

8 November 2018

Every One Remembered in Coventry – saying Thank You to those who fell in the First World War

Coventry Building Society, one of the largest corporate supporters of The Royal British Legion, is remembering each of Coventry's fallen heroes as part of the charity's national Thank You movement. Thank You honours not only the 1.1 million British and Commonwealth Armed Forces who lost their lives in the First World War, but also those who played their part on the home front, and those who returned to build a better life for the benefit of generations to come.

From 8 to 15 November the names of every one of the 1,223 Coventry soldiers who lost their lives in the First World War will be displayed around Coventry's railway station.

Mark Parsons, Chief Executive at Coventry Building Society, said: "Railway stations are places of departure and homecoming, but sadly many of our local soldiers never made it home. We're very proud of our Coventry heritage and our partnership with the Legion, and we wanted to remember and say 'Thank You' to those who left to fight in the First World War and never returned".

"We've done this on a personal level with colleagues writing messages of thanks to each of Coventry's fallen soldiers. All of our branches and many individual volunteers are selling poppies, and more will plant commemorative poppies at the National Memorial Arboretum. This is the tenth year of our partnership with The Royal British Legion and overall we've donated over £16 million to support the fantastic work they do across the UK".

"If you're passing through Coventry railway station, do join us in remembering and thanking the 1,223 local soldiers who never made it home to Coventry".

Head of Remembrance at The Royal British Legion, Catherine Davies: "The First World War left so many legacies that positively impact our lives today, from ground-breaking social change to pioneering innovations. The end of the Centenary is a chance for us all to thank not only the British Armed Forces who fought and gave their lives, but the thousands who fought alongside them from countries from across today's Commonwealth, and the countless men, women and children who played their part on the home front."

For more information or additional comment please contact: the press office on **0800 121 6868** or email **media@thecoventry.co.uk**

Coventry Building Society. Principal Office: Economic House, PO Box 9, High Street, Coventry CV1 5QN. www.thecoventry.co.uk

Calls to 0800 numbers are free when made from the UK. You may be charged for calls to all other numbers, please contact your service provider for further details.

Notes to editors

Coventry Building Society has donated over £16 million to The Royal British Legion since their partnership began in 2008. The Society is supporting the Legion's Thank You movement, marking the hundred days until 11 November and the centenary of the end of the First World War.

The Society has asked its employees to write a personal Thank You to all those from Coventry who fell during the war and has also distributed poppy seeds to employees to plant at home, in memory of the servicemen and women from Coventry who fell in France and Belgium during the First World War.

The Royal British Legion

*The Legion wants to thank the whole First World War generation. That's not just the British forces, but also those who fought alongside them from countries all over the world. It's also the countless men, women and children who played their part on the home front.

The Royal British Legion's work is encapsulated in its motto: *Live On – to the memory of the fallen and the future of the living*. The Legion is the nation's biggest Armed Forces charity providing care and support to all members of the British Armed Forces past and present and their families. The Legion champions Remembrance and safeguards the Military Covenant between the nation and its Armed Forces. It is well known for the annual Poppy Appeal, and its emblem the red poppy. www.britishlegion.org.uk

Coventry Building Society

Coventry Building Society is the UK's second largest building society, with over 1.8 million members and 70 branches across the UK.

The Society has over 2,500 staff – including over 2,100 based in Coventry and Warwickshire. It is one of Sunday Times 100 Best Companies to Work For in 2018 – the second year running that the Society has achieved this accolade.

Coventry Building Society strives to make a difference in its local communities. In 2017, the Society and its staff:

- Supported 76 good causes through its Community Partner scheme which incorporates fundraising, volunteering and raising awareness.
- Volunteered for over 7,500 hours through activities including regular number or reading partner sessions in schools, volunteering for Community Partners and taking part in our Employability programme.
- Over three quarters of staff took part in the Community programme.
- Worked with nearly 4,000 young people through its schools programmes.
- Donated over £230,000 to good causes including national campaigns such as BBC Children in Need and Red Nose Day, and smaller groups through the Community Partner scheme

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