

# Wilfred Owen Association

## 90 Years On (1918-2008)

*A programme of events in and around Shrewsbury to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the death of Wilfred Owen and the signing of the 1918 Armistice.*



*3rd – 21st November 2008*

# Programme



3rd – 21st November 2008

## Remembered

*The Gateway Education and Arts Centre*

*Telephone 01743 355159*

An exhibition celebrating the 90th anniversary of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The work of the Commission is enormous – to commemorate the men and women of the Commonwealth forces who died in the two world wars and in other conflicts.

The Commission has kindly lent to the Wilfred Owen Association the beautiful and haunting photographs, by **Brian Harris**, of some of the memorials, cemeteries and graves in their care. **Free admission**

Wednesday 5th November 2008

## A Literary Friendship

*Owen and Sassoon*

*a talk by **Richard Field***

*The Gateway Education & Arts Centre – 10.00am*

Inextricably linked through shared experiences, though from very different backgrounds, their meeting at Craiglockhart Hospital in August 1917 had a profound effect on both men.

When Owen was killed just over a year later, he had published only five poems; Sassoon became his champion and brought out the first edition of Owen's poetry in 1920.

Both men sought to tell the truth. This talk will aim to place both poets in their social and literary backgrounds before considering Owen's reputation, as it evolved through subsequent editions of his poems, and the writings of Sassoon himself.

**Tickets £8 (£6)**

Thursday 6th November 2008

## War Stories

**Kate Adie** in conversation with **Richard Holmes**

*Shrewsbury High School – 7.30pm*

How do you write about war and the pity of war in the 21st century?

Kate Adie, best known for her reporting from the major wars of recent years, and Richard Holmes, the celebrated and widely respected military historian, will discuss the issues that need to be considered and the responsibilities of writing about war, and the soldiers who fight those wars.

**Tickets £10 (£8)**

Friday 7th November 2008

## Lunch Time Concert

*St. Chad's Church – 12.40pm*

**David Leeke**, Organist and Director of Music at St. Chad's will give an organ recital of English music to include works by Elgar and Vaughan Williams

**Free admission** – retiring collection

*A light lunch will be available in the Vestry after the concert.*

Friday 7th November 2008

## A Guided Walk

on Haughmond Hill in the footsteps  
of Wilfred Owen - 2.30pm

Meet at Uffington Village (parking available)

Route maps from Shrewsbury to Uffington will be provided for all those wishing to take part. Tea and cakes will be available at the Lion Hotel afterwards. Holy Trinity Church, Uffington, where the Owen family worshiped, will be open to visitors.

**Free event.**

**For full details please contact Sam Gray on 01323 641520**

**Email: [swgray@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:swgray@tiscali.co.uk)**

Friday 7th November 2008

Presentation of the **Children's Poetry Award**  
by **Professor Jon Stallworthy**

Followed by

**Wilfred Owen's Afterlife:**  
a talk by **Professor Stallworthy**

*The Ashton Theatre, Shrewsbury School – 7.00pm*

Ninety years after an all-but-unknown poet was killed on a French canal bank, he has gained an all-but-mythic status in the national imagination, and his poems have become the best known of the Great War. Wilfred Owen's biographer, editor and Literary Trustee investigates the reasons why.

**Tickets £8(£6)**

Saturday 8th November 2008

## Day School

*The Gateway Education & Arts Centre – 10.00am–3.30pm*

An illustrated talk by **Julie Summers**, author of **REMEMBERED** the book published to coincide with the 90th anniversary of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The book highlights the importance of the Commission's work not only in keeping alive the national memory but also for its tireless work in caring for the memorials and graves of those who died in the two world wars and in other conflicts

**STRANGE MEETINGS** – a talk by **Martin Brown**, professional archaeologist and founder member of No Man's Land: The European Group for Great War Archaeology. In 2003 he led The Heidenkopf excavations at Serre (the Somme), looking for the dugouts described in Owen's poem "*The Sentry*" for the BBC Ancestors' series. He will describe the 2003 Serre excavations that led to the identification of two skeletons which were then reunited with their families.

### Coffee

A talk by **Gary Mead** on **THE GOOD SOLDIER**, his biography of Douglas Haig. *"A great merit of this well-written and fair biography is that it gives as much attention to Haig's early life and to the post-war years as to the four years of the War itself. This enables the reader to understand what manner of man he was; to appreciate also the work he did for the care of ex-soldiers".*

Allan Massie

### Lunch

continued over...

