

## **Consul's Speech, Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

Mr Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen, I bring you greetings from the Belgian Embassy in London, and I am very honoured to have been requested by the Ambassador to represent him at this solemn, but in some ways joyful occasion.

Very little has been publicised about the evacuees from Belgium 100 years ago, when that little, very young country, suffered so much in a conflict, in which they had little involvement. Much has been written in the media during these centenary remembrances about the wholesale slaughter on Flanders fields. Doesn't it seem quite ironic that these children, who were sent here for safety, should die at such a young age?

Over the passing of time, we will not be here to remember them. But this stone will always be there to show the generations that follow us, that this Community gave help and succour to these young people, so far away from their homeland. And even in death, remember them.

Although we do not know who or where the families of these boys now are, I, on behalf of their country, Belgium, bring thanks to Mr Lowe and the people of Northwich for remembering them, and for the great effort and research which has gone into the laying of this headstone. Thank you.