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NEWS

Art tribute to war heroes

Exhibition of paintings commemorates pair of anniversaries

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The human faces of war are the focus of a new attraction commemorating two significant anniversaries.

The Studio One Artists launched their annual exhibition on Monday with this year's effort marking the centenary of the First World War breaking out and 71 years since the Normandy landings of the Second World War.

Paintings of three real-life veterans and displays about their lives form the centrepiece of the display.

Prominent
Group member Pauline Fynn, 68, said: "I thought about marking the anniversary as they are this year and a Northern woman, Don Turner, is also one of our artists. That is how it came about."

The most prominent pieces are of 86-year-old Don and the late veterans Fred Plumm and Sidney Billington.

Sidney, Pauline's father, was born 10 weeks before the First World War began.

His Aunt Catherine was just 15 when she was killed in the Silverdown explosion of 1917, when a fire in munitions factory set off a blast that killed 71 people.

Sidney served in the Home Guard at the beginning of the Second World War and later went to Italy with the 8th Army. He died in 2006.

Pauline said: "He always said he had an easy war. "Going through his life was very emotional."

The exhibition, also featuring work outside the frame, runs until October 10 at the Cole Gallery, Queen's Theatre, Hornchurch.




■ Fred Plumm, painted by Alec Tiffin

■ Sidney Billington, painted by Pauline Fynn