



## **‘A Soldiers Perspective; a View from the Frontline’**

Students will have a 2 hour session at Maidstone Museum. This will include an interactive presentation and handling session by the team from "*They Shall Grow Not Old ...*". This covers the personal perspective of soldiers and others on the front line and back home during the Great War. The aim is to enable students to empathise with the men and boys who signed up to go to war; to understand what it meant to fight alongside friends, colleagues, team mates.

The students will be able to ‘stand in the shoes’ of a soldier, see the propaganda posters that encouraged men to enlist, and encouraged young boys to lie about their age in order to enlist. Students will be able to empathise with the difficulties of living in the trenches and the limited supplies provided.

Students will be encouraged to create a diary entry – how would they feel in the situations men were put in during the war. They will be able to question a soldier and ask pertinent questions about why he signed up, what he expected and what life was like in the trenches.

Students will have the opportunity to handle some of the museums handling collection from the time, as well as looking at the WW1 display in the Queens Own Royal West Kent gallery. And they will be able to see the effect on soldiers returning from war in a recently conserved painting by Frank Hyde entitled, ‘Arrival of a convoy of Wounded Soldiers at Maidstone East Station, 1916

The team from ‘They Shall Grow Not Old...’ specialise in commemorative displays and educational presentations and have been used many times by the museum learning team because of their expert knowledge. “We are able to provide interactive presentations on a range of Great War or World War II subjects specifically tailored to your audience from schools to universities, clubs and societies, and the workplace. Our presentations are the perfect way to start a World War project, support an exhibition of pupils’ or students’ work, or as a ‘scene-setter’ in preparation for a visit to the battlefields of Europe.”

For more information please see the Gateways website:  
[www.theyshallgrownotold.org.uk](http://www.theyshallgrownotold.org.uk)

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