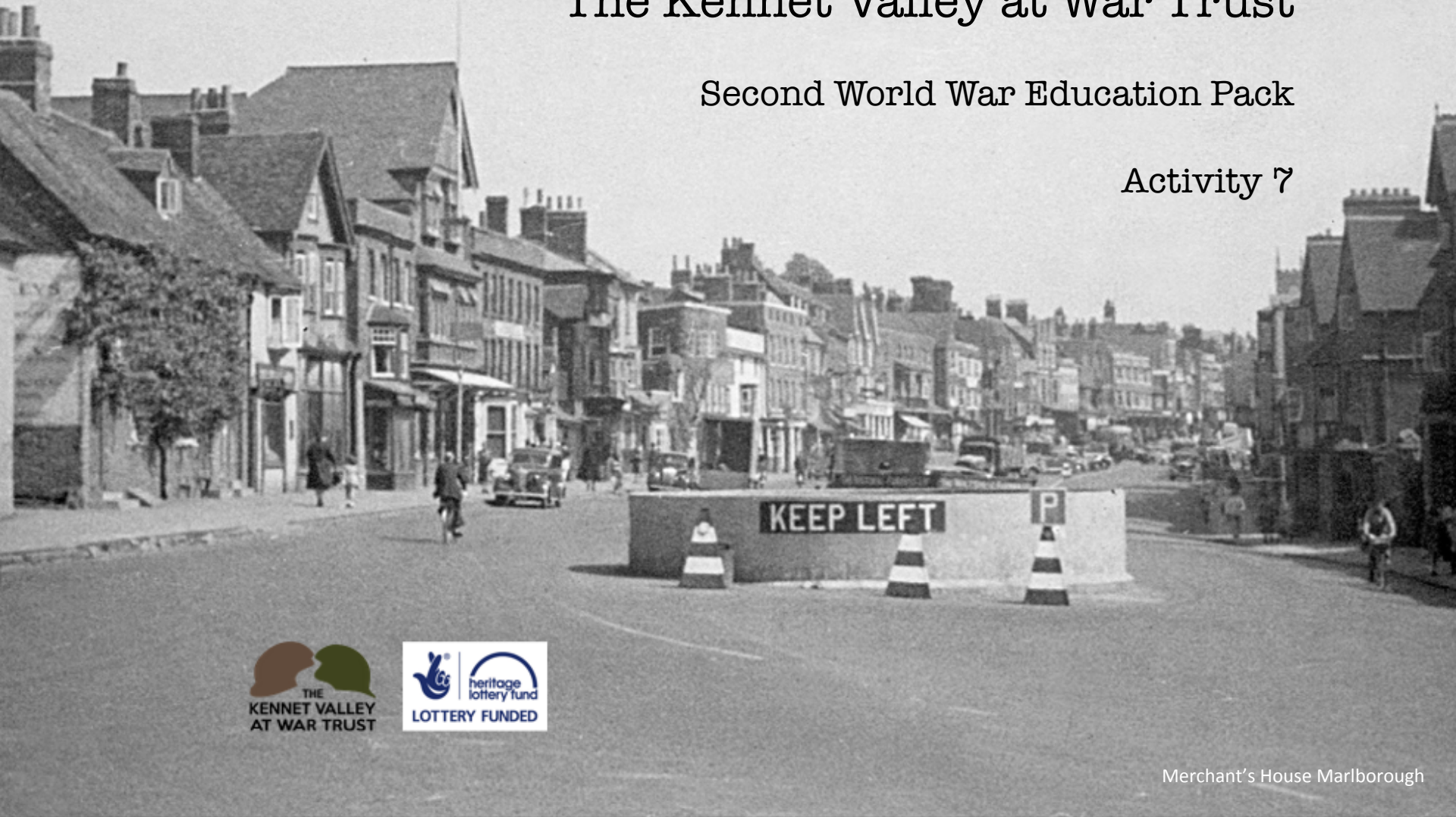


The Kennet Valley at War Trust

Second World War Education Pack

Activity 7



Note to teachers...

This basic slide pack has been prepared for you to use with the Kennet Valley at War Trust's Second World War Education Pack.

Please adapt it to meet your own needs.

How to use the Education Pack

The Education Pack is in two parts: background information and a set of classroom activity plans for teachers; and original images and texts, to be used with those plans.

