



# Poppy Pack



**This Poppy Pack contains the following:**

- **Welcome to Kent Scouts Poppy**
- **Programme Factsheet about the RBL**
  - **Remembrance Information**
    - **Programme ideas**
    - **Sample Programme**
- **How to research your local War Memorial**





# **Welcome to Kent Scouts Poppy Programme**

**New in 2021, Kent Scouts Community Impact Team launched the Poppy Programme, to provide a coordinated approach to Remembrance in the county.**

**When you think of the Poppy Appeal, most people automatically think of November and Remembrance Sunday. In fact, the Royal British Legion carries out its work with veterans, serving personnel and Remembrance for 12 months of the year. There are also significant anniversaries during the year, such as VE Day in May, VJ Day in August and Battle of Britain in September. Therefore, the Kent Scouts Poppy Programme can be undertaken at any time of the year, not just in November.**

**Significant dates in 2023:**

**VE80**

**85<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Dunkirk**

**VJ80**

**To get you started, we have put together some fact sheets, programme plans and activities, and fund-raising ideas if you want to include these in your planning for Remembrance. However, we will be rolling out more ideas in the future, from immersive programme plans to trips to War Cemeteries and memorials, both in this country and in Europe. So, look out for these.**

**If you want to get in touch for more information, support and to let us know what you are getting up to during this Remembrance period, email us on [alison.sims@kentscouts.org.uk](mailto:alison.sims@kentscouts.org.uk)**





## Facts about the Royal British Legion and the Poppy Appeal

- The Royal British Legion was founded on 15th May 1921 by Earl Haig and celebrated its Centenary in 2021..
- It was formed to care for all those who had suffered as a result of the First World War – disabled soldiers; wives and children; widows and orphans; parents.
- A Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae was inspired by the sight of poppies growing in battle-scarred fields to write his now famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'. The poem inspired American War Secretary, Moina Michael, who bought poppies to sell to her friends to raise money for Servicemen in need after the First World War.
- This was adopted by The (Royal) British Legion in 1921 who ordered 9 million of these poppies and sold them on 11 November that year in the first ever Poppy Appeal.
- The Poppy is a symbol of Remembrance and hope for a peaceful future. Wearing a poppy is never compulsory but is greatly appreciated by those who it is intended to support.
- In 1925 the British Legion acquired Preston Hall, Aylesford near Maidstone in Kent - a large Victorian manor house surrounded by 200 acres of farmland – and a new hospital and village for ex-serving personnel and their families was created and by 1928 the hospital had expanded to support almost 500 people. This is now the British Legion Village and also the home of Britain's Bravest Manufacturing Company and the warehouse where poppy wreaths are made up.
- In 2020 7,668 grants were made to members of the Armed Forces community amounting to £11.7 million.
- In 2021 the Royal British Legion marked 100 years since the nation's collective Remembrance traditions came together for the first time, and reflected on what the next 100 years of Remembrance will look like.
- You can find out all about the history of the Royal British Legion and Poppy Appeal at these links – <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/about-us/our-centenary> and <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/stories/11-things-you-might-not-know-about-the-poppy>



# Remembrance

**What does Remembrance mean? It can mean many things, and different things to different people.**

**Remembrance honours those who serve to defend our democratic freedoms and way of life.**

**Remembrance unites across faiths, cultures and backgrounds to remember the service and sacrifice of the Armed Forces community from Britain and the Commonwealth. It also pays tribute to the special contribution of families and of the emergency services, acknowledges innocent civilians who have lost their lives in conflict and acts of terrorism.**

**Remembrance does not glorify war and its symbol, the red poppy, is a sign of both Remembrance and hope for a peaceful future.**

**Remembrance unites people of all faiths, cultures, and backgrounds but it is also deeply personal. It could mean wearing a poppy in November, before Remembrance Sunday. It could mean joining with others in your community on a commemorative anniversary. Or it could mean taking a moment on your own to pause and reflect.**

**Everyone is free to remember in their own way, or to choose not to remember at all. So find what works for your group.**

**Taken from Royal British Legion website.**





## Programme Ideas

There are many ways in which you can introduce Remembrance into your programme and many of you are probably already incorporating some great ideas. However, if you aren't, or are in need of some new ideas, here are some:


- Research the names on your local War Memorial using the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website – see separate information sheet on how to do this. Share the information you find by creating a display at your HQ or in your local church or other place of worship, or maybe in a local phone box if that has been taken over by your local community.
- Go on a Remembrance hike between war memorials and Commonwealth War Grave headstones. You could place poppies at each war memorial and headstone. You could do it as a sponsored hike to raise money for the RBL Poppy Appeal.
- Talk about the Royal British Legion, the significance of poppies and why it exists, see separate fact sheet. You could volunteer to do a poppy round with for your local RBL Branch.
- You could hold a coffee morning or cake sale to raise money for the RBL. Cakes could be baked on a section evening if you have a kitchen.
- Make poppies to decorate your HQ – these could be out of red paper, fabric or card; using white card and painted red; they could be any colour you want. Use some of them to create your own poppy wreath. You could use the YPs hands, draw round them on red card or paper, cut and attach together to form a wreath. Explain why poppies are important to Remembrance.
- If you have a local war memorial you could create poppies with the names from the memorial on them and place them around your village or town (always remember to let your local town or parish council know of your intentions and ask permission if necessary).

