
Accrington Pals Centenary Commemorations Group

Tuesday, 3rd February 2015

Present:

Miles Parkinson, Council Leader, Chair
Andy Armiger, Accrington and Rossendale College
Helen Barrett, St John's Church, Hyndburn Local History Society and Accrington Civic Trust
Anne Ellwood
Rev Ian Enticott
Tommy Fox, British Legion
Helen Gee, Hyndburn BC
Mark Haydock
Cath Holmes
Michael Hughes, British Legion
Cathy Kierans, Hyndburn BC
Kath Pratt, Councillor
Yvonne Robins, Haworth Art Gallery
Ruth Turner
Katherine Walsh, Accrington Library

1. Apologies for absence

- 1.1 Apologies were submitted on behalf of Ian McGuinness, Ken Moss, Nick Collingridge and Shelley Whitehead.

2. Minutes

Agreed - That the minutes of the meeting held on 6th October 2014 be received and noted.

3. Accrington Pals Serre Monument Replica

- 3.1 Andy Armiger, from Accrington and Rossendale College informed the group of a project he was leading, to create a replica of the Pals monument in Serre, France, in the Rose Garden at Haworth Park, The project was being funded by Heritage Lottery Fund, along with donations from partners, including Hyndburn Borough Council, Hyndburn Homes, Darwen Funeral Services and Hollins Technical College. The project involved construction students designing and building the memorial and media students undertaking the research and making a documentary about the project. Subject to planning permission, it was hoped that the memorial would be completed in early summer, hopefully for unveiling on 1st July.
- 3.2 The group welcomed these plans and Andy was thanked for the information.

- 3.3 In addition, Andy took the opportunity to mention the Pennine Film Festival 2015, which was being hosted by the College. One of the main events was a World War One day on 18th March 2015, and the premiere screening of 'A Pals Tale' a Heritage Lottery funded film about the Accrington Pals.

4. Project Updates

- 4.1 The Chair invited updates on projects. Details were listed in the schedule included with the agenda papers. Specific projects/updates were discussed at the meeting:-

Prom in the Park, 2016 (Oakhill Park)

Anne Ellwood confirmed that a date of 25th June 2016 had been set and this would tie in with Armed Forces Day, which would be on 27th June.

Oakhill War Memorial

It was noted that Council was looking into the feasibility of updating Oak Hill War Memorial. If it proved feasible the memorial would be updated for the 2018 Remembrance Day. Cath Holmes would speak to Michael Walker of HBC, who was involved in this project.

Accrington Town Hall – Ballroom and Bar Refurbishment

Councillor Parkinson reported that the refurbishment of the ballroom was nearly complete.

- 4.2 In conclusion, Councillor Parkinson congratulated the group on everything that had been achieved since the beginning of the centenary commemorations in 2014 and remarked that the Council and its partners had accomplished a great deal, both in terms of memorable events and a permanent legacy to the Pals.

6. Other Business

6.1 Events at the Haworth

Yvonne Robins reminded the group of the Broadfield School Pals Exhibition which had been held for three months in 2014 and had proved very popular. A commemorative exhibition was planned for June to September 2016, the centenary of the Somme, including a commemorative tapestry to be hung in the gallery. She also reported that £550k Heritage Lottery funding had been awarded to create a heritage centre in the stables block at the Haworth. This had been where the Haworth family had garaged their cars and an interesting fact was that the chauffeur, Joseph Taylor, had been a driver in the First World War in Egypt.

6.2 Warner Street/Abbey Street Traders

Cath Holmes reported on the contribution of traders on Warner Street and Abbey Street, whereby shops had displayed the photos of individual Pals soldiers.

6.3 Annual Pals Valedictory Service

The group was reminded that the annual service at St John's would this year be the 100th service, and was to take place on Sunday, 22nd February 2015.

7. Date of Next Meeting - to be arranged.