

# South Gloucestershire in the First World War Project 2014 – 2018

## **Armistice Day Centenary Poppy Gardens Pack**

This pack contains:

- The Introduction
- Making a Clay Poppy Instructions
- Armistice Day Investigation Quiz
- Writing Postcards Activity
- Writing a Story about the Postman Activity
- Feedback Form

## South Gloucestershire in the First World War Project 2014 – 2018

### **Introduction: Armistice Day Centenary Poppy Gardens 1918 - 2018**

To commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War there is an opportunity for every primary school in South Gloucestershire and other community groups to create local displays of Poppies in November 2018.

Each school or group could produce, or join together to produce, a garden of poppies around their local war memorial or the local churchyard. Each participating child or group member could make a painted clay poppy inscribed with a name they choose from those listed for the First World War, on the local war memorial.

If you intend to display the poppies in a community setting, e.g. local war memorial or churchyard, we would advise speaking to your local church or parish council to seek permission to display the poppies.

By using the South Gloucestershire memorials website <http://sites.southglos.gov.uk/war-memorials/>, set up by the project, the children can find out about the lives of the local men that died in The Great War. Who were they? Where did they live? Use the Armistice Memorial Investigation Quiz to answer these questions.

Full downloadable instructions are available on how to make and paint the clay poppies on the Project Learning Resources pages: <http://www.southglos.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/museums-and-galleries/ww1-museums-and-galleries/first-world-war-cross-curricular-learning-resources/>.

If you have participated in this event, please complete the feedback form and return to: [museums@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:museums@southglos.gov.uk) to comment on these learning resources, we would really like to hear from your school.

## South Gloucestershire in the First World War Project 2014 – 2018

### **Making a Clay Poppy**

If you intend to display the poppies in a community setting, e.g. local war memorial or churchyard, we would advise speaking to your local church or parish council to seek permission to display the poppies.

#### **Planning and Timing of workshops**

2 separate lesson workshops at least four days apart to allow the clay to dry, with further day to allow the paint to dry.

Poppies should be ready by Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2018 for placing in the local Armistice Centenary Poppy Garden 1918-2018

#### **Materials for each poppy:**

Poppy petal paper pattern

Air-dried clay (a piece between the size of a golf and a tennis ball)

Red acrylic paint (must be acrylic paint to weather proof the clay)

Black acrylic paint

1 x small paper cereal type bowl

1 x 15cm square of cotton cloth

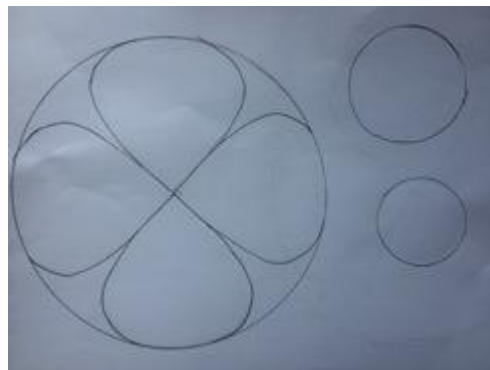
1 x small rolling pin (or something to enable the clay to be rolled out.)

2 x Paint brushes, one a decent size and one smaller

1 x pencil

Small pot of water

Apron



## Method: Session 1: Making the Clay Poppy



1. Roll out the clay on the cotton cloth until it is an even thickness of about a half centimetre, like a thick pancake, so that it fits the poppy pattern. (You will find it easy to turn the clay on the cloth as you roll it out to keep the thickness even, and it will not stick to the table)
2. Put the poppy petal paper template on top of the clay and with a pencil draw on the lines so that when you lift it up you have the poppy petals pattern in the clay or cut it out and draw around it.
3. Lift off the paper pattern and use the pencil to press harder on the lines right through to the cotton cloth, thereby cutting out the poppy petal shapes in the clay, or use a lollipop stick.



4. Carefully smooth the edges of the shapes with your fingers dipping your fingers in the water to help make it neat.

5. Choose one of your petal shapes to write with the pencil in the clay your chosen name of one those who died in the First World War.



