



# Minutes

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## Merton Heritage Forum

Tuesday 25 April 2017

Merton Heritage Centre, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Morden Library, Merton Civic Centre

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### Present:

Cllr Nick Draper ( Chair ), Cllr John Bowcott,  
John Hawks & Cyril Maidment( Merton Priory Trust),  
Kelvin Shewry (LWLPS); Tony Scott ( Merton Historical Society )  
Norman Plastow ( Wim. Soc & Wimbledon Windmill )  
Chris Gaskin ( National Trust ); John Veale ( John Innes Society )  
Anthony Hopkins, Sarah Gould ( Minutes ) and Jill Tyndale ( LBM )

### Apologies:

Cllr Geraldine Stanford, Cllr Abdul Latif,  
John Strover, Tony Burton, Sandra Vogel and Joyce Bellamy ( MCGC&H ),  
Tony Michael ( Wimbledon Society ), Paul McGarry ( LBM )  
Nicholas Hart ( Wandle Industrial Museum ); Chris Baker ( Wimbledon Club )  
John Davis ( Mitcham Tree Wardens Group )  
Cypren Edmunds ( High Path Community Association )  
Duncan Rabagliati ( Wool Rd and Ernle Rd. Conservation area )

Item	Actions
Minutes and matters arising from previous meeting:  <b>1.Carved in Stone (CIS ) project summary.</b> SG - the funded part of the Carved in Stone was completed in February on time and to budget. The final report was submitted to HLF and very well received. CIS had been a very worthwhile initiative and has proven extremely successful. Nearly all the targets set at the start of the project have been exceeded. SG was very pleased about the number and range of volunteers recruited ( 39 worked on the project overall, with a core team of 24. ) These people ranged in age from 15 to 70+ and came from all over the borough. The team included people from many different ethnic groups and nine different nationalities – they not only shared their own talents and expertise but also developed new skills and volunteered thousands of hours. CIS has also been a great example of partnership work – SG was particularly delighted with the amount of two-way support. 29 different organisations / researchers have worked with the project – they have assisted the project team with research, advice, venue access and promotion. In return the CIS	

team has been able to reciprocate with cataloguing assistance, shared resources, promotion, advice and public engagement. There has been universally positive feedback from volunteers, heritage stakeholders, community groups and the visiting public regarding CIS. Descendants of wartime combatants have been particularly enthusiastic in their praise - they have valued the opportunity to share their family stories and safeguard the memory of the wartime generation. Volunteers are now continuing to research combatant profiles and add further documents to the CIS website ( [www.merton.gov.uk/carvedinstone](http://www.merton.gov.uk/carvedinstone) ). Additional events will be staged throughout the next two years, including the unveiling a second commemorative plaque to a Merton VC, displays and guided walks. ( See summary details and appendix extract from final HLF report at base of minutes with further details of project outcomes. )

ND and group members thanked the CIS volunteers for all their hard work. ND - CIS is an example of the sort of project which we as a group should be taking forward. He was extremely pleased about the wide range of people involved and hopes that this will be repeated in future projects.

## **2. Merton Heritage Discovery Day 2017.**

SG gave an update on plan for the 2017 Discovery Day. This will be a half-day event ( 12 – 4pm on Saturday 13 May at Morden Library. ) SG had a very positive meeting with representatives from different heritage and community groups. To date 23 organisations have applied to take part, representing everything from museums and historic sites, to community groups, genealogy, adult education and leisure centres. The London Screen Archives will also be represented and a good programme of activities, craft sessions and bitesize talks has been arranged. SG is particularly pleased that the 2017 event is representing so many parts of the borough – the African Cultural Educational Health Organisation ( AECHO ) will be taking part again and new groups including Summerstown 182, the Salvation Army and Wimbledon Windmill will also be represented.

SG is particularly grateful to Wandle Industrial Museum, Wandle Heritage / MPT and the Living Wandle Project for donating funds towards the hire of Deceaux panels across the borough – these really make a difference to footfall on the day. The local media, radio, heritage websites, shop windows, meetings, newsletters and mass mail shots will be used to promote the event and SG would welcome support from Forum members.

Library and Heritage volunteers will also assist on the day. SG has secured use of the Civic Centre car park for participating groups and AH has agreed to pay for a Security Guard to be on duty throughout the day.

SG would be very grateful if Forum members could help to promote the event as in previous years.

