

Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Sunday, the second Sunday in November, is the day traditionally put aside to remember all those who have given their lives for the peace and freedom we enjoy today. On this day people across the nation pause to reflect on the sacrifices made by our brave Service men and women.

Remembrance is part of modern British life, culture and heritage. It becomes a particular feature of the public calendar on or about Remembrance Sunday and 11 November, Armistice Day, each year. This is when public, private, formal and informal Remembrance events take place throughout the UK.

Millions of people each year stop what they are doing and observe a Two Minute Silence at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month, commemorating the original Armistice of 1918 which signalled the 'stilling of arms' and led to the formal end to the First World War (eventually signed in 1919).

The fighting finished with the Armistice in November 1918, but the war did not end officially until the Treaty of Versailles in 1919. So legally we were actually at war until 1919 which is why the date of 1919 and not 1918 appears on memorials.

When we bow our heads in reflection, we remember those who fought for our freedom during the two World Wars. But we also mourn and honour those who have lost their lives in more recent conflicts. Today, with troops on duty in Afghanistan and other trouble spots around the world, Remembrance, and the two minute tribute, are as important as ever.

The poppy



Over 40 million poppies are distributed by the Legion every year at the end of October and up to 11 November. Each and every poppy is a symbol of Remembrance and hope and millions of people make the individual choice to wear one.

The poppy is

- A symbol of Remembrance and hope
- Worn by millions of people
- Red because of the natural colour of field poppies

The poppy is NOT

- A symbol of death or a sign of support for war
- A reflection of politics or religion
- Red to reflect the colour of blood

Wearing a poppy

- is a personal choice
- reflects individual and personal memories
- is not compulsory
- is appreciated by those it help

The laying of wreaths at the local War Memorial



The sequence of laying wreaths at the local War Memorial is as follows:

It is assumed that the Lord Lieutenant or his representative is not present otherwise he would take precedence as the Sovereign's representative.

1. Civic VIPS (Mayor, Parish Council Chairman, Councillor)
2. Representatives of regular forces.
3. Representatives of territorial reserve forces.
4. Representatives of ex-Service associations, including the Legion & Women's Section.
5. Representatives of uniformed public services (Police, Fire Brigade, Ambulance services).
6. Representatives of uniformed voluntary services (St John Ambulance, Red Cross, etc).
7. Representatives of cadet forces.
8. Representatives of youth organisations (Girl Guides, Scouts, Brownies etc).
9. Members of the public.