

## The Last Post Gallipoli – Final Report

June 2015



*Ballwater Community Action Group, Northern Ireland*

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## Overview

The Last Post in 2015 took place from the 20<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> April to mark the Centenary of the start of the Battle of Gallipoli.

The aim this year was to:

- Encourage more intergenerational and schools led events to take place.
- Engage communities in Turkish cultural activities such as the playing of *Cannakale Turkusu*.
- Distribute resources which would be more suitable for schools, families and young people.

Superact’s network of Regional Managers worked from mid-January to April to recruit community groups across England and Northern Ireland to hold free community commemorative events from the 20<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> April.

Community groups were provided with a free resource pack containing songs from the era, archive materials and ideas for events. Regional Managers also supported community groups and volunteers with the planning of their events as 21% of volunteers had never organised an event like this before.

## Headline figures

2014	2015
<b>Total number of events</b>	
238	84
<b>Total number of participants</b>	
40,250 Average of 175 per event	10,248 Average of 122 per event
<b>Total number of volunteers</b>	
2,530 Average of 11 volunteers per event	756 Average of 9 volunteers per event
<b>Total number of performers per event</b>	
5,520 Average of 24 performers per event	1,260 Average of 15 performers per event
<b>Total volunteer hours donated</b>	
8,400 Average of 30 hours donated per event	2,772 hours Average of 33 hours donated per event

# Volunteer Survey Responses

## Participating organisations:

Schools: 14	Age UK/ Older people groups: 2
Music groups: 15	History groups: 6
Military organisations: 7	Disability organisations: 5
Sports clubs: 2	Friends of cemeteries groups: 3
Libraries: 2	Brownies/ Scouts/ Youth Groups: 3
Community Organisations: 15	Churches/ faith groups: 6
Families: 1	Councils/ Local Authorities: 3

## Geographical spread of events

South England	Central England	North England	Northern Ireland	Wales	Scotland
28	15	17	18	3	3

40% of events took place in the morning, 33% in the afternoon and 27% in the evening through the week of the 20<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> April.

## Participants Age Ranges

0-18 25%	18-25 18%
20 – 65 30%	60+ 27%

## Music

Range of instruments played the Last Post including the didgeridoo, piano, flute, voice, drum, violin, synthesiser and Uilleann pipes.

21% of events played the Last Post on the traditional bugle.

69% of events performed songs from the First World War era.

## Resources

79% of participants used the 2015 Resource Pack and 69% rated the resource pack as 'very good'.

87% of participants found the resources useful – some comments for improvements included: more songs & poems, loose leaf option, more bookmarks (up from 63% in 2014)

## Engagement

21% had never organised a heritage event before (down from 48% in 2014).

54% of events were new and planned especially because of the Last Post project.

92% said that they learnt something new about their First World War heritage at a Last Post event.

100% of respondents said that events had provided their community with an opportunity to learn about their local history.

60% of organisers felt that they had enough funding to organise their events. 30% raised money from other sources including donations, support in kind, HLF and local authorities.

100% of participants want to take part again in the future (up from 97% in 2014)

60% cited the main being of being part of the project as being part of a national network, followed by 25% citing funding as the main benefit and 15% citing resources and support.



*Children and young people,  
families, schools*

**LAST POST**  
*Gallipoli*

## Comments from volunteers

*The national nature was crucial and I capitalised on this with my links via the local community and with Whitehall where a letter from Major Greenwood was read to students on the day. Most of Harwich Town Council along with staff, governors, friends & parents.*

**All Saints Primary School, Dovercourt**

*It was great and we've had so many comments from our clients about how much they enjoyed it, that I am organising a follow-up event in a few weeks time. People will be galvanised to bring along any documents/photos they have and I will get another singer that I know to come along and participate.*

**Age UK Islington**

*This project helps us to create a different atmosphere to traditional, perhaps more formal remembrance services and helps us to engage with a wider range of people from across the community.*

*When the young flautist played on Friday it sent shivers down my spine. To hear the Last Post on a different instrument with such a delicate sound was incredible. The young lady had downloaded it from the website in order to learn it.*

*I'm sure the men and women of WW1 would be so pleased that we are remembering them 100 years on in a manner that embraces life and helps people to open their minds and raise aspirations*

