

HistoryHubUlster



## Post Project Report for Belfast Somme 100

Please contact:

[research@historyhubulster.co.uk](mailto:research@historyhubulster.co.uk)





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## 1. Introduction

The purpose of this evaluation is to look at the success of Somme 100, a programme of commemorative events for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Somme in Belfast. It included events under various genres such as Arts, Community, History, Lectures and Film. The programme looked at the personalities and stories associated with the battle and mark its place in the contemporary social and political history of Northern Ireland and pre-partition Ireland.

The programme aimed to raise awareness of previously overlooked or submerged stories and personal connections that both the Somme and the events of 1916 have had with the broader history and development of Northern Ireland.

### Description of Organisation

History Hub Ulster is a community based organisation. Its aims are:

To promote and produce projects and partnerships which are engaging to all members of the community and to instil a sense of pride in their ancestors achievements.

To act as a facilitator to link members of the community to like-minded historical projects and groups in Ulster.

To act as a signpost for members of the public to find historical groups, societies and projects in their local area.

To put family and communities at the centre of the historical narrative.

To engage with contemporary methods of presenting research using open source methods in the digital arena. While history is often confined within museums and books, the idea is to make our history accessible to all those online and to the Irish diaspora.

To engage the communities of Ulster with their history by pursuing interesting and innovative projects which enhance the individual's understanding of their shared heritage.

To provide expert knowledge, speakers and research using associate partners and members.

To forge partnerships with like-minded organisations and community partners.

## Nature of Organisation

History Hub Ulster was formed in 2014 as an unincorporated organisation.

The group has a management committee consisting of:

Karen O'Rawe, Chair

Faye Rice, Secretary

Gavin Bamford, Treasurer

The management committee are all volunteers who meet on a quarterly basis and as required.

Our bankers are Barclays Bank, Castle Place, Belfast. Our financial year is from 1 April to 31 March. We are not registered for VAT.

## 2. Strategic Context

**The centenary of the Battle of the Somme is a landmark moment for Northern Ireland.** The part played, in particular, by the 36th (Ulster) Division in the Allied attack on the morning of on 1st July 1916 is well-attested and has long been the high point of Northern Ireland's wider memory of the First World War.

The commemoration event held every July 1<sup>st</sup> at the Ulster Memorial Tower near Thiepval in France has ensured that the memory of the Somme remains strong in Northern Ireland's collective memory.

Now in 2016, in the context of the wider Decade of Centenaries, the centenary of the Somme is an especially significant anniversary both within Northern Ireland and more widely across Britain and Ireland.

As Jeffrey Donaldson MP, Chair of NI Centenary Committee has written ***"it was on the narrow ground of battlefields such as the Somme and Messines where the fate of modern day Ireland was determined; the blood sacrifice that bought separation for Ulster and a free state for the rest of the island. This is our shared history, yet its narrative has hitherto divided us."***

### **3. Aims and Objectives**

History Hub Ulster with the input of a specially recruited advisory panel was responsible for the creation of the programme content, with the Project Manager co-ordinating and delivering the programme outputs and providing end of programme evaluation.

#### **Decade of Centenaries Principles**

Start from the historical facts;

Recognise the implications and consequences of what happened; Understand that different perceptions and interpretations exist; and

Show how events and activities can deepen understanding of the period.

All to be seen in the context of an inclusive and accepting society

#### **Project guiding principles**

Reflect the importance of global connections as well as local relevance

Contemporary methods of production

Community based and shared space events

Collaboration

Partnership across the city

Inclusion, access and diversity

#### **Working towards outcomes of Equality, Good Relations and Mutual Understanding**

Dispelling myths and stereotypes

Breaking down prejudices and assumptions

Promote and encourage dialogue within communities and with other communities

Allow participants to learn about others

To enable the development of friendships

Allow for the exploration of shared values

Addressing issues of mutual interest across the City

To create a space which allows the development of mutual understanding

Improving shared spaces and opening up spaces perceived to not be shared

Inspire others

Providing equality of access to all communities

### Targets

To actively engage with a minimum of **12,000 people** from Belfast across the programme.

To ensure a **diverse range of events** across the 7 month programme.

To ensure the programme is **inclusive** with events placed within the 4 corners of Belfast, North, South, East and West as well as the City Centre shared space.

To bring in at least **£7,000 income** from ticket sales.

To **work with at least 20 organisations** across Belfast to produce the programme of events.

To ensure **quality of service** in all aspects of the programme.

