



Heritage Lottery Fund awards £9,900 to Neatishead, Irstead and Barton Turf Community Heritage Group for their project “Living through World War One in three Norfolk Broadland villages: Neatishead, Irstead and Barton Turf” to mark First World War Centenary

Today, Neatishead, Irstead and Barton Turf Community Heritage Group (NIB CHG) has received £9,900 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for their project “Living through World War One in three Norfolk Broadland Villages: Neatishead, Irstead and Barton Turf” which has been awarded through HLF’s **First World War: then and now** programme.

Over two years the project will research local families whose relatives served in the armed forces during the First World War, who died or lived through it; and explore village life in Neatishead, Irstead and Barton Turf during this time. The group with other interested members of the community will collect and collate local artefacts, documents, records, photographs, recollections and oral histories to preserve the memories and heritage of the people who lived through the First World War. This will be used to create a living history day at the Neatishead Primary School, individual exhibitions in the five village churches (St Michael’s Irstead, St Peter’s Neatishead, St Michael and All Angels Barton Turf, Neatishead Baptist Chapel and Barton Turf Methodist Church) during Open Churches Week in August 2014, each focussing on the particular parish or church community. In May 2015 these will be exhibited collectively in the New Victory Hall, Neatishead, the village hall for the three villages.

All the material will be made available as a permanent resource and via a dedicated website. The archive will allow the public to discuss, contribute, share and research information about life in Neatishead, Irstead and Barton Turf.

Material from the project will be offered to a local creative writing group in order to develop a script for a drama based on wartime experiences, which it is hoped, will be performed by the local drama group, Neatishead and Barton Society (NABS), during November 2015.

Commenting on the award, Claire Penstone-Smith, Chair of the Group said: “We are thrilled to have received the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund and look forward to our local community,

their families and friends, experiencing what it was like to live before, during and after the First World War in Neatishead, Irstead and Barton Turf, through our differing events and displays.”

Explaining the importance of the HLF support, the head of the HLF East of England, Robyn Llewellyn, said: “The impact of the First World War was far reaching, touching and shaping every corner of the UK and beyond. The Heritage Lottery Fund has already invested more than £15million in projects – large and small - that are marking this global Centenary; with our new small grants programme, we are enabling even more communities like those involved in Living through World War One in three Norfolk Broadland villages: Neatishead, Irstead and Barton Turf, to explore the continuing legacy of this conflict and help local young people in particular to broaden their understanding of how it has shaped our modern world.”