



End of grant report

Project details

Reference number

FW-14-02234

Project title

Helping the people of Thame commemorate WW1 and remember the sacrifices made

Name of your organisation

Thame Museum

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

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.

In this form we ask you to send copies of documents. There is a facility to attach files (of less than 5MB in total) at the end of the form.

Following receipt of your form, your case officer may ask you to submit receipts or invoices relating to how your grant was spent.

Period covered by the form**Start Date:** 04/08/2014**End Date:** 01/08/2016**Submission Date:** 17/08/2016

Completion summary

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

Approved purpose	Summary of achievements
<p>Volunteers from Thame Museum will support others in researching the memorials of Thame. Relatives of those commemorated, local people and schoolchildren will be involved with research. Relevant online resources and archives will be consulted to support this process.</p>	<p>Research has been a consistent background feature to the project, involving volunteers from Thame Museum, the archivist at Lord Williams's School, families and others in the community, and has utilised all of the relevant online archives including regimental war diaries as well as personal visits to a number of physical public and media archive centres. In addition to researching the stories of the men we also managed to trace photographs of many of them and, in a few cases, have established contact with living descendants. As a result we have been able to accompany every cross delivery with the story of the casualty (see delivery reports at http://www.thameremembers.org/roll-of-honour/). A few sample outcomes from our research include : - A name on the Thame War Memorial of a man who did not actually die in conflict but lived for another thirty years - An additional 24 names (to date) who had not been remembered in Thame but who, subject to independent verification, will be added to the town's War Memorial at a future date (https://www.thametowncouncil.gov.uk/about-the-town-council/council-meetings/agenda-minutes/full-council/10-may-2016-minutes/ minute 21). Being approached by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission with a request to add our research findings onto their information database.</p>

Approved purpose	Summary of achievements
<p>Create digital content informing people of opportunities to be involved and update on project progress. Provide opportunities for people to share personal artefacts and photographs, where possible these will be recorded.</p>	<p>The major key to the success of Thame Remembers has been public awareness and community engagement, which we have achieved from the outset through print, broadcast and web based media; talks and presentations; events and exhibitions; merchandising; and through our own website, social media, and monthly project newsletters. We cover each of these elements separately below : Print media coverage commenced with our efforts to publicise the launch event and was rewarded in July 2014 by a dedicated two page feature in the Oxford Mail as well as shorter pieces in other local publications. The Oxford Mail and the local Thame Gazette in particular have continued to cover the project with regular updates. Other notable items of press coverage have been a two page feature in Family Tree magazine in December 2014, and a two page feature, including full colour front page, in Gulf Weekly (the community newspaper of Bahrain) in November 2015. We have had reports (though no evidence) of coverage in other publications outside our immediate area and as far away as Australia and New Zealand. Broadcast media has proven extremely successful, BBC Radio Oxford have featured Thame Remembers on a regular basis through both studio and telephone interviews on air, and BBC South (local TV news) have broadcast six features to date. The first was broadcast a few days after the project launch and then, early in 2015 when planning our Battlefield Tour, we suggested that they send a reporter with us for four days in France and Belgium. Much to our surprise they agreed, with the result that as well as live radio interviews during the tour, four separate TV features were broadcast over consecutive days during November 2015. These can all be viewed through our website. (http://www.thameremembers.org/2015/12/the-bbc-oxford-coverage-continues/). This BBC feature series was also nominated for, and won, a Royal Television Society award, as reported in our newsletter issue 18 (http://www.thameremembers.org/newsletters/issue-18-thame-remembers-newsletter/). The BBC have since returned to Thame in Spring 2016 for another feature on the addition of new names to the Thame War Memorial, and they are committed to continued coverage of any significant story through the remainder of the project. It is impossible to track the spread of publicity through web based media but Thame Remembers has featured regularly in The Town Council's e-newsletter and on the independent ThameNewsNet and a Google Search will reveal many other web sites that have shared our project. Throughout the project to date we have given a number of talks and presentations to local groups such as U3A and the local British Legion branch but, most significantly, to special assemblies of seven different year groups (ages 11-17) at Lord Williams's School in Thame, taking the project to around 2000 young people in our community. Each of these presentations lasted forty minutes and included a showing of the project video, a full introduction to the Thame Remembers challenge, a reading of 'In Flanders Fields' by a sixth former in full WW1 infantry uniform, and an opportunity for students to discuss. Thame Remembers have taken part in many local events, with stalls at Thame Show (the largest one day agricultural show in the south), at the Thame Christmas event, and at the Thame Food Festival (attended by over 20,000 people, both locals and visitors). See one example at http://www.thameremembers.org/newsletters/issue-13-thame-remembers-newsletter/. We have also played our part at Thame's Remembrance Day commemoration in both 2014 and 2015, including a 5 x 2 metre display of small Thame Remembers crosses in the shape of a large Thame Remembers cross (http://www.thameremembers.org/newsletters/issue-15-thame-remembers-newsletter/). Two events which particularly stand out have been in collaboration with Thame Players Theatre. Firstly the drama group put on a production of Journeys End (five performances to capacity audiences of 130) in which Thame Remembers played an integral advisory role and also screened a rolling credit naming all of Thame's WW1 casualties. The second, a one off performance on 1 July 2016, was a commemoration in narrative, verse, and archive film of the first day of the Battle of the Somme, produced entirely by the Thame Remembers project team but with free use of the theatre and their technical assistance with sound, video, and lighting. Both events were pronounced as triumphs. Thame Remembers merchandising has been low profile as the project has been adequately funded from the outset and was not in need of income generation, so the motivation has solely been to promote public awareness</p>

