**Voices of the Great War – a project of the Millthorpe – Mount – PMG Partnership**

**The different voices**

Each group will research the lives of the people given to them, in particular their experience relevant to war and WW1. They will present on their theme:

* Character monologues/dialogues that will be performed in costume on location in York on the Sunday morning.
* Leaflets to hand out to passers-by explaining what is going on.
* A short write up of their thoughts and how the project has developed for them for the FB page

(not everyone has to dress-up and act. Some people may want to be the commentary on a character monologue. Or they could have two people – a costumed dialogue. Some people may be the leaflet developers for their group etc)

**1: Fighting voices – to be performed at the military museum side of Clifford’s Tower**

What is a fighting voice? Patriotic? Militaristic? Tone? Propaganda in WW1 - iwonder BBC guide to it at: http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/zq8c7ty

*Characters prepped by York:*

Rudyard Kipling: esp in 1914-15 before Jack dies http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01wsblh

Flora Sandes – British woman want to be a soldier so goes to fight for Serbia as they have women in combat. Motivations? <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/britain_wwone/women_combatants_01.shtml>

*Characters prepped by PMG:*

OHL (Hindenburg, Ludendorff), Wilhelm II

Think: how do fighting voices speak out? (propaganda, poetry, songs, actions…)

**2: Discomforting voices – to be performed in the Castle Museum/Clifford’s Tower area**

Discomforting voices because they are see the world differently and/or show costs of war.

Intro: and <http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/zxw42hv> is an iWonder guide plastic surgery in WW1. Cyril Pearce’s work on conscientious objectors in UK and Ingrid Sharp’s work on war resisters in Germany. iWonder guide on censorship http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/zs9bwmn

*Characters prepped by York:*

Norman Eric Wallace: <http://gilliesarchives.org.uk/pcofweek.htm> (scroll down) (or Australian example). Idea: student in costume is Wallace before and then another is his surgeon?

Siegfried Sassoon: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/sassoon_siegfried.shtml> – Idea: character monologue reading and explaining his protest and what happened to him.

Arthur Gardiner: A socialist CO whose tribunal is recreated on this film clip. Idea: two students in character could be Arthur Gardiner and the leader of the tribunal.

*Characters prepped by PMG:*

Rosa Luxemburg (1871 – 1919) and Karl Liebknecht (1871 – 1919), founder of the Spartacist League and the Communist Party of Germany, were murdered in 1919, politicians, literati and pacifists / Clara Zetkin (1857 – 1933), German Marxist theorist, activist and advocate for women’s rights, along with Luxemburg and Liebknecht she rejected the SPD’s policy of Burgfrieden (a truce with the government, promising to refrain from any strikes during the war), Zetkin organized the first International Women’s Day in 1911, because of her anti-war opinions she was arrested several times during World War 1

Think: what sort of voices were discomforting and why? (Fear, total war, need to build hatred and unity, independent mindedness unwelcome)

**3: Peaceful voices – to be performed in the lane outside the Quaker Meeting House**

Peaceful voices because they worked for peace in wartime.

Intro: What is a peaceful voice?

*Characters prepped by York:*

Arnold Rowntree: MP for York who was a Quaker, anti-war and helped to set up the FAU. <http://www.yorkpress.co.uk/indepth/ww1/news/10796116.A_question_of_conscience/>

Sylvia Pankhurst: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sylvia_Pankhurst>

Idea: two monologues on the theme.

*Characters prepped by PMG:*

Bertha-von-Suttner (1843 – 1914), Austrian novelist and pacifist and first woman to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, known for her “Lay Down Your Arms!” (1889) = probably processed her experiences during the Russo-Turkish War of 1877/78 / 2014 is her 100th anniversary of death / Lida Gustava Heymann (1868 – 1943), friend of Anita Augspurg, German feminist, pacifist and women’s rights activist, was in the forfront of the Verband Fortschrittlicher Frauenvereine (Association of Women’s Groups) and attended The Hague Congress from April – May 1915 at which she and others discussed proposals to end the First World War

Think: how many peaceful voices were there? Why were the peaceful? What sort of voices were peaceful? How loud were their voices then? How loud are they now? What were the costs of being a peaceful voice?

**4: Silenced voices – to perform on the steps of the North Eastern Railway memorial**

Voices silenced by death.

Intro: the number of dead <http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsbeat/28612972> has facts and figures.

*Characters prepped by York:*

Edith Cavell – <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/0/ww1/25405397>. Idea: a student in character could be Edith in costume on the eve of her execution in her cell reflecting on her life, her decisions, her reasoning, her emotions. Another student as non-costumed narrator could pick up how Edith’s death has been viewed since.

Mary Carter - <http://yorkandthegreatwar.com/York-Munitions-Workers-Memorial> Idea: a student costumed as Mary talks of her life, her hopes and then suddenly she drops her head and another student as narrator steps forward to tell the story of the munitions factory explosion that killed her.