SONGS AND MUSIC OF THE GREAT WAR – a talk by Ted Maidment. The reflective, sad, sometimes tormented music of Vaughan Williams and Ivor Gurney; the romantic melodies of Ivor Novello; and the bitter ribald sustaining songs of the ordinary soldier will all be considered in this talk on the music of the Great War.

**Tickets** for the Day School, **£25 (£23)** to include a light lunch

Saturday 8th November 2008

## Concert: Music For Remembrance

*The Abbey Church, Shrewsbury – 7.30pm*

### The Lark Ascending

*Conductor: **Martin Schellenberg**. Violin: **Robert Bishop***

*The Oswestry Sinfonia*

A poem by George Meredith inspired **Ralph Vaughan Williams** to compose *The Lark Ascending*, one of the most memorable works for violin. Supported by the restrained orchestration, the notes of the solo violin soar up in a delicate and haunting evocation.

### Morning Heroes

*Orator: **Robert Hardy**. Conductor: **Martin Schellenberg**.*

*The Shrewsbury Choral Society and The Oswestry Sinfonia*

An oratorio for narrator, chorus and orchestra, *Morning Heroes* was written by **Sir Arthur Bliss** as a tribute to his brother and all the comrades who fell in the Great War. Each of the five movements describes an aspect of war common to all ages and to all times.

**Tickets £10 (£8)** Centre aisle seats  
**£8 (£4)** Side aisles with restricted view

Sunday 9th November 2008

## Remembrance Sunday Service

*The Abbey Church, Shrewsbury – 10.00am*

*11.30am - Poppy laying and readings at **Symmetry**, the memorial to Wilfred Owen in the grounds of Shrewsbury Abbey*

## Lunch

*at The Lion Hotel – 12.30pm*

*followed by*

## Tolling the Bell

An anthology of poetry and prose, drawn from Ancient Greece to the present time, compiled and read by **Andrew Bannerman**. Andrew will argue that war does violence to language and that the expressive power of poetry is our best defence against its corruption.

**Tickets** (to include lunch) **£16 (£14)**

## Choral Evensong

*Holy Trinity Church, Uffington – 6.30pm*

The Owen family regularly attended Evensong at Holy Trinity. In the summer Tom Owen and the children would walk through the fields from Shrewsbury and catch the ferry across the River Severn at Uffington.

For all events, the concessionary ticket prices are shown in brackets and are available to members of the Wilfred Owen Association, students and Passport to Leisure holders.

# Information

Further information and tickets for all Wilfred Owen Association events are available by post from:

Caroline Thewles,  
Co-ordinator,  
The Wilfred Owen Association,  
18 Crescent Place, Town Walls,  
Shrewsbury SY1 1TQ

Telephone 01743 353424

or **in person from:**

Pengwern Books, Princess Street,  
Shrewsbury SY1 1LW.

**By telephone 01743 232236**

**Online: [www.pengwernbooks.co.uk](http://www.pengwernbooks.co.uk)**

If you would like to join the Wilfred Owen Association please contact the membership secretary

Vanessa Davis,  
29 Arthur Road, London SW19 7DN  
Email: [vcedavis@hotmail.com](mailto:vcedavis@hotmail.com)

Press Officer:

Annabel Warburg, The Arches,  
Longnor, Nr Shrewsbury,  
Shropshire SY5 7PP

Tel: 01743 718005 Mobile 07800 571174

Email: [annabelwarburg@uwclub.net](mailto:annabelwarburg@uwclub.net)

Pengwern Books will be selling relevant books at all venues.

The Wilfred Owen Association's website is [www.1914-18.co.uk/owen](http://www.1914-18.co.uk/owen)

## Other events

Other events taking place in Shrewsbury in 2008 include:

Thursday 30th October

The Music Hall, Shrewsbury – 7.30pm

### Oh What a Lovely War

Composed in the 1960s by Joan Littlewood and her fellow artists at the Theatre Workshop in London, this musical play is a savage indictment of the horror and, in the words of Wilfred Owen, the pity of war.

