

Embargoed until Monday 14 October at 9.00am

Heritage Lottery Fund awards £9400 to the Goodnight George Project led by Theatre Producers Alix Jones & Manya Benenson in Key Partnership with Burton Co-operative Learning Trust, to mark First World War Centenary

Today, Theatre Producers Alix Jones & Manya Benenson have received £9,400 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for a project, in collaboration with the National Theatre's production of *WarHorse* entitled Goodnight George, in Burton on Trent. Awarded through HLF's **First World War: then and now** programme, the project will focus on engaging young people and communities to discover local heritage of the First World War. Working with two local primary schools the project will enable children from year 5 to make sense of the impact the war had on the soldiers, families and horses from Burton. Using some of the original letters written by Private George Fearn from Tutbury and exploring themes from the National's Theatre's *WarHorse*, children will discover the role of Burton's famous brewery Shire Horses in the war. The project will enable heritage to become more accessible using theatre workshops to provide opportunities and disseminate learning with the wider community through an interactive sharing event to be staged at the Brewhouse Arts Centre in Burton on Trent on Thursday 20 March 2014.

To mark the Centenary of the First World War, the Goodnight George Project will enable children from schools engaged by the Burton Co-operative Learning Trust; Richard Wakefield Primary School, in Tutbury and Horninglow Primary School, a variety of new experiences and opportunities to learn new skills through a programme of professional theatre workshops and educational visits to the Staffordshire Regiment Museum and the National Brewery Centre. East Staffordshire Borough Council are also supporting the project by offering a public exhibition space at the Brewhouse Arts Centre throughout the whole of March; to display the work created by the children. People can get involved by sharing their First World War stories and memorabilia with the project to preserve the memories and heritage of the people who lived through the First World War. The project has a group of voluntary historians who will collect photographs, newspaper clippings, documents, as well as family tales passed down to help the project build a clear picture of what life was really like and will be included in the exhibition; as well as other volunteering opportunities to participate and support the event.

The Goodnight George Project will hold a special commemorative event at the Brewhouse Arts Centre on Thursday 20 March 2014. A chance for children to showcase their work as a performance and share their achievements with the community. The whole event including the exhibition will be free and ticket information can be found by contacting the Brewhouse Arts

Centre's Box Office. With help from professionals from Project Wired based at the Brewhouse Arts Centre, the information gathered will be digitally recorded and a DVD will be produced of the project. Staffordshire County Council will promote the life of the project through the 'Staffordshire Great War' website. Providing a digital platform for; video, images, blogs and share an online Learning Resource Bank generated by the project.

Commenting on the award, Alix Jones said: "We are thrilled to have received the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund and really looking forward to providing new and exciting opportunities helping children to explore and uncover their own local history and create a unique sharing experience for the community to share."

Reyahn King, Head of Heritage Lottery Fund West Midlands, said: "The impact of the First World War was far reaching, touching and shaping every corner of the UK. The Heritage Lottery Fund has already invested more than £28million in projects – large and small - that are marking this Centenary. Our new small grants programme is enabling even more communities like those involved in the *Goodnight George* project to explore the continuing legacy of this conflict and help local young people in particular to broaden their understanding of how it has shaped our modern world."

ENDS

Notes to editors

- The producers Alix Jones and Manya Benenson will manage, deliver and develop a new and sustainable partnership programme. Their expertises and experience as professional theatre practitioners working for regional and national theatres will create a unique heritage learning experience and produce a shared commemoration event engaging the wider community.
- The Lead Organisation; Burton Co-operative Learning Trust, have engaged two of their primary schools to take part in the project; Richard Wakefield Primary School and Horninglow Primary School a total of 70 KS2 pupils. The Trust will liaise with schools, support educational visits to local heritage sites and provide additional resources.
- A Professional Heritage Research & Development Team comprising of local historians will provide the historical research and methodology, resources and training
- The National Theatre's learning Team have committed their support to underpin the professional resource providing CPD for teachers and educational resources.
- East Staffordshire Borough Council are providing venue hire to stage the event, workshop space, technical and digital support, exhibition space to promote the projects outcomes alongside a digitally enhanced record on the Staffordshire's Great War Website.

- **About Burton Co-operative Learning Trust: The Grantee**

Burton Co-operative Learning Trust consists of eight schools in Burton Upon Trent who have formalised their partnership by becoming a Trust. The Trust is registered with the Charities Commission and our aim is to provide the highest standards of teaching and learning for our pupils and community as well as contributing to community cohesion through a wide and varied menu of activities. Partners of the Trust are Derby University, Burton Albion Community Trust, The de Ferrers Academy and Burton & South Derbyshire College. The opportunity for our Trust to be involved is very exciting as it enables children to learn about their local heritage in an interactive manner engaging with the wider community and supporting them to keep sharing the local stories for generations to come. As a Trust we will support the project by engaging with two of the schools who will take part in the project. In addition our staff and parents will be engaged through the delivery of the programme as well as productions and exhibitions of work. As a Trust we will ensure that each child receives a copy of the Michael Murpurgo text '*War Horse*' and facilitate visits. Our wide network of partners will support the project engaging community members to contribute with their personal stories from WW1.

- **About the Heritage Lottery Fund**

- Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) aims to make a lasting difference for heritage, people and communities across the UK and help build a resilient heritage economy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, we invest in every part of our diverse heritage. HLF has supported over 35,000 projects with more than £5.5bn across the UK. www.hlf.org.uk. **Follow us on twitter @heritagelottery #understandingWW1**

- Through its *First World War: then and now programme*, HLF is making at least £1million available per year for six years until 2019. It will provide grants between £3,000 and £10,000 enabling communities and groups right across the UK to explore, conserve and share their First World War heritage and deepen their understanding of the impact of the conflict.
- To find out how to apply for funding visit www.hlf.org.uk/thenandnow. If a group needs a grant of more than £10,000 for a First World War project, it can apply to HLF through its open programmes www.hlf.org.uk/firstworldwar
- [UK Government Centenary plans](#)
- In June 2013, the Government set out its plans to mark the centenaries of the First World War commencing in 2014. These plans include a £35m refurbishment of the First World War galleries at the Imperial War Museum (IWM); The Government's principal partners in the commemorations will be the Heritage Lottery Fund and the IWM, but will encompass support for a multitude of other initiatives, large and small, as they come together in the months and years to come.

For further information, images and interviews, please contact

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