Approved purpose	Summary of achievements
	of the project whilst covering costs. We have a range of lapel badges, cuff links, key rings, and car window stickers which have proven popular and are worn / displayed in the community with pride.
Create a mini-exhibition including a world map indicating the scale of the First World War and contributions made by the people of Thame to the conflict. This will be portable and made available as a resource within the local community. Create a film about the project and the impact of the First World War which appeals to children.	Our exhibition, including a large scale map of our casualty locations, has been featured in Thame Museum, Thame Town Hall, Thame Library, and Thame Barns Centre and is now on permanent show at Thame Musuem. I will not try to describe the Thame Remembers website (www.thameremembers.org) as it is far better that you browse it online and find out for yourselves, but it covers every aspect of the project including much of our research information, delivery reports, copies of newsletters, links to BBC features, and much more, and we are fortunate in having a volunteer webmaster who keeps it frequently updated. One particular feature, however, is our interactive mapping which enables people to identify all of the sites that have been or need to be visited, complete with casualty details, delivery status, and a zoom facility to enable volunteers to plan a visit. Thame Remembers also have a following on Facebook and Twitter. The final ingredient in our promotion and public awareness activity is our monthly newsletter which is featured on our website but is also emailed direct to many in the local community, with hard copy available for browsing at Thame Museum and elsewhere. Each issue, varying between 2 – 8 pages, reports project news and recent cross deliveries but also, in most cases, features about local casualties and / or information about the conflict. We have also produced three special supplements to date, the most recent being specifically related to the first day of the Somme. The newsletters and supplements can all be found at http://www.thameremembers.org/newsletters/ and are worth your time to browse at random. At the outset we commisioned a film about the project and then used that film in a presentation to each year group at the local secondary school and have since delivered the same each year to the new intakes.
Undertake at least 50 visits to First World War memorial or burial sites linked to those commemorated on the war memorials of Thame. For each visit, volunteers will place a Thame Remembers cross or wreath at the site and document this process to be shared with local communities.	The essence of the Thame Remembers project, of course, is to deliver a cross or wreath to the grave or memorial of every one of the men from Thame who has died in conflict, wherever that may be in the world. As previously stated, that covers 213 men in 23 countries across 4 continents and is certainly ambitious but our confidence in the people of Thame was well founded and we are achieving well ahead of target. The first twelve war graves are all in the local churchyard at St Mary's in Thame and added a particularly poignant significance to the launch event on 3 August 2014. The first overseas delivery was made in September 2014 and by that Christmas we had already achieved thirty cross deliveries as far afield as Malta, Tanzania, New Zealand, India, and Singapore. HLF required that up to August 2016 Thame Remembers should undertake at least fifty visits to WW1 memorial and burial sites of those commemorated in Thame. Our actual achievement over that period has been 79 separate visits, in the process of which we have placed crosses or wreaths in remembrance of 106 WW1 casualties. In addition the project has achieved 36 visits to WW2 cemeteries, remembering 37 men from Thame, plus visits to Pusan (Korea) and Bahrain (Cyprus conflict) in honour of two other men from Thame. The total to date is therefore 117 visits to commemorate 145 casualties'. Therefore by July 2016 we had achieved nearly 70% of the targeted deliveries and approximately half of the outstanding challenge has already been allocated to volunteers planning future trips. Remember that every delivery has been carried out by somebody from Thame, whether on vacation, a business trip, or in some cases as a dedicated mission, and it has been a recurrent theme that people have commented on the impact that is had on them. What could be taken as a form of tokenism has invariably turned into a profound and life enhancing experience for all those involved. Some have even recorded their feelings for publication on our web site and in our newsletters (see issues 4, 8 and 21 for examples). We recognise that there are two countries which we are highly unlikely to get the opportunity to visit (Iraq and Libya) but also others which carry some current constraint or risk but we remain hopeful of achieving (Egypt, Turkey, and Tunisia) within the project timescale, and we are confidently predicting that we will exceed 95% delivery.

