

## THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

# MKC Heroes' Newsletter

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### Remembrance

Whilst 2020 brings changes to many of the usual ways we mark Remembrance, it's wonderful to see people's passion and commitment lives on. In that spirit, we're delighted to bring you this amazing poem from Plymouth's Young City Laureate.

### Shadow Puppets

Like shadow puppets  
Lit up against a sheet of cloud  
In the historic shapes of black and white.  
At first, just a boy, running with his dog.  
He steps lightly, floats with the sway of the field  
But then behind him  
There's the engraved face of a grandfather clock,  
With creaking teeth and arms cartwheeling into a  
Blur.  
Alone – a uniform returns;  
The shadows forget the details of his flag.  
He poses for a photo, shirt buttoned to his chin,  
A string pulling his crown towards the sky,  
Weighed down by the hat upon his head.  
Ghostly white skin, glassy eyes  
Staring past the camera towards a forgetful snow.  
No longer the boy in a heart shaped locket,  
With a smile she'd hoped  
Would last a lifetime.

Planes rattle overhead, shells squeal,  
The tangling taunts of barbed wire  
Caging him like a frame.  
The boy cradles his head in his hands.  
The white dimmed to grey,  
Spattered...  
Hunched shoulders,  
The shudder of a mother's love.  
She kneels, grinding her nails into the dirt  
To anchor herself. Balance slipping away.  
At home they cheer but the wind  
Swallows it whole.  
Dazed, exhausted. It's quiet at the front.  
Celebrating by standing up straight.  
The clock clinks and the chaos eases,  
Pausing to take a breath:  
Eleven eleven.  
She waters the seeds planted by the doomed  
youth,  
And waits.  
The earth disturbed by heavy footsteps,  
By grief, by the howls of ghosts.  
But still, somehow,  
The poppy's find the light to grow.

**Holly Peters**

**Mayflower Young City Laureate**

## Festival of Remembrance

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Despite The Festival of Remembrance being unable to be filmed with a live audience this year due to Covid-19 restrictions, it will still be televised on BBC 1 and broadcast on BBC 2 Radio from 9.00pm on Saturday 07 November.

### Remembrance Crosses

Thank you to **Llantwit Major School** for sharing their amazing Little Remembrance Crosses with us. We had a massive response this year and it's wonderful that so many schools want to get involved.



### Poppy Appeal - Ways to Give

Lockdown is happening, but there are still loads of ways to get involved and give, including purchasing poppies at supermarkets, via Amazon, and you can donate via text message and through our website. Also, the Virtual Poppy Runs continue taking place until 30 November.

For more details visit:

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/poppy-appeal>

## Virtual Remembrance Service

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Unfortunately, North Yorkshire's Service Children's Choir Service to Remember can not go ahead as normal, however, it will be held virtually.

This year's theme is 'Heroes' to reflect not only the heroes of the War, but the heroes of this past year – the keyworkers. NY Service children have also contributed artwork and poems to the Service, detailing their own personal heroes.

We have been invited to view the Service, held at Ripon Cathedral, led by the Dean of Ripon which will be available from Friday 6 November.

Please do join and support the children and young people if you can.

<http://servicepupilschampion.co.uk/Remembrance/>

### Real Stories

A new project at King's College London Centre for Military Health Research has launched and is inviting military-connected families to reflect on family life today. Members of the UK Armed Forces Community (anybody who is related or in a partnership with somebody who is serving or has served in the Armed Forces) can submit an image and take part in the virtual exhibition. There's also an opportunity to include a written contribution giving more details about what the image represents or means, which will be presented in their Reflections booklet.

Details can be found here: <https://kcmhr.org/real-stories/>

### Positive News and Stories

MKC Heroes do amazing work all year round and here at TRBL we'd love to hear your positive stories as we believe promoting them is really important. If you have something you'd like to share with us, big or small, or a Remembrance ceremony/activity you've done this year, please get in touch.

[MKCHeroes@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:MKCHeroes@britishlegion.org.uk)

### Social Media



Please continue to follow us and share news and updates about your MKC Heroes on our Socials. Tag us in your Twitter posts at [@MKCHeroes](https://twitter.com/MKCHeroes) and like our Community page on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/MKCHeroes) where we can share positive stories, news, and information to the MKC Heroes national schools' network.