



Fallen for the Fallen - Poppy Trail

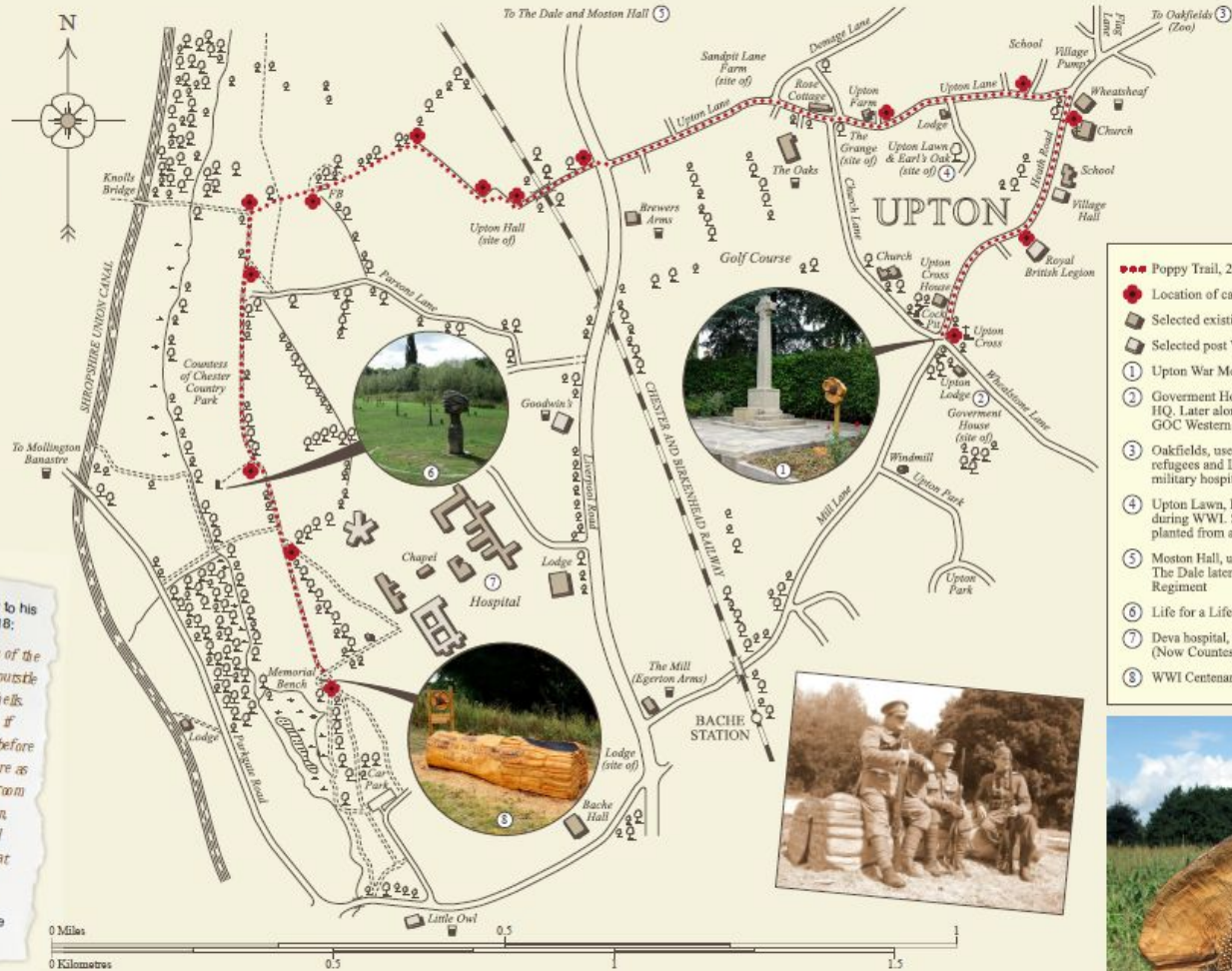
Leading to the Countess of Chester Country Park

2018 marked 100 years since the end of the First World War. To commemorate the centenary, the Friends of the Countess of Chester Country Park created a Poppy Trail which leads from the Upton War Memorial to a memorial wooden bench in the Country Park.

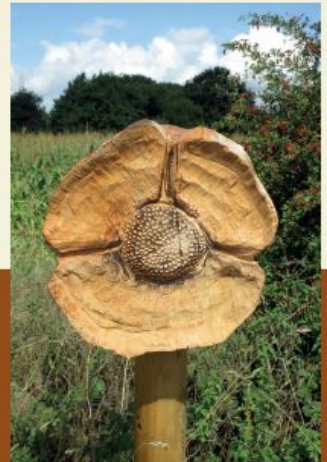
The poppies and the bench have been carved by Paul Edwards, of Ossum Tree Carving, from a cedar tree planted approximately 100 years ago in the grounds of Plas Newton (now the Beeches) in Upton. Sadly, this tree was approaching the end of its life and had to be felled, but it now lives on helping us remember the 27 local soldiers who fell in France during the Great War – Fallen for the Fallen.

The first 14 poppies represent those brave men but the 15th, by the bench, represents those who came back but were affected either physically or mentally by that dreadful war. One such man was Private Geoffrey Ashe who fought as a machine gunner with the Cheshire Regiment at the Somme. He survived only four years after the war, due to injuries from the gas he inhaled whilst in action. He left behind a wife and two young children – there were thousands more like him.

From Wilfred Owen's last letter to his mother dated 31st October 1918:
It is a great life. I am oblivious of the ghastly glimmering of the guns outside and the hollow crashing of the shells. There is no danger down here, or if there is any, it will be well over before you read these lines. I hope you are as warm as I am, as serene in your room as I am here. Of this I am certain, you could not be visited by a band of friends half so fine, as those that surround me here now.
He was killed in action on the 4th November 1918, just a week before armistice was declared.



- Poppy Trail, 2 miles (3km)
- Location of carved Poppy
- Selected existing buildings from WWI period
- Selected post WWI buildings
- ① Upton War Memorial
- ② Government House used as Royal Flying Corp HQ. Later along with Upton Lodge, home to GOC Western Command
- ③ Oakfields, used to home WWI Belgian refugees and Lady Arthur Grosvenor's military hospital
- ④ Upton Lawn, home to Mayor of Chester during WWI. Site of Earl Haigh's Oak, planted from an acorn from Verdun
- ⑤ Moston Hall, used as WWI military hospital. The Dale later to be the home of the Cheshire Regiment
- ⑥ Life for a Life Memorial Forest
- ⑦ Deva hospital, military use in WWI (Now Countess of Chester)
- ⑧ WWI Centenary Memorial Bench



"Fallen for the Fallen" is a Friends of Countess of Chester Country Park project. If you would like to find out more please contact: Friends.co CCP@gmail.com
Financial support provided by Upton-by-Chester and District Parish Council
Countess of Chester Country Park is managed by the Land Trust in partnership with TCV.
Please visit: www.thelandtrust.org.uk/space/countess-of-chester-country-park
For information about the Life for a Life scheme visit: www.lifeforallife.org.uk
For further Upton history visit: www.historyofuptonbychester.org.uk

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