**Tickets** and further information from the  
Music Hall Box Office Tel: 01743 281281

Thursday 13th November

Venue to be confirmed – 7.15pm

### Talk: Images and Realities of the Western Front by Professor Ian Beckett

**Tickets £5** and further information from John Till, The Historical  
Association, Shropshire Branch. Tel: 01743 236794

Friday 21st November

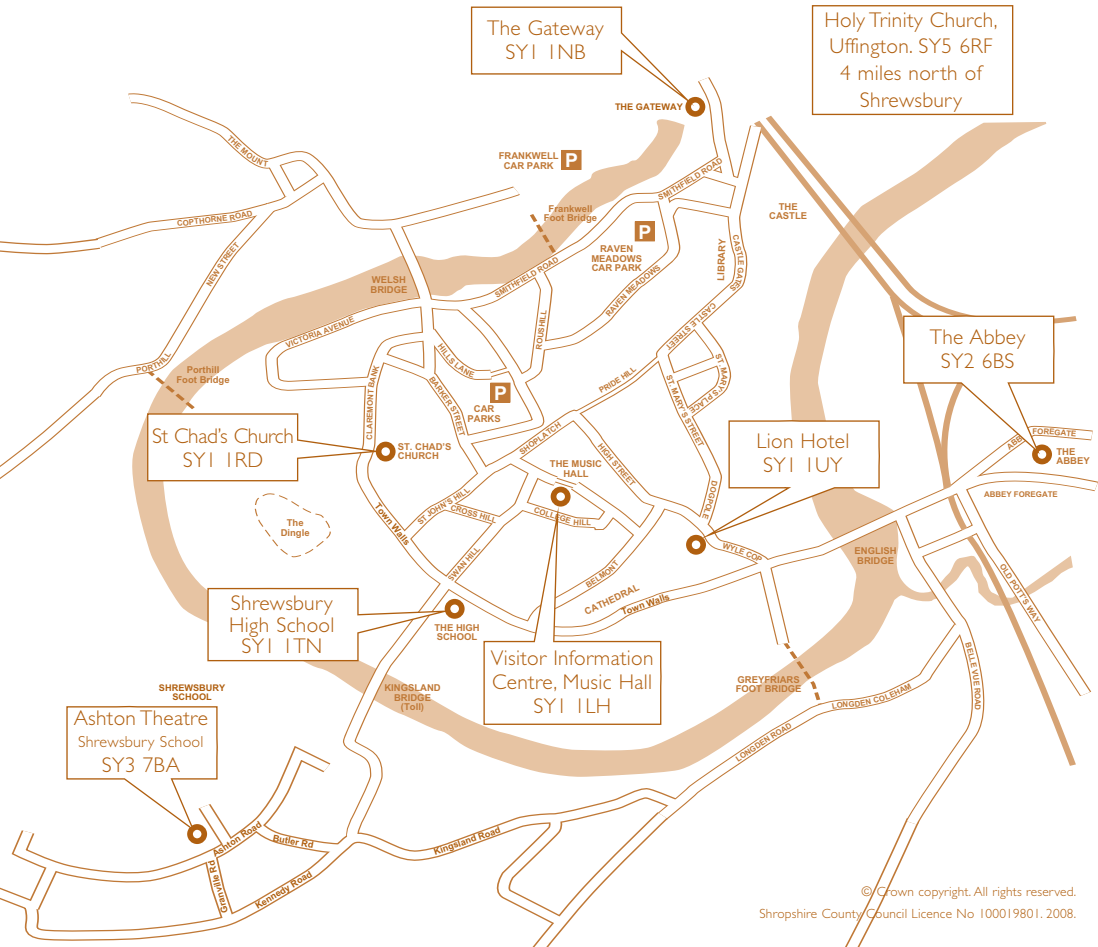
The Music Hall, Shrewsbury – 7.30pm

### Private Peaceful – The Concert

With Michael Morpurgo and Coope, Boyes & Simpson  
A powerful coupling of the author's narrations, from his award winning children's book, and the evocative songs of the Great War. Private Peaceful is a poignant reminder not only of the futility of war but also how important the Great War has been in shaping the modern folk canon.

