

Big Ideas Company

Big Ideas Company creates programmes that encourage community participation, inclusion and cohesion across the arts, heritage, science and sport. We specialise in projects which bring groups together and create new experiences and relationships on a local, national and international scale. You can find out more about us here: www.bigideascompany.org

In 2017, Big Ideas Company is being publicly funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to lead two large-scale commemoration programmes about the First World War - *The Unremembered* and *Passchendaele at Home*. These engage with community groups of different ages, shapes, sizes and focus across the UK.

The Unremembered

This project commemorates the army of workers supporting the war effort during the First World War. It's a diverse story, with workers from across the world including China, India, South Africa, Canada and the UK. Community groups can research local graves and share their stories with the wider community, as well as commemorating the individuals they are researching. Contact the Big Ideas Company to access free resources including two resource packs (one general and one India-specific) to share, along with archive scripts, a database of over 5,700 Labour Corps graves in the UK, calligraphy worksheets and up to £200 for each community group that wants to get involved. Funding is only available for community groups in England, resources available across the UK. Community funding ends in mid-November - early applications recommended. Find out more via www.theunremembered.org or theunremembered@bigideascompany.org

Passchendaele at Home

A nationwide research project in the UK inviting community groups and schools to discover graves in the UK belonging to servicemen who served in the Battle of Passchendaele but who died of their wounds in the UK. Community groups can research local graves to discover if they fit the Passchendaele at Home criteria, before uploading their research onto the Lives of the First World War website. They can then share their stories with the wider community, as well as commemorating the individuals they are researching. Big Ideas Company can share free resources including an illustrated research map, an online research guide and a database with details of over 3,000 potential Passchendaele at Home graves in the UK. Funding is only available for community groups in England, resources available across the UK. Community funding ends in mid-November - early applications recommended. Find out more via www.bigideascompany.org/project/passchendaele-at-home or athome@bigideascompany.org

The main message is that we only have 8 weeks left to provide community funding and resources for community groups to take part. There's a great number of both Labour Corps and Passchendaele at Home servicemen and women buried and/ or commemorated in your local area (I know because I collated the databases, and I grew up in Devizes so checked for graves all around the South West!) so there is wonderful scope for projects in the area.

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