

Sue Rowland Textile Artist
Commemorative Banner Evaluation Comments

Any features of the production of this banner in collaboration with the Bottesford Primary School and the Bottesford Parish WW1 centenary project that merit particular mention eg., design, realisation, coordination, etc?

Any particular aspects of WW1 local and national heritage that have been of particular relevance as a result of involvement in this WW1 project - e.g., for yourself, the children, school staff, volunteers?

The project was particularly special because of being able to read and use the school diary excerpts as inspiration. For the children to read about 'knitting socks for soldiers' or 'growing vegetables' and creating images for the wall hanging based on this gave them (and me) a real understanding of what it was like in WW1 in Bottesford. The website was essential for me to research and come up with the inspiration for the design plan for the wall hanging.

The school children learnt new textile skills from a professional textile designer - silk painting, sewing and yarn techniques.

The local stitch group were inspired by my examples to create beautiful mini sweetheart pincushions for the soldiers with no photos. Their work was beautiful and a great addition to the overall work.

The stitch group also helped out with sewing at the school, passing on their knowledge and establishing links.

I found printing each photo of the individual soldier who died and embroidering examples and sewing the pieces to the banner very moving. It made me study each face and really think about them and their families.

Any phrase summing up your creative participation in this particular project.

Community collaboration was inspiring.

I loved working with the school and a lovely group of children. I hope they will be thrilled with the end result which will be a beautiful legacy for years to come.

The Bottesford Community Heritage Group did an amazing job coordinating aspects of the project and liaising with the school and keeping people informed of progress on the website.

The whole project was fantastic and I have learnt huge amounts about Bottesford in WW1.

I am grateful to the Heritage Lottery for funding the project and to David Middleton for his guidance and assistance.