



- National Association of Flower Art Societies 'Lest We Forget' Flower Commemoration in the Castle
- Gallery of Local Heroes' Exhibition in the Castle
- 'Poppy Tribute' in the Orangery
- Local Schools exhibitions in the Orangery

PROGRAMME

TO HONOUR AND REMEMBER THOSE WHO LIVED, FOUGHT AND DIED IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR.

'LEST WE FORGET'

MARGAM COUNTRY PARK
MARGAM, PORT TALBOT, SA13 2LJ

NOVEMBER 2018

11AM - 4PM

10TH - 18TH



'LEST WE FORGET'



TO HONOUR AND REMEMBER THOSE WHO LIVED, FOUGHT AND DIED IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR.

IN THE CASTLE:

Welcome to the first Margam Castle Flower Festival. Over 100 flower arrangers from across South Wales (Aberystwyth to Caerphilly), all members of NAFAS (National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies), have come together to create 50 spectacular designs linked to the centenary of the end of the First World War - the Great War, the war to end all wars.

To welcome you are our 'Lest We Forget Guides' - on hand to help you make the most of your visit. The descriptions here will also guide you through the displays. The door of the castle is guarded by a Tommy, part of the 'There But Not There' 2018 Armistice Project for the charity 'Remembered'. The beautiful sculpture will be used year after year within the Park to remember the fallen on subsequent Armistice Days.

Castle Entrance Hall

Welcome Flowers - Exhibits 1 & 2

The pedestals positioned by the front door are a taster of the delights inside. Arranged using all red flowers, a colour long associated with Remembrance and Love.

Castle Gardens - Exhibits 3 & 4

The pedestal designs have been created using foliage gathered by Park staff from the Orangery and Castle gardens.

Your Country Needs You - Exhibit 5

Lord Kitchener 'Wants you' is a 1914 advertisement by Alfred Leete which was developed into a recruitment poster. The image of Lord Kitchener, British Secretary of State for War at the time, wearing a cap of a Field Marshall pointing to the viewer and calling them to enlist in the British Army is considered one of the most iconic and enduring images of WW1. The floral design in the entrance hall depicts a 'call-up' scene with the desk, papers and uniforms.

Main Staircase Hall

War Horse - Exhibit 6

During the war, horses were used in many different roles. The Military mainly used horses for the Cavalry and for logistical support - they were better than mechanized vehicles at travelling through deep mud and over rough terrain. Horses were also used for reconnaissance, carrying messages as well as pulling artillery, ambulances and supply wagons. Conditions were severe for horses, many were killed by artillery fire or injured by poison gas. The arrangement alongside the side saddle displayed in the glass cabinet is a memorial to the millions of horses that died during the war.

Welsh version of this programme is available on request.

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Cyflid a godwyd gan Y Loteri Genedlaethol ac a ddwyfarnwyd gan Gronfa Drefadaeth y Loteri



Particular thanks to Blaendulais PS, Ysgol Maes Y Coed, Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera-Bro Dur, Cwmnedd PS, Alderman Davies CIW PS, Central PS, Ynystach PS, Catwg PS, St Joseph's Catholic Infant School, YGG Pontardawe, Rhydlyfro PS

Thank you to all the volunteers, NAFAS, organisations, school children, Park visitors and staff for taking part and making this project so special.

For light snacks and refreshments.
Charlottes Pantry in the Castle Visitor Centre Courtyard

£1.60	BOTTLED WATER
£1.80	SOFT DRINKS
£6.60	POT OF TEA OR COFFEE for 2/3 <i>Cup of Tea, Coffee, Hot Chocolate, Specialty Tea</i>
£2.20	HOT DRINKS <i>Gluten free cake available</i>
60p - £2.20	A SELECTION OF CAKES <i>Served with a wedge of cheese and a bread roll</i>
£7.50	WELSH CAWL
£8.50	VEGETARIAN CAWL
£13.95	ORANGERY HIGH TEA <i>(per person, available all day) PRE BOOKING IS ADVISED</i>

Menu

The Orangery Restaurant
Refreshment Options:

'The Poppy' - Exhibits 7-26

The designs showcase the creativity of modern floral design, each dedicated to the Poppy. It was in Spring of 1915 that Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae, a Canadian doctor, was inspired by the sight of poppies growing in the battle-scarred fields, to write the poem 'In Flanders Fields'. It was after the First World War that the poppy was adopted as the emblem of Remembrance. McCrae's poem inspired an American academic Moina Michael to make and sell red silk poppies. On 9th November 1918, only two days before the Armistice was signed, she was presented with a small gift of money by some of the overseas War Secretaries of the YMCA. She bought 25 red poppies with the money, wore one herself and each Secretary there bought one from her. It is claimed, probably rightly, that this was the first group selling of poppies. The floral displays are surrounded by 400 card poppies that were made in a series of Summer workshops by the Friends of Margam Park and Park visitors. Many have a memorial message and 'thank you' inscribed on the petals.