Forum members were very positive about plans for the Discovery Day. ND was delighted to hear that so many different groups were to be involved in the 2017 event.

## **3. Adopt A Monument Scheme**

SG gave a brief update on this initiative which is intended to raise awareness

**Forum members to contact SG if they have queries, or would like to take part in the D.Day. SG to send publicity material to members for circulation.**

of local heritage and help to safeguard historic structures across the borough, through work with community groups. Schools, residents groups, businesses and heritage groups will be encouraged to “adopt” and increase awareness of their chosen site by researching its history, producing literature, working on orientation material/ displays and helping to organise associated tours / events for the public. They will also to monitor and record the condition of the site / feature, liaising with the relevant council departments, Historic England, archaeological representatives and advisory groups. This will include prompt action to report vandalism, theft of deterioration. SH has not been able to progress with this initiative as far as she would like, due to competing work demands, however she will be meeting with stakeholders, council and community representatives in due course to discuss how to take this project forward. A pilot scheme is intended to start before the end of 2017 and SG will give a further update at the next Forum meeting.

ND appreciates the difficulty of balancing workload and encouraged Forum members to suggest potential sites for adoption, or ways in which they could assist SG. He recommended an official launch for the scheme at the 2018 Heritage Discovery Day, as this would allow for promotion to lots of different groups.

#### **4. Living Wandle Project**

LWPS manager, Rebecca Watts gave an overview of the LWP at a previous meeting. KS gave the group an update on the project and details of forthcoming initiatives. The programme of work started in 2014 and will end in March 2018. This has / will involve 19 partners in the delivery of 28 projects, most of which will be completed by December 2017. A regular events and activities leaflet has been used to promote work in the Wandle Valley.

One of the flagship projects for built heritage is the Merton Priory Chapterhouse project ( Creation of a Visitor Centre. ) KS is positive that this work will go ahead – Paul McGarry has been the liaison officer from LBM. There are deadlines from construction work before the end of the Living Wandle project and contingencies have also been put in place.

Mapping the Mills ( Building Exploratory ):

Volunteers are working with Wandle Industrial Museum to research the sites of mills along the Wandle, their use and how their roles changes. The group will produce a map to support guided walks and a digital version will also be available via the IZI Travel app. A series of walks will also be staged as part of Wandle Fortnight. ( Project volunteers are still being recruited.

Wandle Vistas: as part of the landscape project, a consultant will recruit volunteers to identify and research key viewpoints along / near the Wandle. The group will produce a range of associated pamphlets and leaflets highlighting their findings. A digital map and hard copy booklet will also be produced.

Note from Joyce Bellamy – delighted by the suggestion that key viewpoints along / across the Wandle Basin should be included in the project ( Wandle Vistas ). Recommends the following viewpoints from the Mitcham area:

**Forum members to contact SG with details of sites for potential adoption and suggestions on how they might be able to assist with the scheme.**

**Forum members to contact KS if they have any queries about LWPS projects, or suggestions on how they can support the work. KS also happy to receive recommendations for Wandle Vistas.**

View from the summit of artificial mounds on Mitcham Common; view across Cricket Green from the balcony of the Cricket pavilion; View across Three Kings Piece from the Sea Cadets HQ ( Commonside West;) Views over Mitcham Common from the Golf House veranda. The most extensive views can be seen from the open 7<sup>th</sup> floor of the multi-storey car park in Mitcham Town Centre.

Eel project: weirs along the river help fish to move. Wandle Trust, the National Trust and Environment Agency will be working on this fish habitat improvement project – a special deflector will improve conditions for fish near the Deen City Farm area.

Wandle Rain Gardens – this project run by the London Wildlife Trust will prevent harmful surface water run-off in the Wandle Valley. This project aims to engage volunteers from estates in the Valley/ community groups with the river.

Wandle Fortnight ( 9 – 24 September ) – The Wandle Valley Forum has secured funding to administer and promote the 2 week event. Small grants ( £20 - £200 are also available to community groups wishing to stage activities) For more information about Wandle Fortnight contact Tony Burton – grant application forms should be submitted to the Wandle Valley Forum.

