

Key Stage 3 Assemblies

Remembrance past and present - Remembrance Day

In preparation:

- The Royal British Legion CD Rom – picture of the Cenotaph in the History of The Royal British Legion section.

Start

Show an image of the poppy.

Script

Today (insert the day), is Remembrance Day. At 11 o'clock it will be the anniversary of the end of World War One, when the Armistice (peace agreement) was signed.

That war now seems like a very long time ago, especially when there have been plenty of wars since then.

But World War One changed modern warfare. For some people it defined the horror that would come out of the 20th century. Millions of men fought in the battles from all across the world. For the first time the role of British women changed in war – in the UK young women worked in factories and on farms, others travelled to the battlefields to be nurses and ambulance drivers.

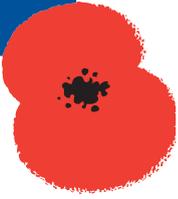
Once the war was over, many felt that the sacrifice of all those people should not be forgotten.

In 1919, on the first anniversary of the Armistice, a service was held. Now each year on the Sunday nearest to 11 November (Remembrance Day) at 11 o'clock in the morning, a Remembrance service is held at the Cenotaph in London.

The service now commemorates British and Commonwealth Service men and women who died in the two World Wars and in later conflicts. HM The Queen, religious leaders, politicians, representatives of state and the Armed and Auxiliary Forces, gather to pay respect to those who gave their lives defending others.

The Cenotaph is not the only memorial. All over the country there are memorials to those who fought and today and this weekend they will be covered in wreaths of poppies.

The poppy was adopted in 1921 by The Royal British Legion as the symbol of Remembrance. People had begun to adopt the poppy after being inspired by the poem of a Canadian Doctor, John McCrae, who had been present in France at the fighting.



Key Stage 3&4 Assemblies

Remembrance past and present - Remembrance, then and now

In preparation:

- A poppy
- Choose two pieces of film, one from the World War Two section of the DVD and one from the Afghanistan section.
- From the Remembrance DVD the film the Legion and Remembrance.

Script

This is the poppy and we wear a poppy to remember those whose lives have been affected by wars and active Service.

These poppies often gave people a sense of hope - even after life seemed to be destroyed on the battlefield this little flower had managed to survive.

Even at a terrible time flowers can give you hope.

After the war was over some people just wanted to forget about it, but because so many people had been involved more people wanted it to be remembered. They didn't want those killed and injured to be forgotten, and they also hoped that if people remembered how bad war was it might not happen again.

Because the poppy had grown on the battlefields of Western Europe where so many men had fought it was adopted as a symbol. A symbol of hope, that those who had fought would be remembered by future generations. They hoped that that sacrifice would not have been in vain.

It was the anniversary of the First World War that made people want to share in their reflection of what the war had cost people. Although families who had someone killed or hurt might think about their loss every day it was felt that there should be one time each year that everyone in Britain would think about those men and women and the families. It was decided that the day would be the anniversary of when the fighting had stopped.

That day is 11 November, and the fighting stopped at 11 o'clock in the morning. So at 11 o'clock on the 11th day of the 11th month of the year we wear a poppy to think about those men and women.

The day is called Remembrance Day and on that day important things happen.

People hold an act of Remembrance. At an act of Remembrance a number of things can happen – poems can be read, so can names, letters, or anything that enables people to remember these people and what they went through.

The main two things that happen are the reading of the Exhortation and then a Two Minute Silence.

The exhortation is a poem:

“They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.”

The act of Remembrance that I have just described happens all over the country on the 11 November, and then again on Remembrance Sunday.

But is it just the First World War that is remembered?

Show the film on World War Two.

After World War Two many communities decided to make Remembrance Day about that conflict as well. Now Remembrance day and the poppy is about remembering, thinking about and showing respect for all those affected by conflict from the First World War until today.

That includes the Service men and women who fought recently in Iraq and Afghanistan, or are on active Service all over the world. We also need to think about their families, as they are the ones who suffer if that person is killed or injured.

During World Wars One and Two lots of people were killed and even more were injured, often very badly. Many returned home injured in ways that prevented them from working or doing normal everyday things. In modern wars the military medical teams are well trained to save those who are injured, but they still can have terrible injuries. Others can suffer from the experience of seeing friends and civilians killed - being in a war is a traumatic experience. Those men and women and their families sometimes need help. People injured in Afghanistan might need help and support because of their injuries for another 60 years.

