

## **The Poppy Factory Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023.**

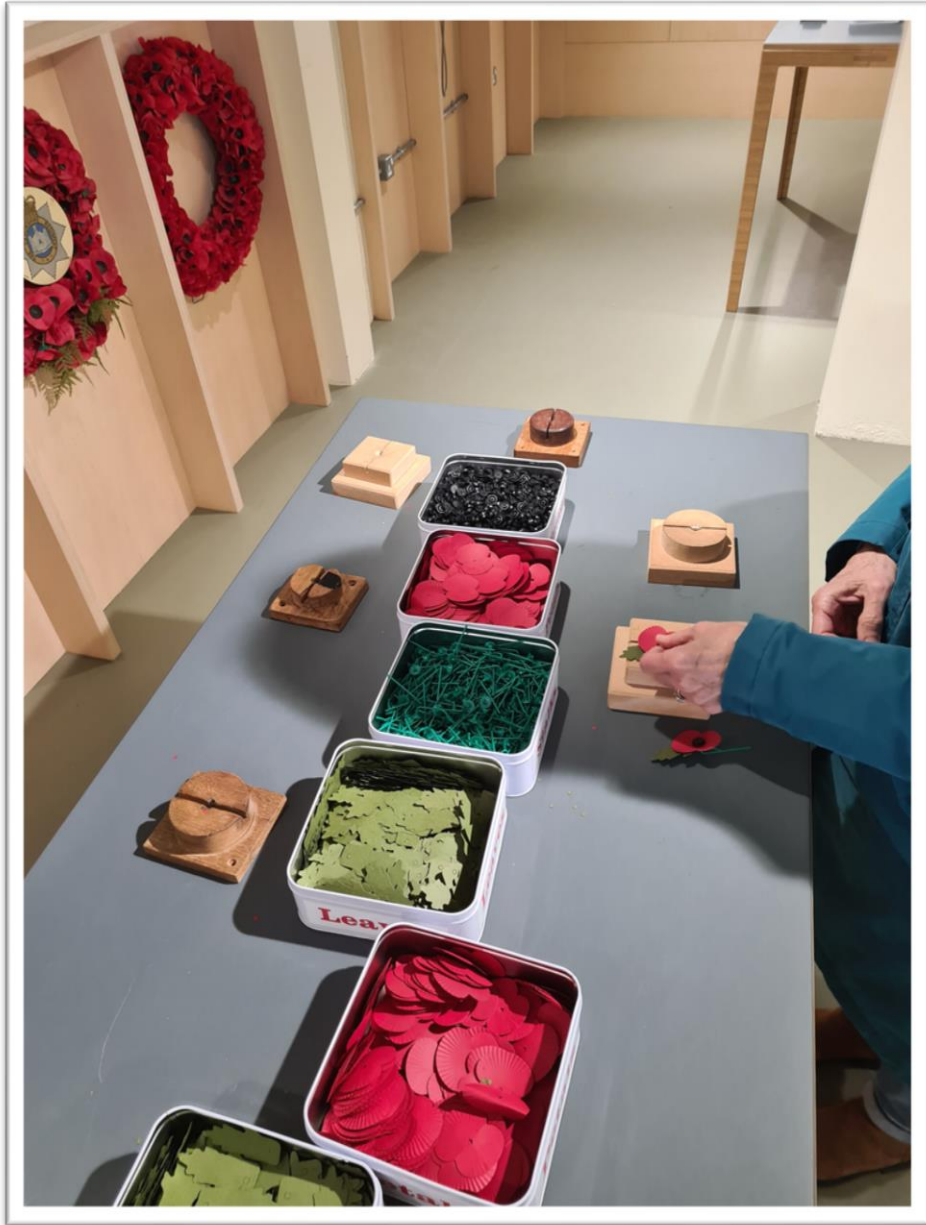
A small group visited the poppy factory at Richmond on a beautiful sunny day.

