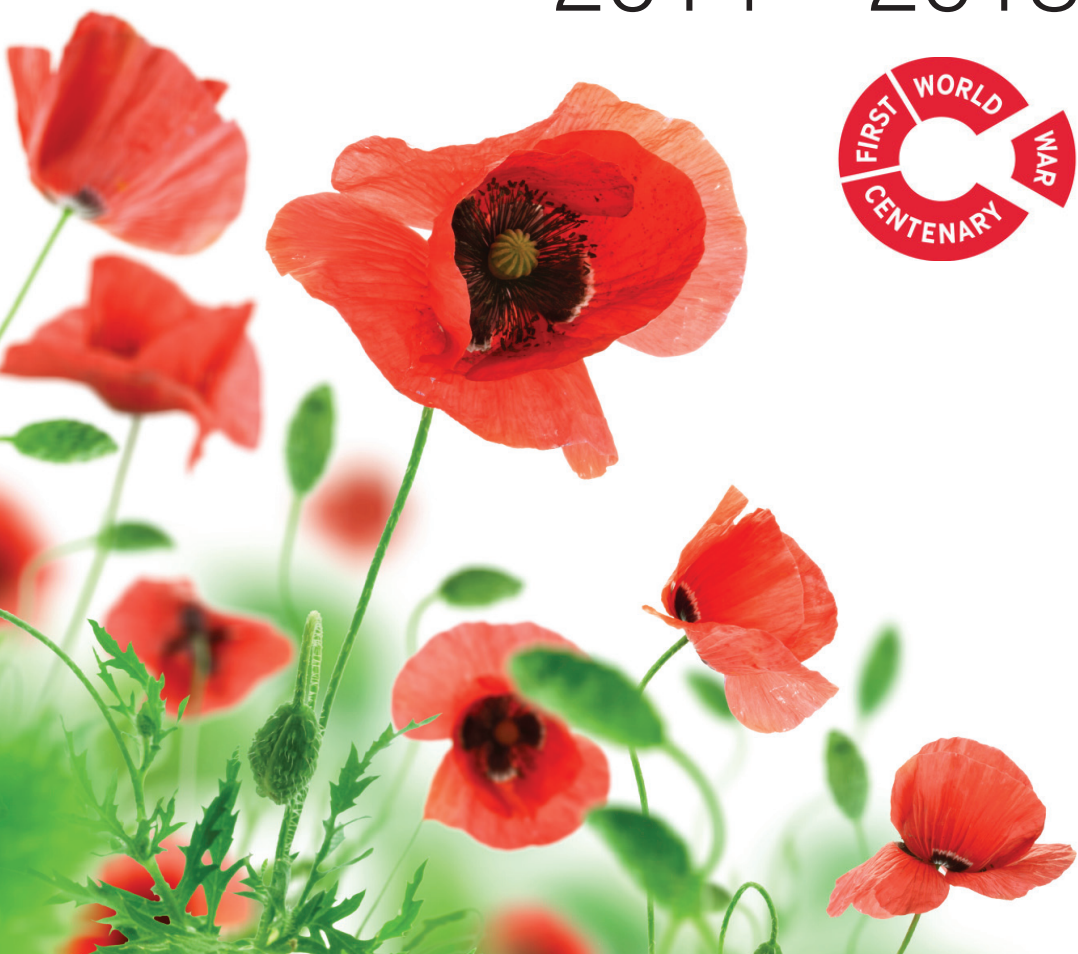


First World War Centenary

2014 – 2018



Welcome

2014 will mark 100 years since the start of the First World War. It is only fitting that Tameside has an appropriate programme of events and exhibitions which reflect the borough and its military heritage.

The programme is broad and hopefully will provide something for everyone from arts engagement projects including the Tameside Big Poppy Plant, to a 12 mile poppy walk and a range of exhibitions.

There are also opportunities for people to trace their military history in our local studies library or to meet serving personnel face to face as we celebrate Armed Forces Day and learn about the past at the ever popular Discovery Day in August.

There will also be a comprehensive commemoration package available to schools and community groups which will enable our young people to discover more about Tameside's heritage and gain a limited edition Arts Award qualification in the process. We are delighted to be extending our partnership working in this Centenary year with the National Theatre, Oldham Coliseum, Imperial War Museum, The Ministry of Defence and The Lowry to name just a few.

Our local links will also be key as we partner with the Royal British Legion on a variety of key projects and we further develop the work of the Armed Forces Community Covenant in Tameside.