### **5. Developments at Morden Hall**

Chris Gaskin introduced himself to the group and outlined various projects planned by the National Trust. Chris started at Morden Hall in November 2016 as Parks and Gardens Manager. With a background in horticulture, he worked at Polesden Lacey for 8 years, followed by 2 years at Chartwell. His new post has coincided with a number of developments at Morden Hall, including the opening of the giant boardwalk, designed to allow visitors ( particularly school groups ) to interact with nature in the Watermeads. With regard to the future management of the park, there are various options for improving biodiversity in the northern section above the boardwalk and wetlands. The ultimate aim is to reintroduce cattle to graze this area but in the short term the Trust plans to get heavy horses to support the mowing of all the meadowland ( subject to funding. ) There is currently no horse access due to the popularity of this area with dog walkers and families with young children. However properties such as Ham House and Hampton Court have benefitted from the use of Shire horses ( Suffolks ) to manage grasslands.

CG is suggesting a low key approach for the first year – with greater publicity as the scheme increases biodiversity and wild flowers. The Trust will then look to use cattle to reduce the presence of nettles and overgrown grass in the north park. They would still like to reintroduce deer at some point in the future and the Trust hopes to have more infrastructure funding for conservation in 2018.

There are also plans for more riverbank restoration as part of the boardwalk project and eel traps will be installed this year in conjunction with the Living Wandle Partnership.

The Trust plans to reinstate 2 bridges to reconnect the two parts of the Rose Garden – these will hopefully be in place by November 2017.

**Forum members to contact Tony Burton if they wish to include events in the Wandle Fortnight. Grant applications to be submitted to Wandle Valley Forum**

More efforts have also been made to protect surviving portions of Priory Wall near Sainsbury's, Colliers Wood and to manage this section of the Trust's land to curb encroaching greenery and treat knotweed. £15K has been identified for survey work – there are some concerns about potential subsidence and public access.

JH referred to the industrial past of this site in Colliers Wood – the river channel is now running closer to the bank than previously. Structural engineers have been called to check the site – survey work has yet to be undertaken but here has been some progress.

To arrest the breach in the Priory wall, English Heritage want some level of intervention to stabilise or rebuild the structure. Work is estimated at £60K for Phase 1- this will allow for public access, creation of a pocket park and bridge access if the ground is stable. This is a long term project – JH is talking both to Sainsbury's and Capita – he is also happy to be a go-between, liaising with the National Trust. JH - Museum of London Archaeology have referred to problems caused by the proliferation of buddleia in the area surrounding the Priory wall – Sainsbury's/Capita are happy to keep growth on their side under control.

ND – very pleased at the involvement of the National Trust and imaginative projects. Morden Hall remains at the heart of local heritage, with a large footfall ( 1,200,000 people per year. ) He is very keen to promote shared tourism – encouraging people to spend a full day in the borough, visiting Morden Hall and sites beyond, to boost the local economy and cultural exchange.

JT asked CG if the Trust had been receiving emails from Chris Parsloe. CG confirmed this and said that progress updates would be sent in response.

Notes from Joyce Bellamy – From 2012 a Community Advisory Panel for Morden Hall Park was organised by the National Trust, consisting of reps from the Park's catchment area. This met quarterly up to 2016 but no meetings have been arranged in 2017. Are meetings still due to be held and if so, when?

Points discussed by the panel included potential to involve Morden Hall Park in programmes such as "London in Bloom." Recent landscape and accessibility improvements at the park render it worthy of recognition and celebration.

**6. Objective 3, Merton Heritage Strategy: To ensure that Merton's heritage provision is inclusive by working collaboratively to widen public engagement and participation.**

AH reminded the group that they are now two years into the 2015-20 Merton Heritage Strategy – some items from the action plan have been completed but others may need to be added and it is important to keep up to date on progress.

Sharing Space – this is ongoing and SG has been successful in hosting a range of displays from other heritage groups and stakeholders

Working Merton – This Communities First project was completed on time and on budget.

**CG to check on this and reply to SG**

**Forum members to contact SG with any updates to Heritage Strategy Action Plan.**

Online Heritage Forum – NH has not yet taken this forward - this item has been kept on hold due to concerns about capacity and ability to maintain an online resource.

Priory Chapterhouse– JH – there have been screenings of the Chapterhouse film, increased take-up and publicity. No major developments at present but it is important to keep going – MPT hopes that work will start from August. The Chapterhouse film is also due to be screened at the 2017 Heritage Discovery Day.