6. Take the left over clay, roll it into a ball and roll this out on the cotton cloth to make another small flat pancake.
7. Cut out in the clay the large circle and the small circle from the pattern.
8. Write your name on one side of the larger circle, turn it over and cross hatch or scratch the other side.



9. Place the large circle in the middle, at the bottom of the paper bowl with the crosshatching upwards. Put a little water onto it.
10. Take the clay petal shape and cross hatch or scratch the middle on the side without the soldier's name and put a little water on the cross hatching.



11. Carefully place the petal shaped clay, soldier's name up, on top of the circle of clay in the bowl. Gently press in the middle, to join the two pieces and carefully arrange the petals to the shape of the bowl.



12. Take the other smaller circle and cross hatch or scratch the bottom side, putting a little water on it, place it in the middle of the petals, scratched side down to make the centre of the poppy. Gently press it down in the middle to join the pieces. Neatly score the squared pattern into the top side.

13. Use a wet paintbrush or your fingers to gently neaten the clay.

14. Leave to dry in the paper bowl in a place that is not too warm, just room temperature for a few days, until firm.

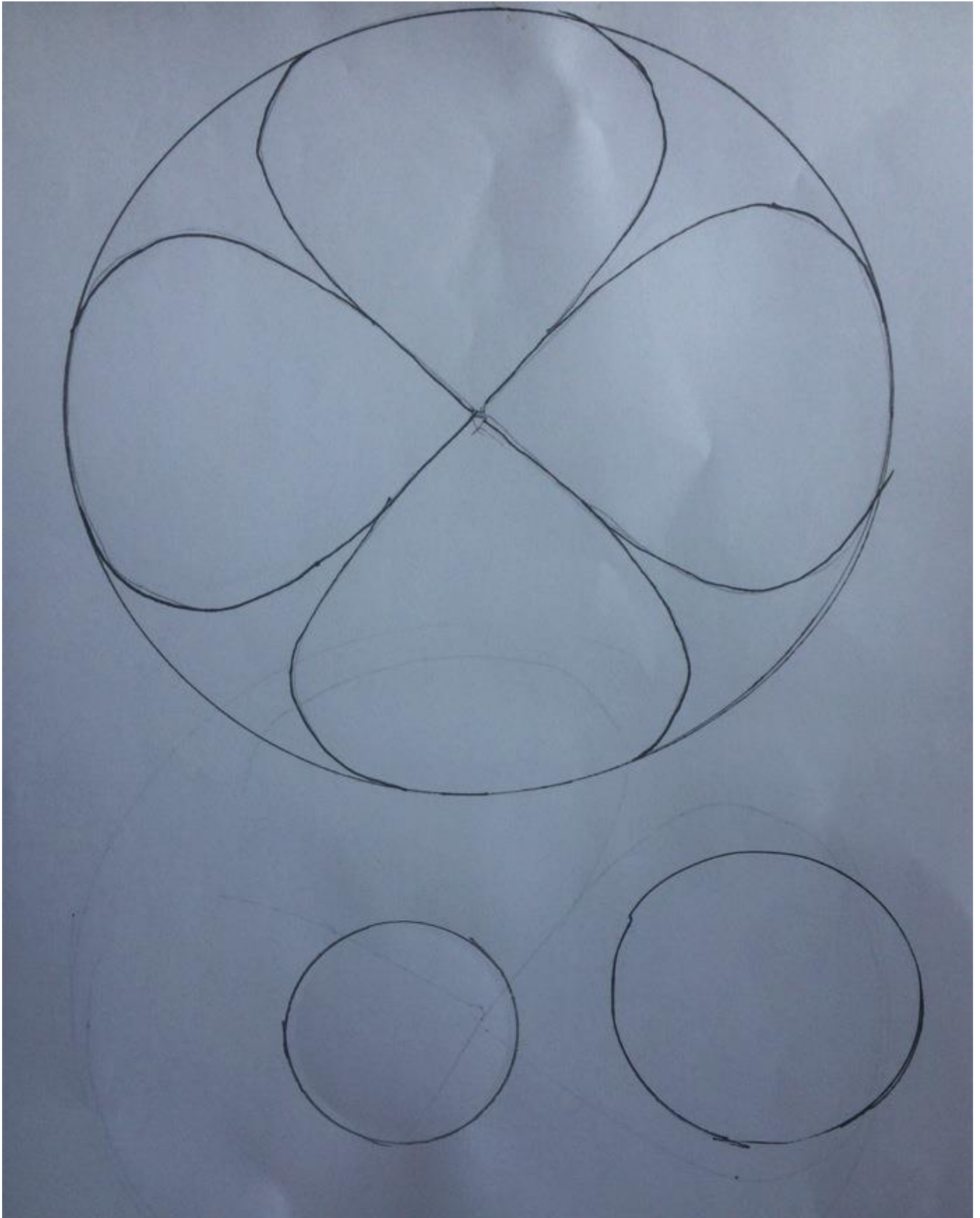
## Session 2: Painting the Clay Poppy

1. Carefully remove the dry clay poppy from the bowl and put it on a paper surface to be painted.
2. Paint the petals with red acrylic paint with the large brush, leave to dry.
3. Using the small brush, paint the centre button black and the inscribed name with the acrylic paint. Leave to dry.
4. Place the finished poppy back in the paper bowl for transporting safely to the poppy garden.



Please complete the feedback form and return to:  
[museums@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:museums@southglos.gov.uk) to comment on these learning resources, we would really like to hear from your school.  
Many thanks.

To view details about the South Gloucestershire in the First World War Project: [www.southglos.gov.uk/ww1](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/ww1)



The big petal circle is 16 cm. the smaller circle is 5.5 cm, the little circle is 4.5 cm



# South Gloucestershire in the First World War Project 2014 – 2018

## Introduction: Armistice Day Investigation Quiz

This quiz has been created for schools who want a quick topic for the Armistice week, even though they might not otherwise be doing WW1. The quiz can also be used to accompany the making of clay poppies for a local 'Poppy Garden'

