



June, 2014

I write to introduce you to the **Dunsden Owen Association**, which celebrates the life and work of the First World War poet **Wilfred Owen**. He lived in the village of Dunsden, South Oxfordshire from 1911-13.

As you know, 2014 is the centenary of the start of WW1. The DOA has a busy programme of events to commemorate what happened 100 years ago, particularly in the Dunsden area. Wilfred became involved in the war in 1916 and was killed on 4 November, 1918, just one week before the Armistice. What a great loss to mankind!

Owen was lay assistant to the Rev Wigan at All Saints Church, Dunsden. During this time he wrote many letters in which he described the condition of local people and his work as a teacher and in the church. These are being used in a dramatic framework for a **Concert** to be held at the Church on 8 November.

In November we are also launching an exciting new **Trail** which will guide visitors around local places connected with Owen. This will be available in print and as a smartphone app which will bring Owen's local story to life with a rich mix of imagery, aural history recordings and professionally narrated readings.

From Friday November 7 there will be a professionally curated **Exhibition** about Owen, Dunsden and WW1 at the village hall, which it is hoped will include activities for children. A **WW1 Luncheon** will be held on 9 November after the **Remembrance Sunday service** and the **Armistice Day Service** is at the War Memorial on 11th November.

Our first event will be a special **Vigil Concert** at All Saints on 4 August. It has been especially developed for this occasion by The Reading Choir A440. This Service will commence at 9.30pm and end at 11.00pm, the moment when "all the lights in Europe are going out."

I sincerely hope that you will find our events of interest. Full details are online at [www.owenindunsden.org](http://www.owenindunsden.org) or [www.facebook.com/dunsdenowen](http://www.facebook.com/dunsdenowen) – please 'Like' this page. We are also on Twitter @OweninDunsden – please follow us.

We look forward to your support!

Sincerely,

Dunsden Owen Association committee