*I have been inundated with complimentary messages from people about the event. We were delighted to welcome two children who attended cricket training for the first time on 27th April as a direct result of having attended the event on Saturday. I was overwhelmed by the support and enthusiasm shown by so many individuals and organisations. I learned a lot from my first experience of the Last Post last November and I felt that this event benefited hugely as a result.*

**Gosport Borough Cricket Club**

*It was a very humble and moving event which left us with more knowledge about the First World War. Before this event, many of the people involved had never heard about Gallipoli which makes you think how many people throughout the world had never either. More must be done to educate future generations. These events must never be forgotten.*

**Phoenix Cultural Centre, Slough**

*Excellent event which provided the opportunity for local people to come together and learn about the Gallipoli Campaign and its effect in a local context. Events such as these are*

*helping to bring the local community together and provide opportunities for social interaction that wouldn't normally happen.*

**Hillstown Rural Community Group, Northern Ireland**

*This project resulted in a number of relatives of Pte Morrow attending or being represented at the event to honour him. These relatives had never met each other before and we have facilitated this reunion.*

**Newmills Cultural Group, Northern Ireland**

*Nobody knew about the Australians in Pimlico it had been forgotten. It was also incredible that their WW1 PM was a local boy who attended one of our participant schools. He went from complete poverty to being one of the signatories of the peace treaty that ended the war.*

**Westminster Community Reminiscence and Archive Group**

*This was a marvellous event for the school which is a bit isolated from the rest of Bristol. They have not done anything like this before and is helped them to remember that they are part of the rest of Bristol and the world. I think being part of a national event is very important for children, particularly those who don't travel further than their street or school.*

**Preludes Project, Bristol Ensemble**

*For British Serbs the event provided an opportunity to explore and celebrate the close relationship between the two countries in WW1 and to learn much more about the significant role that women played, not only on the front line, but also in medical centres nursing wounded soldiers and fighting the typhus epidemic. The event provided an opportunity to draw attention to this forgotten history of WW1.*

**Serbian Orthodox Church of Saint Sava, London**

## Intergenerational Case Studies

**Ballywater Northern Ireland** - Ballywalter seniors, P5 pupils from Ballywalter Primary School participated in a five session project leading up to the commemoration event on the 20th April. The sessions covered an introduction to the project, researching a fallen soldier from Ballywalter, what life was like during the Wars, presenting the findings of the research and the final session was a commemoration event with music, dance and refreshments concluding with the playing of the Last Post.

**Brandon Carrside Youth Centre, Durham** - Intergenerational activities involving young people from the Brandon Carrside Youth Project and members of the local British Legion Club which culminated in the performance of the Last Post with participants (older and younger) taking part in a community based commemorative event.

**Roundabout Cafe Gosport, Hampshire** - Local school children played the Last Post to remember local men who fought at Gallipoli. They created displays from Pompey Pals, the RN Museum and work created by local residents in the lead up to the event.

**Stanhope Community Centre, Durham** – A coffee morning was held where young people from the community sang, held a quiz and showed a DVD about Gallipoli to older members of the community. They also prepared some First World War food and researched the lives of local men who fought at Gallipoli.

**Gateway North East & Houghton Centre for the Blind** - Themed boccia and games night run by young people and included refreshments, games and arts and crafts. The young people presented a short film about Gallipoli to older members of the community

**Pleasley Colliery Welfare Band** - held a concert to celebrate Last Post Project with input from Anthony Bek Community School, KS1, KS2, KS3. Art work and poetry from the school displayed at the concert.

**Bank Lease Oasis Academy Bristol** - Year 3 and 4 sang songs from WW1 to parents, the wider community and rest of school.

**Kimichi School, Birmingham** - presented an evening of music, poetry, food and drink for all the community to join in. School decorated as though it were WW1, and children dressed up in period clothing

**Southbrook School, Exeter**- Held an extended assembly looking at the short life of Lance Corporal Jubb who lived locally and died aged 23 in 1915. They used the experience of 2 pupils and 2 teachers who have just returned from a Battlefields study trip to bring home the message to the pupils. Following the assembly they laid a wreath in our commemorative garden and were joined by members of the local community.

**Sutton Veny CE Primary School, Warminster** - As part of their longstanding ANZAC link the school holds an annual ANZAC service. Parents, guests and Australian and New Zealand

army personnel attend, and each child from the school places a posy on a war grave. It is a 97 year tradition, that the children make posies and families bake ANZAC biscuits.