**Tickets** and further information from  
The Music Hall Box Office Tel: 01743 281281

# Map of Shrewsbury



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Information on hotels and bed & breakfast accommodation in the Shrewsbury area can be found by contacting the Visitor Information Centre on 01743 281200 or email: [visitorinfo@shrewsbury.gov.uk](mailto:visitorinfo@shrewsbury.gov.uk)

The WILFRED OWEN ASSOCIATION is extremely grateful to the following for their support and generosity:



**The Walker Trust**

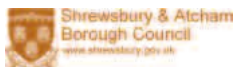
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THE GOLDEN CROSS HOTEL

GATEWAY PROMOTIONS

THE SHREWSBURY MUSIC HALL

THE JOSEPH AND NANCY BURTON  
CHARITABLE TRUST



THE CORNHOUSE RESTAURANT

THE LION HOTEL

PENGWERN BOOKS

TURNER PEACHEY - ACCOUNTANTS



BUDGEN MOTORS

THE ARTHUR BLISS SOCIETY

# The Wilfred Owen Association

The Wilfred Owen Association was formed in 1989 to commemorate the life and work of the renowned poet who died in the final week of the First World War.

Philip Larkin described him 'an original and unforgettable poet', 'the spokesman of a deep and unaffected compassion'.

Owen's poetry retains its relevance and universal appeal; it is certainly much more widely read and appreciated now than at any time since his death, and the Association's wide range of members represents all backgrounds and levels of scholarship and interest.

Modern scholarship regards Owen's work as the most significant poetry to come out of the 1914-1918 war years and his influence on later generations of poets and readers is widely acknowledged.

Since its formation the Association has established permanent public memorials in Shrewsbury and in Oswestry. In addition to readings, talks, visits, and performances, it promotes and encourages exhibitions and conferences, and awareness and appreciation of Owen's poetry. It publishes a regular Journal.

The association offers practical support for students of literature and future poets, through links with education, support for literary foundations and information on historical and literary background material.

For further information please contact:

The Chair  
The Wilfred Owen Association  
21 Culverden Avenue  
Tunbridge Wells  
Kent TN4 9RE  
Email: [mmccrane@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:mmccrane@ukonline.co.uk)

The Membership Secretary  
The Wilfred Owen Association  
29 Arthur Road  
Wimbledon  
London SW19 7DN  
[vcedavis@hotmail.com](mailto:vcedavis@hotmail.com)

Or visit our website:  
[www.1914-18.co.uk/owen](http://www.1914-18.co.uk/owen)



Reg. Charity No. 702606

The above logo is based on Wilfred Owen's own design for his initials, which was engraved on his cigarette case.

# The Wilfred Owen Association



## BOOKING FORM

Please return to: *Caroline Thewles, The Co-ordinator  
18 Crescent Place, Town Walls, Shrewsbury SY1 1TQ*

From: .....

Address: .....

.....

Postcode: ..... Telephone: .....

*Concessionary prices (the lower figure in brackets) are available to members of  
The Wilfred Owen Association, students and Passport to Leisure holders.*

### Please send the following:

- .... tickets @ £8 and .... tickets @ (£6) for A Literary Friendship
- .... tickets @ £10 and .... tickets @ (£8) for War Stories
- .... tickets @ £8 and .... tickets @ (£6) for Wilfred Owen's Afterlife
- .... tickets @ £25 and .... tickets @ (£23) for the Day School
- .... centre aisle tickets @ £10 and .... tickets @ (£8) for Music for Remembrance
- .... side aisle tickets @ £8 and .... tickets @ (£4) for Music for Remembrance
- .... tickets @ £16 and .... tickets @ (£14) for Tolling the Bell

I/we would like to attend the Lunch Time Concert on Friday 7 November: No: ....

I/we would like to attend the Guided Walk on Friday 7 November: No: ....

I would like to attend the Poppy Laying at Symmetry on Sunday 9 November: No: ....

I would like to attend Choral Evensong at Holy Trinity, Uffington on 9 November: No: ....

I enclose a cheque for £ ..... made payable to **The Wilfred Owen Association**  
together with a **stamped addressed envelope**.

### Please tick

- I am a member of the Wilfred Owen Association
- I am a student
- I have a Passport to Leisure
- I would like to join The Wilfred Owen Association

*Details of events were correct at the time of printing. Please check your tickets as soon as you receive them.  
The Wilfred Owen Association cannot refund money or exchange tickets, except in the case of a cancelled event.*