

Jo Ursell, Project Manager at Groundwork South Kent & Medway, holding the books that form part of the Sisterhood and Solidarity

The project focuses on the impact of the First World War on local women and will begin in the spring and last for six months.

Using two books written by local author, Laura Probert, the project will work with schools and community groups to enable them to explore how the women who were left at home whilst the menfolk fought in the conflict, rose to the challenges and how their lives changed forever as a result. The project will involve workshops, talks and free visits to local sites of interest including Quex House which was used as a military hospital.

First World War Minister Helen Grant, said: “This project shows that there is no such thing as an 'ordinary woman'. With the shelling from the frontline in France ringing in their ears, Thanet women strived, suffered, survived and fought for new rights. Theirs is an inspirational and important story for us to tell in this centenary year. Creating this lasting legacy is a fitting way to pay our respects and remember these incredible women.”

Commenting on the award, Jo Ursell, Project Officer said: “We are thrilled to have received the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund and can’t wait to start bringing local history alive to the residents of Thanet in a project which will honour the sacrifices and hard work of our local women during the Great War.”

Notes to editors

Groundwork South (Kent and Medway) is a charitable trust whose principal objective is to support disadvantaged and marginalised communities. We work with community groups, local authorities, businesses and other voluntary sector organisations to deliver a range of projects which strengthen communities and improve the local environment.

We have worked over many years in Thanet on various community projects and work programmes from Team Green which worked with Thanet District Council to provide work experience for local youth to Spots v Stripes a two year project which brought community games to local people in the run up to the 2012 Olympics.

Further information

Jo Ursell, Project Officer at Groundwork South Kent & Medway on 07850310652 or email: jo.ursell@groundwork.org.uk.