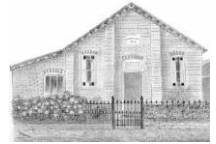


# Neatishead, Irstead & Barton Turf Community Heritage Group



## Living through World War One in three Norfolk Broadland Villages, Neatishead, Irstead and Barton Turf - Evaluation

**P1 - Project Details**  
Ref No: FW13 08290

Project Title  
Living through World War One in three Norfolk Broadland Villages, Neatishead, Irstead and Barton Turf

Name of your organisation  
Neatishead, Irstead and Barton turf Community Heritage Group

Please complete and return this form as soon as your project has finished.

Start Date: March 2014  
End Date: January 2016  
Submission Date: March 2016

### **P2 – Completion Summary**

*Using the table below, summarise how you have met the approved purposes of your grant.*

1. *Research local families whose relatives served in the armed forces during WW1, who died or lived through it, and explore village life in NIB during this time.*

#### Summary of Achievement:

Our research has confirmed that 136 men from our three villages served during WW1 and their names now appear on a specially created Memorial Plaque which was dedicated during an Ecumenical Remembrance Service at the New Victory Hall, Neatishead on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

Village life 100 years ago was researched and displays created to illustrate this at events throughout the project. These comprised: farming, working on the marshes, schools and play, home life, trades and shops, Smallburgh Workhouse.

2. *Collect and collate artefacts, documents, records and photographs to create displays/exhibitions.*

Members of the group visited the Norfolk Record Office, Norfolk Historic Environment Service and attended a research workshop at The Norfolk Regimental Museum to enhance their internet and locally based research.

#### Public events held :

2014 – 23<sup>rd</sup> March (Project Launch), 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2<sup>nd</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> August, 9<sup>th</sup> November  
2015 – 8<sup>th</sup> March, 12<sup>th</sup> July, 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> November (Reception, Exhibition, Drama and

Remembrance Service)  
2016 – 31<sup>st</sup> January

The project was also represented by displays at local community events including the Neatishead Farmers' Market .

Following these events and the publicity they created, members of the community and others from further afield contacted us and provided documents, photographs, artefacts and other information to assist in our research. In particular we were loaned a WW1 Evacuation Map for Neatishead, by a relative of the Police Constable responsible for it, which highlighted an aspect of village life we had not considered and was a further avenue of research pursued

3. *Carry out oral history interviews and record people's memories*

Mainly recording people's memories on paper which were transferred into display material and archived.

Some oral recordings were made. These recordings were an area of the project in which we did not achieve as much as we had hoped. This was mainly due to the intensity of all other areas of research undertaken for the project and the time it took.

4. *Hold a living history day at the local primary school, exhibitions at 5 village churches with each focussing on the particular parish, and a collective exhibition in the NVH.*

**Living History Day 17<sup>th</sup> July 2014**

Four members of the group organised a Living History Day to provide all the children (35) and staff at the local primary school in Neatishead with an insight into life during WW1 to complement their project work undertaken that term. One member of the group also accompanied the children on a visit to the Rural Life Museum at Gressenhall, Norfolk which further enhanced their learning of life in Norfolk 100 years ago.

**Exhibitions over 9 days, in 5 churches across 3 villages: 2<sup>nd</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> August 2014.**

Featured live on BBC Radio Norfolk Treasure Quest with an interview about the project later on 3<sup>rd</sup> August (copy of interview archived).

Two of many visitor comments: "So much fascinating information. It brings the area even more to life knowing so much more about the people."

"Wonderful to know more about the local area 100 years ago and humbling to know what they did."

"Visiting on behalf of HLF – what an interesting and well thought through display, really great to integrate the trails and family research with the fascinating histories. Well done."

**WW1 Event 7<sup>th</sup>- 9<sup>th</sup> November 2015, New Victory Hall, Neatishead**

Exhibition, displays, drama, hands-on experiences, Remembrance Service and dedication of memorial plaque.

Featured on BBC Look East with a live broadcast on 7<sup>th</sup> November (copy of broadcast archived), as well as features on BBC Radio Norfolk on 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> November. Visitor numbers between 400-500 over the three days.

5. *Create a project website and make all material produced available online.*

[www.nibchg.greatwar.org.uk](http://www.nibchg.greatwar.org.uk) – focussing on the 136 men who served in WW1 initially, which village they were from, their occupations, and their military service. The research on village life 100 years ago in the three villages will be added next.

6. *Share all material with a local creative writing group so that they can develop a script for a drama based on wartime experiences for performance by the local drama group.*

Two members of the project group attended a local creative writing group and were able to provide input into a script based on the villages' wartime experiences written by a relative of a local family who have lived in the villages for over 100 years. The play "When I come home" was performed by the local drama group (Neatishead and Barton Society). The script and DVD will be made available to the community and local schools, with a copy archived.