We look forward to seeing many of you over the course of the programme.



Museum of the Manchester Regiment

Open: Tuesday to Friday, 10am - 4pm, Saturday 10am - 1pm.

Closed Sunday and Monday. Free Admission

The Museum tells the story of generations of Manchester Regiment soldiers through 200 years of service from 1756 until 1958. The museum tells their unique stories through the objects they left behind. There are thousands of objects on display in the museum; including uniforms, equipment and weaponry, to the souvenirs they collected and medals they won all over the world. The Museum of the Manchester Regiment is located within Ashton-under-Lyne's impressive Victorian Town Hall.

Exhibition: Men behind the Medals

Until 7 June 2014

The museum holds hundreds of medals spanning two centuries. As part of a major research project, this exhibition looks at some of the stories of the men behind them.

Talk: Men behind the Medals

Thursday 1 May 2014

Hear more about some of the men whose medals are on display in the Museum of the Manchester Regiment in this talk by project researcher Ian Hudson. 12noon - 12.30pm Free.

Exhibition: The Manchesters Go To War

12 June – 13 December 2014

Find out how soldiers were recruited and the role the Manchester Regiment played in the early days of the First World War.

Drop-in: Meet Tommy Atkins

Every Wednesday 11am-3pm during school holidays throughout the year

Meet Tommy Atkins, our First World War soldier. Discover what he wore, what he ate and what equipment he carried.

**Tommy Atkins,
our First World War soldier.**



Portland Basin Museum

Opening times: Tues-Sun, 10am-4pm (Oct-June)

Tues-Sun, 10am-5pm (July-Sept)

Closed Monday except bank holidays. Free Admission

Portland Basin Museum is housed within the restored 19th century Ashton Canal Warehouse in Ashton-under-Lyne. The museum combines a lively modern interior with a peaceful canal side setting. It is an exciting family friendly museum, with something for all. Enjoy our temporary exhibition, and step back in time on our 1920s old street, as the sights and sounds of bygone Tameside are brought to life. Take a look into our kitchen and parlour to find out how we used to live. Visitors can explore the area's industrial heritage and discover what life was like down the mines, or on the farm. Find out more about local crafts and industries and marvel at our historic machines. Younger children will love our 'Nuts and Bolts' educational play area, suitable for children under 5.



Exhibition: Tameside's War

27 June 2014 – February 2015

As soldiers headed off to war, life changed for those left behind. This exhibition looks at the effects the First World War had on people's lives.

Exhibition: Ashton Grammar School Memorial

27 June 2014 – February 2015

Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Ashton Grammar School memorial has been conserved and is on public display for the first time. Based on research undertaken by Cheshire Family History Society, this display interprets the stories behind the names on this local memorial to fallen soldiers.

Performance: Pack Up Your Troubles

Thursday 3 July 2014 performances starting at 2.30pm and 7pm

The true stories of the families of soldiers from Ashton Grammar School who lost their lives during the First World War are told in the promenade theatre performance around the sets of Portland Basin Museum. Starring Performing Arts students from Ashton Sixth Form College, written and produced by 2 Boards and A Passion Theatre Company and funded by Heritage Lottery Fund.

1914-1918 Street

Tuesday 1 July onwards

We have reinterpreted our 1920s Street to chart the changes that local people went through as the First World War progressed.

Drop-in: Meet Tommy Atkins

Tuesday 5 August 11am-3pm

Tommy commemorates 100 years since the outbreak of the First World War in this special drop-in event at Portland Basin Museum.

Talk: The Home Front in the First World War

Friday 7 November

Mr Tim Lynch explores the impact of the war at home in this 40 minute free talk. No need to book.

Central Art Gallery Exhibition

Conflict and Consequence

20 March – 5 July 2014

Working with students from Ashton Sixth Form College this exhibition explores themes of conflict throughout the twentieth century.

Local Studies and Archives



General Military Resources

The local studies and archives centre has many resources to help you research First World War soldiers. We have free access to Ancestry and FindMyPast which contain many service records. If a soldier came from the Tameside area, you can use our collection of local newspapers to search for reports about their service and obituaries for fallen men. We also hold a good selection on reference books for the First World War. Please telephone us on **0161 342 4242** to book a computer or a microfilm reader.