Note from JB – the Canons HLF bid, if successful, will be of great significance to Objective 3 of the Heritage Strategy.

Merton 50 – a wide range of events were successfully staged to support the Borough's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Heritage Forum meetings – ND - more needs to be done to involve underrepresented groups – he suggested involving Library Volunteers and Friends groups as a means of involving a wider range of people. It is particularly important to involve BAME groups and young people if their interests are to be represented. – AECHO ( African Educational Community Health Organisation ) could be invited to take part.

**SG to contact Hannah Neale to see if AECHO would like to be represented on HF.**

## **7. Information Exchange / AOB.**

N.P – 2017 is 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Wimbledon windmill and a range of events are planned including a talk and celebrations to mark 40 years of Wimbledon Windmill Museum. Admission to the museum was £2 but visitor figures have increased dramatically since the fee was abolished ( 450 visitors in the first weekend. ) The museum has been receiving lots of donations and now also has some younger volunteers. The windmill sails have now been reinstalled but may need adjusting by a millwright.

JT spoke about an electricity substation in Wimbledon – this is cast iron and was repainted 30 years ago thanks to Wimbledon Museum / Society which funded the work. JT confirmed that this structure is LBM owned. The substation should be included for local listing. ND would support this.

JT – The Woodman pub is likely to close in weeks and there are fears that a developer will purchase the site.

Durnsford Road – trees surrounding the large car park have been ring-barked , threatening their survival – these trees need protection.

JT – 2017 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of conservation areas and Future Merton has produced a booklet about local examples. ( SG to feature these at the Discovery Day. )

She has been contacted by Historic England regarding the designation / listing of local war memorials ( King's College School, KRRC memorial, St.

<p>Winifrede's Church )</p> <p>The Local List was due to go before Cabinet but this has been delayed until July.</p> <p>Note from Joyce Bellamy – Mitcham has a range of Royal Jubilee items from various reigns. The magnolia tree recently planted at Three Kings Pond, has now been chosen to commemorate Her Majesty the Queen's Sapphire Jubilee and is located close to the Diamond Jubilee tree.</p> <p>JV – There will be free entry to the Music in the Park event organised at John Innes Park by the John Innes Society.( Sunday 25 June, 3 – 5pm )</p> <p>TS – Keith Penny has been working on a book about the work of Military Tribunals in Mitcham ( following the introduction of conscription in 1916. ) He has created a database from information found in the local newspapers and the associated publication is due for release later in the year.</p> <p>CG – reminded the group about the May Fair due to take place at Morden Hall Park over the Bank Holiday weekend ( 29 April – 1 May )</p>	
<p><b>Date of next meeting: 17 October 2017.</b></p>	

## **Carved in Stone summary:**

### **Improved conservation and collections care:**

- Merton's wartime collection better documented and organised. Formal collecting policy produced to guide ongoing storage, collection and usage of wartime material. Staff clearer on current holdings & identify gaps for future acquisition.
- ( 15 ) 40 First World War items have been conserved by external contractors, Codex Conservation and Otter Bookbinding. Use in displays, events and public handling. WBN 1918; staff guidance for ongoing work; public Q & A and equipt purchase.
- The King's College School Magazine 1914 – 18, the Merton and Wimbledon Roll of Honour 1914-18 and the Whitehead survey of War Memorials in Merton have all been digitised and made available via the Carved in Stone website.
- Catalogued the First World War material held by the Museum of Wimbledon. This has helped museum staff to create a clear and unified record of material previously documented in a rather haphazard way, with no standardised numbering, which made it hard to find. The work undertaken by Carved in Stone volunteers will support the museum's registration process and exhibition programme.

### **Improved access to First World War material in Merton:**

- CIS website as hub for the study of Merton's First World War heritage
- During the course of the project, Merton's heritage team has worked with a variety of stakeholders to secure access to historic wartime documents and resources.  
Rutlish, Red Cross, Summerstown, KCS, Chris Burge, local churches, Diane Holmes
- School packs circulated + objects and costume and extranet material.
- Project volunteers have digitised five different newspapers for the period 1914 - 19 ( Mitcham Advertiser, Mitcham & Tooting Mercury, Wimbledon Herald, Wimbledon & District Gazette and the Wimbledon Borough News. – Use in displays resources, talks, e newsletters and online