A great deal of research has been done concerning the family and military history of each person named on the South Gloucestershire war memorials. Some of the information is detailed enough to enable you to make a real journey of discovery of the lives of people in the local area 100 years ago and how they are connected to us now.

*'Miss,' one little girl said whilst investigating ' He lived in my house!' and the whole class looked more closely....*

The idea is that the children can do their own investigation by:

- going to the website:  
<https://sites.southglos.gov.uk/war-memorials/>
- choose a local war memorial
- go into each name listed and find the answers to the questions in the resource.

**Please use the feedback form to tell us about how you used this resource.**



# South Gloucestershire in the First World War Project 2014 – 2018

## Armistice Day Investigation Quiz

This is a First World War Armistice Day Investigation into the lives of the boys and men that are named on local war memorials.

One hundred years ago the towns and villages of South Gloucestershire were busy places with shops and businesses, churches and schools, many people lived and worked in the same town or village and many people worked in the countryside, in the fields and on the farms. South Gloucester was not as built up as it is today there were no big roads and housing estates and fewer people. Most families in a village would be familiar with each other, whatever position in life they held, rich or poor. All the boys and men named on the war memorials would have been very likely to have known each other and been known to the local community and surrounding area. Some of them would have been boys together at school, worked and played together and some may have even joined up to go to war together. Most died a long way from home, but not all. The news of a person being wounded or killed in action would come by an official telegram delivered by the postman.

Perhaps you know the houses they lived in, you might know the streets or lanes they would have walked down over 100 years ago? Use the website <http://sites.southglos.gov.uk/war-memorials> to answer these questions and to find out more:

- 1) How many names of WW1 dead are there on the War Memorial?
- 2) How old was the youngest soldier to die?
- 3) How old was the oldest soldier to die?
- 4) How many countries would you have to visit to see all their graves or memorials?
- 5) Was anyone buried in the local churchyard? What does that tell you?
- 6) Were any of them brothers or cousins?
- 7) Which regiments are represented?
- 10) Did anyone win a medal?
- 11) Who had the highest rank?
- 12) How many were soldiers?
- 13) How many in the Royal Navy?
- 14) How many were in the Royal Air Corps?
- 15) Can you find the houses they lived in on a map?

