

Our Heritage Matters

Cogenhoe and Whiston Heritage Society

When you cease to enquire, stupidity has you in its grasp.

Volume 16, Issue 8

Nov 2025

In Flanders' Fields



This is a war poem in the form of a rondeau, written during the First World War by Canadian physician Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae. He was inspired to write it on May 3, 1915, after presiding over the funeral of friend and fellow soldier Alexis Helmer, who died in the Second Battle of Ypres.

According to legend, fellow soldiers retrieved the poem after McCrae, initially dissatisfied with his work, discarded it.

"In Flanders' Fields" was first published on December 8 of that year in the London-based magazine Punch.

It is one of the most popular and most quoted poems from the war. As a result of its immediate popularity, parts of the poem were used in propaganda efforts and appeals to recruit soldiers and raise money selling war bonds. Its references to the red poppies that grew over the graves of fallen soldiers resulted in the remembrance poppy becoming one of the world's most recognised memorial symbols for soldiers who have died in conflict.

The poem and poppy are prominent Remembrance Day symbols throughout the Commonwealth of Nations, particularly in Canada, where "In Flanders' Fields" is one of the nation's best-known literary works.

Contents

Next Month's Society Meeting.....	3
Northampton Pubs	4
Bozeat Post Mill: the last of its kind	7
The Origin of The Cross Keys.....	9
In September 1066... ..	10
Executions in Northampton. 1277 – 1893 – Part 6	11
The Letters of John Marlow. No 2	14
Manchester Transport Museum	16
CORNUCOPIA	18
Report On The Talk 8 th October.....	24
Programme of Meetings November 2025-March 2026.....	25
Society QR Codes.....	25
Society Publications	26

Notes from the Editor

If anyone has anything they think would be of interest to our members either that they can create or would be interested in, then do let the chairman know as below. We would also really like a few extra helpers – you don't have to be on the Committee – to especially help with research to help produce this newsletter! Contact Jon Bailey (the Society Chairman) at chairman@cogenhoeheritage.org.uk or enquiries@cogenhoeheritage.org.uk

Jon Bailey

Editor: Jon Bailey
Chief Researcher: Robert Vaughan

Society Meetings

Open to all: non-members just £5 including refreshments and members £3. The full programme can be found on our website www.cogenhoeheritage.org.uk .

Copyright Statement: The images and text used on this site are published in good faith and are the copyright of acknowledged holders or of Cogenhoe & Whiston Heritage Society, acting within its own right or with the permission of donors and contributors. If anyone has a specific issue over an image or article, they should contact the Society immediately so that the matter can be resolved. The Society encourages the use of the text and images for personal and educational work and is prepared to waive its copyright in these circumstances. The Society reserves all its rights with regard to commercial reproduction. However, requests for the use of Society images in commercial publications will be given sympathetic consideration.