Approved purpose	Summary of achievements
<p>Hold a commemorative event on the 3rd of August at St. Mary's Church to officially launch the project and mark the centenary of the beginning of the First World War. Upon completion of the project, hold an event for local people and participants to share their achievements in relation to the project.</p>	<p>The launch event took place on 3 August 2014 at St Mary's Church in Thame. A press release (http://www.thameremembers.org/2014/07/thame-remembers-launch-press-release/) was circulated to local media and was featured in local newspapers, radio stations, and on the BBC website (http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-28226252). An evocative report of the event, written by an independent journalist, was featured as the front page of our first project newsletter (http://www.thameremembers.org/newsletters/issue-1/) and records both the first of our cross deliveries and the involvement of younger members of the community. We also launched a promotional video, filmed locally in Thame, on our website and on YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NNr7V6wFOZE). During the event to commemorate the Battle of the Somme we celebrated our achievements so far and showed how we had delivered on the requirements of our HLF funding grant. We shall hold a final celebration event on the 11 November 2018.</p>

If applicable, please tell us about any changes you have made to the approved purposes of your project. As set out in the *Receiving a Grant* guidance, you must have received HLF's approval before making any changes. Please use the table below to provide as much information as possible.

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

Use of volunteers and non-cash contributions

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

Yes

Please tell us about all volunteer labour to the project and any non-cash contributions.

Date	Task or contribution	Task category	Number of volunteers	Number of days	Total value of contributions (£)
Aug-14	Launch event - organisation and 12 crosses delivered	Unskilled	40	1	2000
Sep-14	Cross delivery France - Colin Evans	Unskilled	1	1	50
Oct-14	Cross delivery Holland - Brian and Julie West	Unskilled	2	1	100
Oct-14	Wreath delivery Valetta RAF Memorial Malta - David Bretherton	Unskilled	4	1	100
Oct-14	Wreath delivery Rome, Italy - Peter Willis	Unskilled	1	1	50
Oct-14	Cross delivery Malta - Allan Hickman	Unskilled	3	1	150
Oct-14	Cross delivery Tanzania x 2 - Rev Hugh Prentice	Unskilled	1	2	100
Oct-14	Cross delivery x 2 - Ian Jones	Unskilled	2	1	100
Nov-14	Cross delivery Rouen, France - Charles and Hazel Boundy	Unskilled	2	1	100
Dec-14	Cross delivery, Poona India - Sarah Goss	Unskilled	1	2	100
Dec-14	Cross delivery New Zealand - George Bateman	Unskilled	1	1	50
Dec-14	Wreath delivery Runnymede RAF memorial - Dick Phillips and team	Unskilled	6	1	300
Dec-14	Wreath delivery Singapore Memorial - Peter Lawrence	Unskilled	1	1	50
Jan-15	Wreath delivery Dunkirk Memorial - Iain & Alison Biddle	Unskilled	2	1	100
Mar-15	Cross delivery Watlington, UK. School Head Master, head boy and head girl	Unskilled	4	1	200
Mar-15	Cross delivery South London - Derek Turner	Unskilled	1	1	50
Mar-15	Cross Delivery Normandy - Jill & David Gregory	Unskilled	2	1	100
Mar-15	Cross delivery Belgium x 2 - Peter & Liz Barker and sons	Unskilled	4	1	200
Apr-15	Cross delivery x 2. Steve & Verity Perry	Unskilled	2	1	100
Apr-15	Battlefield tour Recce Trip and 14 x cross delivery - TR Team	Unskilled	8	4	1600
Apr-15	Cross delivery Korea - by John Thompson Korean war veteran	Unskilled	1	1	50
May-15	Cross deliveries x 4 in France by 4 LWS old boys	Unskilled	4	1	200
May-15	Cross delivery x 2 France - Sonja Francis	Unskilled	1	1	50
May-15	Cross delivery x 2 Holland - Andrew and Joan Reid	Unskilled	2	2	200
May-15	Cross delivery x 2 Italy - Steve & Yvonne Bannister	Unskilled	2	2	200
May-15	Cross delivery Belgium - Nigel and Alison Champken-Woods	Unskilled	2	1	100
May-15	Cross delivery x 2 Normandy - Jenny Manger and Kristian Winslade	Unskilled	2	1	100
Jun-15	Cross delivery Noirmandy - David Gregory	Unskilled	1	1	50
Jun-15	Cross delivery Normandy - Graham Watson and wife	Unskilled	2	1	100
Jun-15	Cross delivery Normandy x 2- Lord Williams School students	Unskilled	6	1	300
Jun-15	Cross delivery Brookwood cemetery- David & Margaret Bretherton	Unskilled	2	1	100