**Rockcliffe Community Association, Whitley Bay** - The event consisted of 1914 music, dancing and craft. Prior to the event community members were given red wool and a knitting pattern to knit remembrance poppies, one for each of the fallen from our local area. A display of the Gallipoli materials was made and a 1914 themed Afternoon Tea was served featuring hits of 1914. Local community members attended and the local school glee choir performed their medley of WWI songs.

**St Michael & All Angels Vestry, London** - Concert in conjunction with the Brent Museum and Archives exhibition at Brent Civic Centre exploring the lives of five Brent residents and to remember the contributions of Charles Garforth, Edith Knight, Charles Bowen, Mabel Comben and Charles Pinkham to the First World War. Small exhibition of these five local residents presented by local children and young people alongside a performance of Canakkale Turkusu.

**The Atkinson, Southport** - Event to mark the end of a wider intergenerational project bringing together local Age Concern service users and local school children to learn about the effects of World War 1 in Sefton. The Atkinson's museum collections and the library archives provided rich learning resources for the project. The final event was a public performance of WW1 music (including the Last Post) performed by both older and younger local residents at The Atkinson.

**Ystradgynlais Public Band, Swansea** - Partnered with Ysgol Maesydderwen to put on their Last Post event. Members of the training band performed music from the 'Last Post' songbook, while Ysgol Maesydderwen pupils' research on Gallipoli was also presented.

**Ormiston Maritime Academy, Grimsby** - Invited the local older community to the academy so as to remember those who have lost their lives in World War 1. Their event included bingo, sing song, presentation from the battlefield students as well as a drama piece with poems and songs from the war.

**Grey Abbey Primary School, Northern Ireland** - The Monday Club pensioners group were invited by P5-7 in Grey Abbey PS to share stories about relatives who fought at Gallipoli. They looked at some artefacts - periscope, gas masks, Gallipoli Death Plaque, pictures etc., sang 'Pack up your Troubles' and listened to the Last Post played on the bugle while remembering local soldiers who died at Gallipoli.

## Gosport Borough Cricket Club Case Study

*150 participants, 40 volunteers & 16 performers*

We played the Last Post to remember and the Alverstoke Junior School choir sang a variety of WW1 songs. We laid posies around the cricket stumps to remember Gosport men, Hampshire cricketers and the Anzacs. We had a display of photos and information from Bay House school Gallipoli project; displays of info about Hampshire cricketers and cricket in WW1;



information about poetry from Gallipoli and Rupert Brooke; info about the Anzacs and Anzac Day; film from the Bay House project and the Australian cricket team's trip to Gallipoli in 2001; displays and artefacts including the old Hampshire cricket memorial board, photos and cap belonging to RWF Jesson, military equipment, trench art and a chair made by a local charity supporting ex-servicemen to commemorate WW1. Bay House School pupils baked lots of Anzac biscuits and we provided teas and coffees for visitors. The Mayor of Gosport attended the event.

Through our research we discovered that one of our 1<sup>st</sup> team players was related to one of the Gosport men who died on the very first day of the campaign. He was unaware of it until a week or so before the event and so he was delighted to find out. This added an extra meaning to the day. He was able to lay a posy to remember his relative. This also helped the local school who had put out a request for info on the men which had met with little success prior to our event so they were also delighted to find out more and meet the family at the event. We also learned so much more about Gallipoli and the input of Hampshire cricketers. Lots of people said they knew very little about Gallipoli prior to the event and they found it very interesting.

## Final reflections

The team have been very pleased with the quality and range of events delivered in 2015 to mark the centenary of Gallipoli. We saw improvements in the rating of our resources provided, and a wider range of organisations taking part. More intergenerational events took place as hoped and from a diverse range of cultural organisations, both of which are areas we would like to build upon from 2016 onwards.

The whole team found recruitment in 2015 more challenging than in 2014. This was due to a number of factors:

- Short lead in time, particularly hard for engaging with schools who require more notice
- 2015 was not a high interest 'First World War' moment. Therefore, despite holding events around the Anniversary of Gallipoli we found there was less appetite for commemorative events in April
- Many existing organisers were planning events for VE Day
- April not seen as a traditional time for remembrance

In the future we would look to continue to hold events in November, the main period for remembrance but still theme the resources and events around key events such as the Somme, anniversary of the establishment of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and Armistice.