To ensure **accessibility in all venues for all communities.**



#### 4. Team

History Hub Ulster was responsible for the creation of the programme content, in partnership with an Advisory Panel to co-ordinate and deliver the programme outputs as listed and provide end of programme evaluation. An Advisory Panel made up of **experts in the period and community leaders** was put in place by Karen O’Rawe and a Project Manager was tendered for and appointed by a representative from the Advisory Panel and History Hub Ulster.

##### **Advisory Panel**

Karen O’Rawe (Chair)	History Hub Ulster
Philip Orr	Historian
Prof. Richard Grayson	Historian
Sam White	Charter NI
David Hagan	Unionist Centenary Committee
Rev. Mervyn Gibson	Orange Institution
Bobby Foster	Spectrum Centre
Elaine Reid	Queen’s University - Living Legacies 1418 Now
Dr. William Mitchell	ACT
Rt. Hon. Sir Jeffrey Donaldson MP	WW1 Centenary Committee NI
Mervyn Elder / John MacVicar	Royal British Legion

##### **Project Managers**

Snow Water – Carolyn Mathers and Stephen Douds



## 5. Project Summary



Programme Launch 8 June at 11am, Somme Drive

### Timeline

May 2016 – March 2017

### Community Engagement

With many events already happening within the community, the programme aimed to enhance these rather than clash with them. We **engaged with and included key commemorative events** already scheduled by organisations such as Belfast City Council, WWI NI Committee, Somme Centre, Unionist Centenary Committee, HMS Caroline, Royal Navy, Ulster Scots Agency, 1418 NOW and Community Organisations. We also engaged with commemorative parades and religious services and also those events connected to the Battle of Jutland and other nautically related themes.

The programme **complemented exhibitions** and events that were organised by NMNI, PRONI and Libraries NI and other programmes which focused on the Easter Rising.

The programme of events **prompted and provoked people of many backgrounds to engage in the history of the Somme**, linking their personal family history with the wider political history of the city.



One of our aims was to connect personal and family research with wider community and cross-community projects. There are numerous examples of how this was achieved, including in September 2016, a female visitor arrived at the Falls/Shankill Somme Walking Tour which was being taken by Professor Richard Grayson. She had great uncles who fought and died at the Somme and knew of Richard's expertise in this area. She had never been on the Falls Road before but came to the Culturlann to take part in the tour and cross the peace-line onto the Shankill Road where her great uncles came from.

Another aim was to find new ways to commemorate and understand, hence work carried in partnership with children's organisations such as Young at Art, Belfast cinemas, NMNI at Cultra, and festivals across Belfast allowed us to **engage people in the story of the Somme through theatre, exhibitions, films, talks and tours.**

Many of the events were about **how the Somme is remembered as much as what is remembered.** Belfast Somme 100 remembered the many men who fought on the Western Front in 1916 but we will also highlighted the home front with events on the developments in nursing and medicine, and the impact on industry back in Ulster.

Our pop up poetry exhibition toured across libraries in Belfast. This exhibition included the poetry of local people and **showcased an alternative to the war poetry which exists in the public consciousness.** The poetry is 'from the streets' and tells the stories associated with the 1914-18 period and marks Ulster's place in the First World War.



## 6. Key Facts and Figures

1. Belfast Somme 100 actively engaged with **136,390** people from across Belfast during the 141 days of the programme. See Section 7.
2. The high quality and acclaimed programme was delivered **on time and in budget**.
3. History Hub Ulster sourced additional income of **£5,000 partnership funding** from Creative Centenaries (paid directly to the chosen event partner by Creative Centenaries). We also encouraged **£1,319 of donations** to the Royal British Legion.
4. Belfast Somme 100 was **inclusive** and grass roots with full community events programmes running in the north, south, east and west of the city.
5. The programme involved working with **46 partners** across the City.
6. Accessibility was ensured via a **high visibility programme**, partnership working, and ensuring that **nearly all events were free of charge**.
7. The NI Media Monitoring Service report shows that Belfast Somme 100 had:
  - 103 media articles
  - A circulation of 178,219.87
  - Coverage was **100% favourable**
  - Belfast Somme 100 coverage had the **equivalent advertising spend of £178,219.87**.
8. Ticketed event monitoring shows that audiences came from the following:  
  
Belfast 69% / Newtownabbey 6% / Newry 5% / Bangor 4% / Lisburn 3%  
  
Sales were also found at Newtownabbey, Armagh, Carrickfergus, Antrim and Derry/Londonderry.
9. Facebook had **Page likes of 2,213** and **Post reach of nearly 24,000**. There was a nearly even split of 51% female and 49% male.
10. **Twitter followers of 1,451** and pageviews of 5,132.