Date	Task or contribution	Task category	Number of volunteers	Number of days	Total value of contributions (£)
Jun-15	Cross Delivery Northern France x 2 Sue and Andew Motteram	Unskilled	2	1	100
Jun-15	Wreath delivery Chatham Memorial - Sue Boyle and Mum	Unskilled	2	1	100
Jul-15	Cross delivery Northern France - Helen Turner	Unskilled	1	1	50
Jul-15	Cross delvery Kensal Green, London - Trudy Lambert	Unskilled	2	1	100
Jul-15	Cross delivery Portsmouth cemetery - Liz Ramage and children	Unskilled	3	1	150
Aug-15	Cross delivery Belgium - Geoff and Ruth Pimm	Unskilled	2	1	100
Aug-15	Cross delivery Normandy - John Francis	Unskilled	1	1	50
Aug-15	Cross deliovery Germany - Graham Hunt	Unskilled	1	1	50
Aug-15	Cross delivery Wheatley, Oxon - Andrea Kachelleck	Unskilled	1	1	25
Aug-15	Cross delivery Belgium - Steve Perry	Unskilled	1	1	50
Sep-15	Cross delivery Normandy - David and Beryl Kew	Unskilled	2	1	100
Oct-15	Cross dleivery Little Milton, Oxon - Tom and Sheila Wyse	Unskilled	2	1	50
Oct-15	Cross delivery Berkhamstead Herts - Nichola Dixon Town Mayor	Unskilled	1	1	50
Oct-15	Cross delivery x 41 names - WW1 Battlefield Tour	Unskilled	38	5	9500
Oct-15	Cross delivery x 2 Germany - Kevin & Angela Tobin	Unskilled	2	1	100
Nov-15	Cross delivery Gosport Cemetery - Alex Pullen	Unskilled	1	1	50
Dec-15	Cross delivery Bahrein - Adrian and Ann Dite	Unskilled	2	1	100
Jan-16	Cross delivery Hanover Germany - Tim Jones	Unskilled	1	1	50
Feb-16	Cros delivery N France - Derek Turner and family	Unskilled	4	1	200
Feb-16	Cross delivery Kingston on Thames - Allan Hickman	Unskilled	1	1	50
May-16	Cross delivery x 3 Rouen France - U3A trip	Unskilled	4	1	200
May-16	Battlefield Recce trip and cross delivery x 5 - TR team	Unskilled	8	4	1600
May-16	Cross delivery France - Marcus McEwan and family	Unskilled	4	1	200
Jul-16	Battle of Somme Commemoration concert	Unskilled	20	2	2000
Jun-16	Cross delivery Wittering, Cambs - Nigel and Alison Champken-Woods	Unskilled	2	1	70
Jul-16	Wreath delivery Lee-on-Solent Memorial - Tim and Sam Green	Unskilled	2	1	100

Recruitment of staff

Did you recruit any staff during the life of the project?

No

How the grant has been spent

Give a breakdown of the items or activities funded by the grant using the same budget headings you provided within your application in Section seven: Project costs.

You do not need to submit any invoices with your report. However please be aware that your case officer may ask you to provide these once you have submitted the form. It is therefore important that you keep accurate records of your spending relating to the project.