Show the film from Afghanistan, or go straight to the film on the Legion and Remembrance.

So since the First World War the poppies have raised money to help those people whose lives have been changed by war.

Moment of Reflection

There has been only one year since World War Two with no British deaths on active Service. That means that whether we are aware of it or not people in our Armed Forces are risking their lives for their country. Many more end up injured, and they will carry the burden and memory of their Service for the rest of their lives. For all of those people, let us spend one day a year reflecting on that sacrifice and hope that the next generation will do something to make the future peaceful.

Poem or Prayer

Siegfried Sassoon (1886-1967) was born into a wealthy family in Kent on 8 September 1886. He survived the war having fought in many battles, but he lost many friends who he mourned for the rest of his life.

Does it Matter?

Does it matter?—losing your legs?...
For people will always be kind,
And you need not show that you mind
When the others come in after hunting
To gobble their muffins and eggs.
Does it matter?—losing your sight?...
There's such splendid work for the blind;
And people will always be kind,
As you sit on the terrace remembering
And turning your face to the light.
Do they matter?—those dreams from the pit?...
You can drink and forget and be glad,
And people won't say that you're mad;
For they'll know you've fought for your country
And no one will worry a bit.

In Flanders Fields

John McCrae

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 the 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.

This poem is no longer read out at the service and instead the following lines from another poet have been adopted:

Extract from "For The Fallen"

Laurence Binyon

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them."

Moment of reflection

Remembrance Day is a day of reflection. It allows us to remember or think about all those people who are affected by wars, both in the past and now. It allows us to think about all those people who suffer in wars all around the world. And it reminds us how important it is to work for peace.

Prayer or poem:

**Anthem for Doomed Youth
Wilfred Owen**

What passing-bells for these who die as cattle?

Only the monstrous anger of the guns.

Only the stuttering rifles' rapid rattle

Can patter out their hasty orisons.

No mockeries for them; no prayers nor bells,

Nor any voice of mourning save the choirs, --

The shrill, demented choirs of wailing shells;

And bugles calling for them from sad shires.

What candles may be held to speed them all?

Not in the hands of boys, but in their eyes

Shall shine the holy glimmers of goodbyes.

The pallor of girls' brows shall be their pall;

Their flowers the tenderness of patient minds,

And each slow dusk a drawing-down of blinds.

Or,

Night in al-hamra

Saadi Youssef (translated from the Arabic by Khaled Mattawa)

A candle on the long road

A candle in the slumbering houses

A candle for the terrified stores

A candle for the bakeries

A candle for the journalist shuddering in an empty office

A candle for the fighter

A candle for the doctor at the sick bed

A candle for the wounded

A candle for honest talk

A candle for staircases

A candle for the hotel crowded with refugees

A candle for the singer

A candle for the broadcasters in a shelter

A candle for a bottle of water

A candle for the air

A candle for two lovers in a stripped apartment

A candle for the sky that has folded

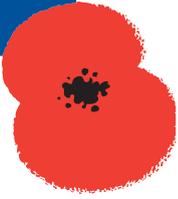
A candle for the beginning

A candle for the end

A candle for the final decision

A candle for conscience

A candle in my hand



Key Stage 3&4 Assemblies

Remembrance past and present - Remembrance and the First World War centenary

Does the First World War centenary matter to Remembrance?

In preparation:

- DVD on the First World War: the piece of film Armistice Day 1920 or Liveliness at the Front
- DVD clip and CD Rom information about the Unknown Warrior
- DVD on Remembrance: the clip the Legion and Remembrance or Silence in the Square.

Script

This time of year is known as Remembrancetime, and today/this week we are going to think about Remembrance and what it means. Firstly I'm going to show you a piece of film.

Show the silent film on Armistice Day 1920 or Liveliness at the front.

That piece of film is 100 years old – there is no sound to it and it is not like modern footage.

It is a valuable piece of evidence from a time that was deeply affected by the war – the Great War as it was then known. But does that war matter now; after all there have been many wars that British troops have fought in since? Perhaps when we wear a poppy now we should be only concentrating on the men and women who are fighting in wars today?

However, it was the events and impact of the First World War (1914-18) that means that we wear a poppy today. It was a war so destructive and bloody that it shattered the countries of Europe and the lives of millions of people around the world. It's hard to think of something that would have that affect today.

Before the First World War we didn't have a Remembrance Day, although we'd had plenty of wars. For many hundreds of years those wars did not directly affect civilians on the same scale as the First World War. Every town and village didn't have a war memorial until the First World War. And the poppy was just another wild flower.