## 7. Audience Numbers

EVENT	VENUE	DATE OF EVENT	AUDIENCE
Hedge School	Belfast City Hall	14/11/2016	89
Somme and the Great War Walking tour (War Memorials)	City Centre	24/06/2016	24
Campbell College Lecture Tour	Campbell College	27/08/2016	34
Belfast merchant companies Walking Tour	City Centre	05/07/2016	18
Tours of 1916 Sources	Central Library	06/07/2016	45
West Belfast Tour	West Belfast	03/09/2016	6
East Belfast Tour	East Belfast	19/08/1916	16
Public War Memorials Walking Tour	City Centre	10/11/2016	21
Dawn of the Somme Fun Day	North Belfast	30/06/2016	200
Poetry Writing Workshops	North Belfast	30/06/2016	50
Lecture	North Belfast	30/06/2016	30
Alexandra Youth Workshop	North Belfast	03/08/2016	16
Alexandra Youth Trip	North Belfast	09/08/2016	16
Old Comrades Workshop	North Belfast	15/09/2016	15
Old Comrades Somme Trench Trip	North Belfast	22/09/2016	14
Hubb Group Cavan Trench Expenses	North Belfast	30/08/2016	10
Mural Opening and Exhibition	North Belfast	15/10/2016	200
Alexandra Ladies Lecture	North Belfast	30/09/2016	12
Alexandra Ladies Cavan Trench Expenses	North Belfast	03/10/2016	11
Alexandra Ladies Art Workshop	North Belfast	11/10/2016	12
Alexandra Ladies Art Workshop	North Belfast	18/10/2016	12
Alexandra Ladies Art Workshop	North Belfast	25/10/2016	11
York Road Civil Defence Somme Trip	North Belfast	10/10/2016	10
Northshore Seniors Workshop	North Belfast	03/09/2016	67
Northshore Seniors Workshop	North Belfast	11/09/2016	67
Northshore Seniors Workshop	North Belfast	18/09/2016	67
Northshore Seniors Workshop	North Belfast	25/09/2016	67
Dalariada Historical Society Workshops	North Belfast	01/09/2016	25
Dalariada Historical Society Workshops	North Belfast	08/09/2016	25
Dalariada Historical Society Workshops	North Belfast	15/09/2016	25
Dalariada Historical Society Workshops	North Belfast	29/09/2016	25
Dalariada Trip North Coast	North Belfast	01/10/2016	25
Seniors on the Shore trip to Somme Centre	North Belfast	03/11/2016	10
Fife and Drums Project	North Belfast	11/11/2016	130
Somme Mural	South Belfast	24/06/2016	50

HMS Caroline Trip for Womens Group	South Belfast	21/09/2016	13
TREE Tank South Belfast	South Belfast	19/11/2016	10
Somme Family Day	South Belfast	19/11/2016	150
Lantern Workshops with PS	South Belfast	24/10/2016	30
Lantern Workshops with PS	South Belfast	26/10/2016	30
UVF Concert x 2	East Belfast	04/06/2016	
Somme Centenary Commemoration	East Belfast	01/07/2016	
Ulster Tower Street	East Belfast	01/07/2016	
Longfellows east End Workshop	East Belfast	07/06/2016	
Longfellows east End Workshop	East Belfast	14/06/2016	
Longfellows east End Workshop	East Belfast	21/06/2016	
Cosy Somme Workshop	East Belfast	06/06/2016	
Cosy Somme Workshop	East Belfast	13/06/2016	
Longfellow Mens Group Workshop	East Belfast	08/09/2016	
Longfellow Mens Group Workshop	East Belfast	15/09/2016	
Longfellow Mens Group Workshop	East Belfast	22/09/2016	
Children's Pull Up exhibition / booklets	West Belfast	26/09/-18/11	1100
Workshops meetings and school visits	West Belfast		186
Community Workshops	West Belfast		445
Armistice and Somme Event	West Belfast		445
Castleton Lanterns big screen video	City Hall	1-14/11/2016	5600
Trench Art Exhibition	Farset International, Springfield Road	16/09/2016 - 19/09/2016	460
Poppies at the 18 June Parade (now in memorial gardens all over Belfast)	City Wide	18/06/2016	20000
Keith Jeffrey Memorial Lecture (Prof Margaret MacMillan)	Elmwood Hall	29/11/2016	147
When Did the North Begin - (Dr Marie Coleman)	Linenhall Library	07/11/2016	47
Ulster Nurses, Medics and Volunteers in the FWW (Dr Johanne Devlin Trew)	Linenhall Library	19/10/2016	28
Training Kitchener's Army (Heather Montgomery)	Linenhall Library	09/11/2016	18
Military History of 36th and 16th (Richard Grayson)	Feile Belfast	08/08/2016	46
Home Front (Dr Robert Whan)	Central Library	27/06/2016	56
Children's Workshops and Events	City Wide	23/07/2016, 06/08/2016, 13/08/2016 and 20/08/2016	132
Family Day and Laser Cutting Workshops	HMS Caroline	02/07/2016, 06/08/2016 and 02/08/2016	140
Poetry from the Streets Exhibition	NI libraries	June- Dec	14000
No News is Good News	Ulster Folk and Transport Museum	28-30 Oct (15 shows)	164
Artists at the Somme	Ulster Museum	19/10/2016	68

