He was wounded and killed in September 1917.

Harry Webster, a Pemberton Soldier.
INTRODUCTION

The First World War started on 4th August 1914 and ended on 11th November 1918. This year will mark the centenary of the beginning of a war that shaped history. It claimed the lives of over 16 million people across the globe and had an impact on the lives of everyone. The historic centenary will be commemorated by a four year programme of national acts of remembrance, nationwide cultural initiatives and educational opportunities.

Wigan Borough will have an important role to play in these commemorations and acts of national remembrance. This toolkit, which has been put together with the help of staff in Wigan schools, will highlight some of the key resources that are available to schools and will provide suggestions for schools on how they can commemorate the centenary with pupils. It will be periodically updated as new resources come available.

WEBSITES AND OTHER RESOURCES

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/first-world-war/
This site has a number of useful resources for teachers from Key Stage 1 to A Level. The site also offers a number of workshops and interactive online activities for pupils and teachers.

www.europeana1914-1918.eu/en
This site allows schools to explore stories, films and historical materials related to World War 1 (WW1). You can also digitally upload and add your own family or school WW1 memorabilia to the site.

www.project.efg1914.eu/
This site allows users to view over 600 hours of films related to WW1.

www.1914.org/
This Imperial War Museum site contains details of events and activities both nationally and global to commemorate WW1. There is also a link to the national archives where students can research family history and add links to events. Individuals can also sign up to a newsletter that gives news of events at the museum.

www.livesofthefirstworldwar.org/
This site is also from the Imperial War Museum and here you can find and upload information about individuals involved in WW1. It will be live by the end of May 2014.
WEBSITES AND OTHER RESOURCES (CONT.)

www.howtогrow.co.uk/how-to-grow-poppies.html
This site gives information to those who wish to grow and display poppies.

www.warpoetry.co.uk
An exploration into the lives of poets and their poems during WW1

www.forces-war-records.co.uk
An interesting site to help look for ancestors who were in the forces during WW1.

www.world-war-pictures.com/war-artists.htm
This site explores the different artists who were commissioned by the Ministry of Information during WW1.

www.firstworldwar.com
A website that provides a summary overview of WW1.

www.ww1photos.com/WW1MusicIndex.html
Popular songs from the era.

www.bbc.co.uk/ww1
Find out what the BBC is doing to commemorate WW1. Lots of resources and clips of interesting programmes and interviews.

www.historyaliveuk.com/home
This is a Bolton based company that runs workshops for schools and can tailor them to the theme of WW1.

www.wiganworld.co.uk/album/album2.php?opt=8
This site contains a number of photos of the local area taken during the war.

www.britishlegion.org.uk/remembrance/ww1-centenary
The legion is involved in a number of commemorative centenary projects at national, county and branch level. Many are still in the planning stages so please revisit this section of the website for information as more projects are announced.

www.mlkpc.org
1914 Christmas Truce Resource Pack for teachers produced by Newcastle University. Lesson plans and slideshows for a range of curriculum subjects for Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3.
IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM VISITS

Imperial War Museum North currently has an exhibition entitled From Street To Trench revealing the North West contribution to WW1. It is running until Spring 2015. The museum also provides boxes with replica items from WW1 for schools. Training for teachers associated with the box is also available.

For details go to:
www.iwm.org.uk/visits/iwm-north

www.ancestry.co.uk

Use the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website (www.CWGC.org) to research the lives, roles and deaths of men from your area. Combine this with research through the Ancestry website (www.ancestry.co.uk), which is freely available in Wigan Libraries, to find local stories that will hook, intrigue and inspire students.