Hearts - Exhibit 27

The war lasted for some 1566 days. Each flower club in the Three Counties and South Wales Area of NAFAS along with Friends of Margam Castle and Park staff were invited to be part of this festival by making a heart for the festival wall. The target was to create 1566 hearts for display, one heart for each day the war lasted. Also see exhibit 41.

The Dining Room

The Trenches - Exhibit 28

The centre of the dining room depicts 'Life in the trenches'. The trenches were often dirty and flooded. Many of the trenches also had pests - rats, lice, and frogs. Rats were a significant problem, eating soldier's food as well as the actual soldiers while they slept. Lice spread Trench Fever that made the soldiers itch terribly and caused fever, headache, sore muscles, bones, and joints.

Many soldiers living in the trenches suffered from Trench Foot. Rain and bad weather would flood the trenches making them boggy, muddy and extremely uncomfortable. Cold weather was also dangerous; soldiers often lost fingers or toes to frostbite.

Trenches typically had an embankment at the top and a barbed wire fence sometimes reinforced with sandbags and wooden beams. In the trench itself, the bottom was covered with wooden boards called duckboards. These helped to protect soldiers' feet from the water - to try and prevent the dreaded Trench Foot.

War Tools - Exhibit 29

A contemporary wall hanging design depicts the tools used by tunnellers. During WW1, relatively small tunnels were being created by a manual technique known as 'clay-kicking'. Only useful in firm clay soils, the man doing the digging sat with his back supported by a wooden frame - known as the crucifix, with his feet pointing towards the cutting face. With a spade-like tool he dug out the clay, passing the soil over-head to one of his mates for disposal at the rear.

The Smithy/Farrier/Shoeing Smith - Exhibit 30

During the war years the army used horses and mules to move around this was instead of trucks. Blacksmiths, farriers and shoeing smiths were kept busy shoeing the horses and mules. The farrier/shoeing smith's job was primarily to trim hooves and fit shoes to the animals. This combined traditional blacksmith's skills with some veterinarian knowledge. This exhibit depicts the activity of the blacksmith/farrier/shoeing smith.



The Field Hospital - Exhibit 31

Injured and sick soldiers were treated quickly so that they could go back to fighting as soon as possible. Casualty clearing stations were set up in tents close to the battlefields. After initial treatment in the trenches, soldiers would be taken to a clearing station or field hospital either by stretcher bearers, horse and cart and later motorised ambulances. Many women worked as nurses, this was the closest they would get to the front line. Many amputations were carried out in field hospitals.

Gallipoli - Exhibit 32

On the morning of April 25, 1915, one of the most courageous actions ever performed by the British armed forces took place at a beach close to Cape Helles on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey. The gallantry displayed that day led to the famous "Six Before Breakfast" Awards in which 6 Victoria Crosses (VCs) were awarded in recognition of the bravery shown by the 1st Battalion, the Lancashire Fusiliers. The successful capture of "W Beach", however, came at a terrible price, with 700 members of the regiment being killed or wounded. This exhibit creates the atmosphere of those amphibious landings.

Drawing Room

Home Life - Exhibit 33

Lots of recognisable equipment and collectables have been incorporated into this display to create a traditional home and garden scene - typical of a 'war home'. Many children played vital roles on the Home Front. Girls would make basic medical equipment for wounded soldiers, like bandages, swabs, slings and they grew vegetables and delivered milk. Boys collected eggs for injured troops, protected road and railways and delivered messages. They also wrote letters to soldiers and helped to knit socks and scarves for the troops in the winter months. Children were even paid to collect conkers which could be turned into explosives!

Farming - Exhibit 34

Many women worked in agriculture during the war period, they were milkers, field workers, carters, ploughmen and market gardeners. The main aim was to increase food production during the war. This traditional style exhibit uses many of the implements and tools that the farm workers would have used each day.