Cost heading	Invoice reference	Invoice date	Name of supplier	Description of services or goods	Total of invoice	Total cost claiming
Cost of producing learning materials	RF14-2,22,32	13/08/2014	Forces War records	Membership subscription 2015-to-2017	£231	£231
Cost of producing learning materials	RF14-23.183.315	01/08/2014	Naval and Military Archive	Membership Subscription 2014 -2017	£286	£286
Cost of producing learning materials	RF14-135	14/08/2014	The Genealogist	Membership subscription 2014 - 2107	£369	£369
Cost of producing learning materials	RF14-203.280	03/08/2014	Findmypast.com	Membership subscription 2014-2017	£359	£359
Cost of producing learning materials	RF14-202.350	07/08/2014	Ancestry.co.uk	Membership subscription 2014-2017	£695	£695
Cost of producing learning materials	RF14-129	16/12/2014	National Archives	BMD certificates - various 2014-2017 War diaries	£222	£222
Cost of producing learning materials	RF14-346	21/12/2015	MoD soldiers records	Soldiers service record	£30	£30
Cost of producing learning materials	RF14-24.274.275.322 .70.162.264	06/09/2014	Toner Giant	Printing, Paper and inks and toner	£179	£179
Publicity And promotion	RF14-147	01/08/2014	Thame Gazette	Advertisement	£200	£200
Cost of producing learning materials	RF14-264.210.121.26 0.71	30/09/2014	Abbotts Office solutions / Transpack / Rymans	Zip wallets and dispay books rexel files	£421	£421
Cost of producing learning materials	RF14-276.140.180	22/04/2015	Oxfordshire archives	Photo licence	£39	£39
Cost of producing learning materials	RF14-370.398.23	08/12/2014	Abe Books / Amazon	Guidebooks	£37	£37
Publicity And promotion	RF14-62.69.78.46	01/08/2014	Khaki Devils	WW1 uniform and equipment	£353	£353
Publicity And promotion	RF14-28.77.101	01/08/2014	Various	Parts for Map display	£99	£99
Publicity And promotion	RF14-14.001.	01/08/2014	Thame town council	Printing A4 posters	£80	£80
Publicity And promotion	RF14-128	01/08/2014	Marcella Warner	Publicity and advice leaflets design	£171	£171
Publicity And promotion	RF14-135	01/08/2014	Printmeit.com	Print 1000 advice leaflets and 2 x banners	£147	£147
Publicity And promotion	RF14-137	01/08/2014	Whitesprint	Print 5000 leaflets	£287	£287
Publicity And promotion	RF14-16.100	09/06/2016	Simonetta Giori	Re-design publicity leaflet	£50	£50
Publicity And promotion	RF14-16.126	25/06/2016	Printmeit.com	printing publicty leaflet	£180	£180
Publicity And promotion	RF14-14.170	07/08/2014	POD Exhibitions	Display panels	£428	£428
Publicity And promotion	Rf14-14.171	08/08/2014	Bade Newby	Vinyl Car stickers	£256	£256
Publicity And promotion	RF14-14.273	07/10/2014	Apex Europe	Chocolate Poppies	£469	£469
Publicity And promotion	RF14-14.256	27/09/2014	Patsy Baker	Celebration Cake	£70	£70
Publicity And promotion	RF14-14.114	01/08/2014	MBC Badge Co	Lapel badges	£345	£345