It was the loss of millions of lives, and the damage through injury and loss to millions of others, that meant people wanted to have a way to remember the sacrifice of a generation of Britons.

Nearly one million men from the UK, Empire and Commonwealth were killed in the First World War and more than two million more were seriously injured. At the end of the war, in 1919, everyone knew someone who had served, which meant that everyone had a real person to think about during the Two Minute Silence. It is likely that all of you have at least one relative who was affected by that conflict, even if you don't know about it.

But does it still matter and should we still remember the First World War at Remembrance time or should we now just think about the new generation affected by war?

Have a think about it.

Is it possible to do both? Remember those from the past and those presently.

The First World War provided us with our traditions of Remembrance – the poppy, observing a Two Minute Silence at 11am on 11 November each year, Remembrance Sunday Services, communities joining together

across the UK to take part in different Remembrance events and activities. As we reach the centenary is it time to update those traditions? Or can those traditions be kept but mixed with more modern things? After all, the last 100 years has seen many wars, but by remembering the generation that sacrificed so much we are being reminded that part of the lesson of Remembrance is the hope for a peaceful future. By ignoring or letting go of the past we might forget the horrors of war and the importance of working hard to maintain peace.

Show the film the Legion and Remembrance or Silence in the Square.

Moment of Reflection:

When we wear the poppy and pause for our Two Minute Silence we are carrying a tradition that has lasted for nearly 100 years. Those traditions were there to help us to remember, to pause and think, and to learn the lessons from the past.

Poem or prayer

Anthem for Doomed Youth

Wilfred Owen

What passing-bells for these who die as cattle?

Only the monstrous anger of the guns.

Only the stuttering rifles' rapid rattle

Can patter out their hasty orisons.

No mockeries for them; no prayers nor bells,

Nor any voice of mourning save the choirs, --

The shrill, demented choirs of wailing shells;

And bugles calling for them from sad shires.

What candles may be held to speed them all?

Not in the hands of boys, but in their eyes

Shall shine the holy glimmers of goodbyes.

The pallor of girls' brows shall be their pall;

Their flowers the tenderness of patient minds,

And each slow dusk a drawing-down of blinds.

Moment of reflection

Remembrance Day is a day of reflection, it allows us to remember or think about all those people who are affected by wars, both in the past and now. It allows us to think about all those people who suffer in wars all around the world. And it reminds us how important it is to work for peace.

Poem or prayer:

There are two choices:

John Jarmain

John Jarmain was an officer in World War Two and was killed during the Battle for Normandy in 1944.

At A War Grave

John Jarmain

No grave is rich, the dust that herein lies
Beneath this white cross mixing with the sand
Was vital once, with skill of eye and hand
And speed of brain. These will not re-arise
These riches, nor will they be replaced;
They are lost and nothing now, and here is left
Only a worthless corpse of sense bereft,
Symbol of death, and sacrifice and waste.

Or,

John McCrae

Dr John McCrae served as a medical officer in World War One.

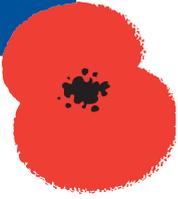
In Flanders Fields

by John McCrae

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 the 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.



Key Stage 3 Assemblies

Remembrance past and present - Conflict today

In preparation:

- In preparation: select one of the following pieces of film from the DVD
 - From the World War One section, use the piece of film on the Cenotaph and the unknown soldier (you may only want to show half of the film)
 - From the section on recent conflict/Afghanistan, choose one of the following: Mark Ormrod's story, or Doctors in Afghanistan; MERT (Medical Emergency Recovery Team)
 - Andrew Boardman, Brigadier Patrick Cordingley – Iraq 1990/91
 - Or use pictures from the CD Rom: The Cenotaph, Iraq or Afghanistan
- Have a poppy ready to show.

Start

Many of you will be familiar with this.

Hold up a poppy.

Every year at this time we wear a poppy – but why do we wear it and when did this practice start?

Script

Wearing a poppy started just after World War One. The battles of World War One caused devastation across parts of Western Europe, specifically in parts of Belgium and France. Where the battles took place and the trenches had been constructed, the ground was churned up and all that was left was mud. However, poppies survived and millions of them grew and blossomed across the fields.

For the men fighting and living on the Western Front, the fact that the poppies survived and flowered became a symbol of hope. Many poets referred to the poppy in their poems.