BATTLEFIELD TOURS AND OTHER TOURS

www.angliatours.co.uk
This company organise group tours of the WW1 battlefields and other sites and currently have special offers for teachers and students.

www.key-stage.co.uk
A history tours specialist with over 20 years experience of organising successful and inspirational school tours. Our programmes have been developed in line with the curriculum to ensure your tour facilitates and reinforces classroom teaching, inspires students and provides valuable cultural and social experiences.

www.britishlegion.org.uk/remembrance/schools-and-learning/remembrance-travel-for-schools
The British Legion provide tours in Europe and the UK, designed to bring the past to life and to give students and youth groups a direct and memorable experience of history and culture, tailored to their curriculum or interests.
CLASSROOM IDEAS

1. Take part in a class online video conference with a soldier from WW1 via the Imperial War museum site and follow up diary or blog writing
2. Individual family research to contribute to a school book on WW1
3. Collect memories and photographs from home to create a web page related to experiences of WW1
4. Write an imaginary diary/blog related to the theme or based on diary of local WW1 hero/ famous person
5. A study of poetry from WW1/Poetry reading event
6. Perceptions of war through a study of the war artists of WW1 and related practical work
7. An historical study of the local town and its buildings during WW1
8. A research into and recreation of the Christmas Truce football match
9. Rehearse and perform scenes from “Journey’s End” by RC Sheriff
10. Research on Arthur Turtle a conscientious objector sent to Strangeways but later returned to public life
11. Research the role of women in WW1
12. Visit to WW1 memorials in the local area

WHOLE SCHOOL IDEAS

1. Hold a candlelit vigil ceremony for students, staff and parents to commemorate the start of WW1, perhaps involving the local church
2. A commemorative concert/performance related to the music and drama of 1914-18
3. Hold a class Poppy growing and planting ceremony/art related to the Poppy
4. Hold a street party or other community event related to the war theme
5. Produce scenes from “Oh What a Lovely War” Musical by Joan Littlewood or “Billy Bishop Goes to War” by John Gray or “Journey’s End “ by RC Sherriff. Other WW1 plays/musicals are listed at en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:World_War_I_plays
6. Contact your local church or branch of the Royal British Legion to inquire about students becoming involved in local Acts of Remembrance. Students could prepare poems or readings about the significance, or local links to, the day, or simply lay a wreath as part of the community’s own Act of Remembrance
7. Research on the role of animals during the war. See site for details on War Horses: www.thelowry.com/events/war-horse-2014/learning/education-resources/
SCHOOLS CULTURAL SERVICE SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

Our Heroes, Our Champions workshops
What does it mean to be a hero?

Changes in society during the last century have meant that individuals and groups have been asked to stand up for what they believe in and take leadership at particular points in history. This workshop explores the concepts of heroes and champions, using records and objects from the museum collection and archives to investigate what makes heroes and champions, and what their actions mean in relation to local pride and identity. Pupils look at primary and secondary sources to discover the stories of men, women and animals who become local heroes and champions.

Can be delivered in school or at The Museum of Wigan Life. To find out more or book a workshop please call 01942 828128 or email museumofwiganlifebookings@wlct.org

FREE FIRST WORLD WAR EXHIBITION AT MUSEUM OF WIGAN LIFE

Saturday 6th September 2014 – January 2015

Bring your class to discover what life was like for local people on the Home Front and Western Front during WW1. Original objects and archives bring history to life and explore how the war affected local people. How many Wigan and Leigh soldiers received the Victoria Cross? Did you know German POWs were held at Leigh? This exhibition explores the impact of war including the role of local women, opposition to the war and the huge sacrifices of soldiers and civilians alike.

Unfacilitated class visits are free but please let us know you are planning a visit. Or why not combine your visit with a Schools Cultural Service workshop? To book a free visit or a special workshop please call 01942 828128 or email museumofwiganlifebookings@wlct.org
More information at www.wlct.org/wigan/museums-archives
Help and advice provided on how to access local and national historic sources covering WW1, including the stories of local men and their families and the effects of the war on the Wigan Borough. Wigan Archives and Local Studies have a wealth of resources and expertise at the Museum of Wigan Life, Leigh Library and Leigh Town Hall. Research resources for WW1 include the following. NB Please note there may be a small charge for images and copies. Please visit www.wlct.org/wigan/museums-archives. Please call 01942 404430 or 01942 828020