Conference	PRONI	08/10/2016	158
Medal In The Drawer	Across Belfast	27-30 Sept (7 shows)	561
Irish Guards	Alexandra Presbyterian Church	28/06/2016	500
QFT Film programme - Flanders Fields on Film	QFT		124
QFT - The Battle of the Somme	QFT	01/07/2016	96
QFT - Testament of Youth	QFT	13/11/2016	48
QFT - Paths of Glory	QFT	18/09/2016	127
Strand Arts Centre Workshop	Strand Arts Centre	15/11/2016	28
Men in France (Somme Parade)	Belfast	18/06/2016	20000
Men In France (Orangefest)	Belfast	12/07/2016	20000
Lily Poppy Exhibition	Orange Museum	01/06/2016 - 18/12/2016	EMAILED
Remembrance Concert	Ulster Hall	12/11/2016	850
Belfast Somme Commemoration	Belfast Cenotaph	01/07/2016	200
Somme Commemorative Service	Belfast Cathedral	03/07/2016	740
Reflections on WW1 a Musical journey	Belfast Book Festival	16/06/2016	81
Woodvale Re-enactment	Woodvale Park	18/06/2016	10000
Letters from the Front	East Side Arts	13/08/2016	86
Belfast Boys	Farset International	10-15/08/2016	400
Observe The Sons	Lyric Theatre	5-16/07/2016	4100
Creative Centenaries	Ulster Museum	3/06/2016 - 18/09/2016	31500
Taylor Mac	BIAF	25/10/2016, 26/10/2016 & 29/10/2016	508
Stretcher Bearer Last Days of Mankind	Linenhall Library	3/6/2016 -30/7/2016	1200
The Box	Kabosh	05/19/2016	313
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>136390</b>



## Selected Events from Programme

### Somme Commemoration Parade Poppy Project

18th June 2016, Across Belfast



A parade commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the start of the Battle of the Somme on 1st July 1916 was organised by the 2016 committee. Parades left from all 4 corners of the city, meeting in Belfast City Centre for wreath laying. **Poppies for every man from Belfast who fell on the first day of the Somme were carried by parade participants.**

The combined parade then make its way to Woodvale Park for a re-enactment of the first day of the Battle of the Somme. The poppy boards were put up on lampposts across the city and in November placed at various locations across Belfast. For example, in Mount Vernon Memorial Garden, and in Tower Street.

Partners: Royal British Legion, British Army, Alexandra Presbyterian Church, Castleton Lanterns

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## Somme Commemoration Concert with the Band of the Irish Guards

28th June 7pm Alexandra Presbyterian Church



The Band of the Irish Guards played at this commemorative concert marking the centenary of the Battle of the Somme during the First World War. It **reflects on the sacrifice of those from Belfast during the 141 days of the Somme offensive**. The concert took place in Alexandra Presbyterian Church, the home of the Castleton Lanterns project and the Castleton Lanterns photographs were on show. Our VIP guest was Mukesh Sharma DL.

Tickets were £5 plus booking fee. All proceeds went to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.



Partners: Royal British Legion, British Army, Alexandra Presbyterian Church, Castleton Lanterns

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## Trench Art Exhibition

16th - 19th September Farset International, 466 Springfield Road



First World War soldiers didn't spend all their time fighting. In long periods of rest and training many soldiers made highly decorated artefacts often from the ammunition around them.

