joe's journal. Below is an example of Rose's diary.

Thumbnails x Rose's Diary pages: 2-3 / 124



Thursday January 1st 1914

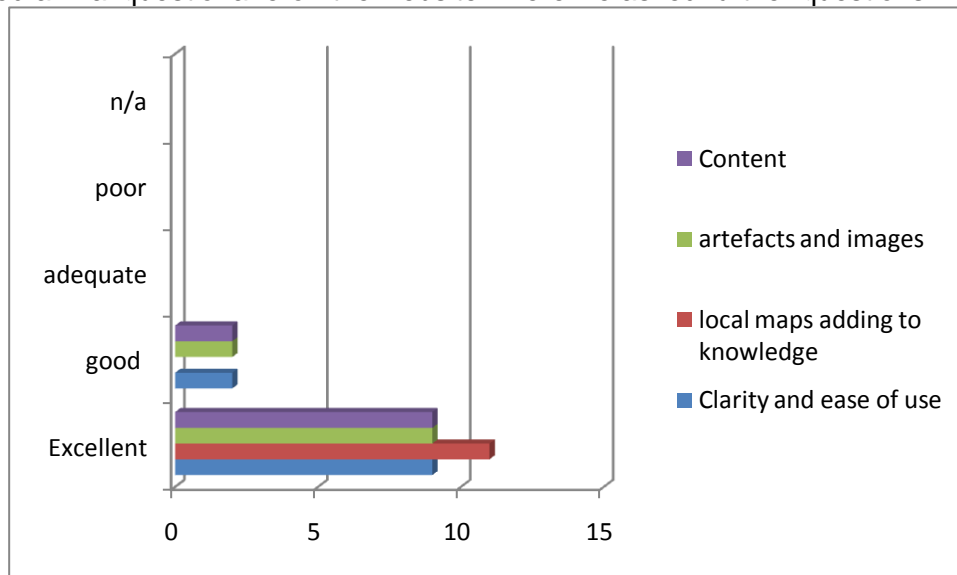
It is so nice to see the beautiful book for Christmas and it is a story of the war all over the world and it is very interesting to see the pictures and the stories.

It is very nice that my employer could see a young lady and that Mother was very impressed with my present as some women had to go to work for the first time.

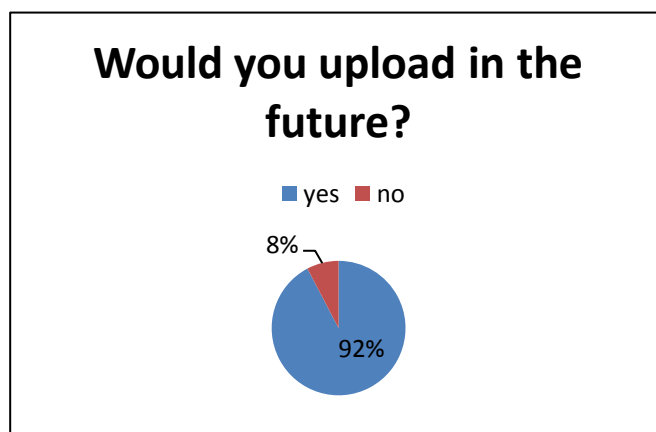
His idea

Rose and Joe appear as two historically accurate cartoon character images on the website, and are a fictional representation of young civilians living anywhere in the region at the beginning of The War. Their story, and the story of their wider families and friends, is told via the medium of a diary and journal accessible on the website. The stories of Rose and Joe are used to enable younger audiences to relate to the young people who joined the forces or became nurses or took on other roles during the First World War. The diary and journal are illustrated with cartoons and actual images and are in the form of turning page books with an interactive glossary to assist with local and wider knowledge for the First World War.

We conducted a final questionnaire on the website where we asked further questions.



Of the people surveyed 92% said they would upload content to the website in the future. This is very encouraging as it has taken time to get people to trust that we will fully attribute; as they have had unfortunate experiences with other sites; and this result proves that our relationship and outreach work has been effective. Also that our insistence on historical accuracy and always acknowledging and attributing has born fruit.



We gave people the opportunity to make comments about the present content of the site, some feedback below:-

“I think the info on Kent towns is fascinating. Lots of stuff that is really interesting and engaging showing how the war reached into so many lives.”

“While some relate more than others to my personal interests, I have found all pages very interesting and informative.”

“We found all of the links very useful, especially those featuring other groups and further research”

Also we asked what else people would like to see on the site:-

“I'd like to see the survey move just a bit more inland to see whether there are great contrasts in the experiences.”

“Inland Kent!”

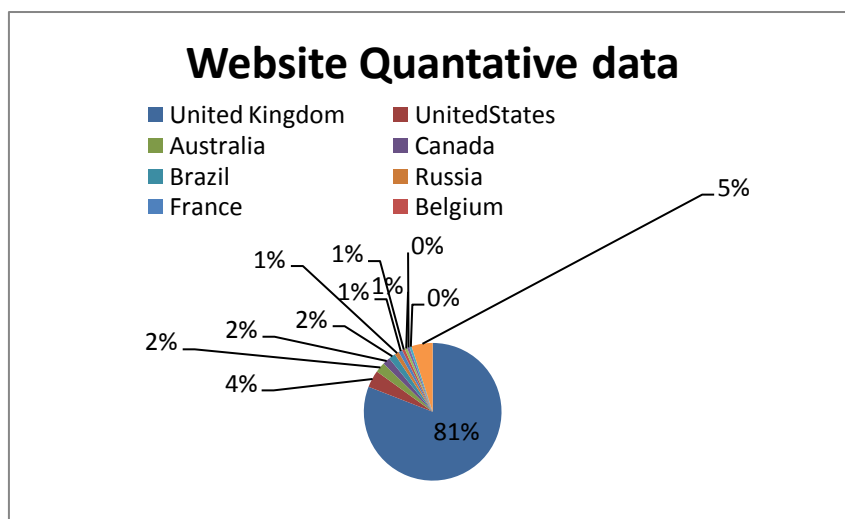
“I would be happy to see any additional material on the role of women in transport.”

We feel that this demonstrates that the site has been a success as people want more coverage and more depth of information.

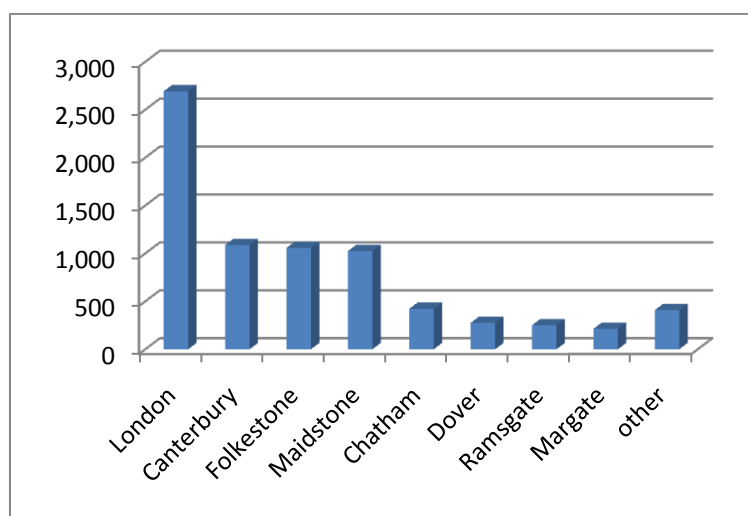
Quantative data usage

Since the launch of the website in April 2014 these are the statistics for usage:-

16,681 site visits from 100 countries, demonstrating that the website has an impact outside the immediate Coastal Kent location.