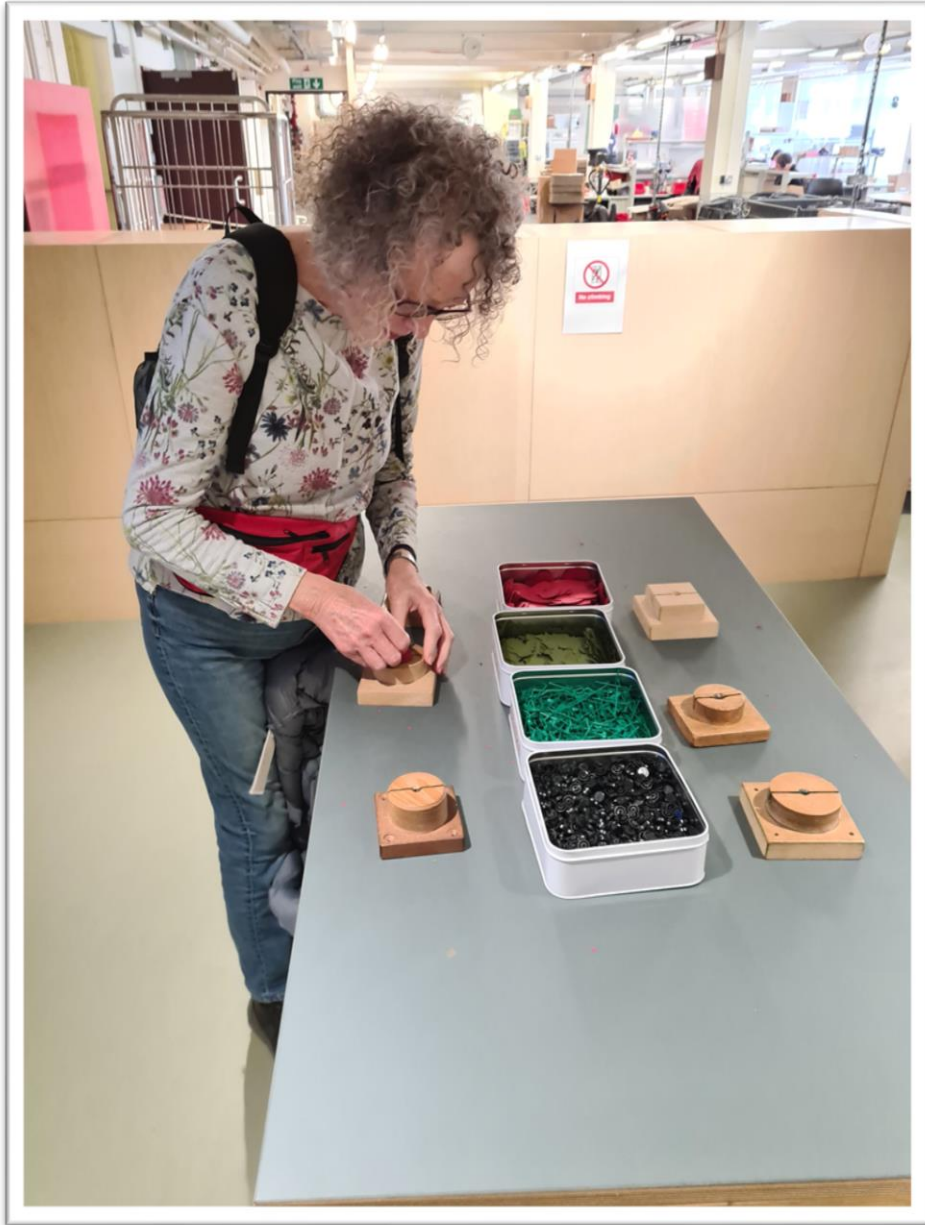
We had an introductory talk and video explaining the history of the Poppy and its association with Remembrance Day. Following that we were free to wander around the exhibition and talk to one of the many volunteers on hand to answer any questions. We also had the opportunity to make our own poppy and help make a poppy wreath.

Follow the link for more information: <https://www.poppyfactory.org/>















**01 - First World War Poppyland**

In the spring of 1915, the battlefields of Flanders burst into flowers. A writer of hand-drawn hand-sketched seeds for and seeds, while the red dye from ordinary shells had bleached the land. The French poppyland, made for soldiers, whose skulls, hand-drawn and poppies, soldiers returned home with their skulls and ribs when they went home. Over time, the delicate and sun-faded became a symbol of the war in Britain. In 1921, it was formally adopted by the British Legion as a symbol of remembrance and support for its charitable works for veterans. In France, the blue cornflower became the flower of remembrance.

**02 - 06 Historic Remembrance Poppies**

The first poppies used silk for the petals, wire for the stems, and buttons for the centers (02). Eventually, four different styles of poppies were made to suit every budget. The small poppy (03) sold for 3d (sixpence). Every poppy was handmade by a workhouse that opened in the 1930s at 380 men (04). During the Second World War, shortages meant only two kinds of poppy could be made. The metal centers and stems were replaced by cardboard (05). Post-war poppies were again made from cotton, silk and metal, as shown in this 1964 photograph (06), with Noel Davies (labeled) who worked here for over 30 years.

**07 - 09 Modern Poppies & Poppy Book**

We began using red paper for the petals and black for the stems and centers in the 1970s. This was to make modern poppies easier to assemble. A poppy stem is placed into the slot to hold it steady, while the petals and center are attached. These poppies were made by the Queen (07) and the Duchess of Cornwall (08). The King's poppy (09) was made in 2018 to mark centennials of the battle and sacrifice of the 1.2 million men from South Asia who fought during the First World War.