Manchester Regiment Archives

The Manchester Regiment Archive is one of the largest collections held on deposit at Tameside Local Studies and Archives Centre. A catalogue of all the records is available online at **localstudies.tameside.gov.uk/calmview/**. Please note that the archive does not contain a complete series of service records for soldiers and officers, nor does it contain a complete series of war diaries. Researchers are advised to use **Ancestry.com** to access service records, and to contact the National Archives for a complete set of war diaries, see **www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/war-diaries-ww1.htm**. The archive includes a large number of photographs, many of which can be accessed online at **www.manchester-regiment.org.uk**.

Family History Using Military Sources

The Military Helpdesk is held on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month 10am - 12noon. We can help start your research or help with problems such as identifying regiments. Appointments are 30 minutes and booking is essential - telephone us on **0161 342 4242**.

GM1914

Archive and local studies services across Greater Manchester have been posting stories on a special blog at **gm1914.wordpress.com**. Stories from Tameside have included the Ashton Munitions Explosion and Elizabeth Hannah Kenyon and the Dukinfield Needlework Guild. Take a look and find out about the First World War in your area.

More information about researching your military family history can be found at **www.tameside.gov.uk/archives/familyhistory/military**



National Initiatives

During this commemorative year we will be contributing to the national initiatives for the centenary. Links to the websites are provided below.

The First World War Centenary Partnership

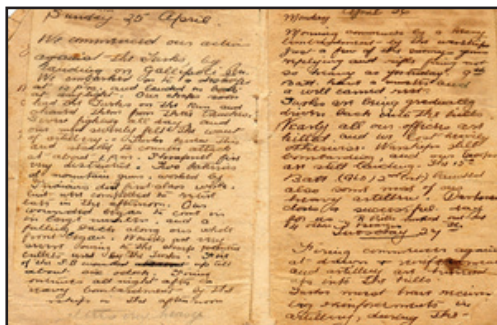
A network of over 2,000 local, regional, national and international, cultural and educational organisations. Led by the Imperial War Museums (IWM), the partnership will present a vibrant programme which will enable millions of people across the world to discover more about life in the First World War. Provides a wealth of expertise and resources. You will also find many local events promoted through a centenary calendar on www.1914.org

Share your family's First World War legacy

The Lives of the First World War site is an innovative, interactive platform that will bring together material from museums, libraries, archives and families from across the world in one place. You can upload your own family images and mementos to help build a digital memorial showcasing the stories of more than eight million men and women. These will be accessible to everyone and saved for future generations. www.livesofthefirstworldwar.org

1.5 Million Pages of Unit War Diaries Digitised

The National Archives has made thousands of digitised First World War unit war diaries from France and Flanders available online. They have digitised around 1.5 million pages so far, and will be releasing them throughout the year.



Diary of Gallipoli: entry for 25th April 1915.

This first batch of unit war diaries reveals the real-time account of the first three cavalry and the first seven infantry divisions which were part of the first wave of British troops deployed in France and Flanders, with just over 300,000 pages in total. www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/first-world-war

An online blog on how the First World War changed lives across Britain.



Back in Britain tumblr

Our Back in Britain Tumblr uses snapshots of memories, people and events to shine a light on the legacy of the First World War.

These unique stories highlight how the First World War changed the culture of Britain and its legacy today. <http://backinbritainww1.tumblr.com>

How do I get involved?

Tameside Big Poppy Plant

Cultural services are inviting schools, community groups and residents to join in Tameside's Big Poppy Plant, a project to commemorate the centenary of the start the First World War by growing poppies.

During March and April it is hoped that seeds will be sown in gardens, school grounds, community beds and waste ground in all corners of the borough to produce a striking and spectacular scarlet display by the time the 100th anniversary of Britain's entry into the conflict occurred on August 4. Packets of seed can be requested by calling **0161 342 4144** or by emailing **events@tameside.gov.uk**