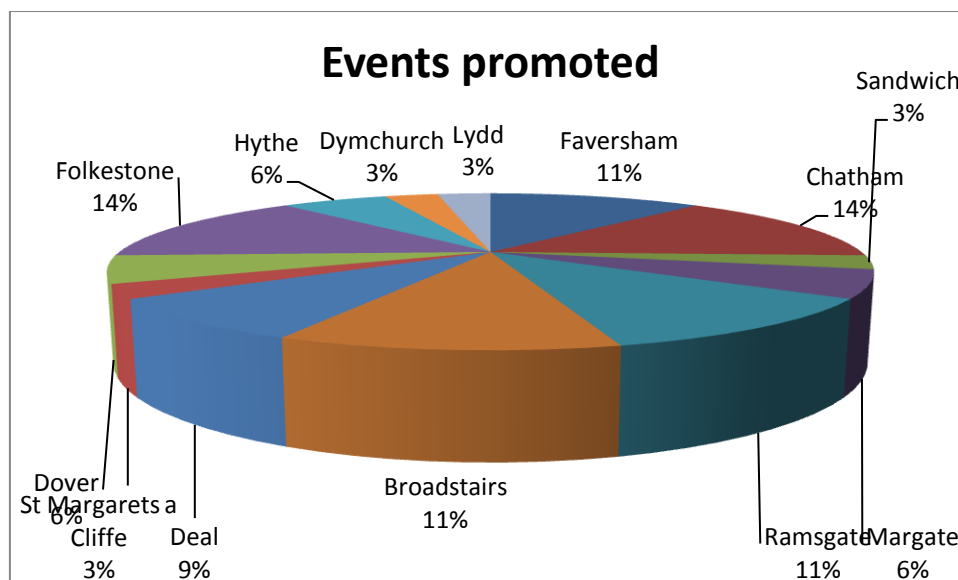


Analysis of the available data for site visitors from the South East shows a region wide interest, interestingly Canterbury and Maidstone do not feature as a location on the site but site visitors are still interested to discover more about Coastal Kent- possibly due to previous family connections with one of the featured 20 locations.



The website also gives us an opportunity to enhance the offer to schools as there is a gallery page where the students can have their work uploaded, ensuring that projects have longevity and allowing more people to see the work schools produce.

The website has continued to be a resource for the public to discover more about the First World War in Kent. Organisations have been further supported with their local events by the updating of the events page; we have promoted nearly 50 events on the website and through Twitter and ensured there has been a good local spread around the region.



We have also promoted events and other media with a local connection for example the BBC Radio 4 Home Front broadcasts which had a coastal Kent content.

On the website we have links to 39 local clubs and societies all around the coast of Kent, to give people the opportunity to contact their local organisations. By linking to local groups Kent in WW1 is also supporting them to publicise their work and reinforcing the message that Kent in WW1 ethos is about collaboration and support.

The website has also been the vehicle through which local people have found us to seek advice about their projects. We have spent time with several organisations providing advice and guidance about funding, including assisting with applying for Heritage Lottery funding. Examples of this are St Mary's and Eanswythe Church for their Women in WW1 project which has now received a grant, our ongoing collaboration with the Dymchurch and District Heritage Group and several smaller local groups and individuals who needed resources and guidance.

Apart from the "Echoes from the Kent Coast" film there are 3 filmed interviews from contributions made at public events. Once the film EASIER project film "Facing the Great War" has had its premiere on April 30th 2015 in Bruges Belgium it will also be available on the Kent in WW1 website.

Our social media campaign has been very effective below please find the figures for our Twitter account

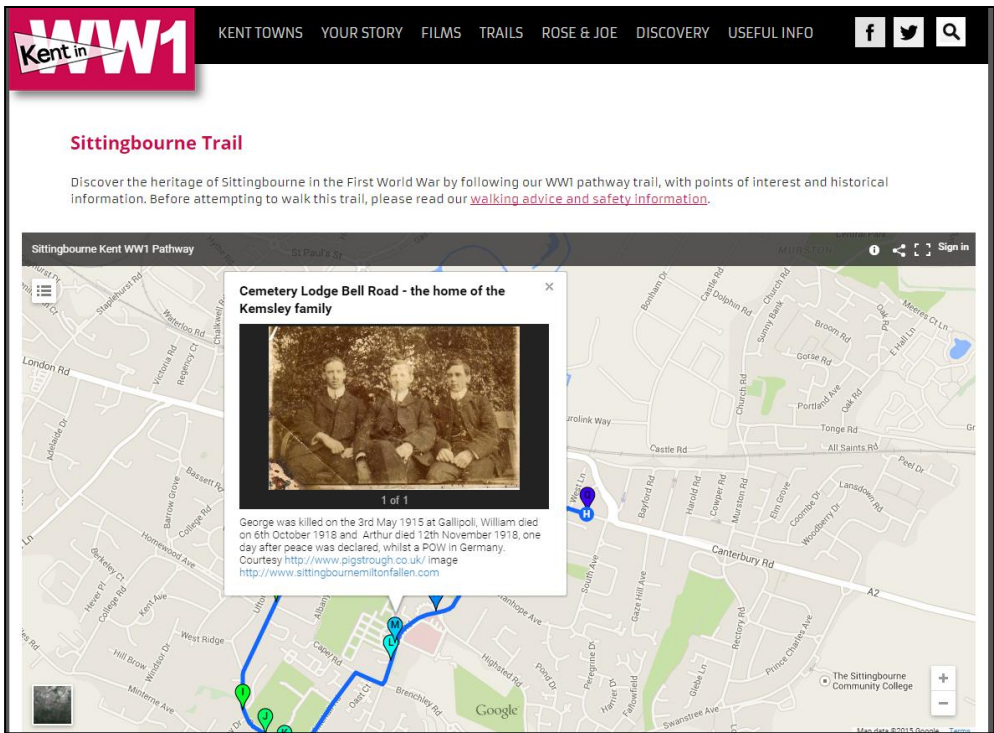
Kent in WW1- Twitter	Following	Followers	Our Tweets	Retweets (from others)	Favourites (from others)	Potential Reach
31/03/2015	880	860	353	287	129	181,965

And even Rose and Joe have their own Twitter page and followers:-

Rose and Joe	Following	Followers	Our Tweets	Retweets (from others)	Favourites (from others)	Potential Reach
31/03/2015	820	240	57	63	14	38,337

This gives us a potential reach of over 200,000 people. We use social media to promote Kent in WW1 but also to publicise local WW1 events as not all organisations have this facility. There is also our Face book page which again we use to publicise and promote the project and other groups:-

Face book	Date	Likes	Shares	Potential Reach
31/03/2015	23/04/2015	241	64	6394



Our latest development has been the addition of a walking tour of Sittingbourne, the route being highlighted with points of interest and photographs. This tour is also available as an app linked through the website and as apple and android versions. There are also routes from St Mary's Bay to Dymchurch and Dymchurch to Hythe, with Ramsgate and a route in Folkestone designed by students at a local school being uploaded within four weeks.

We were hoping to have the walking tours and apps available earlier but were unaware of the time taken by the stores to approve the apps even though they are free. We are excited about this development as we feel that the routes will encourage people to explore their locality with fresh eyes.