In 1918, at the end of World War One there was no welfare state as we have today and millions of men had fought for their country and been injured, and had little or no support from the government. The families of men injured or killed also had no support and many were plunged into poverty and hardship as a result.

After the war, paper poppies were made and sold to the British public. The idea was that injured Service men could be employed to make the poppies as a way to earn a living, and the extra money raised would also help other ex-Service men and their families. The poppies would be worn by people around the time of the anniversary of the end of the war as a symbol to remember what had happened and the men who had fought.

This idea of a national day to remember conflict and those affected by it was completely new.

World War One had affected the lives of many people, so there was a demand for a national way to remember. On a local level, war memorials were erected all over the country. On the first anniversary of the end of the war, on 11 November 1919, a service was held that saw the unveiling of a central memorial – the Cenotaph in London, and the investiture of the tomb of the unknown soldier in Westminster Abbey.

Option – show the film on the DVD of the first anniversary or a picture of the Cenotaph.

Poem or reading:

Remember

Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

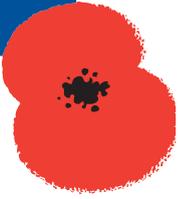
Remember me when I am gone away,
Gone far away into the silent land;
When you can no more hold me by the hand,
Nor I half turn to go, yet turning stay.
Remember me when no more day by day
You tell me of our future that you plann'd:
Only remember me; you understand
It will be late to counsel then or pray.
Yet if you should forget me for a while
And afterwards remember, do not grieve:
For if the darkness and corruption leave
A vestige of the thoughts that once I had,
Better by far you should forget and smile
Than that you should remember and be sad

Or,

The Cenotaph

Charlotte Mew, 1919

Not yet will those measureless fields be green again
Where only yesterday the wild sweet blood of wonderful youth was shed;
There is a grave whose earth must hold too long, too deep a stain,
Though for ever over it we may speak as proudly as we may tread.
But here, where the watchers by lonely hearths from the thrust of an
inward sword have more slowly bled,
We shall build the Cenotaph: Victory, winged, with Peace, winged too, at the column's head.
And over the stairway, at the foot -- oh! here, leave desolate, passionate hands to spread
Violets, roses, and laurel, with the small, sweet, tinkling country things
Speaking so wistfully of other Springs,
From the little gardens of little places where son or sweetheart was born and bred.
In splendid sleep, with a thousand brothers
To lovers - to mothers
Here, too, lies he: Under the purple, the green, the red,
It is all young life: it must break some women's hearts to see
Such a brave, gay coverlet to such a bed!
Only, when all is done and said,
God is not mocked and neither are the dead
For this will stand in our Market-place -
Who'll sell, who'll buy?
(Will you or I
Lie each to each with the better grace?)
While looking into every busy whore's and huckster's face
As they drive their bargains, is the Face
Of God: and some young, piteous, murdered face.



Key Stage 3 Assemblies

Remembrance past and present - Remembering the families

Useful references: A poppy, the poster or pictures of Kirianne Curley.

Optional: One of the following films from the DVD – Disk 1: The Legion and Remembrance; Silence in the Square; The Work of the Legion today.

It may work to divide up the selected testimony below and ask students to read it out.

Script

This week many of us are wearing a poppy like this one here. Do you know why you wear the poppy? It is to remember the men and women whose lives are affected by conflict. Some people think it is to remember wars, especially the World Wars, but that is not the case.

The practice of Remembrance started after World War One. During that war millions of men from the UK and across the Empire and Commonwealth fought in the military. Millions more were affected by losing their loved ones or by surviving the conflict but with injuries that affected the rest of their lives. Those people all wanted to have their sacrifices remembered and the poppy was adopted as a symbol of Remembrance, just as it had been a symbol of hope to the men on the battlefields when it had grown, when everything else lay destroyed.

At the time World War One was supposed to end all wars – as we now know it didn't. But the practice of Remembrance that it started continued, and now Remembrance time and the poppy is for all those whose lives have been affected by conflict.

From the start, the poppy and Remembrance were about the families that had suffered, as well as those who had served. That is why today Remembrance includes people like Kirianne Curley and her son:

Kirianne is 29 years of age. She met and married Stephen Curley, a Royal Marine. Stephen and Kirianne met on a platform at Exeter train station in 2006, the day he got back from a tour of Afghanistan and got chatting. They were engaged five weeks later and married eight months after that, in November 2006 in Thailand, during Stephen's Christmas leave.

