

Armistice Service: Remembrance in Crewe

What is Remembrance?

Remembrance is a chance to honour and remember people in the past and the present who have served and lost their lives in wars.

People began to remember after World War 1 which ended on November 11th 1918 at 11am.

This is why some people hold a 2 minute silence on this day at this time.

Sometimes, this day is also called Armistice Day. This is because the Armistice Treaty was signed which ended the war on this date.

Armistice means 'to put down your weapons'.

Why is Remembrance important?

People want to remember because it makes sure that we don't forget the past and the people who gave their service to fight to protect the freedom we have now.

Those in service do jobs that involve protecting other people.

Remembrance means we have a chance to honour these people and to think about what we can learn from them and their kindness.



- **Why do you think it's important to remember people who have protected us?**
- **What jobs might someone do in service?**
- **Have you ever been helped by anyone in service?**
- **How did they keep you safe?**
- **What could you do (at home or at school) to help people around you?**
- **How would you like to be remembered?**

Crewe during times of war

People in service supporting war efforts aren't always soldiers.

They could also be people who have stayed at home trying to keep life as normal as possible in Crewe.

As well as World War 1 (1914-1918) and World War 2 (1939- 1945), there have been wars that have taken place recently. This has involved people from the United Kingdom and Crewe going into service.



- To learn more about life in Crewe during WW1, download our 'Daisy Haywood 1914' resource pack.
- To learn more about life in Crewe during WW2, download our 'John Bunting 1938' resource pack.
- The image below shows a more recent war which took place in the Falklands in 1982.



Credit: Royal British Legion

When did Crewe start to Remember?

Some people in Crewe choose to remember those who have given their time and lives to fight for the protections we enjoy today to make sure their names and contributions are not forgotten.

The Crewe War Memorial opened in Market Square in 1924. It was moved to Memorial Square in 2006 and has stood there ever since.

The memorial shows a bronze statue of Britannia.

Britannia represents Britain as a helmeted female warrior holding a shield and a trident.

Those killed in both World War 1, World War 2 and later wars from Crewe have their names on the memorial.



- **Take a look at pictures of the Crewe War Memorial below.**
- **This is where the Armistice and Remembrance day ceremonies are going to take place.**
- **Have you walked past it or visited before?**



Credit: Mark Potts

Crewe Town Council's Armistice Service

Every year there is an Armistice Service that takes place on the 11th November in Crewe at the Britannia War Memorial.

This is a chance for people to gather together to remember those who have given their service in both the past and present.

Every school in Crewe Town is going to be invited to take part in this Service and some of you might have the opportunity to come.

You can be a part of Remembrance whether you join the Armistice Service or do it in your classroom.

Remembrance can take place anywhere.



- Take a look at pictures of the service happening below.



General Sir Ian Hamilton unveiling the Crewe War Memorial in 1924.

Credit: Mark Potts



Credit: Mark Potts



Credit: Crewe Town Council/ Peter Robinson

Who attends the Armistice Service?

The service is usually attended by a number of different people. They might be:

- Soldiers from the British and British commonwealth
- Those in service in the Royal Navy
- Those in service in the Royal Air Force
- Those in service in the Royal Marines
- Members of the NHS or the emergency services
- Members of local youth organisations like the Scouts or Guides
- War veterans
- The Mayor of Crewe and representatives from Crewe Town Council



- **A war veteran is someone who has fought in a war.**
- **Watch this video to find out about Mr Bernard Morgan, a war veteran from Crewe: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDS4oMMaSQM>**

How can you Remember?

Let's take a look at the different parts of the Armistice Service and the ways you take part in this day.

1. Wearing a poppy
2. Reading poems
3. The 2- minute silence
4. Laying a wreath
5. Listening to the bugle

Wearing a poppy

You might have seen people wear red poppy badges around November in Crewe.

These red poppy badges were used to remember those who died during World War 1.

Now, we use them to honour the people who have given their lives in service to protect us in the past and the present.

Poppy badges are worn because this flower grew in Flanders, Belgium where most of the battles during World War 1 were fought.

Fields were heavily bombed and shelled and used to bury soldiers who had been killed and still red poppies continued to grow in them.



- **Have you seen people wear a poppy badge before?**
- **Have you worn a poppy badge before?**

You might see people wearing poppies in different colours too.