The continuous enhancements to the website facility have only been possible as Screen South has an expert who can do this and has funded his costs; we are in a fortunate position compared to other projects to have this expertise available.

Section 2

Run activities in identified 'hub' areas (Thanet, Swale, and Dover/Shepway) to develop and create content for the website and deliver heritage learning. This will include 3 focus groups, 6 heritage workshops/sharing events and school workshops.

Initially three focus group meetings were held in the identified hub areas:- Broadstairs (for Thanet) on Wednesday 13th November 2013, Folkestone (for Shepway) on Friday 22nd November 2013 and Sittingbourne (for Swale) on Thursday 28th November 2013; all three events were held in libraries with the support of Kent Libraries. These events were targeted at local clubs and societies with promotion through newspaper articles and radio interviews. In total there were 41 attendees from local clubs and societies and family historians. One outcome was that we collected contact details from people and groups unknown to us, who all expressed an interest in being further involved:-

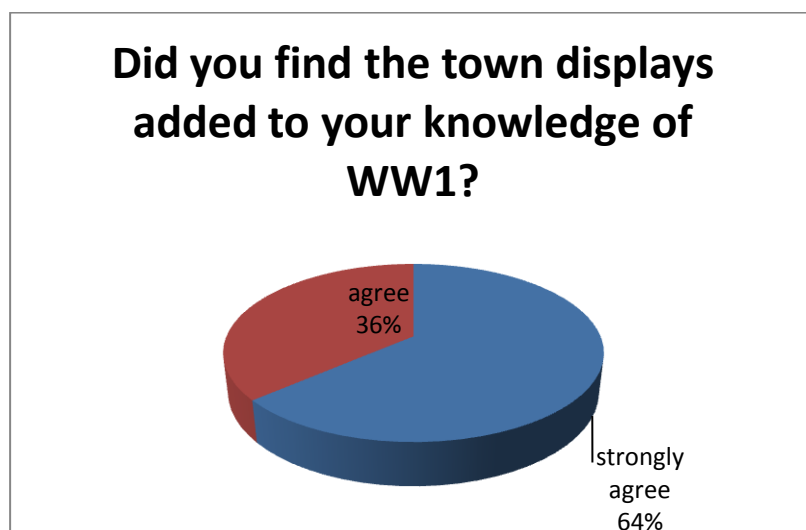
contact details previously unknown to the Kent in WW1 project	
Broadstairs event	13
Folkestone event	10
Sittingbourne event	14

After these events we then undertook the following public facing events:-

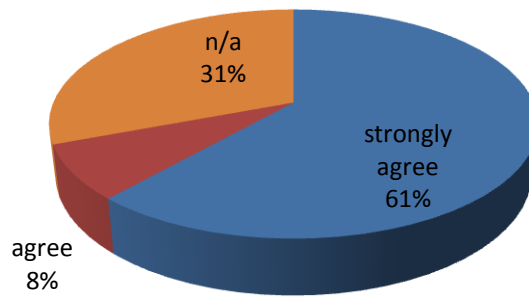
Venue	Location	Date	In partnership with	Purpose	Workshops and activities	Attendees
Historic Dockyard	Chatham	15/3/14	Historic Dockyard Chatham	To focus on the local First World War heritage in Chatham, Sittingbourne, Isle of Sheppey, Rochester, Faversham and Gillingham. Information about local WW1 heritage, local clubs, resources available to allow research.	Display boards with quiz trail, image and text matching challenge, cartoon workshop, filming memories, taking in contributions	122
Maidstone Football Ground	Maidstone	25/4/14	Football and Peace HLF funded	To provide information about Kent in WW1 to attendees at the Football and Peace event	Information boards quiz trail and live historic information Support for HLF funded project Football and Peace with promotion to Swale and Herne Bay schools at the Football and Peace day at Maidstone Football ground.	250
Dover Discovery Centre	Dover	26/4/14	Dover Library NB Gas leak 2 hours into exhibition venue closed	To focus on the local First World War heritage in Dover, St Margaret's, Folkestone, Hythe, Dymchurch, Romney, Lydd Information about local WW1 heritage, local clubs, resources available to allow research.	Display boards with quiz trail, image and text matching challenge, cartoon workshop, filming memories, taking in contributions	50
War and Peace Revival	Shepway but attendees from all over Kent and England	16 th to 20 th July 2014	attendee at event	War and Peace revival, an annual event which has a dedicated First World War marquee for the period 2014-2018 with invited attendees to exhibit. Kent in WW1 had display boards with examples of people and places for all 20 locations around Kent coast. We were invited to provide activity for education day and the other 4 days and information about the heritage of the Kent Coast during the First World War.	Display boards with quiz trails, actual artefacts to show to the public from the Kent Coast.	5433
Eastry	Eastry Thanet	2/8/14	attendee at event	Attendee at First World War event and assistance with	Display boards, quiz trail, local artefacts and	105

				promotion to local groups	assistance with advice about local groups.	
4th August 2014 commemoration of the outbreak of the First World War	Folkestone	4/8/14	BBC	to work in partnership with the BBC at one of their First World War road shows, focusing on the impact of the First World War on the civilians at Home	Semaphore with local scouts and general public, first aid bandaging, information given about local Scout involvement in the First World War and the roles of VAD, local volunteers in first aid etc.	2500
Belgian refugee event	Folkestone	20/8/14	HEART forum	Working in support of Heritage Arts and Tourism group Shepway to commemorate the landing of the first Belgian refugees in Folkestone and the part Folkestone fisher families played in their welcome and support leading the way for a national scheme	Display information, to be a recipient of information and providing support at the event as well as giving a live presentation	120
					Total number of attendees	8580

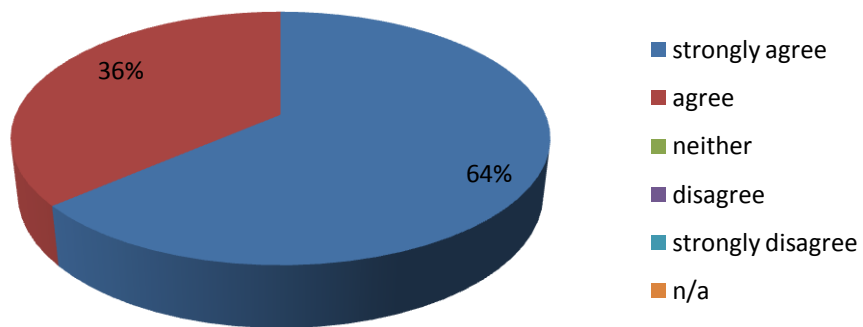
At our initial public facing events we ran several activities with the support of volunteers and conducted surveys to discover what activity worked best



Did you find the cartoon workshop an engaging activity?

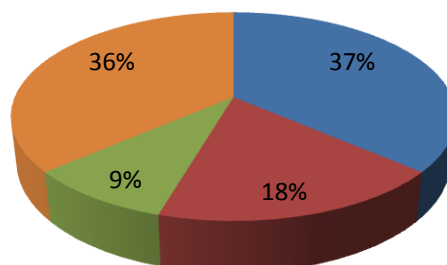


If you followed the quiz trail was it interesting?