The Land Army - Exhibit 35

During the First World War many thousands of women were recruited to work full time on the land to help replace the men who had left to fight in the war – they made up one third of all workers on the land. The Women's Land Army covered three main areas of work, agriculture, forage (hay making) and timber cutting. Each of these tasks has been depicted in this traditional style exhibit.

Munitions - Exhibit 36

A contemporary design shows how munitions factories made bullets and shells for guns for the war effort. In 1915, there was a shell crisis and British guns were only allowed to fire 4 shells a day. Lloyd George decided more factories were needed to produce shells. Men worked as labourers building the new factories while women were brought in to work making munitions.

Over 890,000 women – teenagers, wives and mothers joined the two million already working in factories, many taking on jobs once believed to be too strenuous for women. The dangerous chemicals they worked with had severe side effects - TNT caused toxic jaundice and workers were nicknamed 'Canary Girls', as their hair and skin turned yellow. Four out of every five munitions workers were women.

Women's Institute - Exhibit 37

The 'WI' was formed in 1915 to revitalise rural communities and encourage women to become more involved in producing food during the war. By the end of the War, the WI had helped raise Britain's food self-sufficiency from 35% to 60%. The government viewed their contribution as vital and awarded an annual grant of £10,000. The work of the WI has been re-created through flowers in this traditional style exhibit.

Mechanics - Exhibit 38

By 1917 the Army was running short of men - so many had been killed or injured on the front line. The war office identified a number of jobs being carried out by men who could have been in battle. Women volunteered to join the 'Women's Army Auxiliary Corps' and repaired vehicles that had broken down, fixing some on the roadside and also building new ones in factories. A modern floral exhibit depicts the mechanical workings of the WAAC.

Communications - Exhibit 39

On the Western front, flags were often used to communicate between the frontline soldiers and their commanders. The different positions a flag was held in spelled out a different message. Due to their homing ability, speed and altitude, homing pigeons were also used to carry military messengers. The nature of the 1914-1918 conflict meant that electronic communications on the Allied side had to find new ways to operate both on the battlefield and on the Home Front. By the end of the conflict there were thousands of wireless sets, telephony systems and other devices attached to a range of communication channels: cable, wireless and visual.

Aspects of communication have been depicted in this contemporary design.

Clay Poppies - Exhibit 41

School children have been involved in learning about WW1 and this collection of clay poppies has been created as part of an art project by the children of Sandfields Primary School, Port Talbot.

Hearts - Exhibit 41

The war lasted for some 1566 days. Each flower club in the Three Counties and South Wales Area of NAFAS along with Friends of Margam Castle and Park staff were invited to be part of this festival by making a heart for the festival wall. Others who have heard of this commemorative event have also joined in and contributed a heart for the wall. The target has been to display 1566 hearts, one heart for each day the war lasted. See also exhibit 27.

Falling out of the Sky - Exhibit 42

It was right at the very end of the First World War that parachutes were used, this however was as a means of escape from highly explosive hydrogen gas filled observation balloons which were tethered to the ground. A contemporary installation above your heads, depicts parachutes falling from the sky.

The Library

Gallery of Local Heroes

The Neath Port Talbot Libraries service have investigated local connections to the war by appealing for Port Talbot Heroes (photos, names and stories) and producing 'Gallery of Heroes'. Thank you to all who gave their stories. The Gallery of Local Heroes is an exhibition of photographs and stories of people from the locality who contributed to the war effort, some who perished and others who returned home. Included are soldiers, nurses and doctors who served abroad and at home during the conflict. The exhibition has been compiled by the Neath Port Talbot Library & Museum Service with contributions made by the people of Neath Port Talbot.



Knitting for Tommy - Exhibit 43

Conditions in the trenches – the cold, the wet, the mud and the poor hygiene – made trench foot a constant danger. The only real preventative was for each soldier to have in his pack frequent changes of socks. Many civilians at home knitted socks for relatives in the trenches as well as 100,000's of socks for soldiers they didn't know. This design depicts an essential element of the war effort - knitting for Tommy which kept the forces warm.

Rations - Exhibit 44

In 1918 new laws set by the government introduced rationing, a way of sharing food fairly. Sugar, meat, flour, butter, margarine and milk were all rationed so that everyone got what they needed. Each person had special ration cards – even King George and Queen Mary. The cards could only be used in certain shops. The floral exhibit depicts shops of the time.