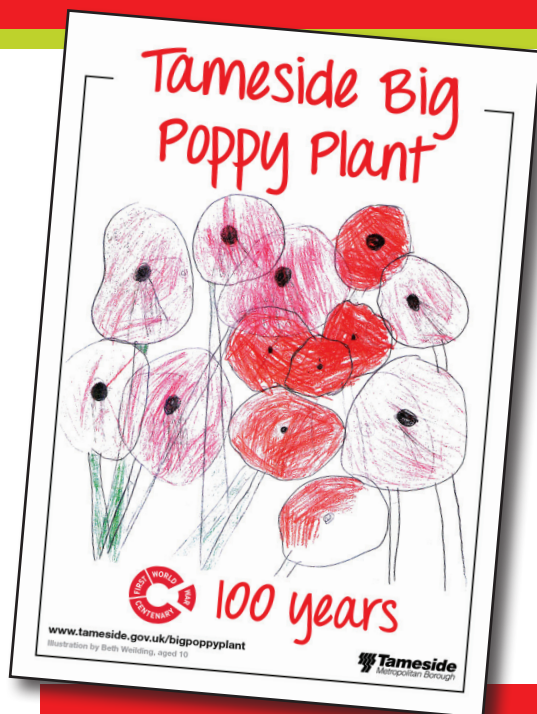
The commemorative seed packet was designed by Beth Weilding (age10) as part of a borough-wide design competition. There is also a plan to create a digital legacy. People growing poppies are encouraged to e-mail images of their flowers in full bloom to **events@tameside.gov.uk** Images will be incorporated into the digital legacy and may be used for marketing and promotional purposes.

Tulip Sunday

On Sunday 27 April at Stamford Park the cultural services department will be visiting the annual Tulip Sunday event in partnership with the Royal British Legion and will be painting a corner of Stamford Park red with a pop-up poppy field. Come and join in making a variety of crafty poppies creating a striking display by the end of the event. Tulip Sunday is an event with lots of activities for the whole family to enjoy.

Poetry Competition

During centenary year the service will be accepting entries for the Centenary Poetry Competition. Entries should be the individuals own work and arrive at cultural services no later than November 30th there will be two categories under 16 and 16 and over. Entries will be used for marketing and project support purposes on the council website and on social media. The winners will be announced in mid December and will receive a £25 book token.



Do you have a centenary story to tell?

As part of our centenary programme we are hoping to record a series of radio shorts. These can be short narratives about a family heirloom, perhaps a First World War diary or a story of how the First World War affected someone you know and their or your own family. The 'shorts' will be broadcast and be used to support the centenary project in the borough.

Are you a Tameside Veteran?

Are you or do you know a Tameside veteran of any conflict? Then the cultural services team would like to hear from you. There are a number of exciting projects planned for the next few years which will provide a range of opportunities for veterans who were born in or reside in Tameside, including supported trips to Imperial War Museum North, The Museum of The Manchester Regiment, The National Theatre's production of War Horse and some projects with schools in the borough.

Armed Forces Day 2014

On Armed Forces Day, 30 June 2012, Tameside formally cemented its relationship with Britain's service personnel. Councillor Gerald P. Cooney, Executive Member for Learning and Achievement for Tameside and Lt. Col. Richard Jordan, commanding officer of 103rd Regiment, Royal Artillery, signed the Armed Forces Community Covenant on behalf of the council and residents.

Tameside Council has a long and historic relationship with the Armed Forces. The signing of the Armed Forces Community Covenant Pledge formalises this commitment and demonstrates that the council will take an active approach in developing services and improving access arrangements to local services.

By the left, quick, knit

TAMESIDE Council's cultural services team are looking for people to help them celebrate Armed Forces Day by covering a tree in knitted or crocheted poppies.

Poppies need to be red with a black centre. For anyone needing some inspiration a pattern can be downloaded from www.tameside.gov.uk/culture or make up your own. You can post or hand in your poppies to Central Art Gallery, Old Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 7SG, before 14 June 2014. They will form part of an art installation in Victoria Park, Denton, when the borough celebrates Armed Forces Day on June 28. **URL for download of patterns**

A community covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local armed forces community. It is intended to complement the Armed Forces Covenant, which outlines the moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces.

To learn more about the Armed Forces Community Covenant visit:

www.tameside.gov.uk/armedforcescovenant

To find out more about how Tameside supports military personnel leaving service visit:

www.tameside.gov.uk/armedforces



HYDE FESTIVAL THEATRE COMPANY
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH TAMESIDE COUNCIL CULTURAL SERVICES



Too old. Too thin. Can't see. Can't hear. Can't run. Can fight a bit.