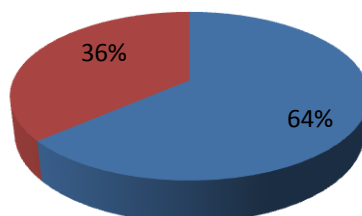
If you tried the picture caption puzzle was it informative ?

■ strongly agree ■ agree ■ neither ■ disagree ■ strongly disagree ■ n/a



Overall has participating in the event added to your WW1 local knowledge?

■ strongly agree
 ■ agree
 ■ neither
 ■ disagree
 ■ strongly disagree
 ■ n/a



We also asked for feedback to give participants the opportunity to express their own opinions

“Thoroughly enjoyed the day, very friendly staff and volunteers”

“Brilliant day, everyone so helpful.”

“Really interesting very informative.”

“Great for children, fun way to learn, my daughters thoroughly enjoyed thank you.”

We were invited to attend larger events and found this was a more effective use of resources as we were able to engage with more people. Unfortunately the sheer volume of people did mean that formal feedback was difficult to obtain. Informal feedback was very enthusiastic of the project and very interested in the information boards or the featured towns, especially when they had images.

The education programme supported by Heritage Learning consultant and volunteers has been very successful with demand outstripping funds available, we completed the workshops as detailed below: -

School	Date	Workshop	Numbers	Total
Highview Special School -Folkestone	8 th May	C	22	22
St Mary's CoE Primary School (Dover)	8 th May	A N Cx2	250 Age 5-10 60 60	370
Herne Bay Junior School	12 th May	Cx4	120 Age 9-10	120
Murston Junior School (Sittingbourne)	5 th June	A P P P P	180 Age 5-11 28 26 22 24	280
Whitstable Junior School	9 th June	P C A	32 Age 5 - 11 32 242	306
Bromstone Primary School (Broadstairs)	10 th June	A N P C	60 Age 9-10 60 60 60	240
St Ethelberts Catholic Primary School (Ramsgate)	10 th June	C N A	30 Age 6-10 30 130	190
Cheriton Primary School	24 th June	N N	60 Age 7-9 48	108

Guston Primary School (Dover)	2 nd July	A P P N N Cx4	144 Age 7-11 22 12 20 20 74	292
St Mary's Catholic Primary School (Whitstable)	9 th July	A P C P C	420 Age 5-11 60 60 60 60	660
Ospringe CoE Primary School (Faversham)	9 th July	A	150 Age 5-11	150
Fulston Manor School (Sittingbourne)	14 th July	A	400 Age 11-13	400
Astor College For The Arts (Dover)	17 th July	A P N	170 Age 11 – 12 60 60	290
Harcourt Folkestone	12/09/14	Postcard Cartoon Assembly Postcard Cartoon	26 23 150 23 26	248
St Nicholas COE Primary School New Romney	15/09/14	Assembly Assembly Postcards	200 90 8 G&T	290
Bredhurst CEP School Gillingham	13/10/14	Assembly Postcards) Postcards Newspapers Newspapers	130 (WS) 30 30 32 34	256
Elham Folkestone	17/10/14	Assembly Postcard Newspaper	66 56 13	135
EASIER Project Pent Valley Folkestone	23/01/14	Heritage Trail	8	8
EASIER Project Folkestone and Gravesend	27/01/14	Cartoon	48	48
		63 workshops	Total 19 events	4413 pupils

In addition to the schools receiving free workshops some schools paid a contribution as; either we had used all available funding as we had overachieved on our targets; or the schools were out of the coastal area and so not eligible for funded workshops. These workshops are detailed below:-

School Name	Date	Workshops	No Of Children	Total
Riverview Junior school GRAVESEND	21/10/14	Assembly Newspaper Cartoon Newspaper Postcard Cartoon Postcard Cartoon	480 60 30 60 60 30 60 30	810

Shears Green Junior School Gravesend	16/09/14	Assembly Newspaper Cartoons Postcards Cartoons (Newspaper Cartoons Postcards Cartoons	480 60 60 60 60 60 60 60 60	960
Great Chart Primary School Ashford	19/09/14	Assembly Postcards Postcards	380 30 30	440
St. Bartholomew's Catholic Primary School Swanley	8/10/14	Assembly Cartoon Cartoon Newspaper Postcards Postcards	171 34 33 35 35 34	342
Garlinge Primary Margate	5/11/14	Assembly Assembly Postcard Postcard	270 250 30 30	580
Bethany School Goudhurst	26/11/14	Assembly Newspaper Newspaper	340 55 50	445
Folkestone Academy Primary	28/11/14	Postcard Newspaper	60 60	120
Capel-Le-Ferne Near Folkestone	4/12/14	Assembly Postcard Newspapers Assembly (film)	120 60 53 53	286
		39 workshops	8 visits	3983 pupils

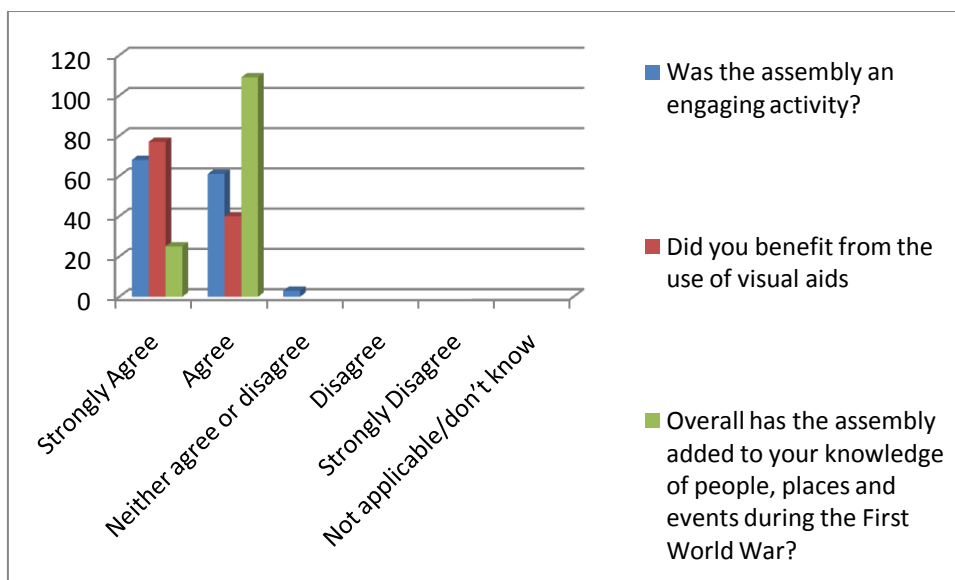
The Kent in WW1 education programme offers schools a variety of workshops, assemblies, postcards, newspaper, cartoon and walking trail development.

Assembly - where we have been allowed to show the Belgian Tourist Office film "The First and the Last". This resource has proved very valuable as it has an introduction to the Belgian Refugees- all the Kent coastal towns received refugees and injured Belgian soldiers so there is a local resonance as well as helping involve those pupils who are from different cultures.

All the assemblies have a specific local history content to encourage exploration of the local area.

We also have either shown actual artefacts from the First World War or have had a re-enactor present who is dressed in First World War uniform and gives the pupils an opportunity of touching the kit and an insight into life for a soldier.

We have asked schools for feedback, and a certain number responded, feedback was difficult to obtain from schools, due to time and staff constraints for the teachers concerned.