### **Project legacy and the development of heritage skills:**

- As part of the project Merton Heritage Service has recruited and developed a large team of volunteers. Trained in a variety of heritage skills from research and cataloguing, to oral history, display work and basic conservation, at least 73% of volunteers will continue to develop Carved in Stone resources beyond the 2 year project. They have also expressed an interest in supporting future heritage projects.
- Carved in Stone has provided greater opportunities for heritage stakeholders including Merton museums, local history societies, community groups and independent researchers to network. Organisations such as Merton Historical Society, the Museum of Wimbledon, Mitcham Camera Club and Rutlish School have been brought into closer contact through the project and have been able to, pool information, share good practice and useful contacts as a result. The Carved in Stone web launch and Discovery Days ( 28 March 2015 and May 28, 2016 ) have been particularly successful in this respect, allowing stakeholders to raise the profile of their work, identify cross-



borough support, generate sales, attract new members/ volunteers and to boost attendance at their events through shared promotion. ( See Appendices 6 and 7 – comments p42 & 47. )

### **The Impact of Carved in Stone on people:**

- **Volunteers:** 30 people were recruited to the project including 3 teenagers and 6 people from BAME backgrounds. A further 3 people volunteered on a fortnightly assistance and an additional 9 library volunteers provided occasional support for project events. The latter group also included 6 people from BAME backgrounds  
( Appendix 4 shows age, ethnicity, economic and regional breakdown. )
- Volunteers were trained in local history research, cataloguing, digitisation, content management, display work, oral history ( interviewing / filming / transcription / editing ), basis conservation and the creation of heritage trails. By developing new skills they have enhanced their CVs and improved their employment prospects. For example – the experience of volunteering helped two CIS volunteers to secure places on higher education courses. A third volunteer cited her experience working with Merton Heritage Service and was successful in gaining employment with a neighbouring Library / Heritage Service. A fourth volunteer gained the necessary references and support to achieve British citizenship, through her work with the Heritage Service. 100% of volunteers felt that working on the project has increased their knowledge of local history and the First World War. 76% have developed new skills, giving them valuable work experience, improving their confidence and providing a high level of satisfaction and enjoyment. All 9 of the library volunteers who supported project events ( War Story Days - May to Aug 2015, Discovery Day - May 2016, Somme screening November 2016 ) confirmed their willingness to help out at future heritage events. ( See Appendix 9, p53 ) 3 of the 9 have also expressed an interest in volunteering with Merton Heritage Service in the future.
- The roles and achievements of project volunteers have also been acknowledged through nominations and awards at the 2015 Library & Heritage Service Volunteer Celebration ( Winner - Team of the Year award ) and the 2015 Merton Excellence Awards ( Winner - Best team. ) Project volunteers derived great satisfaction from this recognition, which gave them a sense of achievement and pride in their work.
- **General Public:** The project has not only helped to stimulate interest and raise awareness of Merton's wartime heritage. It has also given the public unprecedented access to a range of historic documents, memorabilia, secondary sources and sites with First World War associations. Project outputs include:
  - **War Story Days:** 3 events were held at Morden Library ( May 2015,) the Acacia Intergenerational Centre, Mitcham ( June 2015 ) and the New Wimbledon Studio Theatre ( August 2015. ) These were attended by 797 people who actively engaged with / learned more about Merton's First World War ( via displays, object handling sessions, direct access to historic source material, archive film and local history talks. ) During the course of these events volunteers filmed 17 interviews with the descendants of wartime combatants. 8 additional interviews were recorded as a result of outreach work at the Merton Dementia Hub ( October 2015, ) and a fourth collection day, staged in October 2016, in conjunction with the "Meeting in No Man's

Land” project run by Age Exchange Ltd. This also resulted in the digitisation of a large volume of wartime documents. There was unanimously positive feedback from participants in these events – 83% of visitors felt they had learned something about Merton’s wartime history. 100% of interviewees considered that their participation to be positive, enabling them to save their family war stories for posterity and so help to preserve the memory of ancestors killed during the conflict. Interviewees were all provided with a copy of their finished recording and were grateful for the opportunity to show these to other family members.