- Military images available online at WiganImages.com
- Leigh Military Tribunal records
- Arthur Turtle papers. Arthur was a local conscientious objector who was sent to Strangeways but later returned to public life.
- Greater Manchester Archives Partnership First World War blog includes local stories at gm1914.wordpress.com
- Two volumes of Wigan Military Chronicle (record of Wigan’s military history of the war) transcribed.
- Soldiers War Diaries
- Full index of all references to soldiers in Leigh and Wigan from the Wigan Observer and Leigh Journal (i.e. all wounded or killed soldiers in the Borough)
KEY DATES LIKELY TO BE MARKED NATIONALLY

4th August 2014 - Centenary of the commencement of war

The opening day of the centenary will be the 4th August 2014. This is being marked by a wreath-laying service at Glasgow’s Cenotaph following the special service for Commonwealth leaders at Glasgow Cathedral, an event at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission St Symphorien Military Cemetery in Mons, Belgium and a candlelit vigil of prayer and penitence at Westminster Abbey finishing at 11pm – the moment war was declared. The Government is working with various churches, faiths and other organisations to see if the Vigil can be replicated around the country.

There will be further national acts of remembrance to mark dates that were significant during WW1 in particularly the first day of the Battle of the Somme (1st July 2016) and Armistice Day (20th November 2018). Other dates include: 25th Dec 1914- the Christmas Truce; 19th Feb 1915 - the Battle of Gallipoli; 31st May 1916 - Battle of Jutland; and 31st July 1917 Battle of Passchendaele.

SOME KEY LOCALLY IMPORTANT DATES

There are some dates of particular significance to Wigan Borough including:

February 2015 – The first German prisoners arrive at a POW camp at Etherstone Mill, Leigh. Camp remains open until 1919.

Feb 2015 – The centenary of the Gallipoli landings when 600 men from the Lancashire Fusiliers died on the first day of the landings.

13th September 1917 Private Thomas Woodcock VC (Irish Guards) was awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions at Broenbeek, Belgium

25th April 1915 - 2 soldiers from Wigan received the Victoria Cross – Private William Keneally VC and Corporal John Elisha Grimshaw VC.

20th October 1918 – Private Alfred Robert Wilkinson VC (Manchester Regiment) from Leigh awarded Victoria Cross at Maru, northern France.
OTHER NON EVENT PLANNED ACTIVITIES OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

In addition to events to mark significant dates there will be a host of other national activities taking place which are themed around commemorating WW1 and have secured government and Lottery funding. Examples of such activities include:

The reopening of the Imperial War Museum (IWM) London following the £35 million refurbishment of WW1 galleries. The IWM London was founded in 1917 to record the then still-continuing conflict.

An enduring educational legacy funded with £5.3 million from the Department for Education and the Department for Communities and Local Government, which will allow 2 student ambassadors, plus a teacher, from each maintained school in England to visit WW1 battlefields and undertake research on people local to their school who fought in the war.

At least £15 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund, including a new £6 million community project fund to enable young people working in their communities to conserve, explore and share local heritage of the WW1.

A grant of up to £1 million from the National Heritage Memorial Fund to support HMS Caroline, the last surviving warship from the Battle of Jutland – the ship will have a secure future in Belfast, where thousands of people will be able to visit her and learn about her unique role in WW1.
SHARING YOUR NEWS AND EVENTS:

Why not contact the local media to cover your story

Leigh Reporter
Andrew Nowell
Tel: 01942 506261
Email: andrew.nowell@jpress.co.uk

Leigh Journal
Sophie Arnold
Tel: 01942 426811
Email: sophie.arnold@nqnw.co.uk

Wigan Reporter
James Illingworth
Tel: 01942 506274
Email: james.illingworth@jpress.co.uk

Wigan Evening Post
Charles Graham
Tel: 01942 506271
Email: charles.graham@lancspublications.co.uk

Wigan Observer
Andrew Edgeworth
Tel: 01942 506279
Email: andrew.edgeworth@jpress.co.uk

Wish FM
Rebecca Barratt
Tel: 01942 777695
Email: Rebecca.Barratt@utvmedia.co.uk