Arthur Boldison – Bishopthorpe Road, York man and employee of the North Eastern Railway – killed on Somme in July 1916 when a shell landed on the trench. <http://yorkandthegreatwar.com/Casualty-Roll-of-Honour-Introduction> Idea: similar to the above – 2 students.

*Characters prepped by PMG:*

Georg Trakl (1887 – 1914), Austrian poet and important expressionist, was medical official and died of an overdose cocaine (suffered from depressions) / or August Stramm (1874 – 1915), German poet and playwright (expressionist), killed in action in Horodec (Republic of Belarus today) in 1915 his grave is in Berlin (Südwestfriedhof Stahnsdorf) - *silenced soldiers*

Think: How and why were they silenced? What does the silencing of them represent? (death of creativity? Compassion? As well as one of millions of precious human lives??)

**5: Reflective voices – to be performed in The Minster area**

What is a voice that responds to WW1? <http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/z38rq6f> - on how poetry might have distorted out views

*Characters prepped by York:*

Wilfred Owen – the war poet <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/0/ww1/25407948>. Idea: student in costume reads 2 or 3 key poems, and a narrator sets the scene re how his reflections changed.

Vera Brittain – Testament of Youth http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/zptgq6f

*Characters prepped by PMG:*

Hermann Hesse (1877 – 1962), German poet, novelist and painter, “O Friends, Not These Tones” (1914), published in the Neue Züricher Zeitung on November 3, 1914 / Erich Maria Remarque

(1898 – 1970), German author and pacifist after his war experiences at the Western Front, best-known for “All Quiet on the Western Front”

Think: how do they respond to their experience of ‘Great War’?

**Hopefully PMG get to ‘Die Gefährten’ (Warhorse) at the theatre in Berlin – it’s really worth it! We hope to get to a local production of ‘Regeneration’.**

**York Programme**

**19th Sept – voices in society**

* Welcome and intros
* Who gets a voice in society? What makes a voice powerful? Which voices get remembered? Which voices are heard today? (mixed groups with poster paper) (log-ons to Makewav.es) - Stimulus material leading to a discussion and huge brainstorm to be written up as a blog.

(Stimulus material: 1) women’s voices: summary of Mary Beard’s views on women’s pubic voice, story of Theroigne de Mericourt from ‘Citizens’, Brontes writing as men, quotes from Wollstonecraft; 2) forgotten voices: peasants’ revolt = great revolt and not peasants, figures on literacy, King John and church relations, slave rebellions vs Wilberforce myth; 3) re-emerging voices – since 60s women, minorities, focus on social history, oral history, democratisation etc; 4) prophetic voices: modernist architect in Vienna Loos – regarded later, Norman Angell; 5) powerful voices: politicians, wealthy, propaganda, status, power)

* Brief Project intro: Voices of the Great War. Different categories both general themes and with specific examples. Produce dramatic tableaux for performance in York City Centre on Sunday AM 23rd November.

*Blog post on today’s discussion and respond to PMG’s post on: “Heroes and anti-heroes of 2014 – Who is heard in society and why? Do we need powerful voices/role models to be heard in society? - My personal view on it.”*

**26th Sept – getting inside a character and setting up the groups (Ruth to prep)**

* York Art Gallery pic of the farewell at the railway station. Students to freeze frame a character
* Small groups with some source material
* Repeat freeze frame now have more historical context
* Introduction of different voices and division into groups
* Start research and thinking before next week

**3rd October – research time**

* Research work on people and topics in sub-groups

*Blog: who is the voice we are researching?*

**10th Oct – research time and thinking about how we will present**

* Research work again and starting to frame our ideas

*Blog: what does our person’s voice say about the theme?*

17th Oct and 7th Nov – writing to write our scripts with more research more sub-group time

* Writing, discussing, preparing some ideas for drama and leaflets to handout – **WHAT COSTUMES DO WE WANT TO ORDER? (PMG too – what need?)**

*Blog: why is our person’s voice worth listening to?*

14th Nov – rehearsal and tweaking

**Together:**

**20th Nov** – meet PMG at 17:55 and to host families

**21st Nov**

AM – PMG in Millthorpe in morning lessons

Lunch – at The Mount

PM – whole group to the Castle Museum 1914-18 exhibition (with a meet the curator session?) and then some York time.

Eve – with host families (someone host a party?)

**22nd Nov**

Day **-** Perform to each other, decide how to produce the whole thing. Write ‘filler’ bits to make it hang together. Finish and print leaflets for handing out to passers-by. Write a piece of the Facebook page about your group’s voice and what you have learnt, what you are doing – ie informative and reflective. Final rehearsal and costume check.

Eve – pizza or shared meal at school (budget?)

**23rd Nov**

AM – perform on location in York. (If really, really wet plan?)

Lunch at The Mount

PMG leave by coach for Manchester airport