- **Discovery Days** : Two events were held at Morden Library The first, staged in March 2015, was intended as a promotional vehicle for Carved in Stone and was attended by 700 people. The second event, staged in May 2016, combined the project web launch with a showcase for Merton’s heritage. It featured 19 different heritage organisations and took World War 1 as its focus. 100% of participating organisations considered this to be the best event of its type to date ( 4 such events have been staged since 2014. ) Stakeholders confirmed that the event had helped to raise the profile of their work, increased public visits to their respective sites, boosted membership / income from sales and enabled them to recruit more volunteers. All participating organisations expressed a desire to be involved in future Discovery Days. ( See appendices 7 and 8 – p48. ) At the 2016 event 1100 people actively engaged with / learned about Merton’s heritage via stalls from Merton museums and heritage societies; access to historic documents / objects; archive film, displays, children’s crafts, local history talks and taster sessions for the Carved in Stone website.

- **Merton at War Exhibitions**: 3 exhibitions were held at Merton’s main libraries between May and August 2016. These were seen by a combined total of 60,115 people. A further combined display was staged between October and December 2016, attracting a further 1000 visitors. 100% of the volunteers involved with researching and producing the exhibitions derived great enjoyment from the process ( ownership, achievement, pride - see comments in Appendix 5 – p 30/4. )

- **Heritage Trails / Guided Walks**: 3 Mini-maps were produced in September 2015 to coincide with Open House London. These proved highly popular - the majority of the 1000 print run was exhausted within one month of release. A borough-wide Merton at War heritage trail was released during Remembrance week 2015, highlighting Merton sites with wartime associations. This has been very well-received both by heritage stakeholders and the general public – with regular requests for more consignments. The original 1000 print run was exhausted within the first year of release and a second edition will now be produced to meet demand.

Two guided walks were staged to promote the new trail ( Merton & Morden at War – November 2015; Wimbledon at War – August 2016. ) 32 people took part in these events ( numbers had to be limited to address capacity issues. ) The walks helped to increase footfall at Merton heritage attractions ( St. Mary’s, Merton; Morden Hall Park; Museum of Wimbledon. ) 100% of walk participants felt that they had increased their knowledge of Merton’s wartime heritage. ( See Appendix 8 – p48. ) The Merton at War trails have not only boosted local tourism but have supported the local authority’s commitment to promoting health and well-being across the borough. Public

enthusiasm for / enjoyment of these initial events has prompted Heritage staff to plan a “Mitcham at War” walk later in 2017.

- **Carved in Stone website:** Launched in May 2016, the website offers unprecedented access to information about local combatants and life in Merton during the war years. It also allows for simple, advanced, area and collection searches, in addition to featuring interviews, source extracts and opportunities for the public to engage with local heritage. Since May it has received 4000 visits, with a near 50:50 split between new and returning users. UK users predominate but there is also a high level of interest from the USA, Australia and Western Europe. ( See sample Google analytics, Appendix 8.) 100% of project volunteers rate the site as Good to Excellent and would recommend it to others. 100% of stakeholders use the website and would recommend it to others (See Appendices 5 – p31 and 7 – p41 )
- **E-newsletter:** A free monthly e-newsletter was launched in December 2015. This provides public access to information about Merton combatants, Home Front information, period photos and news articles, plus details of events planned by Merton Heritage Centre and other local heritage organisations. There are currently 180 individual subscribers. Members of the public can also access the newsletter via the Carved in Stone website.
- **Schools:** 7 schools signed up to take part in the Carved in Stone project ( in line with our stated target. ( See Appendix 10 ) 2 Local Area packs have been produced using First World War research ( combatant profiles, aspects of life on the Home Front and source extracts ) to support class-based history teaching and cross-curricular activity. Hard copy and downloadable versions are available to all Merton Primary Schools. A third class pack is due for release in January 2017. There has been a positive teacher response to the material circulated to date but full feedback is still awaited due to delays caused by the Christmas holiday. Pack content has been based on teacher feedback ( March 2015 meeting ) in order to match classroom need and ensure the creation of age appropriate material. The packs offer a new way of taking Merton’s First World War history into the classroom and incorporating subject matter, normally limited to Remembrance Week, into more regular use. A Merton at War class session will be made available to local schools from January 2017, together with a First World War resource box which can be borrowed for 1 – 6 weeks per school.

