

## Carillion: Volunteering for Service Charities



Featured above: Volunteers unpack and 'plant' each handmade ceramic poppy



### Community Engagement – Tower of London, 18<sup>th</sup> September 2014

*Carillion's volunteering programme allows each employee 6 paid days of volunteering in their local community each year.*

Victoria Moore, a Carillion employee at Darent Valley Hospital, spent 6 very worthwhile hours volunteering to help plant over 880,000 ceramic poppies in the dry moat at the Tower of London as part of a major artistic installation called 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red' to commemorate the First World War Centenary.

The poppies are being planted in the moat Thursday to Sunday between 2nd August and 11th November 2014 [it is hoped that the last poppy will be planted at 10:59] in 2 shifts of up to 200 people. Each shift plants 6,000 handmade poppies.

The poppies are planted at 3 different heights: the floor is covered with 30cm tall poppies, with a 70cm poppy approximately every half metre and, a 1m tall poppy every metre.

As a volunteer one first has to assemble the metal stakes and a combination of washers and plastic bungs. Stakes have then to be placed in the ground and the poppy head to be attached [it all sounds quite easy but it was rather hard work on the thumbs!]

Victoria says – "I found out about the opportunity via social network groups and I was interested in playing a part in commemorating those who gave their lives in the First World War. Initially I decided to apply for myself. However when I told my family I was going to apply, my dad [who has never done any volunteering before] said that he wanted to do it too, so I applied for us both and we did it together."



Featured above: Victoria Moore amongst the poppies