TWO WARS, TWO GENERATIONS

A ROMSEY REMEMBRANCE EXHIBITION

5th - 7TH October 2019 Romsey Town Hall

"It was a huge success!" Those are the words uttered by local historian and military researcher, Victoria Burbidge, co-founder of the Romsey War Memorial Archive. Victoria and her colleague and fellow co-founder, Marc Thompson, held a two-day exhibition at the Town Hall entitled *Two Wars, Two Generations.* The exhibition drew in excess of three hundred visitors and was brought to a close at the end of the second day with a drinks reception for those families who have a relative commemorated on the Romsey War Memorial. The reception was attended by more than sixty people. Victoria gave a speech highlighting the stories behind several of the First and Second World War fatalities and to went to great lengths to explain the devastation felt by the families of the men who had died. Mrs. Brenda Turner whose father, George Philpott, was killed during the D-Day Landings in June 1944, said "It's wonderful that the memories of these men are not forgotten." During the speech, Victoria and Marc made a special presentation to Fleur Newman, a pupil at the Romsey School. Fleur had completed a school project based on Walter Frederick Harding who died of wounds in Gallipoli in May 1915. Victoria and Marc were so impressed with her research, they presented her with a book token, a selection of lapel pins and a box of WW1-related ephemera gathered from the battlefield in Gallipoli where Walter sustained his fatal wound.

Victoria and Marc and now gearing up for the Remembrance period. As with last year, they will be organising a two-week Remembrance Trail around the town's shops and businesses. In addition to this, they have also organised a field of knitted poppies to be placed in the Memorial Park in time for Remembrance Sunday which will include a poppy for every man commemorated on the Romsey War Memorial. Anyone wishing to knit a poppy should contact Victoria by phone on 01794 501755 or by email at victoria.burbidge@ntworld.com.