Different colours each have their own meaning.

- Black poppies represent the civilians, servicemen and servicewomen from African, Black, West Indian, and Pacific Island communities who have contributed to the war effort.
- White poppies represent peace and encourage people to focus on a future without war.
- Purple poppies represent animals that have been victims of war. Animals like horses and dogs and even pigeons were used to help in the war!

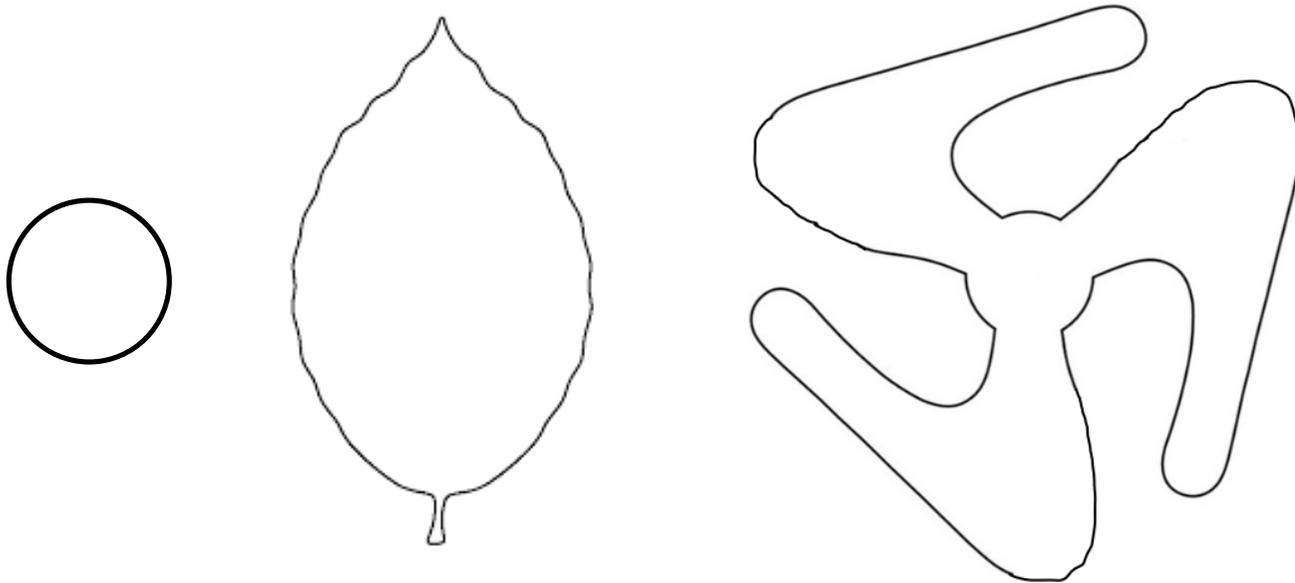


- **Do you want to wear a poppy?**
- **If you do, which colour do you want to wear?**
- **Why do you want to wear this colour?**

ACTIVITY: Make a poppy badge

Let's make our own poppy badge.

You can use the templates below or decide to draw your own template.



WHAT YOU WILL NEED

Chosen printed template

Red, green and black paper

Scissors

Tape

Safety pin

Glue



Use the template printed on red card or paper to cut out the pinwheel shapes.

Or you can draw your own poppy templates.



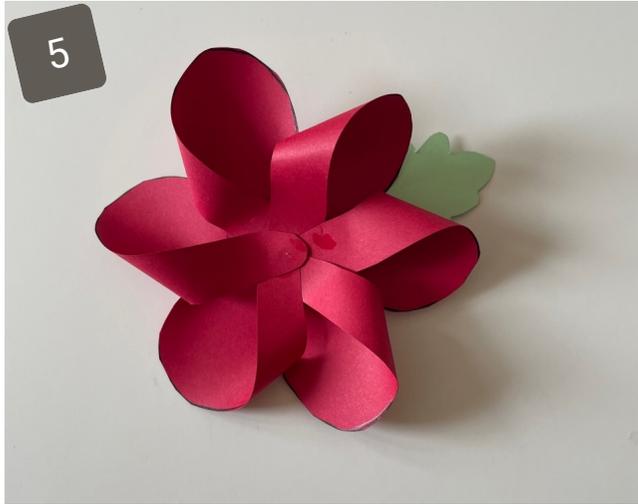
Layer the two pinwheels on top of each other and then glue them together in the middle.



