

BERE 14-18

A small group of people representing some of the village organisations met recently to start to plan how Bere Regis might commemorate the 100th anniversary of the First World War.

Our sketchy outline presently includes the following ideas, in which we particularly hope our children will be involved:

- A Pop In Performers concert in June 2014 of WW1 and 2 songs and music
- A Village Vigil and ringing of muffled bells on 4th August 2014 (the anniversary of the declaration of war)
- An exhibition of photos and artefacts from the period
- Planting poppy seeds (Scouts)
- Creating a sensory/reflective garden possibly on Souls Moor or at the Cemetery over the four year period, with a formal opening in 2018
- Local expert led Battlefield Tour or Tours perhaps in 2016
- A series of lectures in the village by Military Historians on key battles in which the Dorset battalions were involved
- Research into the 100 or more men from the Parish who enlisted in WW1 (perhaps an opportunity for those who would like to learn how to carry out research on-line)
- Opening the Drax Hall as a WW1 tearoom, as it was during that period
- An opportunity to see the sixth bell in the Parish Church, which was hung in 1920 to commemorate WW1

Our next meeting will be held in the Drax Hall appropriately on Monday 11th November at 7pm. All village organisations are very welcome to send a representative, armed with ideas for participation, and any individuals who have ideas or who are willing to help will also be most welcome.

In the meantime we would welcome any feedback and ideas. In due course, in order to gauge the feasibility of the Battlefield Tour idea, we will be asking for 'Expressions of Interest'.

Ian Ventham