#### **The impact of Carved in Stone on communities:**

- **The project has provided a positive example of how people from different communities can interact with local heritage.** 6 regular volunteers were from BAME backgrounds, playing an active role in the running and development of the project. An additional 6 BAME volunteers provided support at Carved in Stone events. ( See Appendix 4 )
- **At least 50% of children attending project Discovery Day and War Story Day craft activities were from BAME backgrounds.** It is hoped that their positive experience of local heritage will influence future involvement by other family members.
- Whilst we cannot gauge the precise level of BAME engagement with Carved in Stone resources in Merton schools, an average 47.9% of children at the 7 pilot schools speak English as a second language. 65.1 % of pupils in Merton schools come from BAME backgrounds ( 2015 survey ) – all Merton

Primary schools will have access to downloadable versions of the three Carved in Stone resource packs via the Schools Extranet.

- **The project has helped to raise awareness of Merton's First World War refugees** ( Belgian and Russian. ) Relatively little was known about these communities previously and the project has increased access to source material via school project packs, exhibitions and the Carved in Stone website. The profiles of 3 Belgian soldiers buried at Morden Cemetery have also been added to the site. Work on this aspect of the borough's wartime history is ongoing. We hope to forge links with other UK / Belgian research initiatives in order to identify refugees who sought sanctuary in wartime Merton.
- **Carved in Stone has been more effective at securing cross-borough participation than previous projects.** ( See Appendix 6. ) This includes the involvement of stakeholders, volunteers and schools from many different part of the borough. Project events have also been staged more widely, enabling a greater range of people to participate and access historic material at district level.
- **The project has conducted outreach at a number of community events** including the Morden Library Open Day 2015; Mitcham Carnival 2015/16; Wimbledon Village Fair 2015; National Trust Over 55s group - February 2016; Dementia Hub Café October 2015; Open House London 2015/16; West Barnes Local History Group meetings November 2015 and May 2016.
- Although direct BAME contributions to the Carved in Stone website have been limited to date, the project team has sought to raise awareness of the valuable contribution made by servicemen from overseas during World War I. This has included themed talks as part of Black History Month. A number of those attending the "Unsung Heroes" talk on October 29th, 2016, commented that they had previously been unaware of the part played by Black and Asian troops and felt that this should be more widely taught in schools. ( Comments: Mr & Mrs. H. Harris )
- **The project has provided a framework for collecting more information, objects and family stories.** By continuing to create a collection that is more representative of the borough's wartime history, it will be possible to give a clearer insight into the impact of the conflict on the local community.
- **The project website acts as a focal point for anyone interested in preserving and learning more about the wartime history of their locality.** It also contributes to community pride – as shown by the number of people who have shared links to the site on community history forums. This is expected to develop further, when the project team work on events linked to the unveiling of two commemorative paving stones to Merton VCs ( George Cates and William White ) in 2017/18.

## **Project Review:**

### **What worked well?**

- Communications and marketing
- Volunteering
- Stakeholder involvement

There were initially 5 stakeholder organisations that signed up to participate in / support “Carved in Stone.” However during the course of the project this increased to 29 organisations working co-operatively, sharing resources and expertise. These groups and individuals came from many different parts of the borough.

This level of interaction has built on the positive dialogue developed between Merton Heritage Service and stakeholders during the earlier Merton Memories project. A highly supportive and reciprocal working relationship has developed between all parties concerned. Research findings, contacts, sources and promotional channels have been shared – enabling the Heritage Service to expand the range of historical material available to the public, whilst also supporting stakeholders in their own research initiatives. 93% of stakeholders provided historical information and / or images for inclusion in project outputs. 100% stated that they would be happy to be involved in future heritage projects and annual Discovery Days.

- Project outputs ( See Appendices 5, 7 and 8 for relevant feedback ): Compared to previous heritage projects and initiatives, Carved in Stone offered a much greater range of outputs This not only helped to maintain public interest in / enthusiasm for the project but also served to disseminate historical information more widely amongst a more diverse audience.

- Filmed interviews:

During the course of the project, volunteers filmed 25 interviews with Merton residents descended from First World War combatants.

#### **What didn't work as well?**

- Time needed for research
- War Story venues ( due to unforeseen problems with building work )
- BAME needs increasing

Carved in Stone has undoubtedly helped to raise the profile of the borough and its history. The project has been a key vehicle for documenting and increasing awareness of Merton's First World War heritage, particularly the sacrifices made by local servicemen. It has also provided a good foundation for future work, particularly the collection of valuable oral history and information on disappearing / vulnerable aspects of the heritage.

