

AFTWF conference evaluation

Quantitative

80 registered; 60 ticked on day; 36 forms returned

	1= Definitely agree	2= Mostly agree	3= Mostly disagree	4= Definitely disagree
Q1. I have a good knowledge of the First World War generally	1	2	3	4
Q2. I have a good knowledge of the War away from the Western Front	1	2	3	4
Q3. The event has enabled me to meet new people in this field	1	2	3	4
Q4. The event has helped me with my own project(s)	1	2	3	4
Q5. The venue was appropriate for this event	1	2	3	4
Q6. After today my knowledge and understanding has improved	1	2	3	4

Q	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	Score
1	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	3	2	2	1	3	4	1	2	3	2	1	2	3	1	1	1	2	1	3	1	1	2	63	
2	1	2	2	2	3	1	3	3	2	1	2	1	2	3	2	3	1	2	4	2	4	3	3	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	4	1	1	3	75	
3	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	50	
4	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	3	1	2	3	1	2	4	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	4	1	1	56/32		
5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	41		
6	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	41	

35 responses. 35 points maximum positive; anything under 70 = overall 'agree'; 52.5 = average 1.5 score. Anything over 70 = overall 'disagree'.

Q1. I have a good knowledge of the First World War generally.

63: mixed. Mostly quite knowledgeable but six 3s and 4s (17%). However 14 (40%) reckoned they were very knowledgeable about the FWW.

Q2. I have a good knowledge of the War away from the Western Front

75: marginally disagreed. Only 9 (8.5%) felt they were very knowledgeable about the FWW aftwf. 10 disagreed (28%). Largest number was 'Mostly agree' (43%).

Q3. The event has enabled me to meet new people in this field

50: conference achieved its aim of bringing people together. Very high 'definitely agree' scores (63%). Total 'agree' scores (1&2) = 94%.

Q4. The event has helped me with my own project(s)

56 (3 non-replies), so positive. Only 6 did not agree (19%). 81% agreed. AFTWF has contributed to the wider study of FWW.

Q5. The venue was appropriate for this event

41. 100% agreed.

Q6. After today my knowledge and understanding has improved

41. 100% agreed: event succeeded.

Demographics

32 completed forms were returned.

Age: 91% were over 50, and none under 40. 17 (53%) were in the 60-69 range, with 19% 50-59 and 19% 40-49.

Gender: 50% male, 50% female

Ethnicity: All who replied identified themselves as 'White'.

Disability: Only one person identified themselves as having a disability.

On this basis the event cannot be seen to have broken out of the traditional 'heritage' audience type. In view of the more ethnic reach of the projects themselves, this perhaps says more about the nature of the event itself than the project as a whole.

Qualitative

Knowledge & Understanding

People learnt about new aspects of the history of the First World War:

- *I have learnt a great deal about the range of the campaigns away from the Western Front – and the awful loss of life as a result of illness rather than conflict.*
- *Hejaz Railway talk a revelation.*
- *[I learnt about] the Italian connection outlined by 'The Turin Men'.*

People learnt about new ways to present history to wider audiences:

- *I believe that all the research and events that have taken place as part of the centenary period – such as 'Away from the Western Front' and its associated projects – have helped ensure that today's children are better informed about this subject than many earlier generations. The Heritage Lottery Fund has been crucial in bringing this and so many other 'heritage' based initiatives to life.*

- *I learned too many facts to list but what has struck me is the ways in which the past can be made relevant, accessible and important today. Thank you 😊.*
- *The value to young people involved is my most positive impression.*
- *It was great to see how all the individual projects have been linked together and how they have a permanent record via the website.*

People learnt about how to manage a heritage event:

- *A particularly well-organised and structured event with a practical exposition of cross-organisational co-operation.*
- *Particularly successful: the use of 'short' speeches made it move along very well and gave just a wide variety of topics; the excellent use of Lottery money has been put to involving many communities and age groups. A brilliant and informative day. Many thanks.*

Attitudes and Values

People's views about participation and engagement were changed as a result of attending the event:

- *These splendid volunteers through the projects are passing on to the younger generation about what took place.*
- *People of all ages are participating – it drags you in!*

Enjoyment, inspiration, creativity

People enjoyed the event and were inspired to learn more and develop future projects of their own.

- *Meeting experts and enthusiasts in the field of WW1 away from the Western Front, I have been inspired to learn more.*
- *Very impressed by the dedication and amazing research on the variety of topics covered today.*
- *Fantastic event – such a mixture of creative projects.*
- *[I learnt] how a small amount of money can go a long way in helping people engage and learn when there is such good co-ordination.*
- *The creative writing was excellent.*
- *Excellent and informative talks about community projects. Truly inspiring.*
- *[I have learnt] so much. [There's] so much I want to look more into now I've had this taster, particularly in terms of ethnic mix and the psychological inheritance of the descendants.*
- *I have lots of ideas, if I can prize more money out of my Trustees!*

Robin Clutterbuck

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