We also received comments in e-mails or directly:-

“The children were captivated during the assembly, especially as it was made relevant to them within the Ashford and Great Chart links. Finding out about Mrs Elizabeth Strouts was also very interesting for us. The use of artefacts presented in such an organised way was extremely effective. Thank you very much for coming to Great Chart and engaging the children.”

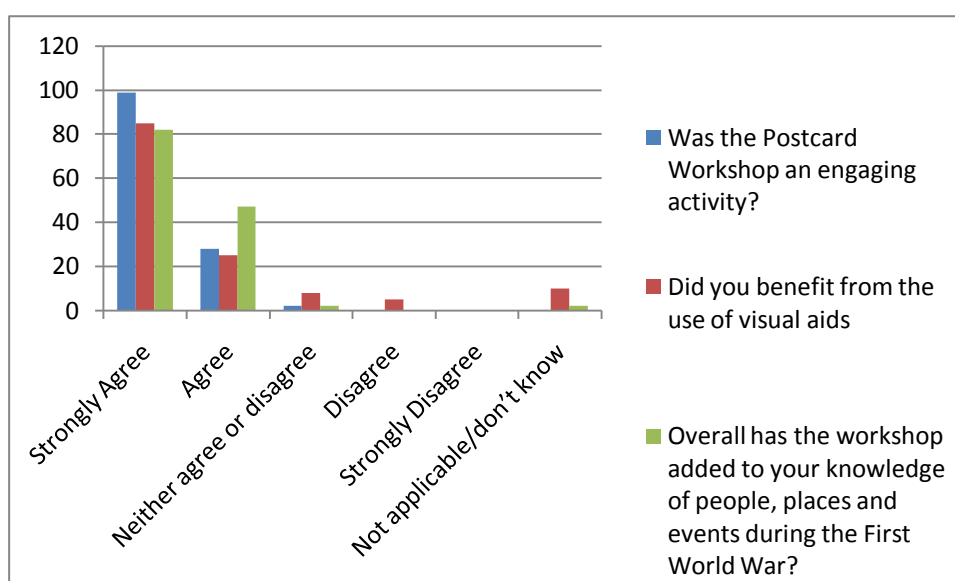
“Children enjoyed looking at and being involved with displaying the artefacts. This is our first WW1 focus day and provided a good overview.”

“Thank you so much for coming in. The feedback from both staff and pupils has been really positive. And thank you also for sharing resources/websites etc that we can be using and referring to over the coming terms.”

“From pupils: Man dressed in uniform showed the children how hard it was to be a soldier. Good to have lots of people speaking. Good pictures of Sittingbourne.”

Postcard workshops. Here we again concentrated on local history and made the lessons very interactive with the pupils being postcard detectives and then being given a local scene and imagine they were writing a postcard to a loved one during the First World War. The pupils were given the opportunity to handle postcards from 1914-18 from Darrienne Price’s own collection which added to the reality of the workshop.

Feedback as below:-



We also asked for comments, please find a selection below:-

“A fantastic workshop that engaged children's interests through giving them the opportunity to engage with the subject

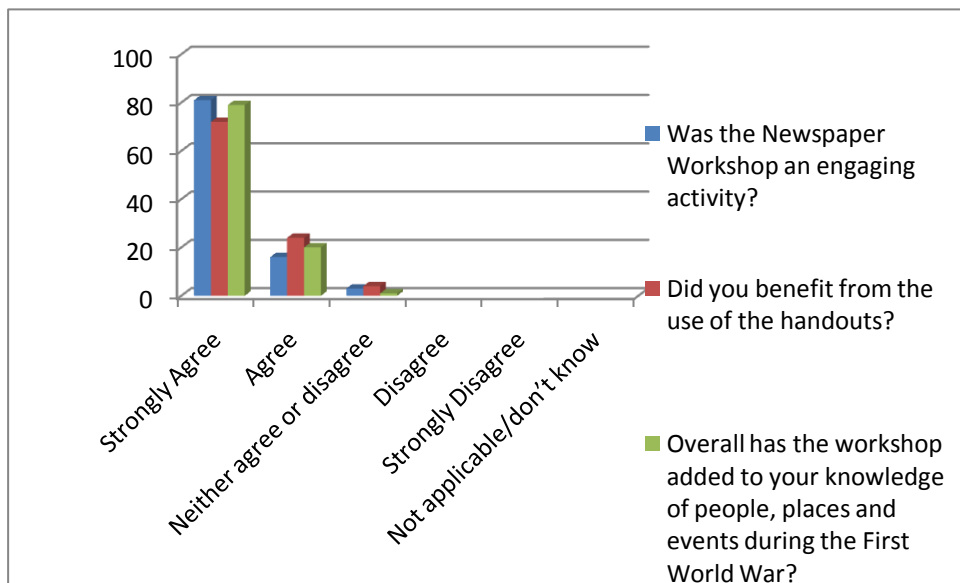
“Over the years, we have had a number of workshops on Year 6. However, this workshop stood out. Not only were the staff incredibly knowledgeable and passionate about WW1 History, but the interlinked activities enabled the children to experience analysing primary evidence. The accompanying power point gave the children interesting visual stimuli whilst I know that they savoured the opportunity to handle some of the artefacts first hand. We would love the Kent in WW1 staff to deliver this workshop next year if that is possible.”

“I liked seeing the original post- cards because I never thought I would see artefacts from 100 years ago”
 Ewoma, 11

Newspaper workshop using prime source newspapers and magazines was very popular. We received permission from the publishers of the ‘Peoples Friend’ D.C. Thompson to use material from their magazines published during the First World War and this gave the students a real insight into civilian life during the period and introduced them to delights such as a recipe for sheep’s head served three ways.

The focus was on local events and Kent events and pupils were given a range of images to write their own local stories about, they also were introduced to some of the common themes which bind the Kent coast together such as the Belgian refuges and civilians being subjected to air attacks.

Please find the feedback we received below:-



We also received some interesting comments about the workshop:-

“The children found this workshop really engaging and informative.”

“It was really fun, I learnt a couple new things and I mega enjoyed the making our own newspaper. I enjoyed the newspaper, shop giving, adverts and sponsor.”

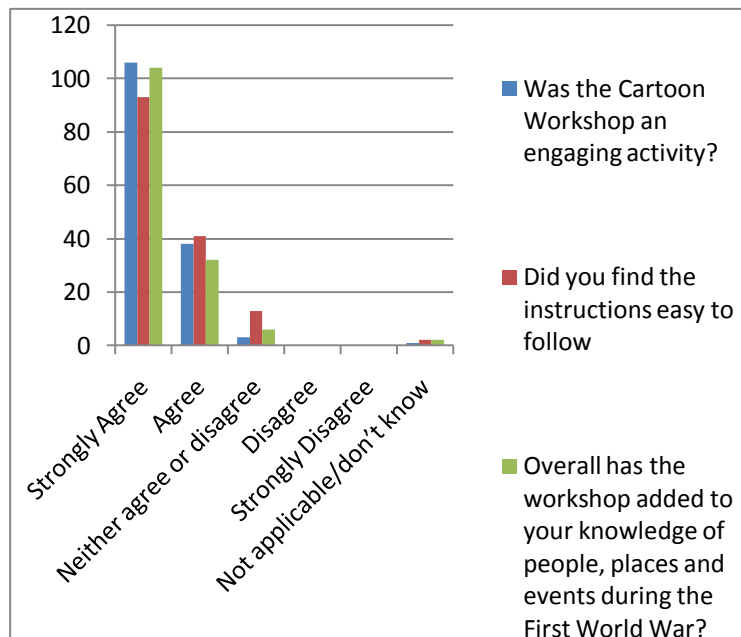
“I enjoyed the facts and the poster. I very loved your workshop.”

