

PRESS RELEASE

JANUARY 2014 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Calne Music and Arts Festival
Announces the Launch of
Calne War Memorial Project

We are looking for relatives of those who fought in First World War to share their memories and stories with the young people in Calne.

With the centenary of the First World War in 2014 there is a need, and opportunity, for young people in Calne to connect with this part of their fading local heritage. The Calne War Memorial Project aims to bring back to life the names on our treasured War Memorial. With training in Oral History, pupils from The John Bentley School, St Mary's School and Springfield's Academy will research names on the memorial and discover who they were in the context of Calne 100 years ago, what happened to them in the Great War and the effect their loss had on Calne during the last 100 years.

The project will be based on gathering information about local men and women from the Calne area who were involved in the war. This will include visiting the War Memorial in Calne and researching the names of people inscribed on it and interviewing their relatives. Having collected this information between February and May, pupils will then be working with a team of Bath Philharmonic's professional musicians from 'Music-in-Action' to turn this information into a musical presentation which will be performed on 12th June at St Mary's Church, Calne.

The memories recorded at the time of research will be archived at the Calne Heritage Centre and the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre. A filmed recording of the performance will also be archived and made accessible at the centres as well as being uploaded online.

The project is supported by Calne Music and Arts Festival with a generous grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Other partners include: The John Bentley School, St Mary's School and Springfield's Academy, and Sue Boddington from the Calne Heritage Centre.

We are looking for relatives of those who fought in First World War who are willing to share their memories or stories with the young people in Calne. Anyone interested should contact Simon Parker (music@cmf.org.uk) or visit the Festival's website (www.cmaf.org.uk).



Notes to Editors

Calne Music and Arts Festival (CMAF) is a community celebration of music and the arts, which takes place during a ten-day period at the beginning of October each year. It is very much a local Festival; performers and artists normally have a close connection with the town or surrounding region. The Festival aims not only to provide entertainment for the people of Calne and surrounding villages, but also to promote local musical and artistic talent and nurture an element of education in the arts. The Festival was inaugurated in 1974 and has grown substantially over the years, and maintains high standards while reaching a wide cross section of the community. The 2011 Festival included over 35 events including 250 artworks in the Festival Exhibition, a 200 strong mass schools choir and a healthy response to both the poetry and photographic competitions. However, the organising Committee are always looking for new participants, both amateur and professional, and would welcome any suggestions for events that could be included in future years.

Enquiries about the release: Simon Parker (music advisor)

Website: www.CMAF.org.uk

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