



## **Wimborne History Festival**

### **Chairman's Annual Report Feb 2018 – Feb 2019**

#### **Accounts**

The Accounts for 2018/19 have been filed at Companies House and I would like to thank our Treasurer Ian Faulkner for managing the ever increasing accounts over this period, and would also like to thank Accountants Thomas and Woolven for reviewing and submitting the accounts on behalf of Wimborne History Festival Ltd.

#### **Changes at Board Level**

During the period Feb 18 – Feb 19 the following changes were made:

Mike Rogers joined the Board as a Director to represent Sting in the Tale 'a festival of stories'

No other changes have been made to the Board of Directors who are:

- Tracy Whitham
- Ian Faulkner
- Andy Williams
- James Webb
- Mike Rogers

#### **Activity during the period Feb 2018 – Feb 2019**

##### **Projects**

###### **Wimborne History Festival: WW1 Wimborne 2018**

The Board of Directors would like to extend the warmest of thanks to our sponsor, Dr Alistair Somerville Ford, for giving us the donation and enabling us to apply successfully for HLF funding. It also enabled us to appoint Historical Productions to provide the Living History weekend programme of activities and to appoint project manager Rachel Limb to progress the Festival programme planning. Funding applications to both the Wimborne Minster Town Council and Wimborne BID were also successful.

##### **Writing Competition**

Local Historian Janet Seal promoted and initiated a new Wimborne History Festival writing competition for schools and community which was well subscribed to with some fantastic stories submitted. These stories are available on our flickr site Janet intends to repeat this successful project for 2020 with a Georgian theme.

## **Schools Projects**

With HLF funding we were fortunate to be able to deliver free WW1 related activities to QE School with four activities working with the drama and history departments. We delivered two activities to Allenbourn School and one to Wimborne First School.

### **WHF July 2018**

Our greatest aim for our WW1 Festival was to connect with the people of Wimborne - to educate and involve them in exploring the Wimborne's heritage and people during WW1 as well as informing about the history of the era.

The Silent Soldier project was a highlight of the weekend – it was both a moving and poignant reminder of the sacrifice our own community made during WW1, and the Board of Directors would like to specially thank Gill and Tony Horitz for such a professional production, which provided such a special commemoration for Wimborne.

### **WHF Armistice Weekend November 2018**

Following on from the WW1 Living History events of the main festival, WHF worked in partnership to commemorate the 100 years since the end of the war in armistice weekend this project worked with The Royal British Legion, Wimborne Cemetery and Dorset Council to undertake a Living History activity on Wimborne Square and to undertake a schools poppy sculpture with Allenbourn School, Beaucroft School, St



Johns First School, Pamphill School Wimborne First School and St James First School with community workshops at Walford Mill Crafts working with artist Peter Margerum. The sculpture was displayed on the Square, Wimborne Cemetery and Walford Mill Crafts. Thanks to Heritage Lottery Fund, Wimborne Town Council, Wimborne BID, Royal British Legion, Wimborne Cemetery, Wimborne Minster, East Dorset Council Community and Recreation team and the Graphics Team, Walford Mill Crafts and Peter Margerum for making it happen and to all the children who took part.

Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 November, 10.00 - 11.00am,  
Wimborne Square

**The Wave** A Wimborne Schools Poppy Installation Project by  
artist Peter Margerum

To engage young people in the commemoration of the centenary of the end of WW1, East Dorset District Council has funded a schools poppy-making project. Seven schools have participated in the making of 900 poppies facilitated by artist Peter Margerum during the autumn term 2018. The poppies were crafted into Wimborne's own 'Wave' art installation using recycled milk bottles. This remembrance art exhibition will be exhibited in Wimborne Square over the Armistice weekend. The installation will also be displayed at Wimborne Cemetery during the Beacons of Light event during the evening of Sunday 11 November and will be kept on public display there for the following week.

Schools who have participated in this project are: QE School, Beacroft Foundation School, Wimborne First School, Pamphill First School, Allenbourn Middle School, St James First School, St John's CE First School.



Saturday 10 November, 10.00am - 4.00pm, Wimborne Square  
Wimborne History Festival presents...

**Discharge Stand and WW1 Soldiers : Living  
History Display**  
with the Norfolk Regiment

One of Churchill's first acts, after he was announced as the new war secretary in January 1919, was to introduce a new and equitable demobilisation scheme. Based on age, length of service and the number of times a man had been wounded in battle, it ensured that the longest-serving soldiers were generally demobilised first. In November 1918, the British army had numbered almost 3.8 million men. Twelve months later, it had been reduced to slightly less than 900,000 and by 1922 to just over 230,000.