Cost heading	Invoice reference	Invoice date	Name of supplier	Description of services or goods	Total of invoice	Total cost claiming
Publicity And promotion	RF14-15.36	24/04/2015	MBC Badge Co	Lapel badges	£482	£482
Publicity And promotion	RF14-14.117	01/08/2014	Vit Media	Production of publicity video and DVDs	£1,550	£1,550
Celebrating your project's achievements	RF14.16	01/07/2016	Vit Media	Production of celebration video (budget cost)	£2,250	£2,250
Publicity And promotion	RF14-14.122	01/08/2014	Ridgway Pub Co	Props for video production	£51	£51
Publicity And promotion	RF14-14.172	08/08/2014	Moonlite Productions	Electricity supply at Thame Show	£72	£72
Publicity And promotion	RF14-14.173	08/08/2014	Thame show	Site Booking at Thame Show	£96	£96
Publicity And promotion	RF14-14.204	27/08/2014	Moonlite Productions	Electricity supply at Thame Food festival	£90	£90
Travel For volunteers	RF14-14.415	11/02/2015	P&O	Ferry Tickets (Recce Trip)	£52	£52
Travel For volunteers	RF14-15.31	22/04/2015	Berkshire Van hire	Minibus hire for Recce Trip	£641	£641
Travel For volunteers	RF14-15.32	22/04/2015	Esso	Fuel for Recce Trip	£111	£111
Travel For volunteers	RF14-15.396.188	21/01/2015	Tickets Anywhere	Battlefield tour travel	£3,397	£3,397
Travel For volunteers	RF14-15.339	17/12/2015	3B hire	Minibus Hire visit to Poppy factory & cross delivery Kingston	£109	£109
Travel For volunteers	RF14-15.379	01/03/2016	Esso	Fuel for visit to Poppy factory & cross delivery Kingston	£33	£33
Travel For volunteers	RF14-15.399	16/03/2015	P&O	Ferry booking	£117	£117
Travel For volunteers	RF14-16.20.88	08/05/2016	3B hire	Hire of mini bus for recce trip and insurance	£498	£498
Travel For volunteers	RF14-16.77.89	26/05/2016	Esso/Shell	Fuel for Recce trip	£109	£109
Equipment And materials	RF14-14.001	01/08/2014	Bade Newby design via Thame Town Council	Manufacture and supply of crosses	£260	£260
Equipment And materials	RF14.-14.002	01/08/2014	Royal British Legion	Supply of wreaths	£351	£351
Publicity And promotion	RF14-14.003	01/08/2014	Thame Town Council	Launch event	£787	£787
Digital outputs	RF14-14.129	01/08/2014	Pentangle	Website design and hosting	£2,500	£2,500
Community events	RF14-16.130	01/07/2016	Thame Players	Hire of Theatre (donation)	£250	£250
Celebrating your project's achievements	RF14-17.001	11/11/2018	Thame Barns Centre	Commemoration of the completion of the project	£1,500	£1,500
Celebrating your project's achievements	RF14-15.001	01/12/2018	Daal publishing	Production costs for a bound album of deliveries	£1,500	£1,500
Totals					£22,809	£22,809

If you have spent your grant on different things from what was agreed at the start of your project, you must explain why and how this has allowed you to achieve your aims. Please also provide details of any contact you had with us to agree any changes.

Evaluation and records

Photographs

Please send us photographs recording your project. In attaching any files or images you are agreeing that they are free of copyright constraints. Files can be attached at the end of the form.

- a) We have included photographs of the progress of our project
- b) We have included a record of activities or events that we arranged
- ✓ c) Material from our project is available on the internet

Website address:

www.thameremembers.org

Funding Acknowledgement and Public Relations

Please describe the nature and location of your acknowledgement. Please confirm whether this is temporary or permanent, and include reference to any marketing, press releases and other public relations activities:

Acknowledgement of HLF funding was included on our publicity leaflet and on our introductory video. It was also included in the battlefield tour literature and with other publicity and delivery material supplied to all volunteers who delivered our crosses. The HLF logo features prominently on the home page of our website and HLF funding was referred to specifically in the first of the BBC Battlefield tour articles

Evaluation

In your application we asked you to think about the outcomes you thought your project would achieve. Thinking back to this now, what do you think it *did* achieve? In this box we'd like you to write a brief anecdote or story about the project, and tell us which outcome, or outcomes, you think it demonstrates your project achieved.

The Thame Remembers project was originally conceived in early 2014 as a means of marking the centenary of WW1 and honouring the men from our small Oxfordshire market town of Thame who had given their lives in conflict – not only during 1914/18 but in all conflicts from the Boer War to the present day. The project launch was set to coincide with the centenary of the outbreak of WW1 but, inevitably, some preparatory work was required in the meantime. Principally this involved gathering together the names of the 189 men from Thame who are remembered in the town, including our two war memorials and another five honour boards in churches and at Lord Williams's School. Secondly we secured the necessary funding to support the project, with grants from Oxfordshire County Council, Thame Town Council, and the Heritage Lottery Fund, plus a smaller donation from a local historical research group that helped to provide seed funding for expenditure necessitated prior to the official launch. This enabled us to produce promotional leaflets and set up the launch event itself.

The aims of the project were defined as 'To commemorate the centenary of World War One by researching all the names on Thame War Memorials, for all conflicts, to discover more about their lives. To identify the location of their grave or memorial and place a "Thame Remembers" cross on each resting place; wherever in the world that may be'.

