

Poppies

Much of the First World War was fought in France and Belgium in an area we call Flanders. War destroys a land, it turns it to mud and desolation. Poppy seeds thrive in such conditions. The poppies growing on the battlefield were splashes of colour, beacons of hope.

John McCrae was a Canadian Doctor serving in Flanders. He wrote this now famous poem...



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.

Moina Michael was an American who is remembered as 'the poppy lady'. She read the poem and did 2 things – started handing out poppies for remembrance and wrote a poem of her own, a reply...

And now the Poppy Red
We wear in honor of our dead.
Fear not that ye have died for naught;
We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought
In Flanders Fields.

Since then poppies have been worn across the world in Remembrance.

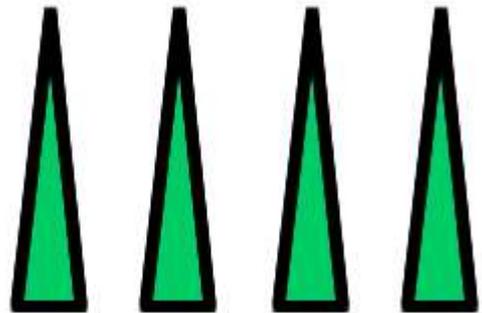
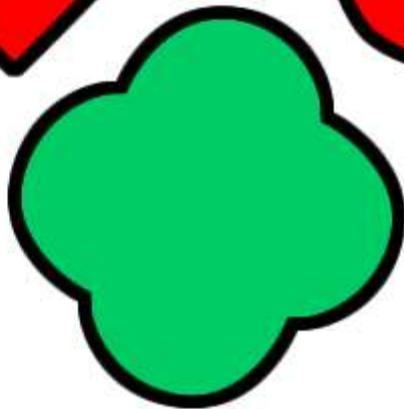
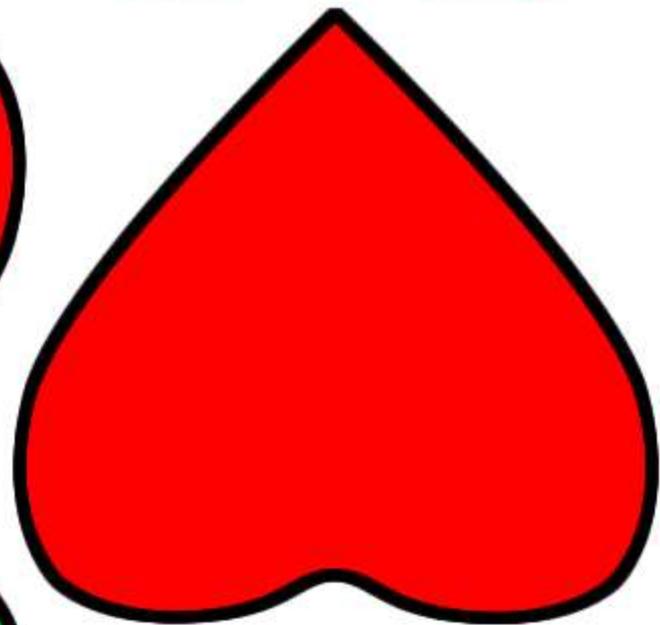
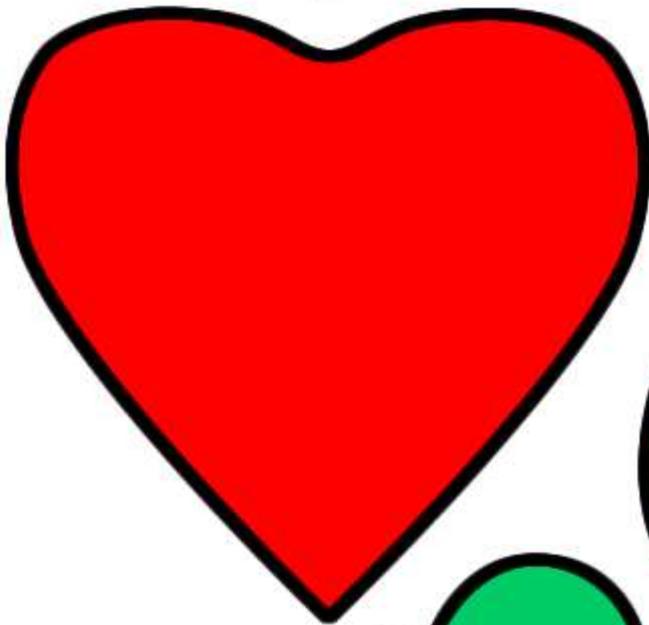
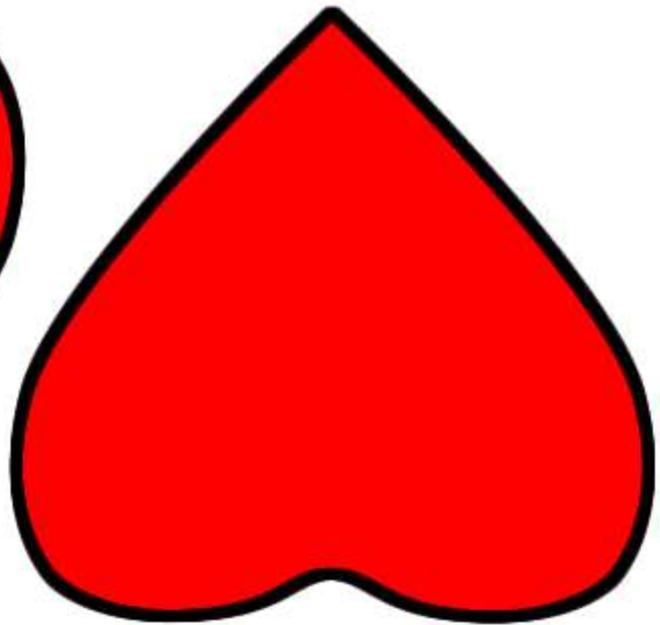
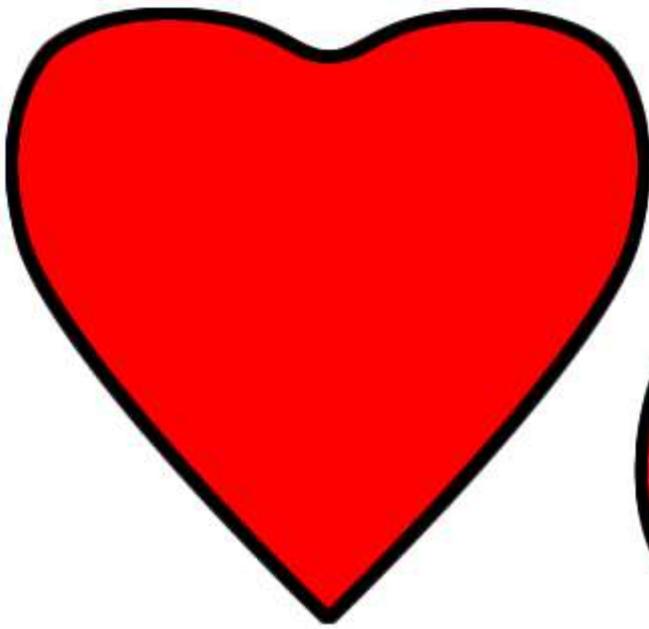
This year because of the Coronavirus pandemic we will not be able to commemorate Remembrance as usual. So, here are some ideas for things to do...

Paint a poppy on a pebble and either place it at a local war memorial or at a war grave in your local cemetery...