Suffragettes - Exhibit 45

Suffragettes were members of women's organisations in the late 19th and early 20th century who, under the banner 'Votes for Women', fought for women's rights in public elections. They heckled politicians, tried to storm parliament, were attacked during battles with police, smashed windows, set fire to post boxes and faced ridicule in the media. Famously, they also chained themselves to railings to attract publicity. This contemporary design creates the atmosphere of the work of Emmeline Pankhurst and her supporters.

War Poems - Exhibits 46a - 46d

Four well loved war poems have been depicted using fresh and artificial plant materials.

- **In Flanders Fields:** it is thought that the Canadian John McCrae began writing this poem on the evening of 2 May, 1915, the 2nd week of fighting at Ypres, while sitting on the rear step of an ambulance looking at a friend's grave amongst vivid red poppies in the burial ground.
- **In Memoriam (Eastertime 1915):** this is a short poem of reflection. The presence of flowers in a wood prompt mourning for a richer and happier world, lost forever because of the war. Written by Edward Thomas, a man drawn to nature and found rural life to be a source of deep inspiration.
- **Hedd Wyn (Ellis Evans):** a Welsh language poet, who was killed on the first day of the Battle of Passchendaele. One of 11 children, Hedd Wyn enlisted so that a younger brother would not be conscripted. He was posthumously awarded the Bard's Chair at the 1917 Eisteddfod Genedlaethol.
- **Christmas Truce:** in 1914, around Christmas time, British and German soldiers put down their weapons, came out of their trenches and exchanged gifts and sang carols – ceasing fire to celebrate Christmas. This is now known as the Christmas Truce.

War Songs - Exhibits 47a - 47d

Using suitable materials, four well-known war songs have been depicted in flowers.

- **Keep the Home Fires Burning:** a British patriotic WW1 song, composed in 1914 by Ivor Novello, originally known as 'Till the Boys Come Home'.
- **Daisy Bell:** a popular song, written by Henry Dacre with the well-known chorus 'Daisy, Daisy, Give me your answer do, I'm half crazy all for the love of you'.
- **Pack up your Troubles:** written by Welsh song writer, George Henry Powell and set to music by his brother Felix, this well known marching song was aimed at maintaining morale, recruiting troops and defending Britain's war aims.
- **Roses of Picardy:** a popular British song with lyrics by Frederick Weatherley. It was one of the most famous songs of the First World War and has been recorded frequently up to the present day.

RAF 100 years - Exhibit 48

The red, white and blue colours used to decorate the fireplace depict the centenary celebrations of the RAF. The RAF was formed from the Royal Flying Corps and Royal Naval Air Service. First World War airplanes were made of wood and fabric and were, therefore, exceptionally flammable. In just one month the Royal Flying Corps lost 245 planes, more than 200 pilots and aircrew and at least 100 more were captured and taken as German prisoners of war. The movement created by the weaving of the wool in this contemporary design depicts the many flight paths of WW1 airplane pilots.

War is Over - Exhibit 49

The end of the war was celebrated by the ringing church bells, cheering, waving flags, hanging bunting and by people gathering together in landmark locations. There were processions of soldiers in the streets and many street parties were held across the country. In 1918, street parties were known as 'Peace Teas'. These were very popular and a big treat for children in times of great hardship. This exhibit creates the atmosphere of the celebrations of the time.

At the Going Down of the Sun - Exhibit 50

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old.

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning,

We will remember them.

Laurence Binyon composed his best known poem in mid September 1914, a few weeks after the outbreak of the First World War. Laurence said that the four lines of the fourth stanza came to him first. These words have become especially familiar and famous, having been adopted by the Royal British Legion as an exhortation for ceremonies of Remembrance to commemorate fallen servicemen and women. Laurence being too old to enlist in the military forces worked for the Red Cross as a medical orderly in 1916.

Remembrance - Exhibit 51

To remember...a very striking contemporary exhibit staged by the designers of the Margam Flower Festival.



IN THE ORANGERY: Please allow time to take part in the 'Poppy Tribute' and see the WW1 Exhibitions by local schools.

2018 is also the centenary of the first women getting the right to vote, which followed more than a decade of campaigning and was an indirect result of the huge contribution women made on the Home Front to the war effort. A short exhibition in the Orangery Entrance Hall from the West Glamorgan Archive Service celebrates that episode in history and asks us all whether we can ever stop campaigning for our democratic rights.

IN THE ABBEY: 'Women In World War 1' Exhibition by Cwm Brombil Women's Institute The role of women in World War One has been brought to life in an exhibition at Margam Abbey. It charts the effect of the conflict on the women of Port Talbot with local history, personal stories and pictures.