

Eyam commemorates the First World War

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The £21,000 grant will fund research and an exhibition - Eyam 1914-1918: A Second Sacrifice, which will reveal the impact of the war on the local area. The exhibition will open in March 2014, to coincide with the centenary anniversary of the start of the First World War.

Eyam 1914-1918: A Second Sacrifice will be based on the parish calendar of 1916 which was produced by the rector at the time, Rev. Shaw. The calendar includes the names of 72 local men – 50 of them as photographs. Research will uncover the stories of these 72 men.

The project remembers the sacrifices of 1916 and those of an earlier era. As well as the centenary of the start of the First World War, Eyam will also be commemorating the 350th anniversary of arrival of the bubonic plague in the village. Villagers sacrificed their lives at that time to contain the outbreak within the village.

Vanessa Harbar, Head of Heritage Lottery Fund East Midlands, commented on the funding awarded: "This is a wonderful and intriguing project that serves to commemorate the impact of the First World War on Eyam and its residents. The village has good reason to be proud of its ancestors, their response to the bubonic plague and their wartime sacrifices. We look forward to the exhibition and hope the project will serve to raise further the profile of this honorable museum to the community and its visitors."

Ken Thompson, Chairman of Eyam Museum, welcomed the funding: "We are excited to give visitors a unique opportunity to compare both these sacrifices made by the village. The local community in Eyam and the surrounding area has a long tradition of honoring the past and the sacrifices made by those connected to the region. The exhibition will continue this heritage at a time when the country as a whole is commemorating this landmark event.

"The grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund allows us not only to hold the exhibition; it is funding the in-depth research that will involve many people from the local area, making this a true community project."

As well as committee members from the museum, local volunteers and students from Hope Valley College will be involved and the research will range widely from local oral history, newspaper archives to the Imperial War Museum in London.

The Heritage Lottery Fund has now awarded over £17million pounds in funding to preserving the heritage of Derbyshire dales to date.

Further Informtion

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