

CASE STUDY I

TYNE & WEAR ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS (TWAM)

Why take part?

Firstly, a positive experience of Takeover Day in 2010 with pupils having the opportunity to consult on a live project and learn new skills. Secondly, it gave staff the chance to work in partnership with the Scout group which would benefit TWAM's wider audience.

Who took part?

Three members of a local Scout group, aged 11-13. A colleague was the District Commissioner so was able to make contact easily. The group were also affiliated with the British Legion and were due to take part in the Remembrance Service the next day which made them ideally placed for working with the theme. TWAM sent information to the Scout group and asked for volunteers. Three were interested and able to make the date.

What did they do?

The scouts joined two learning officers on the Saturday for an intensive day of research, planning and recording, linking the theme of Remembrance to the Soldier's Life Gallery at Discovery Museum, Newcastle. They took over TWAM's bi-monthly podcast Culture Cast producing a special Remembrance Day edition.

How did they spend their time on the day?

- Listened to examples of other podcasts and discussed what made a good one.
- Talked about what they knew about WWI and Remembrance Day and what it meant to them.
- Examined original sources relating to a Private who served and died in the war – pictures, postcards home, his medals, death certificate and 'death penny' – to build a picture of what he was like and chart his story.
- Drew up a plan of what they wanted to include in their podcast, wrote a script and recorded it, selected and uploaded photos.

What happened next?

The final podcast was uploaded onto the TWAM website and is available for download

- <http://www.twmuseums.org.uk/podcasts/index.php/culturecast>
- *YouTube* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e8sU11wEUyU>

Links with the Scout group have been reinforced and a personal connection made with the individual young people, who said they would definitely like to do more work with the museum and may consider volunteering.

Inviting young people to takeover in this way gave TWAM a real insight into how they can approach interpreting WWI for formal school groups. It was so beneficial in helping them understand the needs and interests of their young visitors that they plan to use the same method when developing their next resource, a series of loan boxes for the centenary of WWI.

'Working with the young people on this project has reiterated the power which objects can have and their ability to change your perspective. We will definitely be planning our future WWI programme with young people from the beginning.'

Lucy Bemrose, Learning Officer

