

# Ramsey Mortuary Chapels Heritage and Archive Centre

By Jane Yardley – Chair, Friends of Ramsey Mortuary Chapels

This month I must start with an apology. The information that I gave you last month was only partly correct.

The building mentioned has now definitely become Abbey Antiques, but Olive and Lily Edwards actually lived there. Lily worked next door when it was Riddy's Grocer's Shop, which is now Headlines the hairdressers. I can only put my mistake down to a senior moment!

No luck so far in putting a name to our mystery man from last month, but we haven't given up yet.

This month's photograph is of a very striking lady, if you have any idea who she might



● **Mystery Photograph - July 19**

be, please let me know. It would be so nice to be able to give them both back their names. If you can help with any information regarding this photo, you can contact myself either by email: - janem.yardley@gmail.com or phone: - 01487 814304.

On Sunday 7th July, the memorial headstone of Sergeant Observer Phillip Paul Duffy was re-dedicated. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission



● **Mystery Photograph - August 19**

(CWGC) kindly erected a new one as the old headstone had been damaged and I would like to thank them on behalf of the Friends of Ramsey Mortuary Chapels.

The CWGC honours the 1.7 million men and women of the Commonwealth Forces who died in the First and



**CWGC**  
Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Second World Wars and ensures that both they and the sacrifice that they made will never be forgotten. The Commission owes its existence to the vision and determination of one man, Sir Fabian Ware. Although too old to fight in WWI, he became the commander of a mobile unit of the British Red Cross. Horrified by the loss of life he became determined that the final resting places of those who laid down their lives should not be lost and his unit began recording and caring for all the graves that they could find.

In May 1917 the Commission was established by Royal Charter and once land had been found for cemeteries and memorials and guaranteed, the enormous task of recording the details of all the service dead began. The CWGC now maintain cemeteries and memorials in more than 150 countries and territories.

We would like to thank the Reverend Richard Darmody for carrying out the Service of Re-dedication and all those who attended this very moving occasion.



● **Old damaged Headstone**



● **New Headstone in front of the original old damaged one**



Thanks must also go to Roger Reynolds for all the hard work that he put in, researching the, all too short life, of Sergeant Observer Phillip Paul Duffy, who by the way is no relative of ex councillor Lisa Duffy. The exhibition of Roger's work will be available to view in the chapels throughout August.

In a lighter vein, July 13th saw us with a stall at Create-Fest at the 1940's Camp. What a wonderful event it is for Ramsey. Thank you to the organisers for all their hard work and for putting on such a wonderful show and what's more it's FREE, amazing.

We really enjoyed ourselves and raised funds at the same time, my personal thanks to volunteers Gillian Knox, Maurice Margetts, Bill Barcas and the young man, who kindly ferried me to and fro, on his trailer, with our tables and boxes. Unfortunately, I forgot to ask his name, but we wouldn't have managed without him.

And talking of fundraising, Gillian Knox has made us some lovely shopping bags to sell. They are available to buy at only 75p each on our stalls at the Ramsey Indoor Market and Home & Vintage, both in High Street, Ramsey. So why not buy one and help us restore the chapels and save our planet at the same time!!

These lovely shopping bags will also be for sale on our stall at Ramsey's 1940's Weekend on the 17th and 18th August.

Yet another great Ramsey event.