“It was interesting seeing all the old children's comic pages.”

“I really enjoyed it as you can see but maybe to make it even better you could dress up but apart from that it is great things. I learnt about the first world war.”

As a result of this last comment our re-enactor now also participates in the various workshops, which we find enhances the activity.

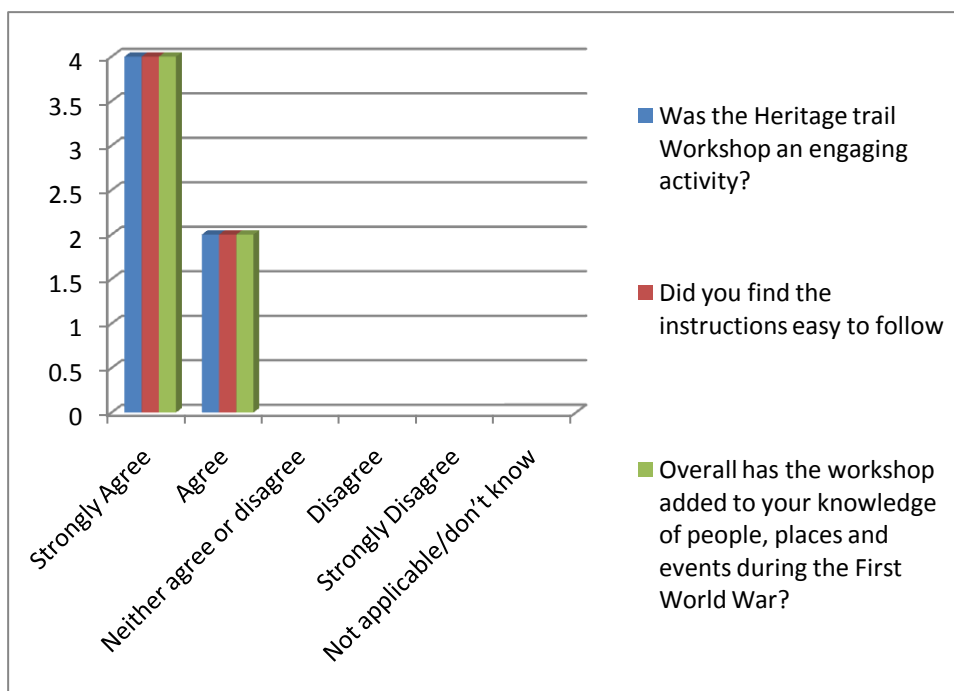
The cartoon workshops are one of our most popular workshops. The students learn to draw historically accurate cartoons whilst being given a real insight into the First World War. This workshop is especially valuable for students where English is not their first language and is popular across all ages and abilities. This is the 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! They were asking if they could continue! Thank you from all of the 125 children and staff at Herne Bay Junior School for a thoroughly enjoyable day!”

“All children loved this workshop and even though some doubted their ability they produced excellent work.”

Originally we also offered a film workshop but did not have any take up on this. However as a result of the development of the app to house heritage trails on the website we offered a trial workshop to a small group of year 10 students to develop a **walking tour** for Folkestone as part of the EASIER project, in this case the Belgian refugees and Folkestone. Following our usual practice we were very focussed on the local history and assisted the students to produce their own trail using their own language and some research, this is the feedback from the first workshop:-



The students went onto to produce a booklet which they used to guide some Belgian students around Folkestone.

The developed trail will be produced as an app and housed on the Kent in WW1 site by the end of May.

Summary

Overall we have conducted 3 focus groups, 7 face to face heritage and public events, and 102 school workshops and therefore exceeded our target of 3 focus groups and 6 heritage workshops/sharing events and school workshops.

The school activity would not have been possible without our education consultant as he formulated our workshops to fit the necessary key skills required by schools whilst keeping the focus on local heritage. We had originally planned that the schools workshops would involve local historians but there was very patchy interest and we discovered that whilst there is a depth of knowledge among local historians it was generally very subject specific and not cover everything in the locality. Also, for the reputation of the project, it was felt that all of the workshops should be of a similar high standard and therefore we worked as a team across all areas.

The team was lead by Darrienne Price, Head of WW1 Heritage as she has the Kent wide local history knowledge necessary. Much of Darrienne's work was not supported from the Heritage Lottery Fund as would have come from FCR and there was not enough to cover all, Screen South supported the Kent in WW1 project by covering salary for the extra days and research was all conducted on a voluntary basis out of work hours.

The amount of travel required to cover all of Kent is also a consideration which we would take into account if applying for another project.

Volunteers were very important to our public facing events and we would not have been able to have interacted with so many people without their support.

Section 3

Produce a documentary film on the impact of the War on Kent.

"Echoes from the Kent Coast"

Originally planned to be a ten minute film featuring three segments for three different coastal areas Swale, Thanet and Shepway it became obvious through our initial research that there were common threads which ran around all the coastal areas. In order to give the finished film coherence it was necessary to shoot a film around common threads but using contributors from around the region to give the local specific interpretation. We also decided to concentrate on the stories from areas which had not received much coverage in the commemorations to date; such as Isle of Sheppey and Romney Marsh; where there is a great wealth of First World War heritage which is not known by local people. During the film many coastal locations are either referenced on screen or in the timeline making the film representative of all of Coastal Kent. The final film is 24 minutes long, considering the budget allocated this was only possible due to the goodwill of all the film crew.

Using Screen South contacts we were fortunate to secure the services of Award winning Nichola Bride to direct the film, together with her associate Sam Sharples whose camera work and editing skills greatly enhanced the finished piece.

We wanted to feature as many family contributions as possible and worked with a number of volunteers , some of whom had never been filmed before, which created challenges but their contributions has added great depth to the film. The contributors were:-

Isle of Sheppey

Jenny Hurkett- Founder and Director Blue Town Heritage Centre with an overview of the Isle of Sheppey during the War.

Thanet

Ken Taylor- family history never before shared

Richard Styles- local history specific to Thanet and also an overview of the Zeppelin raids and the secret port at Richborough.

Hazel Basford- Archivist Powell- Cotton Museum- local history specific to Thanet but also an insight into the work of V.A.D. nurses and wounded Belgian soldiers.

Dover

Andrew Morgan- local expert and the Belgian refugees and treatment of wounded Belgian soldiers

Folkestone

Phyllis Couchman- family history never before shared

Michael George- local expert and provided the context for the Dover Patrol

Romney Marsh

John Coker – family history never before shared

Brian Goldsmith -family history never before shared

Adrian Goodsell -family history never before shared

Colin Walker- family history never before shared and general topics.

Margaret Walker- a general reflection

We also involved four young people from Brockhill Park Performing Arts College to read some original postcards and provide the young voices in the film to remind the viewers that it was, mainly, the young that went to war.