This exhibition will reflect the full range of artefacts made during the many battles of the Somme and reveal a hidden world of creativity from soldiers all along the Western Front.

Revealing a range of artistic works from all sorts of servicemen from every background, this exhibition **highlighted the mix of people who served in the war from all religions and all areas of Belfast.**

This exhibition was extended for an extra day due to demand.

Partners: John Grace, Farset International

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## The Year of The Somme: 1916 in Perspective Conference In association with Western Front Association

8<sup>th</sup> October 2016 - PRONI



This conference looked at various **aspects of the First World War in Ireland and beyond**. Topics covered included the Battle of Jutland, recruitment in Ireland, the archaeology of the First World War in Ireland, the 36th (Ulster) Division after the Somme, and the wider experience of volunteers from West Belfast in the War.

Dr Timothy Bowman (University of Kent) – 1916 in perspective

Dr William Butler (University of Kent) – ‘Can you any longer resist the call?’ Military Recruiting in Ireland, 1916.

Professor Richard Grayson (Goldsmiths, University of London) - Beyond the Somme: West Belfast's Somme

Heather Montgomery (Queen’s University) – Trenches in Ireland

Nicholas Perry – After the battle: Nugent, the Ulster Division and their Army commanders in 1916

Prof Andrew Lambert (King’s College London) – Importance of the Battle of Jutland

The conference concluded with a tour a HMS Caroline with Curator Victoria Millar.

Partners: WFA, PRONI, HMS Caroline



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## Keith Jeffery Memorial Lecture by Professor Margaret MacMillan

29 November 2016 – Elmwood Hall



Professor Keith Jeffery who died in Feb 2016 was remembered in the Guardian as ‘an affable and warm-hearted historian’. He completed his last major work ‘1916: A Global History’ the year before he died. Keith Jeffery was a major influence on his many students first at Ulster and then at Queen’s University where he was Professor of British History. This special event reflected Keith’s special interest in the First World War and Ireland.

The speaker was **Professor Margaret MacMillan, Professor of International History at the University of Oxford** and was introduced by Queen's University Pro Vice Chancellor Richard English.

Thank you especially to Keith’s wife Sally Jeffery for her support of a wonderful thought provoking event.

Partners: Queen’s University, Ulster University, Living Legacies

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## With The Men in France, The Women Didn't Dance

### Women from Belfast

18 June and 12 July 2016



A project run by a group of women from Belfast **highlighting the role of women on the homefront** during the First World War.

The group incorporated the representation of women into the large 18th June Somme Centenary Parade – suffragettes, munitionettes, land girls, VADs and factory workers. The costumes were designed, made and worn by the women led by Chelsea Laverty. As a result of their popularity at the Somme Commemoration Parade the women were invited to join the parade on the Twelfth of July 2016 for the first time.

The women also were represented at a period event for all the family in the renamed 'Ulster Tower Street'.

Partners: East Belfast Women's Group, Orangefest, Chelsea Laverty

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## No News Is Good News

29th – 30th October, 11am, 11.30am, 12pm, 2pm, 2.30pm, 3pm

Ulster Folk and Transport Museum, Cultra



‘No News Is Good News’ takes you back 100 years so you can meet your ancestors in the villages, on the city streets and in the countryside where they lived to see how they fared during the First World War. Overhear the residents of Ballycultra share their fear of German spies, visit the village post office where letters from the Somme bring tragic news of deaths on the front and hear from a woman working long hours in a Belfast munitions factory.

The event ensured that **the experiences of people left here on the Homefront in Northern Ireland were represented** within the programme.

Presented by Kabosh Theatre Company, written by Philip Orr and directed by Paula McFetridge

Partners: Kabosh, Creative Centenaries, NMNI

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## Medal In the Drawer

Tues 27 September 1.30pm and 7.30pm, Brian Friel Theatre

Wed 28 September 7.30pm Ashfield Girls School

Thursday 29 September 1pm and 7.30pm, Duncairn Community Centre

Friday 30 September 1pm and 7.30pm, Donegal Road Methodist Church Hall



Summer 1914. There is tension on the streets of Belfast as Home Rule looms and Edward Carson calls the men of Ulster to order. A shot rings out in Sarajevo and what may have been civil war becomes World War. **“Medal In The Drawer” follows four volunteers from Belfast on their war-journey:** follow the men as they join up, become a fighting force, and make their way to the Western Front and their fate.

The play was produced by Belfast Somme 100 and written and directed by Brenda Winter Palmer.

