

REPORT TO WARWICK TOWN COUNCIL AGM – APRIL 2019

SUBMITTED BY “WARWICK POPPIES 2018”

“Warwick Poppies 2018” was a huge local project that culminated in a nine week display of over 62,438 handmade poppies, sited within St Mary’s Collegiate Church and timed to coincide with the centenary of the end of World War One. It was a community tribute to those whose lives had been touched by conflict, and those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom today. Amazingly, the project received poppy contributions from all parts of the town, district, county, country and abroad. The display attracted over 40,000 visitors and widespread media coverage, including television. This ensured that not only was the display hugely successful, but there was a significant and positive impact on the number of visitors coming to Warwick.

A small team of 8 people organised the whole event and they were also tasked with raising **all** associated funds. The Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire (project Patron) was keen to enable young people to experience the display and thus we organised, on 23rd November, a special “Service of Remembrance for Warwickshire Schoolchildren”. All state schools in the county were invited to apply for places and 600 people attended. It was a very moving Service attended by, amongst other civic dignitaries, the Mayor of Warwick.

We were delighted to receive a grant of £300 from Warwick Town Council last autumn and this enabled us to produce a bespoke “Order of Service”, in suitable font for schoolchildren, and something that they could each take home as a keepsake.

The “Warwick Poppies 2018” team are most grateful to Warwick Town Council.