Useful resources are: Google Maps Street View – or use the Know Your Place South Gloucestershire website <http://maps.bristol.gov.uk/kyp/?edition=southglos>

Perhaps you could walk to the war memorial or the places the fallen lived or view the monuments in the local churchyard.

# South Gloucestershire in the First World War Project

## 2014 – 2018

### Activity - Writing Postcards

Each person writes one or two postcards

One Postcard from The Front and/or One postcard From Home

Write it out in rough first in pencil and then copy it onto the postcard in your **best handwriting**.

#### Postcard from The Front

Imagine being one of those soldiers in the trenches at the front.

It is a very different place to the home you have left.

Close your eyes and imagine what it would be like being there at war, always in danger and under the most horrid conditions.

Write a postcard home to your parents/friend/family

Some things would be censored so do not say too much about where you are or what has happened, (casualties) just tell them about what is around you.

#### Include:-

Description of where you are.(the trench)

Description of the place around the trench, (woods/fields)

What the weather is doing and how it affects you.(summer/winter/wet/cold/trench foot)

What is the worst thing about where you are? Tell them about the food.

Send good wishes home.

Something that would give comfort. (I hope that you are warm/will see you soon...)

You can be funny, ask about other members of the family

Thank you for something sent to you. Sign it.

#### Postcard from Home

Imagine being the parent/ girlfriend/ sister/ brother of a soldier at the front.

Imagine how you would feel with your young loved one at war.

Write a postcard to them.

Some things would be censored so do not say too much about what has happened at home. (casualties, etc).

#### Include:-

Enquire about how they are

Ask if they are eating well.

Hope they like something you are sending them. (Lucky charm/food)

The weather at home.

How you are managing.

News from home. (Cat has kittens/ roses are flowering ...)

What others at home are doing (new job.)

Good wishes, something that would give comfort. e.g. I am looking forward to...

Be encouraging. Sign it.

# South Gloucestershire in the First World War Project 2014 – 2018

## Writing a Story about a Postman Activity

Here are some facts that you might like to use for your story.

People sent all sorts of letters, parcels and postcards to the soldiers away from home and they also received news from them too.

Mothers would bake cakes and send them in tins.

Girl friends might send lucky charms or photographs.

The postman would know everyone in the village and where they lived.

Only the post office employees are allowed to handle the post.

He might have a bicycle.

He would wear a uniform.

The postman would follow the same route around the village several times every day. There were several deliveries to each house every day.

He would bring all sorts of news to the people.

He would know who sent or received parcels and where they went or where they were from.

Letters had a postmark, which told you where they were posted.

When there was a telegram it would need to be delivered by hand as soon as possible, it would not wait for the usual delivery.

He might have to go to the railway station early to pick up the post.

He would also have to collect the post from the post boxes in the village several times a day and pass them on to be sorted.

There would be a telephone and a telegraph machine at the post office.

The post office might be part of a shop.

His wife might run the shop.

He might have a garden.

He might have several children.

Everyone would know the postman.

People would talk to him.

# South Gloucestershire in the First World War Project 2014 – 2018

## Learning Resources Feedback Form

To mark the centenary of the First World War 1914-1918 these learning resources have been created to assist teachers in show the impact of the First World War in this area and, also, how communities were changed.

**Please tell us what you think of these resources** or if you have any comments or further information about the First World War in this area do let us know by filling in this form. Please return to: [museums@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:museums@southglos.gov.uk)

Name

School

Date

Did you find the resources easy to use? Yes/No

How do you think the resources worked with your class?

Other Comments

**Thank you for your participation we hope you have enjoyed this exhibition**

This is an HLF project supported by South Gloucestershire Council. For more information and more learning resources on The First World War in this area please go to: [www.southglos.gov.uk/ww1](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/ww1)