“A superb and moving play.”

Partners: Living Legacies, Creative Centenaries, Queen’s University

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## 8. Endorsements:



We were delighted to have **been nominated for the Aisling Awards** in the Culture and Arts category. One of our partners on Belfast Somme 100 won the award but we were honoured to be included in such a high profile ceremony. We were also delighted that Karen O’Rawe was voted as one of **Northern Ireland's Most Inspiring Women** 2016. This was for her work with History Hub Ulster as Chair and as Project lead of Belfast Somme 100, chairing the Advisory Panel, amongst other things.



## AUDIENCE COMMENTS

'Attended the performance of 'The Box' this afternoon and found it an excellent and very moving production. Definitely well worth going!'

'Excellent well done to all who organised and took part'

'Fantastic afternoon. Well done to all who was involved'

'Great memorial, really brings it home to you. Gone but truly not forgotten'

'Goosebumps head to toes! Well done to all involved'

'Absolutely Brilliant! Whoever came up with the idea- Genius'

'So moving. And quite a coincidence as my grandfather did fight in WW1 and survived but he did have a brother called William Henry Fox who I'm not sure what happened to him. Was a bit weird when I saw the name on the card. I would love to find out more'

'This was a truly amazing project and poignant street theatre. The concept is pure genius and really made people think. Well done HHU'

'It was such an interesting and informative talk, very worthwhile'

'It's always lovely when a family comes together to discover and embrace their relatives story. The pride and emotion just shines out from this photo and I'm sure there were a few eyes being pricked by tears. I know that the tears weren't far away when I saw this play for the first time and I'm not even related'

[@WarYears](#) brilliant display for the community at our [@BelfastSomme100](#) family fun day. Amazing as usual, we loved having you with us!

'Yesterday evening's event was so moving, with wonderful poetry and the gorgeous music from the brass quintet. The talk about William Orpen's work (I had never heard of him before) was excellent, and, like the poems, it was clear that he didn't shy away from the true horror of conflict, and that he didn't flinch from showing the public the pain & pointlessness of it all.'

'The guys who read the poetry did so with great emotion, and the music was so rich (I love a brass band!). When I was at school we looked at war poems as part of our O Level syllabus, so some of the work was very familiar. Even so, the words never fail to make you gasp at the awfulness of what those men experienced and tried to make sense of'

'It was fabulous - thank you to you & everyone involved who made it such a lovely evening'

[@redgirlang](#) Thank you [@BelfastSomme100](#) for today's talk. Johanne was brilliant, so enthusiastic. Thoroughly enjoyed it.

## PARTNER COMMENTS

‘Just a quick note to say thank you for all the help and advice in making the event at City Hall on Monday an enjoyable one for all concerned! Had a good few messages from people expressing their satisfaction with how the evening went and the standard of the exchanges between those attending.’ Messines Association

‘Congratulations on an excellently produced evening. It was great to be part of it. Thanks for having me and I had an excellent time.’ Richard Slocombe, Imperial War Museum

“Absolutely outstanding project.” Bobby Foster, Spectrum Centre

“A worthy project with real meaning and impact’ Professor Margaret Macmillan, Oxford University

### **The Right Honourable Lord Mayor, Alderman Brian Kingston**

*“Belfast City Council is delighted to be supporting the Somme 100 programme of events being run by History Hub Ulster. The support for Somme 100 is part of our wider Decade of Centenaries programme this year in which we are marking what is one of the most significant years in the whole Decade. The Council has its own civic programme of activities which is ongoing throughout the year, as well as our “Belfast; Reflections on 1916” exhibition which will be in the East Entrance of City Hall until the end of August. However, the Somme 100 programme offers the opportunity for us in Council to be able to support programmes, events and activities within local neighbourhoods and I pay tribute to History Hub Ulster and their Advisory group for the fantastic and engaging programme that they have put together”*

History Hub Ulster would like to thank Belfast City Council and all our partners, volunteers, committee and members.

In particular we thank our Voluntary Advisory Panel for helping to shape this important project: Philip Orr, Prof. Richard Grayson, Sam White, David Hagan, Rev. Mervyn Gibson, Bobby Foster, Elaine Reid, Dr. William Mitchell, Rt. Hon. Sir Jeffrey Donaldson MP, Mervyn Elder and John MacVicar. Thanks also to our Project Managers Snow Water who have made the project the success it proved to be.

Karen O’Rawe, Chair History Hub Ulster