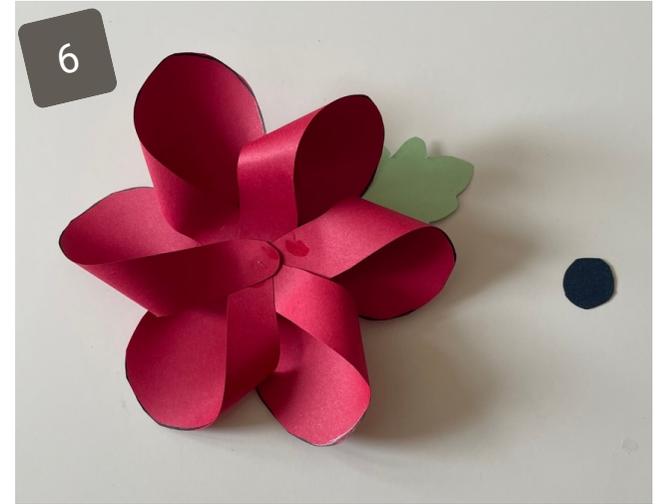
Bend the arms of the pinwheel into the centre. You can then either glue them down or stick them down with tape.



Cut out the green leaf template.



Place the green leaf in between your red poppy pinwheel and glue or tape down.



Cut out the circle template and stick it down in the middle of your poppy.



You can ask an adult to help you stick your pin to the back of your poppy using tape.



Now you can wear your poppy!

Reading poems

At the Armistice Day Service, some people might read out poems they have written to remember those who have served.

There have also been poems written by soldiers who served in the war.

Let's take a look at these poems to give you inspiration to write your own poem.

Maybe you can read your poem out to the rest of your class.



- Take a look at these poems.
- What do you think are the meanings of each of the poems?
- What do you like about each of the poems?

This poem was called 'In Flanders Fields' and was written by a soldier called John McCrae in 1915.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place, and in the sky,
The larks, still bravely singing, fly,
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead; short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe!
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high!
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

The 1st Marquess of Crewe, Robert Crewe-Milnes also wrote a Remembrance poem during World War 1 in 1916 called 'A Harrow Grave in Flanders'.

HERE in the marshland, past the battered bridge,
One of a hundred grains untimely sown,
Here, with his comrades of the hard-won ridge
He rests, unknown.

His horoscope had seemed so plainly drawn,
School triumphs, earned apace in work and play;
Friendships at will; then love's delightful dawn
And mellowing day.

Home fostering hope; some service to the State;
Benignant age; then the long tryst to keep
Where in the yew-tree shadow congregate
His fathers sleep.

Was here the one thing needful to distil
From life's alembic, through this holier fate,
The man's essential soul, the hero-will?
We ask; and wait.

— *Crewe.*

This poem about John and Henri Villiers Russell was sold as a postcard during World War 1.

John and Henri Villiers Russell were twins from Crewe who were both killed when the ship they were on sank.

TOGETHER they first saw the light of day,
Together at mother's breast they lay,
Together they smiled, together they cooed,
Together they settled their childish feud ;
Together they toddled the self-same way,
Together they progressed day by day,
Together at school they learned to spell,
To reason, and think, and do all things well ;
Together they worked, together they played, [ed,
By life's cares and worries they were ne'er dismay-
Together they joined the Ambulance Corp,
Together they studied and came to the fore ;
Together they answered their country's call,
To secure for us victory or 'neath our flag fall,
Together they suffered, together they died,
Together embraced, brought home by the tide ;
Together they traced their oft' beaten track,
Enshrouded in glory and our Union Jack,
Together by father they now lie at rest,
Numbered we know with those of the blest,

H.A.H.

ACTIVITY: Write a Remembrance poem

Try writing your own Remembrance poem.



Inspiration:

- Read Gareth Williams' top tips.
- What is your poem going to be about?
- Are you going to focus on Crewe in your poem?
- Are you going to focus on a person who did a job in Crewe during wartime?
- Are you going to focus on a soldier from Crewe's story?
- You might want to look at the 'Cheshire Roll of Honour' website to help find a soldier who served in Crewe.
- You can find the website here:
<https://www.cheshireroll.co.uk/>



What language features are you going to use?

