Carlisle in the Great War focused on the city’s unique experience and on the people and places involved in the war. This approach was incredibly successful in engaging local visitors with their wartime history. By using places and names which are still well known in the city, Carlisle’s wartime history was made more relevant to local visitors.

The 'Reflection' project invited members of the community to submit photographs of their loved ones during the First World War, along with memories about them. These submissions were collected by Front of House staff and volunteers, increasing digitisation skills across the organisation. The resulting images and stories were used to create an interactive, digital and audio visual memorial, they have been added to the collection and preserved for future generations. The presentation of Reflection within the exhibition was described as ‘poignant’ and ‘moving’ by visitors, a number of whom were moved to tears, demonstrating that they made an emotional connection to the information on display.

The exhibition was also the stimulus for a programme of events, including a school special event week, an afternoon of talks from local WWI historians, film screenings and bespoke sessions with local community interest groups.

Visitor comments:

“Exceptionally well done. Many thanks for all the work putting this together”

“An excellent and very moving exhibition”

“First class exhibition - well presented and full of information I’ve never had before”

“Too much to take in at one time - will return, very interesting”

“Interesting to know how the war affected our city. Thought provoking”

“A most moving experience. Splendidly presented”
Poppy wall for public messages

Carlisle’s 2 WWI Victoria Crosses
Displayed together for the first time

1914 St John Ambulance nurses uniform and 1910s dress

Material relating to Private John Jackson

Exhibition at Tullie House
Online content for Carlisle in the Great War, 1914-1918: Munitions, Mayhem and Mobilisation

Hosted on Tullie House website

https://www.tulliehouse.co.uk/collections/carlisle-great-war-1914-1918-munitions-mayhem-and-mobilisation

The Youth Panel’s work on creating a video introduction to the exhibition—exploring the reasons for the outbreak of WWI

https://www.tulliehouse.co.uk/collections/youth-panel-why-did-we-

City trail - exploring the hidden WWI history of familiar places in Carlisle

https://www.tulliehouse.co.uk/collections/carlisle-great-war-city-trail

Reflection: Honouring All Carlisle’s Heroes. An interactive, digital memorial

https://www.tulliehouse.co.uk/collections/reflection-honouring-all-carlisles-great-war-heroes