"I was marrying the man not the Marine so I didn't want to marry him in uniform even though Stephen had been in the Marines for five years by then. I wanted our wedding to be a small, informal gathering - not a big Marine party. I literally had nothing to do with the Armed Forces or Military community – I saw him in uniform three times, he had his job and I had my job.

I used to ask Stephen about his job but he would often protect me, because what he was doing was preparing for war so he sheltered me from the possible outcome, even though he knew I could take it as I'm very strong. He knew if he shared it with me it became a reality so he tended not to.

When we were together we'd talk about our future plans, moving forward, what we'd do together at the weekend, all the fun stuff so we had a great relationship, it was always exciting because I didn't see him for long periods of time and sometimes I didn't know when I was going to see him again so it was a bit like being teenagers, it was young and fresh and stayed that way."

In the start of 2010 Kirianne and Stephen had a baby boy – William. Stephen was at home and able to spend time with his baby but shortly afterwards he was sent to Afghanistan. Then in May 2012 Kirianne was woken in the night to be told that Stephen had been killed - William was 17 weeks old.

"Sometimes I still feel it isn't true but I've spent two years talking about it now. Everyone has troubles in life, you can either let them beat you or you can beat them. That's the bottom line for me, I could easily have let this ruin my life but there was no way that I would be honouring Stephen and his life if I did that. I had a new born baby to look after and I owed it to Stephen to be the best Mum I could be, the best wife to him

in life and the best wife in death and as long as I can go to bed every night and say I've been the best I can be, that helps me deal with my grief. Stephen doesn't get to be here, he doesn't get to live today and I have that opportunity that he doesn't have so I won't dishonour him by moping around. Remembrance for me is nothing political whatsoever, it isn't about making a stand, it's simply about having respect for those who have lost their lives. That's what sums up Remembrance for me, it's about respect. Regardless of your creed, your colour, your religion, your nationality, it's about taking time to honour and respect those that have died. It isn't just about putting a pound in a pot and wearing a poppy, I'm a young person, to wear a poppy with pride is an outward recognition of respect saying "I remember". Every day I remember, I live Remembrance every day, every moment of every day I remember. During Remembrancetide when I see people wearing poppies walking along the street, I take it really personally because they don't know my situation but for just that moment when I see that person, I know that they are somehow showing me that I am not on my own. One day I'll be able to say to William "those people remember your Daddy and they respect the loss and the sacrifice that the three of us have made". For just those few days, they buy their poppies, wear them and join us ... so we are not so alone anymore".

Poppies are not just about the two World Wars but about all the people whose lives have been affected by conflict from 1914, to the men and women in Afghanistan and the families that worry about their loved ones every day.

Remembrance is something that we can all take part in and when you wear your poppy this year you can think about the comfort that you are giving Kirianne and people like her.

Option to show the film.

Moment of Reflection:

The poppy is a symbol of Remembrance. The poppy has been a symbol of hope for over 90 years and it is still important today. When we wear a poppy we are supporting all those families that have lost loved ones, or worried for their loved ones, who are affected by conflict.

Prayer or poem

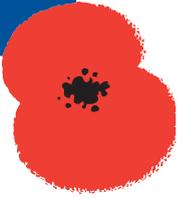
This poem, by John McCrae, was written during World War One, to help people remember the sacrifice of conflict.

In Flanders Fields John McCrae (1872-1918)

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.



Key Stage 3 Assemblies

Remembrance past and present - Remembering those who come back injured

Useful references: A poppy, poster or pictures of Aron Shelton and his case study.

Optional: One of the following films from the DVD – Disk 1: The Legion and Remembrance; Silence in the Square; The Work of the Legion today.

It may work to divide up the selected testimony below and ask students to read it out.

Script:

This week many of you will be wearing a poppy. The poppy is a symbol of Remembrance, dating back to World War One. The poppy grew on the battlefields of Western Europe when nothing else seemed to survive, so for the soldiers fighting it became a symbol of hope. After the war, millions of men returned injured from the fighting and many families were left without their main breadwinner. There was no welfare state and so The Royal British Legion was set up with the purpose of helping those men and those families. To raise money to do the work the Legion sold the poppy – helping funds and supporting Remembrance.

The work that the Legion did continued after World War Two, when many more people came back injured and families were in need of support. This vital work still continues today.

