



## **REPORT FOR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING ON 4 APRIL 2019**

2018 proved to be yet another exceptionally busy year for the Museum which is a voluntary funded Charitable Trust.

### **VISITORS**

- The Museum is open to the public every weekend between Easter and Remembrance Sunday. In 2018 we also opened on Fridays during August.
- 3,505 people signed our Visitors Book in 2018 (140 days).
- Private viewings and group bookings increased significantly during the past year. Our aim is to provide far more than just a good visitor experience.
- One of the most complimentary comments in our visitor's book in 2018 reads "*If I could stay here forever then I would. I have never been so inspired as I have been today.*"
- In 2018 we had 6,500 new unique visitors to our Museum website from across the globe. Work is now in progress to modernise the website to provide far more interaction.
- Our Museum Facebook Group continues to attract considerable interest by way of digital story telling with supporting images, especially those under the heading **100 Years Ago**.

### **RESEARCH**

- We continue to respond to research enquiries which are generated either through our website or from visitors who turn up looking for answers about family members who might have served in the Regiment. This can be often very time consuming.

### **MUSEUM MANAGEMENT**

- The day to day management and maintenance of the Museum displays and Archives is handled by the Museum Trustees with a team of volunteers drawn from the Friends of the Museum – who continue to work behind the scenes usually one or more day's midweek throughout the year.
- The Museum Trustees meet half yearly with the Mayor of Warwick and Town Clerk present in an ex Officio capacity.

### **IMPROVEMENTS**

- During 2018 we made some significant improvements to the Museum – these included: three additional display cases, Improved LED lighting and replacement of carpets.

### **NEW ADDITIONS**

- We have also designed and built a new display area within the Museum itself to accommodate silver, photograph albums and archive material relating to the former 268<sup>th</sup> (Warwickshire) Field Regiment Royal Artillery. Its antecedents include the Warwickshire Royal Horse Artillery (Brookes Battery) who in 1908 were part of the newly created Territorial Force. Its Headquarters was located in the Warwick Castle Stable Block.
- An additional selection of the Regiment's Silver is also now on display in the Council Chamber in this building.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

- During 2018 the Museum's Archivist gave three illustrated talks on the Warwickshire Yeomanry.



### **THIS & THAT**

- Since November 2018 we have had a young man working with us for three hours per week for his Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award.
- Recent acquisitions include a very fine selection of photographs relating to Pte Harry FOX who enlisted in 'B' Squadron, Warwickshire Yeomanry in 1912. He was killed at the Battle of Selle in 1918. One of the postcard photos in the collection confirms that Harry Fox was billeted at 11 Church Street, Warwick when the Regiment mobilised in August 1914.

### **THE NEW SEASON**

- **The Museum reopens for the 2019 season on the 19 April of this year** and will continue to open at weekends and bank holidays until Remembrance Sunday or at other times by special arrangement at any during the year.

### **THANK YOU**

- The Museum Trustees wish place on record their grateful thanks to the Warwick Town Council for all the assistance received during the year.