

# War Widows' Stories

History. Memories. Heritage.

## PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET PARTICIPATORY ARTS WORKSHOPS

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You are being invited to take part in a research and heritage project. Before you decide whether or not you would like to take part, it is important you understand why the research is being done and what it involves. Please take time to read the following information. Please get in touch if there is anything that is not clear, or if you would like more information. Take your time to decide if you want to take part.

**1. What is the purpose of the study?** War Widows' Stories is a project that aims to record and raise public awareness of the experiences of war widows in the UK. To help raise awareness of the project and to increase public understanding of what it is like to be a war widow in the UK, we are organising three participatory arts workshops in 2019. The workshops will be hosted by Dr Nadine Muller (War Widows' Stories, Project Leader) and artists Lois Blackburn and Philip Davenport) who will assist you in making your experiences of into a war widows' quilt and poetry. The quilt and poetry will be presented at our launch event in November 2019, which you will be invited to attend for free (and we will cover your travel, accommodation, and subsistence expenses). Photographs of the quilt and recordings and reproductions of the poetry will also be published on the project website (<http://www.warwidowsstories.org.uk>) and social media channels, as well as in an edited print volume of which you will receive a free copy. If you decide to take part in a workshop, we will pay for your travel, accommodation, and subsistence (please see below for details).

**2. Do I have to take part?** No. It is entirely up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do, you will be asked to sign a consent form prior to the workshop, and a further consent form for the publication of any poetry or quilt work. You are free to withdraw from participating in the event at any time and without giving a reason. This will not affect any future services you receive. Please read the sections below for more details about how and when you can withdraw your consent to participate. If you do participate, you do not have to share any personal stories or details during the workshop if you prefer not to. You can contribute in a way that is informed by – but does not divulge – your personal experiences.

**3. What will happen to me if I take part?** If you decide you want to take part in one (or more) of the workshops, we ask that you let us know no later than two weeks before the respective workshop date by returning the corresponding consent form by email or in the post (please see the consent form for details). The project leader will then contact you to arrange your travel and accommodation (if required) and to let you now any further details. You will be able to claim back reasonable subsistence costs after the event. The workshop will last up to four hours, but you do not need to stay for the entire time, and you are welcome to leave or take a break at any point. The project leader will also ask you if you wish to bring along and share with the audience any personal artefacts (such as letters, photographs, or medals, for example). You are not obliged to do so. If there is an object you wish to share with us, we will – with your permission – photograph the object and include it in the printed volume. We will not remove the item from your possession at any point. After the event, you will be

given the opportunity to review the final version of your art work and poetry. We will not publish any of these materials without your written consent and can edit / alter them within reason. You will be asked to sign a second consent form, which allows us to publish images of the quilt, show the quilt at our launch event, and publish the poetry and photographs on our website and social media channels. Once they have been published, we may not be able to make further edits or changes, but we will do our best to accommodate any request and will delete material where possible should you decide to withdraw your consent.

**4. Are there any risks / benefits involved?** We hope that the experience of taking part will be enjoyable. However, there is a chance you will recall upsetting experiences during the workshop, even if not asked about them specifically. Our artists, Lois and Phil, have a wealth of experience of speaking to people who have experienced loss and war, and you will find them a pleasure to talk to. Still, during the workshop you will be free to request a break whenever necessary, and you will be free to leave the workshop at any point. The project leader has been trained in bereavement awareness to ensure distressing situations can be handled sensitively and appropriately. You can withdraw from the event at any point, even during the workshop. However, we ask that you think carefully about participating as the costs of any train tickets and hotel rooms we book for may be non-refundable to the project, and our funds are limited. The following organisations and helplines will be able to provide you with support should you require it following the workshop. You are also encouraged to contact your WWA regional organiser, should you wish to seek support from your local WWA group. If you have any questions or concerns about the project, please contact the researcher directly, and they will be more than happy to answer your questions. If you would rather not discuss your concerns with the project leader, you can contact the WWA, who are the project gatekeeper.

War Widows' Association of Great Britain	: 0845 241 2189
Army Widows' Association	: 0300 666 0136
RAF Widows' Association	: 0870 5143 901
Royal Navy, Royal Marines Widows' Association	: 023 926 543 374
CRUSE	: 0844 477 9400

**5. Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential?** We will ask you after the workshop what details you are happy for us to share alongside your artwork (for example, you may not want us to publish your full name). You can keep your participation anonymous if you wish. The details you provide when volunteering for the project (address, phone number, email address) will be stored safely in a password-protected file on a password-protected LJMU computer. Any hardcopies of your forms will be stored in a locked filing cabinet in the project leader's office. They will only be accessible by the project leader and the research assistant for the purpose of contacting you relation to the process. A master copy of any photographs of the art work will be stored on a secure LJMU server to ensure its safe preservation. Once you have consented to the publication of the final versions of the art work and poetry, they will be published on the project website (<http://www.warwidowsstories.org.uk>) as well as its social media accounts (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and Soundcloud). After this, you will not be able to withdraw your consent and we will not be able to edit these works any further.

**6. Copyright** You own the copyright to your contribution to the art work. As part of the project, we ask that you grant us permission to keep a password-protected master copy of any images of the artwork on a safe LJMU server, to make your contribution publicly accessible by publishing audio and video recordings and photographs on the project website and the project's social media channels, providing you give us your consent to do so, as explained above.

This study has received ethical approval from LJMU's Research Ethics Committee (REF: 18/HSS/008).

#### Contact Details of Researcher

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If you any concerns regarding your involvement in this research, please discuss these with the researcher in the first instance. If you wish to make a complaint, please contact [researchethics@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:researchethics@ljmu.ac.uk) and your communication will be re-directed to an independent person as appropriate.



**The War Widows' Association of Great Britain**