The Norfolk Regiment who featured in this year's WW1 Wimborne History Festival will recreate a 'Demobbing' stand on the Square. Come up and meet the soldiers and receive your very own 'discharge' papers which will be a copy of the original ones given to soldiers when leaving the army from 1918, so children can take home a reminder of the event.

Our 'Demobbing Stand' will have representative WW1 soldiers present and a display of some weapons and equipment, as Wimborne History Festival joins Wimborne Minster in marking the centenary of the end of WW1.

Other Exhibits  
**Soldier of Peace** by Darrell Wakelam

**WW1 Artwork**  
by Craig Wilson

Artists in residence during Wimborne History Festival 2018.

**WW1 stories** by winners of  
the Wimborne History Festival  
Short Story Competition



Special thanks to Rachel Limb and Richard Broadway for their donated graphic marketing expertise and project management skills throughout 2018

The Festival would not be possible without collaboration with many town partners and organisations and the Board Directors would like to give an enormous thanks to the following people for making the 2018 Festival happen

## Sponsors & Funders

Dr Alistair Ford  
AKA Builders  
The Heritage Lottery Fund  
Wimborne Minster Town Council  
Wimborne BID  
Colehill Parish Council  
Christchurch and East Dorset District Council  
Ian Faulkner  
Thomas and Woolven  
Anonymous Donator

## Partners

Allenbourn Middle School  
Allendale Centre Staff and Volunteers  
Andrew Chorley – Photographer  
Café on the Square  
Chris Brown - Historian  
Dorset Police and Fire Service  
East Dorset Heritage Trust

Gullivers Bookshop  
Historical Productions & Event Management and all the Living History Groups  
Imperial War Museum  
Michele O'Brien  
Priest's House Museum Staff and Volunteers  
QE School  
Radio Wimborne  
Royal British Legion  
State of Play Arts & Alistair Nisbett  
Stour and Avon Magazine  
The Minster, Churchwardens and volunteers  
The Royal British Legion  
The Royal Signals Museum  
The Silent Soldiers (actors)  
Village Green Café  
Vision Wimborne  
Walford Mill Crafts  
White Sheep Marketing Solutions  
Wimborne Army Cadets  
Wimborne Camera Club  
Wimborne Cemetery  
Wimborne History Festival Volunteers  
Wimborne Minster Folk Festival  
Wimborne Rotary Club  
Wimborne Rugby Club  
And the many artists, storytellers who brought their expertise to the Festival programme

A full evaluation report is available from the Wimborne History Festival website  
[www.wimbornehistoryfestival.org.uk](http://www.wimbornehistoryfestival.org.uk)

### **Other Board activities 2018 – 2019**

#### **Planning for 2020 Georgian Wimborne**

In February the Board advertised for the commission of the delivery of a Georgian Living History programme of activities.

#### **Sting in the Tale a festival of Stories (SITT)**

During this period WHF Ltd offered '**Sting in the Tale a festival of stories**' governance and has formally taken it under the Company Wimborne History Festival Ltd with Director Mike Rogers taking specific responsibility for this festival.

During this financial year a successful application was submitted to Arts Council England which allowed the team to plan a full festival programme for July 2019. Further successful applications were made to Wimborne Minster Town Council, Colehill Parish Council, Corfe Mullen Parish Council and Wimborne BID.

Although this festival was delivered in the current financial year – an evaluation and feedback report is available from the Wimborne History Festival website [www.wimbornehistoryfestival.org.uk](http://www.wimbornehistoryfestival.org.uk)

### **Wimborne Green Festival**

This is more recent news and during the current financial year WHF Ltd has also offered governance to the new Wimborne Green Festival which is led and chaired by Linda Bunting. Linda now sits on the Board. For transparency purposes we have presented the Green Festival 2019 report and accounts alongside WHF & SITT. A4 report attached.

### **Wimborne Festivals Project**

Our Board of Directors have continued to work closely with other Festival Chairs to work collaboratively, to share equipment, resources, advertising, training and knowledge throughout the year, and are involved in ongoing discussions to be part of a new governance structure with some of the other towns festivals to create a Wimborne Festivals CIC. This project is ongoing and will mean this could be the last WHF Ltd AGM as we plan to restructure to be part of this new Board. Our brand and identity for our two festivals however will remain the same. A new website address will be created and thanks are extended to the WM Folk Festival for purchasing the new domain name. This Wimborne Festivals initiative process is being facilitated by Dorset Council Community and Recreation and supported by Wimborne BID and Ward Goodman Charity Advisor which will be implemented in 2020.

End 10/12/19