- Will you use alliteration, metaphors, imagery, rhymes or similes?

What structure are you going to use?

- How many verses will you write?
- How many sentences are going to be in each verse?

What type of poem are you going to write:

- Will it be a haiku?
- Will it be free verse?
- Will it be a sonnet?

Top tips from local Crewe poet, Gareth Williams

We asked local Crewe poet, Gareth Williams, what his top tips were for writing a Remembrance poem.

1. Don't overthink it! Sometimes I see what words enter my head at any moment when I have an idea.
2. Think about engaging techniques you can bring into your poem. Will you use rhyme? pace? alliteration?
3. What is the purpose of your poem? Is it going to send a message or be meaningful?



The 2- minute silence

A 2- minute silence is held every year on the 11th November and also on Remembrance Sunday at 11am (the 2nd Sunday in November) to remember those who have fought and died for their country.

This 2- minute silence at 11am marks World War 1 coming to an end on the 11th November 1918.

Everyone at the Remembrance Services will hold a 2- minute silence.

You can do this at your school too.

When this happens, you might want to think about Remembrance, say a prayer in your head or think about someone who has helped you that you would like to give thanks to.

Listening to the Bugle

Once the 2- minute silence has finished at the Armistice Service, usually a bugle plays a song.

A bugle is a brass instrument that sounds a bit like a trumpet. It is used a lot in the military.

The bugle will play a song called 'The Last Post'.

This is a song that was used to mark the end of a day in the military by the British Army. It is also a song used to mark the end of a fight.

You can listen to this song in your classroom, maybe to mark the end of your 2 minute silence.



- Take a look at the bugle playing The Last Post here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BSIMcypTOOs>

Laying a wreath

You might have also seen wreaths being laid down at war memorials.

Placing red poppy wreaths down at the memorial is a way of remembering those who have served and sacrificed their lives in wars.

People usually decorate the inside of the wreath with a personal picture and message to say thank you.

You can bring your wreath to the Armistice Service or you can create your own memorial at your school and lay your wreath there.



- Take a look at the pictures below of wreaths being placed at the foot of Crewe's War Memorial.
- What would you decorate the inside of the wreath with to represent your school?
- You can see wreaths being laid in London here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uOOUoHOLXdw>



Credit: Crewe Town Council/ Peter Robinson



Credit: Mark Potts

ACTIVITY: Make a wreath

You can either make a wreath using your poppies or you can order a wreath.

Then you can design the inside of your wreath to represent your school.

If you would like to order a wreath, then you can purchase them from the Royal British Legion here:

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/ways-to-give/shop/wreaths>

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

Your poppy wreath

Paper or card

Colouring pencils

Glue

Pencil or pen



Decorate a circle with your Remembrance message to stick inside your poppy wreath.

Measure the inside of your poppy wreath. That will be the width of your decorated circle.

In the middle of your circle, you might want to:

- Write your school name or draw your school logo
- Write your class name
- Write your poem



You can also write a message that you can stick to your wreath.

Maybe you can lay your wreath in your school or at the Memorial in Crewe.

For Teachers

Further Resources

There are further resources for you to use with your pupils.

Visit our website for resource packs and videos about Daisy Haywood and John Bunting here:

<https://www.crewetowncouncil.gov.uk/council-services-2/crewe-heritage/heritage-resources/>

Royal British Legion Resources can be found here:

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/remembrance/teaching-remembrance>

Gareth Williams website:



<https://www.rhymeology.co.uk/>

You can contact Gareth at gareth@rhymeology.co.uk

Teacher Curriculum Links and Aims

Pupils will learn to:

- Listen to and appreciate poems
- Be encouraged to discuss and express views of poems
- Recognise recurring literary language in poetry
- Prepare poems to perform and read aloud, showing an understanding through intonation, tone, volume and action
- Recognise different forms of poetry
- Use a range of materials creatively to design and make products
- Create a sketch book to record ideas
- Learn about significant events, people and places in their own locality
- Recognise what they like and dislike
- Share, talk and write about their opinions, and explain their views.