



Top (L-R) Georgia Nosal*, Christine Rogers, Stuart Young, Genine Rainsborough, Alex Welch*
Lower (L-R) Kelly Jones, Greg Boys/University of the 3rd Age, Jonathan Greenyer, Jim Claridge, Emily Williams

* 2nd Year Students at Bracknell & Wokingham College

The vivid images in this year's Art Wall reflect the dramatic impact and social changes that World War I caused at home in Great Britain, far away from the trenches.

Approximately 1,000,000 British people, mainly serving men, died in World War I, leaving many children without a father and mothers without sons. This war saw well crafted propaganda posters and advertising used extensively, exhorting the public to do the right thing, do new things, be afraid and to join up.

Communities across Great Britain responded and contributed whatever they could in their own unique way, whether it was knitting things for soldiers, growing extra food. or giving up their horses. Over 1,000,000 horses and mules were sent to the front from Britain and the effect on agriculture and transport was immense as agriculture and every form of transport virtually ground to a halt without the horses they relied on. Even an elephant was used to pull a cart. Overall 4,000,000 horses, mules and donkeys died in World War I.

The shortage of skilled male labour in factories and on the land led to women being employed in very large numbers for the first time. Many women suffered dreadfully from poisoning and explosions in munitions factories, accidents in the work place and general exploitation as they worked long and hard to earn respect from a highly patriarchal society. The Women's Land Army and Forestry Workers were formed in 1917. The YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association formed in 1855) cared for many of the women workers who were away from home, as well as providing morale building entertainment for the troops.

Post war, the benefits and opportunities opened up to women soon disappeared as the men returned to their pre-war jobs. However it was impossible to undo the significant impact of the new wartime roles of working women.



**The 2014
Art Wall**