Today the Legion is still helping to support men and women injured through conflict and it still sells the poppy to do so. Now it helps people from World War Two to those injured in Afghanistan. Here is one example:

Aron Shelton

"I was originally from Nottinghamshire and I was about 13 when I first thought about joining up. My older brother Gavin was already in the Army, he'd been to Bosnia and I was definitely influenced by him when I saw how much fun he had so I just went there's my calling, there's my job, I want to be a soldier. I was just short of my 18th birthday when I joined up to my local regiment - The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, now known as 2 Mercian. I trained in Lichfield and Catterick and was then posted to Chesterfield, Kenya, Northern Ireland and then Afghanistan in 2005, back to public duties in the UK, then back to Afghanistan in 2007".

"I was injured on 24 June 2007. We were on a routine patrol in a snatch Land Rover on our way to a meeting with the local elders, to talk about what they needed and how we could help - hearts and minds stuff. It was about 10.30 am and we were travelling along a normal Afghan dusty road, I was on top cover in the lead vehicle so I was effectively in charge of security for that vehicle, it was my eyes and ears looking out for us all with my partner Thomas Wright who was on the right hand side of the vehicle. Thomas spotted four men digging in the field next to the road – they just dropped their tools and walked away, we knew that wasn't right so we came to a stop and as we came to a stop – BANG."

"It was just our vehicle affected, we had five occupants – Tom, who was next to me, was killed, I was the most seriously injured but the three others were hurt too. Because I was standing on the bottom of the vehicle, the whole force went through my entire body. I shattered my four metatarsals, whole ankle joint, tibia and fibula and lots of open wounds. I was flown back to the UK within 24 hours of the explosion and taken to hospital in Birmingham. I was there for around six-eight weeks, then home for a week, then to Headley Court (military hospital) on and off for two years. I had my left leg amputated in December 2008." Four years later he is still in a lot of pain "I'm no longer in rehabilitation, this is the best I am going to be for the rest of my life now. My standing and walking tolerances are absolutely rubbish and that always winds me up, especially when I think that I used to walk 50 miles in two days, now I count distances in metres. It was really frustrating when I started out but now I've learned to live with it."

Aron has also been told that he will probably lose his other leg in the next few years because of the damage he suffered. Aron is still only 28 years of age. Although Aron is very positive and plans to get married in the next few years, he still needs a lot of help. Since he was injured he has been supported and helped by The Royal British Legion. The Legion uses the money raised from selling poppies to help people like Aron and Kirianne, who we heard about yesterday.

So when you wear a poppy you are remembering and helping.

Aron said *“Armistice Day is not about me, it’s about the lads and girls of the Armed Forces who have put down their lives for this country. You put your coins in the collecting box to help people like me but when you wear a poppy, you are remembering everyone killed in older and more recent conflicts. You are remembering people like Thomas, my friend who I lost and all the others who have been lost.”*

When you wear a poppy you are remembering men like Aron and those serving today, as well as remembering those who have served in the last 90 years or more.

Show one of the film options.

Moment of reflection:

When we wear a poppy we are part of a tradition of remembering and helping that has lasted for over 90 years. Our support is just as important today as it was in the past, just as it is still important to work for peace.

Prayer or poem:

The Volunteer

John Bailey

John Bailey is a former regular and now serving Territorial Army soldier who served in Afghanistan in 2008. A member of his unit, Corporal Steven Boote, was killed along with four others by a rogue Afghan policeman. John spent the day in Wootton Bassett when their bodies were repatriated and that night he wrote this poem as a comment on TA Service in general, but more importantly as a tribute to “Booty”.

‘Taking a Stand’ is written from the point of view of a Royal British Legion member. Reading of the recently reported jeering of returning troops by young people John Bailey imagined how a veteran would have felt and what they would say to these people.

Taking a Stand

I ask you to stand with me
For both the injured and the lost
I ask you to keep count with me
Of all the wars and what they cost

I ask you to be silent with me
Quietly grateful for our lot
As I expect you’re as thankful as me
For the health and life we’ve got

I ask that you wish them well with me
All those still risking their all
And I ask that you remember with me
The names of those that fall

I expect that you are proud like me
Of this great nation of ours too
So enjoying all its freedoms like me

Support those upholding them for you

I hope that you are hopeful like me
That we'll soon bring an end to wars
So you'll have to stand no more with me
And mourning families no different from yours

'Til then be thankful you can stand with me
Thinking of those who now cannot
For standing here today with me
At least we show they're not forgot