



Middlewich and the Great War Centenary

Teacher's pack



Middlewich and the Great War 2014 - 2018

Information pack for teachers

Contained in this pack are examples of research or topic ideas for class sessions based on Middlewich in the Great War. The pack contents include information on Middlewich itself during the Great War and signposts for further research.



Contents:

- **Middlewich Information 1914 -1918 –**

One page per year to illustrate the Great War as it progressed giving us a clear timeline of events both abroad and at home. Designed as a newspaper, each year contains snippets of a wide range of resources.

- **1909 VAD 'Voluntary Aid Detachment' Scheme – British Red Cross**

- **Auxiliary Hospitals during WWI – British Red Cross**

- **British Red Cross activities during the First World War**

- **Agriculture and Horticulture in the Great War**

- **Middlewich and the Great War – Food supplies**

- **Recipes – How to cook during the Great War**

Written by Mrs Wilkinson from 1889 onwards – very little chance of recipe books being printed let alone afforded, generally women wrote down their own recipes passed down the generations or given by friends. (Donation from Allan Earl)

- **Local Industry contributes to the War effort**

Industry played a vital role, in our area ICI was one of the most revolutionary in terms of experimental weaponry and scientific advancement, not just of warfare but discoveries which shaped our world as we know it today.

- **Salt, River and Canal industries during the Great War**

- **The Traditions of Industry Queens after WWI**

- **Lord Kitchener**

- **Great War Recruitment Posters**

- **Great War Gallery – Community Photographs**

This section shows the community collection of family pictures from the Great War as part of the Middlewich Reflects programme. Includes portraits, family documents or mementos, with home notices for fund raising and photographs from the Middlewich Royal British Legion at Ypes, Belgium.

- **Christmas Poems for Middlewich Boys 1918** – booklet produced by the MUDC, written by C F Lawrence to raise funds for the war effort and comfort for the men fighting. – (kept at Chester Record Office)
- **Great War Medals.**
Illustration of the types of medals awarded to the Middlewich Men, in this case H Healey.
- **Great War documents Inc. Postcards and newspaper cuttings.**
- **Tributes for King and Country**
- **Opening of the war memorials**
- **Middlewich War Memorials** – There are 6 memorials in Middlewich, the Bull Ring, ICI's cenotaph on Brooks Lane, Memorial in St Michael and All Angels, Memorial at Ansa Cledford, St Mary's, King Street and in the Council School (Middlewich High School).
- **Middlewich at the time of the Great War**
Example pictures from Middlewich, around the turn of the century, Wheelock Street dated around 1905-1915 – **Town Postcards** were a popular form of communication between families, especially of town scenes. Examples via Middlewich Heritage Trust archives and Allan Earl.
- **Great War – Geoff Page, honouring the fallen**
Project: To seek out the final resting place of every Middlewich man who fell in the Great War, to mark each grave with a poppy of behalf of the Middlewich community.

Useful contacts and resources

Kerry Kirwan, Heritage Development Officer for Middlewich Town Council and Middlewich Heritage Trust.

Co-ordinator of the Middlewich Great War Project. Tel: 01606 833434

Email heritage@middlewich.org.uk

(The person above is also on the steering group of Cheshire East WW1 Commemoration Programme, so is the contact for Cheshire East partners involved in various WW1 events through the area. Middlewich Town Council is also joined in partnership to Imperial War Museum North)

Updates of the project will be placed on www.middlewich-heritage.org.uk

Link: www.middlewich-heritage.org.uk/great-war-2/

This link takes you straight to our Great War pages which we are updating as part of this project, you can see the archival material we hold and watch a film we made called '**Affected by War: The people of Middlewich**'. The film asks people who have been through war to ask what it means to them and how war has changed since the Great War. 25 mins running time.

Online resources and teaching services/information

Chester Record Office

www.archives.cheshire.gov.uk

Imperial War Museum

www.iwm.org.uk

Chester Military Museum

www.cheshiremilitarymuseum.co.uk

BBC

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/worldwarone/teacher

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

www.cwgc.org.uk

Recommended books from Cheshire East Reflects team:

- Stories of the First World War by Jim Eldridge
- The little hen and the great war by Jennifer Beck and Robyn Belton.
- Where the poppies now grow by Hilary Robinson and Martin Impey.

There are plenty of websites going up with WW1 material but perhaps the BBC and IWM are best because these will link into the TV and Radio programmes which get to a wider audience. IWM has received a large amount of funding to deliver a WW1 project out to schools and the community; they have produced some exhibition material for community events which we can make use of in schools. We signed up as a partner to IWM so we can access more materials and can work with individual schools on resources, visits and helping towards a Middlewich Archive which will be deposited with IWM (and at Middlewich) after the events we run in the Town.

There are a number of opportunities for schools, from a local community point of view we can include schools in:

- The development of the Middlewich Roll of Honour: We can hold show and tell sessions with classes, and get the pupils involved with writing poems and creating artworks that could potentially be included in the Roll of Honour booklet. This includes looking at the key points of the Great War working with Imperial War Museum, Cheshire East Reflects, and local resources to reflect how the war impacted on Middlewich and its people.
 - Schools are invited to write something that can be performed at the remembrance itself or create a special wreath on behalf of the school.
 - Putting on a small exhibition at the Royal British Legion for the Remembrance Day itself; we hope that schools can contribute a selection of work to go on display.
 - Involvement with the Remembrance garden to be opened in July 2019, producing artwork that can be embedded, a poem that can be carved, help to create a sculpture etc. (Cledford are looking to produce some pottery work that can be embedded for example)
 - Or maybe you've planned what you want and just need a 'specialist' of some description to come into class, I'd be happy to help with this if funding allows.
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- I can arrange for members of the Middlewich Trust, Heritage Society and Middlewich Royal British Legion to come into schools to help with the local history side of things. I am finalising a session plan at the moment of a 1 hour session with each group, free to schools.
 - Chester Military Museum has a fantastic display and excellent education service suitable for primary schools, comes complete with a WW1 trench that children can walk through.
 - IWM North at Salford is more fitting for an older pupil age group from my point of view but will worth taking groups around because they have unique ways of displaying information and looking at various aspects of the era and conflict so ideas can be gained from a visit

There are a lot of opportunities here for schools to work with professionals, gain unique skills, be able to work with the community as a whole and experience what it is like to have work on display and be able to communicate about how this feels and what they have learned.

I understand the pressures within the school on timetabling and that the Great War is not a primary subject and that's why I'm willing to meet up with each individual school on a regular basis to help with sessions however big or small and work out the best way forward.

For any advice or information please contact Kerry Kirwan in the first instance.