Eliza Garvey

Simon Gillan

Lily Hutchinson

Ryan Leigh

We were very fortunate to obtain from the Imperial War Museum archive film with relevance and this, together with Darrienne Price's personal collection of First World War postcards and archive images lent by our contributors gave the film a real depth and authenticity. The list below gives an idea of the range of contributors:-

John Bailey - Artefacts

Hazel Basford –Archivist, Powell-Cotton Museum –Artefacts and images

Blue Town Museum- Artefacts and images

www.dover-kent.co.uk

Dymchurch Heritage Group- artefacts and images

Faversham.org- images

Ken Fletcher- images

Michael George- images and local information

Brian Goldsmith- images

Great Mongeham Society- images

Herne Bay Historical Records Society- images

Imperial War Museum- archive film footage

Kent County Council Libraries, Registration and Archives- images

Kent County Council – Libraries, Registration & Archives – Folkestone Library- images

Andrew Morgan – artefacts and images, local and First World War information

Darrienne Price- images and local Kent history advice

The Ramsgate Collection- images

www.rollofhonour.com- images

Sittingbourne Heritage Museum- images

Richard Styles- artefacts and images

Alan Taylor- images

The film is presented almost as if looking through an album, Nichola took her inspiration from the postcards and cleverly wove in the common themes, such as Belgian refugees, Canadians, Zeppelin raids with personal family memories bringing to light the Kent Cyclists and their role in India- emphasising that the War was not just over there but all around the globe. Throughout all the film our emphasis was on historical accuracy.

The themes covered in the film are :-

- Joining up- family stories of those who served and the first mention of the Kent Cyclist brigade.
- Defending the land – how civilians had to show passes to get into the Isle of Sheppey, Folkestone and Dover.
- Defending the Sea- the story of the Dover Patrol and the many Kent men who served on the various ships – both from the forces and ordinary fishing boats.
- Belgian refugees- how they landed in Folkestone and what impact this had.
- The story of Quex Park one of over 80 V.A.D. hospitals, the nurses who worked there and the men who were nursed.
- The Canadians and the impact they had on Folkestone
- Zeppelin attacks- especially on Ramsgate and Broadstairs but also providing an insight into the impact of the air war on civilians in the rest of Kent.
- The Princess Irene disaster- which occurred off the Isle of Sheppey but affected a family in Dymchurch on the Romney Marsh, showing how the effects of events reverberated around the coast.
- The Faversham- Uplees Gun Cotton factory explosion, which affected local communities all around the Kent Coast.
- Before battle- to provide international context to the local stories.
- From France- featuring the many local postcards loaned by Darrienne Price from her personal collection.
- In the Air- personal histories from Tontine Street Folkestone.
- The Dover Patrol as an attack unit and the Zeebrugge raid impact on local people.
- The End of the War – images and family memories from around the coast.

The last frames of the film have a very poignant reading of a poem “Can we ever stop War” which was written by a survivor, who returned from the trenches- truly giving the lost generation a voice.

The film was premiered at our final event and this is some of the feedback we received:-

“Thank you so much for inviting us to your film premiere on Friday. It was a fascinating and poignant film which reflected the vision and hard work of your team. You have collected so many memories which would otherwise be lost as time passes.”

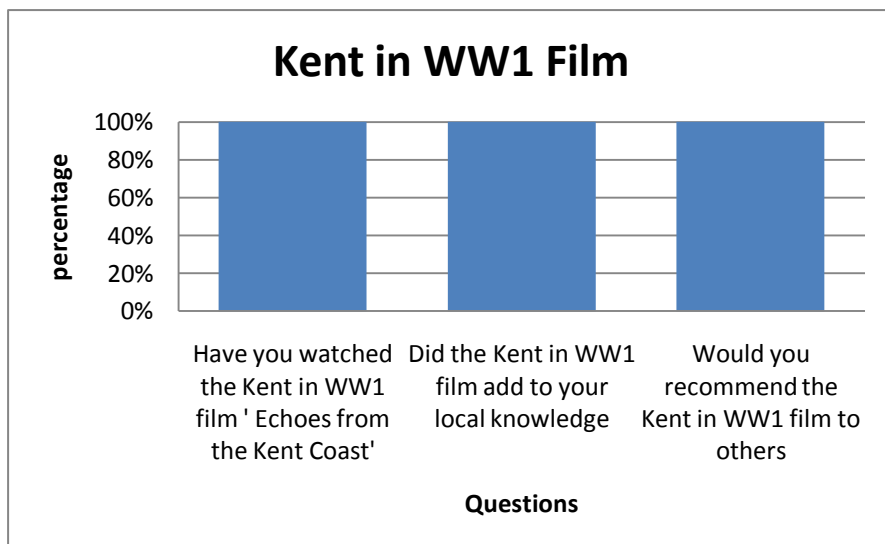
“A thought provoking film. Well done for the excellent idea of bringing the postcards to life.”

“I really enjoyed the film and thought it was really well made, clear, comprehensive and quite suitable for all from 10 years old to 90”

“I was very impressed by the film and its relevance to the local community. The content was engaging and the editing kept the film moving along, so that at no point did my attention wander. The content was very informative and the speakers’ personal connection to the subject made for compelling viewing – this was increased by the letters/postcards which were read out.”

“The WW1 film which we were privileged to watch showed very clearly the family and personal impact of the war in East Kent. The coastal towns of Kent are well known as the transport hubs to the conflict but this film stressed how many the towns and villages were affected. The poignant personal correspondence treasured by the families brought out the cost they bore, particularly when the final result, often the death of the family member, was factored in.”

The film is now available on the Kent in WW1 website www.kentww1.com and we have conducted a survey and obtained this feedback:-



“The Film was very atmospheric and you felt drawn into the subject. It made you think about the reality of war.. I liked the way the interviews were interspersed with the footage, it drew you into the story. Overall a very good and thought provoking piece.”

“This has been really brilliant and we feel this deserves an award as it tells personal stories and the way it was put together was excellent and very moving.”

“The film was excellent and very professionally produced a credit to all those involved.”

“I thought it was excellent-very interesting and informative”

The film was also lent to a recent month long exhibition on the Romney Marsh Visitors Centre where all the visitors had an opportunity to view it.

We ensured that all contributors received a full copy of their edited interview for their own family memories, thus treating everyone as equal and not disappointing some people who were featured in the film less than others. This did add to the work involved but some of our contributors had had bad experiences in the past when they were interviewed for several hours and then appeared on screen for a minute with all of the rest of their contribution lost.

CONTRIBUTORS

John Coker
Phyllis Couchman
Eliza Garvey
Michael George
Simon Gillan
Brian Goldsmith
Adrian Goodsell
Lily Hutchinson
Ryan Leigh
Andrew Morgan
Richard Styles
Ken Taylor
Colin Walker
Margaret Walker
Hazel Basford, Archivist Powell - Cotton Museum
Jenny Hurkett, Founder and Director Blue Town Heritage Centre
Imperial War Museum Archive

HISTORICAL ADVISORS

Michael George - Andrew Morgan - Darrienne Price
Eamonn Rooney - Colin and Margaret Walker

CAMERA Sam Sharples, Nichola Bruce - **SOUND** Sam Sharples
MUSIC Nichola Bruce, Sam Sharples - **EDITOR** Sam Sharples
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER Darrienne Price
PRODUCER Jo Nolan - **DIRECTOR** Nichola Bruce

Commissioned by Kent in World War 1
www.kentww1.com

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Kent, CT20 1JR

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SCREEN SOUTH

ECHOES FROM THE KENT COAST

KENT IN WW1

ECHOES FROM THE KENT COAST

SCREEN SOUTH KWW1

Summary

We started the film very late in the project, which at the time seemed to be a mistake but upon reflection we would not have had the support of all of the organisations if we had started earlier as it takes time to build relationships and gain trust. Without the support and trust we would not have had access to the artefacts and images used, and the film would not have had the depth of coverage without these. Also local stories are continuing to come to light and these made important additions to the film and added to the veracity of the finished piece.