The challenge was therefore that people from Thame, all volunteers, should visit graves and memorials in 23 countries, across four continents, to commemorate 189 men from the town (now 213) who had made the ultimate sacrifice in conflict. The Heritage Lottery Fund made it a condition that during the period of funding the project should undertake 'at least 50 visits' to WW1 graves and memorials.

From the outset it was always hoped that the project would put us in touch with living family members of some of Thame's casualties, but we also made a point that we would not intrude into people's lives but instead hope for them to make contact with us. There are many examples where this has occurred, whether local people talking to us at our many events, contacts made through our website, those who have seen the TV features, and email contact from as far afield as New Zealand.

Names which come immediately to mind are Howland, Line, Chowns, Bowdery, Roberts, Phillips, Beard, Quainton, Castle, Thomlinson, Wells, Brown, Crook, and Howes, and wherever possible it is the family members themselves who have delivered the crosses, two of these being featured in the BBC coverage. These family contacts have also been a rich source of extra material, including photographs towards our research archive.

The project has been, and continues to be an education to all those involved but, in particular, we have been able to play a part in making young people aware of the great conflicts and the part played by local men. We have already mentioned the involvement of young people at the launch event and the presentations that we have given to seven year group school assemblies, and we have maintained a close relationship with the school and, in particular, their head of the history faculty. Other examples would include :

Cross deliveries carried out on family vacations, with children and young adults taking part (example in newsletter 21)

The Head Teacher, Head Boy and Head Girl of the school delivering a cross to the grave of an ex-pupil (see delivery report 'H E Jones')

A school trip to Normandy in 2015 delivering two Thame Remembers crosses as part of their itinerary (see delivery reports 'R J Boiling' and 'L Hodges')

A primary school student (age 9) who used Thame Remembers as the inspiration for a school project..

Our Battlefield Tour in Oct/Nov 2015 took forty people from Thame for four nights in France and Belgium, taking in all of the main memorials (Menin Gate, Tyne Cot, Vimy Ridge, Thiepval, etc) as well as visits to the preserved trenches at Beaumont Hamel, Lochnagar Crater, and visits to a number of cemeteries where members of the party placed crosses at the graves of men from Thame. The BBC features provide excellent coverage of the tour, and it is further described in our Newsletter issue 15. We plan a further tour in May 1917, taking in a few more locations including Hoog and the Wellington Tunnels at Arras, and some from the first tour have already signed up to come along again.

The project Steering Group have also undertaken two separate reconnaissance tours in May 2014 and May 2015 in order to enhance our knowledge, explore destinations, and generally ensure the smooth running of the Battlefield Tours, as well as delivering crosses to a few locations that would not be accessible by coach. Closer to home we have taken members of the community on visits to the WW2 Command Bunker at Uxbridge and to the Poppy Factory at Kingston-on-Thames.

In all of these cases project funding has only been used towards the travel costs, with people covering all their hotel, subsistence, and other expenses from their own pockets.

Community engagement is evidenced throughout this report, on our website, and through our newsletters. We are pleased to record here our appreciation for the many ways in which the local community, both individuals and groups, have supported this project and responded to the challenge. We never doubted that they would. The project has been, and continues to be, a huge task for the few people steering it to success but we have been rewarded beyond expectation, have ourselves grown with the experience, and feel that it has been a more than worthy venture that continues to give.

The end of the HLF funding period does not mark the end of the project. We have set ourselves the duration of the centenary of WW1 (4 August 2014 to 11 November 2018) to fulfill our objective and some of the future highlights that we are currently working towards include :

Our next Battlefield Tour in 2017

To dive at least one, and possibly more, of the shipwrecks in which men from Thame perished. The diver who has volunteered is a Thame resident and any such dives will be carried out with all necessary MoD permissions relating to ocean war graves. BBC South have already expressed their desire to cover this when it happens.

To arrange for a large contingent from the local community to Edward Brooks Barracks at Abingdon to commemorate six men from Thame named on the Boer War Memorial.

A party (minibus or possibly coachload) from Thame to attend the delivery of a wreath commemorating nine men named on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial. It is hoped that this will also involve personnel from the local naval base, local dignitaries, and possibly a military band and / or bugler. Again, BBC South have expressed their interest.

lastly but not least, the end of the project in November 2018 will be marked with a major event in Thame to which all those involved in the project in any way will be invited and their achievements shared and recognised.

That will then leave two tasks – to publish the story of the project, and to ensure the addition of the new names to Thame's War Memorial.