## Appendix 6: Heritage Stakeholder involvement with the Carved in Stone project.

<b>Stakeholder</b>	<b>Contribution to project</b>	<b>Assistance from project</b>
<b>Merton Historical Society</b>	Research assistance, project promotion, talks and stalls for Discovery Days, project promotion, feedback	Society promotion, sharing of research and access to WW1 archives.
<b>John Innes Society</b>	Research assistance, access to suffragette material, stall at Discovery Day, project promotion	Society promotion and access to archives
<b>St. Mary's, Merton</b>	Research assistance, visit venue for WW1 guided walk, project promotion, feedback	Archiving advice, access to WW1 resources, sharing of research, WW1 trail promotion
<b>St. Mary's, Wimbledon</b>	Research assistance and shared resources, project promotion	Shared research, access to WW1 resources, promotion of WW1 Jutland event
<b>Mitcham Camera Club</b>	Photographed sites and memorials for project, project promotion including Mitcham Carnival outreach, stall at Discovery Day, project promotion, feedback	Club promotion – Discovery Day boosted membership, provision of exhibition space
<b>Chris Burge ( historian )</b>	Shared research, advice, feedback	Access to WW1 resources, sharing of research
<b>Diane Holmes ( historian )</b>	Shared research	Sharing of WW1 research
<b>Museum of Wimbledon</b>	Research assistance, provision of source extracts for project, talk for War Story Day, Stall for Discovery Day, project promotion, feedback	Contacts and advice, sharing of WW1 research, project volunteers catalogued museum's WW1 collection, promotion of museum and events
<b>National Trust</b>	Sharing of Morden Hall Military Hospital information, stall at Discovery Day, outreach venue, project promotion	Access to WW1 archives, heritage contacts, site promotion and display space, local history talk
<b>Rutlish School</b>	Shared WW1 research, supply of source extracts, contacts, talk for Discovery Day, project promotion and feedback	Shared WW1 research, access to sources, promotion
<b>King's College School</b>	Shared WW1 research, project promotion	Shared WW1 research, access to sources
<b>Age Exchange</b>	Meeting in No Man's Land film screening, advice, Collection day and sharing of resources, project promotion and feedback	Space for their project screenings and collection day, including support and sharing of resources, project promotion, contacts

<b>Summerstown 182</b>	Shared research / contacts, project promotion	Project promotion, access to sources, advice, shared research
<b>Merton Dementia Hub</b>	Project promotion, outreach venue and source of interviewees	2 Reminiscence events
<b>Surrey History Centre</b>	Project promotion, use of source extracts online	Surrey in the Great War project promotion and shared research
<b>Mitcham Cricket Green Community &amp; Heritage</b>	Project promotion, stall and talk for Discovery Day	Displays for Open House event, society promotion, contacts & advice
<b>Friends of Wimbledon Park</b>	Project promotion, stall and talk for Discovery Day	Contacts, advice, promotion and help with Capability Brown tercentenary event
<b>Southside House</b>	Project promotion and stall for Discovery Day	Promotion and networking opportunities
<b>Merton Priory Trust</b>	Project promotion and stall for Discovery Day	Promotion and networking opportunities
<b>Wandle Industrial Museum</b>	Shared research, project promotion, stall for Discovery Day	Promotion and advice
<b>London Screen Archives (Bigger Picture project )</b>	Project promotion, Women in WW1 film screening, WW1 film Kinovan screening for Discovery Day	Project support and promotion, contacts
<b>Living Wandle project</b>	Project promotion, display for Discovery Day	Shared resources, project promotion
<b>Merton Schools</b>	Project promotion and resource pack advice / piloting	Resource packs, class session and artefacts box available for classes
<b>Merton Residents Associations</b>	Project Promotion	
<b>Merton &amp; Morden Guild</b>	Project promotion	Film screening via LSA and local history talk
<b>Merton Church and Faith Groups</b>	Project promotion	
<b>Peace Pledge Union</b>	Project promotion, supplied information on Merton conscientious objectors. Exhibition at Merton Heritage Centre in January 2017	Shared research and source information on C. Objector, Harold Brewster
<b>First World War Centenary Partnership</b>	Regular project promotion of project events	
<b>Red Cross / VAD HLF project ( Kingston University )</b>	Supply of Red Cross VAD database for finding Merton records	CIS to share any additional research of relevance to the Red Cross project