We would not have been able to produce a 24 minute long film in the budget allowed without the goodwill of all the crew and Screen South contacts in the film industry.

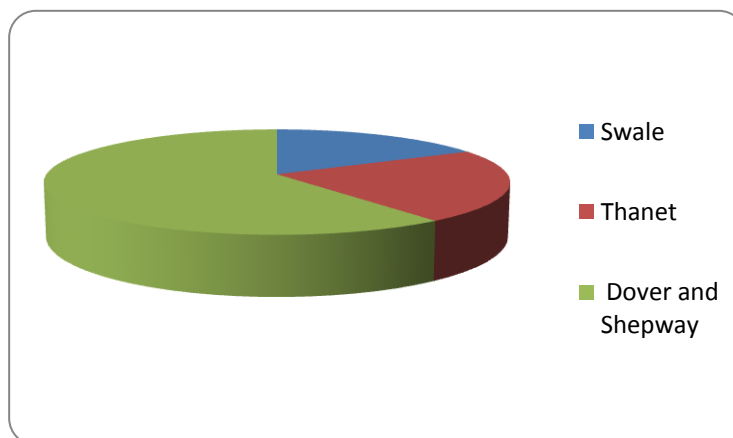
Section 4

Organise a final event, including a temporary exhibition of the project with physical maps, to launch the documentary and coincide with other events planned by local groups in Folkestone

We organised a final event on the 23rd of January 2015, using the Quarterhouse in Folkestone as it has an auditorium to show film on a large screen but also enough exhibition space for the 10 displays we wished to set up.

We had always planned to share the launch with another group local to Folkestone but as it happened No organisations had anything arranged and so we made it a stand- alone event.

96 people attended the event, despite there being transport problems due to Operation Stack and it was good to be able to publically thank all the groups, organisations and individuals who have supported Kent in WW1 during the project. We were pleased that we had a good regional spread of attendees.

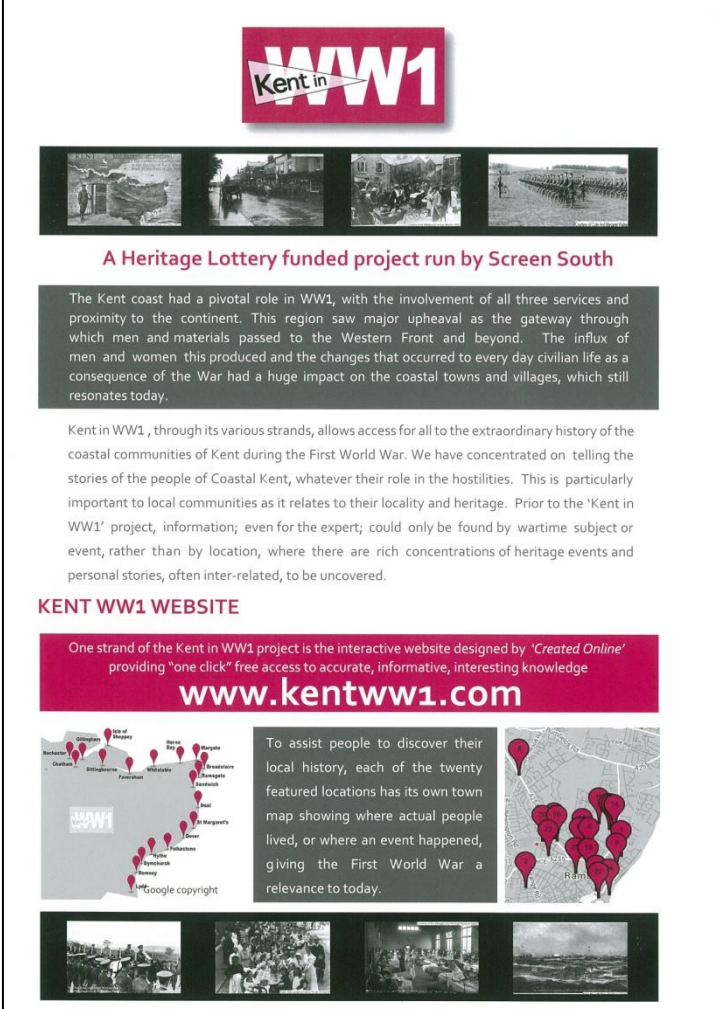


We were fortunate to have Damian Collins M.P. for Folkestone and Hythe attend and make a speech.



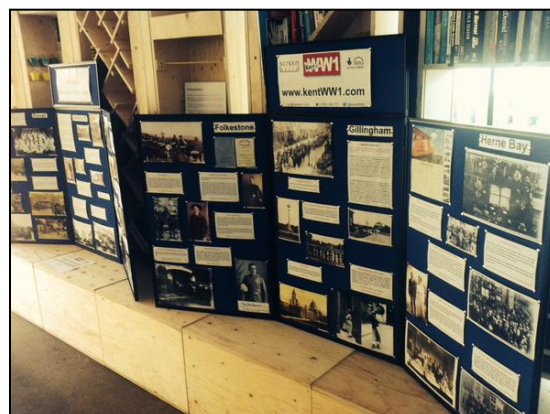
Although the main event at the start was the film premiere we took the opportunity to make a presentation about the wider project, featuring all we had encompassed with education workshops, general events, contributions on the website and support for organisations.

We also produced an 8 page booklet which gave an overall coverage of the whole Kent in WW1 project to give people an idea of the scope of the project and what had been made possible with Heritage Lottery funding. This was important as most of our audience knew about the project through interaction in one of the elements of the project, so for example a local organisation might not have realised about our school workshops or a school might not have realised that we supported local organisations.



The screenshot shows the 'Kent in WW1' website layout. At the top is a red banner with the 'Kent in WW1' logo. Below it is a row of four historical black and white photographs. A section titled 'A Heritage Lottery funded project run by Screen South' contains a paragraph about the Kent coast's role in WW1. Below this is another paragraph explaining the project's focus on local history. A red banner for the 'KENT WW1 WEBSITE' features the URL 'www.kentww1.com' and a description of the interactive website. To the left is a map of Kent with red location pins, and to the right is a detailed town map with red pins. At the bottom is another row of four historical photographs.

People enjoyed seeing the film and presentations but also spent time with viewing the information boards and maps. As a result of the day we collected more contributions for Kent in WW1 as it was realised that we do attribute everything which is shared.



Even though the date we held the event on coincided with the 50th anniversary of the funeral of Winston Churchill we received good media coverage and had a piece broadcast on ITV on the following Sunday 25th January. What was especially pleasing about the T.V. piece was the way that local contributors to the film were interviewed and had air time thus demonstrating that the Kent in WW1 project has always about giving local groups and people a home for their memories but still allowing their individual voices to be heard.

Some of the feedback from the event included these comments :-

“Congratulations on a lovely afternoon last Friday. It was so interesting to see all the good work that had been done with local schools”

“I welcomed the acknowledgement of the local researchers, groups and venues that had participated in the project.”

“It was a pleasure assisting Screen South in their initial research as it was clear that this project was about the local coastal communities and their WW1 stories and I was pleased that the outcome was something that featured all parts of Swale.”