



## **Getting There**

The School is situated just to the south and west of the A225 which runs through Sevenoaks from the A25 at Otford to The Weald roundabout on the A21. Access is via Weald Road which is a few hundred yards south, and on the opposite side to the entrance to Knole Park. Ashgrove Road is then a fork off to the right.

*Ample parking is available as well as facilities for the disabled.*

*The nearest Railway Station is Sevenoaks in London Road.*

## **Imogen Corrigan: our first speaker of the day**

***Put That Light Out! The Searchlight Girls***

***93<sup>rd</sup> Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery***

Imogen is no stranger to our Society and has been a regular visitor to our various branches for a while now. This is a new talk and very different from usual. Imogen was herself a serving officer in the Woman's Royal Army Corps for twenty years so she had a special interest in researching this history.

One of the best-kept secrets of the military history of the British Isles is that of the 93<sup>rd</sup> Regiment. Very few people realise that this was an all all-female regiment this is the only time so far that woman have been deployed on active duty as a regiment in the world.

In fact they operated in very small groups across Britain, helping to keep the population safe from attack by enemy aircraft. They had other important functions to fill one of which was to help bring home battered aeroplanes with wounded men on board. In just 3 months in 1943, searchlight units homed 247 planes: a major contribution to the war effort.

Their story is unsung but extremely moving, it is an unusual and fascinating story but I will leave it to Imogen to tell it in her usual, enjoyable way.

## **Melanie Gibson Barton: our second speaker of the day**

***Wandering the Somme***

Melanie is a regular visitor to our branch meetings and whatever the subject of the talk she has never been known to disappoint.

This is the companion talk to Wandering Flanders Fields. We will be visiting the known and less known sites of the Somme to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016.

Melanie accompanies her talk with an excellent power point presentation. Be inspired by today's beautifully restored landscape that witnessed momentous days during the First World War. The talk contains other sites to see in the beautiful Somme area of France - be assured it is much more than the usual *mud and trenches*

Melanie will be happy to answer any questions, at the end, and in fact she usually she has a job to get away from us!

## **Afternoon Option**

We are hoping to arrange a tour of the house and grounds for those who may wish to stretch their legs. Also Knole Park is an easy walk away.