There is a possibility a film may be made using the script at a later date.

7. *Deposit research findings with NRO and submit oral history recordings to the Norfolk Sound Archive.*

Some of our research is displayed on the project website [www.greatwar.nibchg.org.uk](http://www.greatwar.nibchg.org.uk) and will be on permanent display at the New Victory Hall. Any original material loaned to us has been returned and people encouraged to deposit historic documents with the Norfolk Record Office if appropriate. The oral histories will be submitted to the Norfolk Sound Archive in due course.

***If applicable please tell us about any changes you have made to the approved purposes of your project.***

*Description of change / Date of your request to HLF / Date of reply from HLF / Effect of this change on your project, its approved purposes, timetable or costs -Gareth's bit.*

### ***P3 Use of volunteers and non-cash contributions***

*Did your project include any volunteer involvement or did you secure any non-cash contributions*

Volunteer involvement – all members of the group were volunteers and devoted many hours to ensure the success of the project.

**Recruitment of staff** - none

### **P4 – How the grant has been spent**

***£9,990 grant – details available on request.***

### **P5 – Evaluation and Records**

Please read the *Receiving a Grant* guidance first and ensure that you fill in all sections. This is your opportunity to tell us how your project met the approved purposes.

**Photographs:** at least five high resolution digital images showing different aspects of your project

1. Group with plaque

2. With Norman at drama
3. Artefacts at Barton Church
4. Xxx
5. Xxx

*The pictures should show your project in action and its outcome. You should also provide a sample of photos that show your project before, during and after it is finished. Also let us know if material available on internet. Photos need to be suitable to use for HLF publicity. **Currently sorting.***

### **Funding Acknowledgement and Public Relations**

*Include copies of documents, records of events*

All displays, posters, invitations, memorial plaque, websites, stationery

*Tell us the steps you have taken to acknowledge your grant, temporary and permanent, include reference to marketing, press releases and public relations activities.*

Acknowledgement of the grant has been displayed at all public events on display board headings, posters and flyers advertising events, and members' badges.

The HLF grant has been acknowledged in all press releases, and included in interviews and broadcasts where possible.

A permanent acknowledgement will be placed under the new Memorial Plaque in the New Victory Hall, Neatishead.

### **Evaluation**

*What **did** the project achieve, include a brief anecdote or story about the project and tell us which outcome or outcomes you think it demonstrates that your project achieved.*

*Tell us if and how your project helped people understand more about WW1 and its impacts, eg did it encourage people to think more broadly about the war?*

*If this is your first project tell us how you found it, would you run another in future.*

Our project's main outcome (1) "to enhance the community's understanding of life in our three villages before, during and after the First World War in order that its heritage will have been brought to life and be something that the present generation can pass on to future generations" and "to discover all those who served" has been achieved and surpassed our expectations on many levels.

One visitor to the August 2014 exhibitions wrote

"I was absolutely astonished at the wonderful displays that greeted me as I travelled from church to beautiful church in Irstead, Neatishead and Barton Turf. I have a life-long family connection with the area and the exhibitions provided a remarkable insight into the social history of this beautiful Broadland enclave. The breadth and range of the material covered was staggering and far surpassed my expectations. The comprehensive range of photographs, documents and artefacts had been beautifully presented and displayed with great care and attention to detail."

This and many other visitor comments confirm that "members of the community viewing the exhibitions [and website] will have had an enjoyable and rewarding experience." (Outcome 4)

Whilst having lots of positive feedback at our events, we have also contributed to the survey organised by Sheffield Hallam University but await the analysis of this.

The group's three day event in November 2015 attracted the attention of the BBC who then decided to spend the afternoon of Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November with us while we put up our exhibition to hear more about the project. They filmed and recorded the village church memorials to those who fell in WW1; the new memorial plaque to all those who served from the villages in WW1, researched and designed by the group; interviewed two members of the community whose relatives had served during WW1, and filmed part of the WW1 drama performance. This was then shown on BBC Look East and included a live broadcast from the reception and drama performance held that evening. The event was also featured on BBC Radio Norfolk during the weekend and in an article published in our regional newspaper the Eastern Daily Press the previous week. We feel this recognition of our project raised awareness across the region and was over and above any outcome we could have hoped for. Because of this publicity many people from outside our communities visited over the weekend and were "amazed and fascinated by the excellent displays", renewed old friendships and shared special memories. (Outcome 4).