BANTAMIS

by Rob Johnston

Inspired by the stories of Tameside's soldiers

30 SEPTEMBER - 4 OCTOBER

7.30PM AT HYDE FESTIVAL THEATRE

Corporation Street, Hyde, SK14 1AB

**MATINEE PERFORMANCES AT 2.30PM
WEDNESDAY 1 & SATURDAY 4 OCTOBER**

BOOK ONLINE: WWW.HYDEFESTIVALTHEATRE.ORG.UK

BOOK BY PHONE: 0844 804 2634

www.tameside.gov.uk/museumsgalleries/mom

The Big Draw

Join the cultural services team at one of Tameside's most iconic war memorials at the top of Werneth Low as the borough takes part in the National Big Draw event on Saturday 11 October to commemorate the Centenary. Bring along your watercolours, charcoal or pencil crayons and capture the stunning countryside, or join in a range of poppy themed craft activities.

Silent Night Theatre in The Quarter at the Festival Theatre Hyde on Wednesday 5 November 7.30pm

This entertaining and moving play with music tells of the amazing events leading up to the Christmas truce which took place in the trenches in the Great War. The play has at its heart the stories of Cheshire folk and its told using well know songs from the era.

'It's the evening of 24th December on the Western Front wet and freezing men face each other in stalemate then voices are heard across no man's land... the sound of singing breaks the 'Silent Night'



Band Visit

On Friday 21 November 2014 Tameside are hoping to welcome the RAF Band to the borough, at time of going to press with the centenary leaflet we are unable to confirm this event due to Ministry Of Defence guidelines, but hope to be in a position to announce this very soon.



Tameside Council Cultural Services presents

Ashton Brass Band and Mossley Band in The Tameside Concert of Remembrance

at the Festival Theatre, Corporation Street, Hyde on Saturday 8 November at 7.30pm. Tickets £5



The concert programme is to include a range of military music for brass bands, including a range of local soloists and a spectacular rousing finale.



Discovery Day

On August 6 2014, Tameside will be hosting a Discovery Day with a difference. Held annually this event centres around the fabulous collections held at the Museum of The Manchester Regiment.

For 2014 Tameside Cultural Services will be welcoming Regiment 103 of the Royal Artillery, 103 Regt. is a close knit and thriving regiment training on and deploying some of the Army's most advanced Artillery systems. They regularly exercise overseas as well as playing a full part in operations, with soldiers having served in Iraq, Afghanistan, Cyprus and the Balkans over recent years. However they do more than just military training with members enjoying a range of social, sporting and adventurous training opportunities.

The regiment based in the North West of England and are a force to be reckoned with. For this year only they will be coming to Tameside for Discovery Day for a challenge with a difference. Through a series of physical challenges the regiment will challenge senior council staff in aid of Tameside4Good.



Arts Award

One of the roles undertaken by cultural services is to champion cultural education in the borough which includes schools and a wide range of community settings. This includes the strategic development of Tameside's Arts Award programme, which is a nationally accredited qualification programme for culture and the arts. Most recently, Tameside has been identified as the leading local authority for ground breaking work in this area within the North West region.

By the end of spring the borough will have over 100 Arts Award advisors. Additionally all of the borough's cultural venues have joined the extensive network of Arts Award Supporter organisations and the service has been developing a wide range of bespoke materials to support pupils to learn about their cultural heritage. So far the programme has recently involved over a hundred children from Tameside visiting the highly acclaimed National Theatre production of War Horse, over four hundred children visiting the Private Peaceful production and an arts engagement project marking the Centenary "Denton Remembers".

Additionally the team have been developing the resource "A Local Hero" which is an Arts Award log enabling children and young people to find out more about their military heritage to gain their first step on the Arts Award journey with a limited edition Centenary certificate. If your group would be interested in finding out more about this scheme then please ring arts and engagement on **0161 342 4144** or email **events@tameside.gov.uk**



Events 2014

May

Thursday 1

Men Behind the Medals

Hear more from Ian Hudson about some of the men whose medals are on display in the Museum of the Manchester Regiment. Free, no need to book. **12noon. The Museum of the Manchester Regiment.**

Wednesday 14

Tameside History Club, Family History Workshop

Getting started with your family tree? Book a free place on our workshop which will provide a basic introduction to resources and techniques. 0161 342 4242. **2pm. Local Studies and Archives Centre.**

June

Tuesday 3

Walk Back in Time

A gentle two mile ramble around Werneth Low visiting its sites of historical interest. **7.30pm. Lower Higham Visitor Centre. 2 hours**

Saturday 28

Armed Forces Day

'Honouring Britain's Armed Forces, Past, Present and Future'. Activities and entertainment throughout the afternoon for all. **1pm – 4pm. Victoria Park. Victoria Street, Denton. M34 2AA**