Hold your own Scouts Own – either at your HQ or at your local war memorial. Get the YPs to write their own prayers and reflections to read out. Create your own idea of Remembrance. See separate fact sheet on Remembrance and also go to <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/remembrance/about-remembrance/act-of-remembrance> where you will find the Act of Remembrance used by the Royal British Legion which is non religious.

Connect with local veterans and see if they would be happy to come to your HQ to do a talk. If you need assistance with this, contact Alison.



## **(more) Programme Ideas**

 **Go on a trip – Kent has a very long military history as well as being in the front line of two world wars. Here are some ideas.**

- **Dover Castle has the Wartime Tunnels and the Fire Command and Signal Station – visits to English Heritage properties are free for youth groups.**
- **Chatham Naval Dockyard.**
- **Naval War Memorial at Chatham.**
- **Royal Engineers Museum at Gillingham. The staff will provide a learning, hands on experience if contacted in advance. Tickets can be booked online.**
- **Spitfire and Hurricane Museum and RAF History Museum at Manston.**
- **Battle of Britain Memorial at Capel-le-Ferne.**
- **Ramsgate Tunnels – network of civilian wartime tunnels.**



**The ideas here will link up with the Fundraising Activity Badge and the Community Impact Staged Badge. They can also go towards the Beavers My World Challenge Award, the Cubs Our World Challenge Award and the Scouts World Challenge Award.**

**These are suggestions, you may have your own ideas. They could be undertaken in November to link in with the nation's Remembrance period, but they can be undertaken throughout the year. Don't forget to share what you get up to on Kent Scouts social media.**



## Sample Poppy Night Programme

You may have already planned a remembrance night for your section, but here is a programme on a page for all sections

	<b>Squirrels</b>	<b>Beavers</b>	<b>Cubs</b>	<b>Scouts</b>	<b>Explorers</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Welcome</b>	Welcome	Log Role	Grand Howl	Flag break	Flag Break	
<b>Game</b>	Kim's Game	Kim's Game	Equipment relay	Equipment relay	Equipment relay	See notes below
<b>Introduce Activity</b>	Talk about wearing poppies for Remembrance	Talk about wearing poppies for Remembrance	Talk about poppies and Remembrance	Talk about poppies and Remembrance	Talk about remembrance	See links below
<b>Activity</b>	Make a poppy out of coloured card or colour in. A poppy template is provided separately.	Paint a poppy on a pebble	Paint a poppy on a pebble	Make cloth poppies	Make cloth poppies	See links below. Cloth poppies could be sewn together to create a wreath
<b>Reflections</b>	Show and talk about the poppies you have made	Show and talk about the poppies you have made	Show the pebbles and ; ask if anyone has someone they want to remember / be grateful to this Remembrance period.	Reflect on Remembrance; ask if anyone has someone they want to remember / be grateful to this Remembrance period.	Talk about the two minute silence, what it means. If you are able to, show them the RBL's 'Pause' video (link below)	
<b>Game</b>	Game – if you have time	Game – if you have time	Game – if you have time	Game – if you have time	Game – if you have time	
<b>Closing</b>	Goodbye	Flag down/ Gather logs	Flag down	Flag down	Flag down	



## Games

- Kim's Game – either table top or giant. Use things that are either poppy related eg a poppy, mug with poppy on etc or things that a soldier might have eg rucksack, walking boots, binoculars, water bottle etc
- Equipment relay (indoors or outdoors) – Team game. Use a selection of items – rucksack, jumper, waterproof, water bottle, cutlery etc. Idea is to take rucksack to pile of items – first team to fill up rucksack or most items in rucksack wins.

Introducing Remembrance – here are some links for this -

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/activities/a-remembrance-reflection/>

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/supporters/remembrance/>

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/remembrance/about-remembrance> - for older sections

Activities – links to details

- Paint a poppy pebble - <https://www.scouts.org.uk/activities/a-pebble-to-remember/>
- Make a cloth poppy - <https://www.scouts.org.uk/activities/craft-a-cotton-poppy/>

These are example activities; you could substitute baking poppy cakes or biscuits instead of making poppies.