Through the exhibitions we have raised awareness of the sacrifice made by men from our villages, by reading about their service, their life and relating this to their photographs and meeting family members we have learned of those who were severely wounded and the sheer determination of those who returned home to their families to carry on with life often through great hardship. For example Jack Pestell, who lost an arm during the war. His wife died from illness shortly after he returned home and two of his children had to be looked after at the local workhouse before an older daughter left her job in-service in London, in order to look after the younger children while Jack worked hard to make ends meet. One of Jack's grandchildren still lives in Neatishead and another nearby, from whom we have been able to learn much about their family – information that may have otherwise been kept locked away in memories or cupboards. (Outcomes 1,3,4,5) .

Visitors have been able to feel a personal connection between the artefacts, medals and documents they were able to see and handle at our events with the photographs of the people they belonged to and the family members. (Outcome 1,3,4,5)

The WW1 Drama performed by the local amateur dramatics group on two evenings was particularly emotive and "an amazing tribute to those young lads who served in WW1 and how eager they were to serve, but a poignant reminder of what the real picture was". (Outcome 1)

*The group has been invited to make a presentation about this drama production at the conference "Pack up your troubles" organised by "Gateways to the First World War" in April 2016 at University of Kent.*

The professional presentation of all researched material at each of our exhibitions illustrates how all members of the group have learnt new skills: cataloguing research and the scanning of historical documents and photographs to be archived electronically which were then reproduced in an attractive and clear manner (Outcome 2).

Throughout the duration of the project the group has been careful to ensure that younger members of the community were included. All members of Neatishead Primary School enjoyed the Living History Day which included learning about the significance of the poppy and building a 'Soapbox Kart'. A children's trail was included in our '3 villages, 5 churches, 9 days' exhibitions in August 2014 and three young people took part in "When I Come Home". (Outcome 1 and 3).

To complement our research material a 'Community Chest' was made by a local craftsman which has been filled with artefacts, toys, books, documents, dolls, all relating to WW1 and life 100 years ago. This was purchased with funds raised by the group during the project and many have enjoyed the 'hands-on' experience this brought. The Chest will be available to schools and community groups to borrow, or for members of the group to use when giving talks.

The project has enhanced the knowledge of all members of the group of life here 100 years ago, they have all learned more about WW1. As this project ends many members of the community are keen to become part of "Neatishead, Irstead and Barton Turf Community Heritage Group", to learn more about WW1 and other periods of history of the three villages, to research their own ancestors, and we will be widening the activities of the group to enable them to do this. The first example of this is a project just started looking into the histories of Neatishead and Barton Schools.

The sad and sudden death of one of the key members of our group proved a great challenge with regards to producing a website for the project, as it was his expertise we required in order to fulfil this outcome. However we have overcome the challenge, diverted some of our funds to engaging professional help, and now another member of the group will have gained expertise for managing and growing this website. (Outcome 2 and 5).

With regard to archiving all hard copies of our research, the group is in discussions with the Management Committee / Trustees of the New Victory Hall in order to look into the possibility of providing a permanent home for our archives and to enable public access. Moreover, our project has inspired the community to consider how to record and preserve its heritage and a future project may well focus on the creation of an actual building to house a village heritage hub at the New Victory Hall (Outcome 5).

FOR INFO – so you can see the outcomes from our application.

**4a. What outcomes will your project achieve?**

- 1) With the group's support our community, together with their families and friends will have learnt how people lived, what their occupations were, how they farmed the land, who went to war and how they fared, who didn't go to war and why, how their families were affected, how those left behind helped in the war effort, how they communicated with each other, what transport they used, what they learnt at school, what they ate. It will enhance their understanding of life in our three villages before during and after the First World War, so that heritage will have been brought to life and be something that the present generation can pass on to future generations.**
- 2) Members of the group will have learnt new skills in cataloguing and scanning historical documents and photographs, carrying out interviews and oral history recordings, presentation, computer and other digital technology.**
- 3) Members of the group and others involved, including the local schoolchildren and members of the community viewing the exhibitions and drama, will have had an enjoyable and rewarding experience.**
- 4) All those involved in the project will have volunteered their time, resources and expertise to share with others in the group and the wider community and will have developed a sense of purpose in contributing to heritage and society.**

- 5) The heritage material for the three villages will be produced, displayed and saved in different types of media to enable all ages to interpret and gain an understanding of this time in history. It will be retained as a permanent resource for the future and will be available through a dedicated website which will open up the material to a wider audience.

*5a. What will happen the things that you produce after the project ends?*

The group will retain a resource of archived material which will be stored and made accessible to the wider community.

The digital and static displays will remain available for use in the community for the duration of the project and thereafter. Their content will be updated by the group as more information becomes available.

Further projects and exhibitions can be undertaken using the equipment purchased and the expertise developed during the project.

A website will have been created which will continue to provide access to the heritage and can be expanded to share further heritage projects of the group.

The children at the school will have completed project work to keep. The World War One history box will remain as a resource for young people in the community and for visitors to the local residential sailing centre for the disabled and disadvantaged.

Start