Sunday 29

Service of Remembrance

Join Hyde War Memorial Trust's Peace Day Service of Remembrance. The 95th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Versailles. Service followed afterwards by a short service of prayers and wreath laying will follow at the memorial garden near to the visitors centre. **3.00pm Service. Cenotaph on Werneth Low**

Meet Tommy Atkins: First World War Soldier

Wednesday 28 May • Wednesday 4 & 30 June • Tuesday 5 August • Wednesday 13, 20 & 27 August • Wednesday 29 October
Have you ever wondered what a soldier wore, what he ate, how he lived, fought and died in the 'Great War for Civilisation'? **11am – 3pm. The Museum of the Manchester Regiment**



July

Thursday 3

Pack Up Your Troubles

The true stories of the families of soldiers from Ashton Grammar School who lost their lives during the First World War are told in the promenade theatre performance around the sets of Portland Basin Museum. Starring Performing Arts students from Ashton Sixth Form College, written and produced by 2 Boards and A Passion Theatre Company and funded by Heritage Lottery Fund. **2.30pm and 7pm. Portland Basin Museum.**

Sunday 20

Tameside Festival Chorus presents...

'For the Fallen': The Tameside Festival Chorus sings Elgar 'The Spirit of England' and Walford Davies 'A Short Requiem', with Lois Murray (soprano), accompanied by Jeffrey Makinson (Manchester Cathedral sub-organist) and conducted by John Miles. Also Parry 'Blest Pair of Sirens'. Tickets £10. Ring 01457 763701 for more information. **7.30pm. Albion URC Church, Ashton-u-Lyne.**

Sunday 27

WW1 Poppy Walk

Visit the war memorials of Werneth Low, Stalybridge and Ashton on a 12 mile walk along canals, tracks and bridleways. **10am. Portland Basin car park, Portland Place, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL7 0QA. 6 hours**

August

Sunday 3

Service of Reflection

A Service of Reflection will be held at the Cenotaph followed by a short service at the Memorial Garden near to the visitors centre. **12noon. Cenotaph on Werneth Low**

Wednesday 6

Discovery Day

Fun for the whole family with soldiers past and present around to talk to. **11am – 3pm. The Museum of the Manchester Regiment**

September

Tuesday 30 – Saturday 4 October

Bantams

Inspired by the stories of Tameside's soldiers, a moving play by Rob Johnston. Various dates and times. **Hyde Festival Theatre, Corporation Street, Hyde, SK14 1AB.**



October

Saturday 11

The Big Draw

National Big Draw event to commemorate the Centenary. Join in a range of poppy themed craft activities. **12 noon. Werneth Low.**

Wednesday 15

Tameside History Club, Tracing First World War Soldiers

Want to find out more about your ancestor who served with the forces? Free workshop for tips and techniques for military research. Book on 0161 342 4242. **2pm. Local Studies and Archives Centre.**

November

Wednesday 5

Silent Night

This moving play with music tells of the amazing events leading up to the Christmas truce which took place in the trenches in the Great War. **7.30pm. Theatre in The Quarter at the Festival Theatre, Hyde**

Saturday 8

Ashton Brass Band and Mossley Band in The Tameside Concert of Remembrance

The concert programme is to include a range of military music for brass bands, including a range of local soloists and a spectacular rousing finale. **7.30pm. Festival Theatre, Corporation Street, Hyde. Tickets £5**

Exhibitions

Until 7 June 2014

The Men behind the Medals

The museum holds hundreds of medals spanning two centuries. This exhibition looks at some of the stories of the men behind them. **Museum of the Manchester Regiment**

12 June – 13 December 2014

The Manchesters Go To War

Find out what role some of the soldiers in the Manchester Regiment did as war broke out. **Museum of the Manchester Regiment**

27 June 2014 – February 2015

Tameside's War

As soldiers headed off to war, life changed for those left behind. This exhibition looks how the First World War changed people's lives. **Portland Basin Museum.**

27 June 2014 – February 2015

Ashton Grammar School Memorial

This display interprets the stories behind the names on this local memorial to fallen soldiers. **Portland Basin Museum.**

Tuesday 1 July onwards

1914-1918 Street

We have reinterpreted our 1920s Street to chart the changes that local people went through as the First World War progressed. **Portland Basin Museum.**

20 March – 5 July 2014

Conflict and Consequence

Students from Ashton Sixth Form College have explored the consequences of war and conflict in this timely exhibition to coincide with Centenary of World War One. **Central Art Gallery.**