



WRITTEN IN STONE

As the centenary of the First World War approached millions of pounds was pledged to encourage communities throughout the country to explore their First World War heritage. By remembering and sharing their experiences it was hoped it would deepen their understanding of the impact of conflict.

The Pomegranate Youth Theatre (PYT) received £25,700 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for an exciting project to try to explore some of the questions raised by the commemorations. 'Written in Stone' was created and is being led by Project Managers Sheila Young of Dexter Productions and Carole Copeland from the PYT.

With the help of Chesterfield Museum, Chesterfield Library and Denise Coss, a group of young people researched the heritage and history of their local war memorials and commemoration and discover their relevance to young people today. They explored the viewpoints, and feelings of, The Church, The Establishment, the War Widows, the Mothers and the Veterans. The voices of the soldiers themselves are represented through their letters to home about how they would like to be remembered. The project captured the thoughts of the researchers, and enabled them to work with professional writer Sheila Young to write and devise a stimulus piece of theatre, culminating in a performance rehearsed and directed by Carole Copeland. This piece was then performed to the Canotila (Calow), Draco (Chesterfield) and Centaurus (Tupton) Explorer Scout groups. Their responses to the piece formed the basis for workshops, led by professional musicians Richard Stone and Rob Laughlin, from which the young people learned about different forms of commemorative music and then devised their own new anthem to be performed at the Chesterfield Museum on November 14th and at future commemorative events.

Join us at the Museum on November 14th to hear the new anthem and see other aspects of the project and in the meantime why not visit www.writteninstone.org.uk

