

**Report to:** Museums Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 12 September 2016

**Report Title:** Hastings Remembers: Local Stories of WWI

**Report By:** Cathy Walling  
Museum Curator

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### **Purpose of Report**

To update members on the progress of the HLF-funded WWI project

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### **Recommendation(s)**

- 1. That the Committee accepts the report and are satisfied with the comments in the report**

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### **Reasons for Recommendations**

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## Introduction

1. In 2014 Hastings Museum was awarded £34,400 by the Heritage Lottery Fund for the World War I Centenary Project 'Hastings Remembers: Local Stories of the First World War'.
2. We are now half-way through the five year project. In 2016 the theme has been around 'Recruitment'. There has been a screening of 'The Battle of the Somme', an exhibition 'Stage, Screen and Trench', and the Young Curators group have held three sessions to look at conscription, recruitment and conscientious objectors. There has also been a presentation to the Family History Group.
3. The volunteers recruited for this project have continued their research into names on the war memorial, links with Hastings' twin towns, and the collection of family stories and oral histories. Museum staff also continue regularly to post local WWI stories on social media.
4. In 2017 the theme will be 'Refugees, aliens and the war beyond Europe'; in 2018 we will complete the project by looking at 'Soldiers' stories, the Roll of Honour and the legacy of the First World War'.
5. 2017 will also be the 125th anniversary of the birth of Claude Nunney, the only Great War VC to be born in Hastings. Peter Silk has been researching Claude Nunney and has asked for HBC support for a proposal to place a commemorative plaque on the house in Bexhill Road where he was born. The anniversary falls on 19th July 2017.
6. Claude Nunney will be honoured with a commemorative Victoria Cross paving stone in September 2018, the anniversary of his death. 469 paving stones are being laid in communities across the UK as part of a Government initiative to honour VC recipients. The stones feature an electronic reader to allow smartphone users to find out more about the soldiers. This scheme is being administered locally by East Sussex County Council.
7. The Museum co-ordinated HBC's Blue Plaque scheme from 1997 until 2008 when capacity and resources were reduced. There is now no specific budget for plaques.

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## Wards Affected

None

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## Policy Implications

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	No
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	No

Risk Management	No
Environmental Issues	No
Economic/Financial Implications	No
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	No
Local People's Views	No
Anti-Poverty	No

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**Additional Information**

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**Officer to Contact**

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