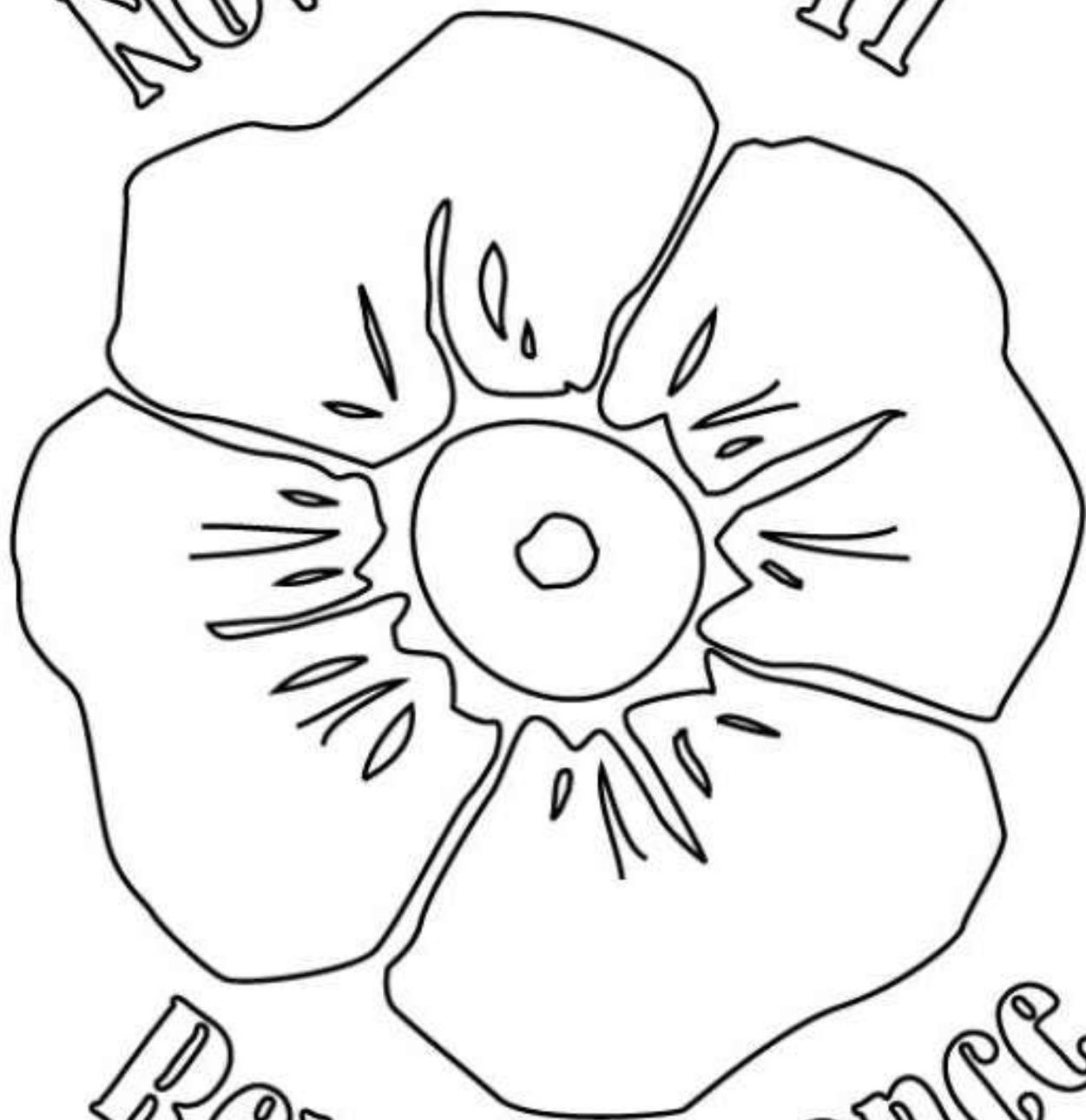


During lockdown we all put rainbows in our windows for the NHS and key workers, so place a poppy picture in your window in remembrance of those who lived and died in the service of our country.





November 11



Remembrance