## Badges



Squirrels Get Creative Activity



Beaver Craft Activity



Cubs Our World Challenge Award



Scouts Creative Challenge Award



Squirrel All Around Us Challenge

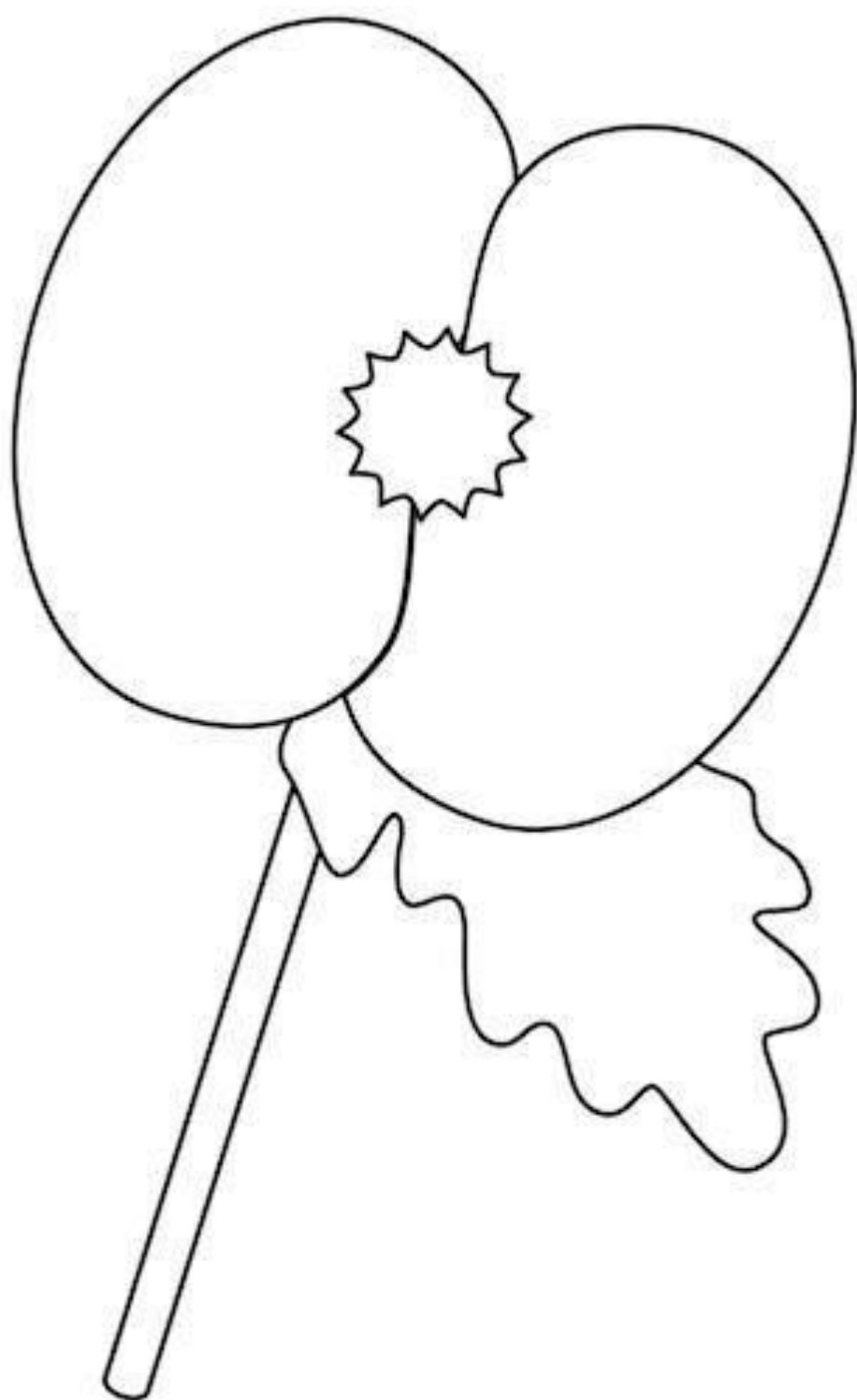


Beaver My World Challenge Award



Scouts World Challenge Award







## Searching for names on Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Did you know that you can research the names of anyone who died in the First World War and subsequent conflicts on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website. To do this, follow the step by step instructions below. You will need internet connection.



Go to the CWGC Website – homepage - <http://www.cwgc.org/>

Locate the men – the following are two examples that you can use to

practise. Wilfred Owen – War Poet

Hover your mouse over Find Records at the top of the home page and click on Find War Dead on the drop-down menu.

- Enter Last Name Owen
- Enter First Name: Wilfred
- Select WW1
- Click Search

A set of results will appear, which should include Wilfred Edward Salter Owen. Click on more details for more information about Wilfred Owen. You can also find out more about Wilfred Owen by entering his name into the search records on the home page. Certificate can be downloaded.

Donald Simpson Bell – Victoria Cross Holder and Professional Footballer as above –

- Enter Last Name: Bell
- Enter First Name: Donald
- Select WW1
- Click Search

A set of results will appear including Donald Simpson Bell. Click on more details to find out more information for him.

Now you have mastered this, you could try researching the names on your local War Memorial.

You won't always get as much information as you have for the examples above, and you may find some results have several people with the same name but when you find the person you are looking for, it is very rewarding. Good luck!