



## THE CENTENARY OF THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Royal British Legion was formed after the First World War in 1921, to help support soldiers returning to civilian life and they continue to do so 100 years on. They offer support

and advice to serving armed forces personnel and veterans about physical and mental wellbeing, finances and employment. Since its formation the RBL have championed Remembrance and adopted the red poppy as their emblem to symbolise Remembrance and Hope for a Peaceful future.

The devastating effects of war and bombing took its toll on the landscape of France, but through the mud and destruction the poppies grew, inspiring John McCrae's Poem:

### *In Flanders Fields*

*In Flanders' fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place: and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*



A French woman, Anna Guerin, wanted the UK to adopt the poppy symbol and helped to get 9 million poppies produced in 1921 and they sold out! This raised £106,000; a lot of money then. Their popularity has endured and today 40,000 volunteers help distribute 40 million poppies a year. By 1921 the tradition of the 2 minute silence had also been established.

You can support the RBL Centenary by writing a message of support on their message board at

[www.britishlegion.org.uk](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk), or by purchasing a range of products from their online shop.



# REACH

MONTH OF MAY SPECIAL

Older People Active Lives

NATIONAL WALKING MONTH ROYAL BRITISH LEGION LOCAL AND COMMUNITY HISTORY MONTH NATIONAL WALKING MONTH ROYAL BRITISH LEGION LOCAL AND COMMUNITY HISTORY MONTH NATIONAL WALKING MONTH ROYAL BRITISH LEGION LOCAL

## NATIONAL WALKING MONTH : LOCAL WALKS

For over 10 years, Frodsham has also produced a programme of walks. Up until 2019, the range of offerings was growing bigger every year. It was cancelled last year but this year the Frodsham Festival of Walks has moved on line and is offering a selection of walking routes and activities to inspire, motivate and encourage people to get out walking. <https://frodshamfestivalofwalks.uk>

The council has a top 10 list of 'no steps or stiles' walking routes - [ww.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](http://ww.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)—as follows:

*Walking is a fantastic way to keep active and maintain a healthy heart as it is fun, flexible and free!*

20 TIPS TO ADD 20 MINUTES OF WALKING TO YOUR DAY

## WALK THIS MAY

- \*Ashton's and Neumann's Flashes
- \*Caldy Valley Nature Park
- \*Chester Millenium Greenway
- \*Marbury Country Park
- \*Stanney Woods Local Nature Reserve
- \*Tarvin Community Woodlands
- \*Anderton Nature Park
- \*Delamere Forest Park
- \*Shakerley Mere
- \*The Weaver Parkway

Another popular walking route can be found in this week's 'Where Am I?' section in OPAL Reach. There's a history connection to it too—but not one you might expect. Can you figure it out?

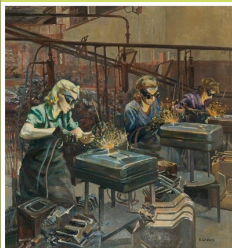
# Local and Community History Month

**THE WEAVER HALL MUSEUM AND WORKHOUSE** has an online exhibition exploring how women's work changed dramatically during the first half of the twentieth century, and highlights the essential role women played in keeping the county and the country going during the first and second World Wars. Did you know that Brunner Mond and Co at Northwich were Cheshire's greatest producers of munitions and explosives during this period, and by 1918 employed around 2,400 women?



*A group of women workers at Brunner Mond's Gadbrook Works © West Cheshire Museums collection*

It also mentions Ethel Gabain (1883 – 1950) who was one of six selected official war artists during the Second World War. In Chester, Williams & Williams Reliance Works commissioned 3 paintings. The firm was founded in Chester in 1910 to make metal window frames. During WWII the mostly female force made items ranging from Bailey bridges for the D Day landings to 48 million jerricans. If you would like to know more, visit <http://westcheshiremuseums.co.uk/working-women/>



*Ethel Gabain, Women Welders at Williams & Williams, Chester © West Cheshire Museums collection*

## MUNITIONETTES

Of all the roles women took on during the First World War their work in munitions factories was probably the most vital. Without the bullets and shells they produced the British Army couldn't have carried on fighting. Did you know there was a munitions factory in Hooton during WW2?

Working in the factories could be unpleasant, uncomfortable and often very dangerous. The female workers, nicknamed 'munitionettes', had limited protection against the toxic chemicals they had to use. Over 200 women lost their lives through accidents, explosions, or poisoning from handling chemical explosives.

'Mmunitionettes' were only employed during the war. The government negotiated with the trade unions to ensure that when the war ended the women would leave and their jobs would once again be filled by men.



**DID YOU KNOW?** Racecourse Camp or Camp 74 was a purpose-built, prisoner of war camp near Clotton? The site had water towers, offices, officer's mess, a canteen, guard rooms, barrack huts, ablution blocks, cell blocks, a medical facility/hospital, a cookhouse, dining rooms, recreation rooms and living huts or tents. Prisoners were sent out to work as labourers in the local area and it was used up until 1948. The camp was demolished and returned to pasture land.

## PETER WILLIS— REMEMBERING TARPORLEY

You may recall Peter Willis featured in our last supplement as he has written a book, *Tarporley Memories*. Deep in the midst of writing another one—due out in December—he kindly took some time out to recall some pastime enjoyment that took place in the village of Tarporley in the late 50s and early 60s.

*'I remember there was a Cinema and Coffee Bar and people used to come for miles to listen to the Juke Box music. They were both situated in the old Town Hall at the bottom of Forest Road'.*

*I think one of my first films was Ivanhoe. We also had Matinees on a Saturday morning. I remember the Cinema had a balcony and we had two films with an interval so we could buy ice cream. Sometimes the film would break. If that happened everyone would stamp their feet until it was fixed—it was quite funny really!'*