The activities, which are principally designed for pupils aged between 9 and 14, can be adapted to suit older or younger students who are studying the history of their local area. Each activity includes background information, helpful ideas, and links to curriculum subjects and additional online resources. These can be used in lessons or as part of a larger cross curriculum project.

Slide packs, for use with each activity, can be downloaded from: www.kennetvalleyatwar.co.uk

The activities show what can be achieved with the resources provided, and should be used to develop your own ideas and lesson plans.

As you do so, remember that the pack is about the men and women of the Kennet Valley and those British and American soldiers, airmen and airwomen who were based there, and who lived through the momentous events of the Second World War, and whose sacrifices helped to make the Allied victory possible.

This is their story.



British fighter pilots running for their aircraft,
1940



(© IWM HU 49253)

Activity 7: remembrance and war

Age range: 7-14

Curriculum links: Art and Design, Citizenship and History

Learning objectives: study authentic resources and design a new war memorial

Remembrance is part of British life, culture and heritage.

Each year, around the 11th November (the anniversary of the 1918 Armistice which led to the end of the First World War) millions of people, whatever their background or their beliefs, take part in a wide variety of Remembrance events.

Once designed to commemorate great victories, since the 19th century war memorials have been used as focal points for remembrance in the community, and to commemorate those who have died in the service of their country.

Using sources O and P, ask your pupils to investigate the purpose of remembrance, and research a variety of different war memorials.

If you have a war memorial near your school, try to arrange a visit to study it in detail. Who is remembered on it; what does this tell us; why is this important? Get them to discuss their findings.

Ask your pupils to design a monument to commemorate those members of the Home Guard who served in the Kennet Valley during the Second World War.



*The Cenotaph in Whitehall,
London*

Public Domain

Background image: The Royal British Legion's standards are lowered during Newbury's annual Remembrance Parade (James Wadham)



© James Wadham Images

The Royal British Legion's standards are lowered during Newbury's annual Remembrance Parade

*The Cenotaph
in Whitehall,
London*



Source O: memory and remembrance

The Second World War's legacy of memory and remembrance is captured in the buildings, war memorials and other monuments - found in almost every village or town - which commemorate those who died or were injured in war.

Worn by millions of people, the poppy has also become a national symbol of remembrance, often reflecting individual and personal memories.



Stan Bowyer, a D-Day veteran, about to lay a wreath of poppies at the Newbury War Memorial, November 2014
James Wadham

Background image: The Memorial Hall, Marlborough College

"Remembrance is acknowledging that a life was once lived."

Nina Sankovitch, author

"These mock battles were great fun but they had a serious side; within a year most of us had joined the Army - and by 1945 nearly a third of my platoon mates had lost their lives."

David Summerhayes, reflecting on his wartime experience as a member of Marlborough College's Officer Training Corps

The Royal British Legion, one of the UK's largest charities, is the national custodian of remembrance, and is responsible for the annual Poppy Appeal which raises money to help all members of the Armed Forces, past and present, and their families.

During the First World War (1914-1918) poppies flourished amid chaos and destruction, inspiring Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae to write a famous poem called 'In Flanders Fields', which led to the adoption of the poppy as a neutral, humble and universal symbol of remembrance and hope.

Remembrance in the UK today is very different to the past. People take part in a wide variety of events, whatever their political or religious beliefs.

Useful links:

Royal British Legion learning pack www.britishlegion.org.uk

The story of poppies and remembrance projectbritain.com

“Remembrance is acknowledging that a life was
once lived.”

Nina Sankovitch, author

*The Memorial Hall,
Marlborough College*



“These mock battles were great fun but they had a serious side; within a year most of us had joined the Army - and by 1945 nearly a third of my platoon mates had lost their lives.”

David Summerhayes, reflecting on his wartime experience as a member of Marlborough College's
Officer Training Corps



*Stan Bowyer, a
D-Day veteran,
about to lay a
wreath of poppies
at the Newbury
War Memorial,
November 2014*

Source P: local war memorials

From the 1870s, war memorials have been used to honour those who have died, rather than to glorify war.

Here are some examples of the different types of war memorial found in the Kennet Valley.



RAF Membury



Littlecote House



Marlborough



Hungerford

Useful links
Learn about war memorials www.learnaboutwarmemorials.org
Search for your local war memorial www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk

Background image: Newbury's war memorial, dedicated on 1 October 1922



Newbury's War Memorial, dedicated on 1 October 1922



Littlecote House

RAF Membury



Hungerford



