

Remembrance Sunday 2018 – A celebration of peace

For discussion at Events sub-committee to be held on 06 March 2018 at 18:00 (4th Draft)

This will be a significant date this year as it falls on the day 100 years ago when the First World War ended. It will combine the 11th hour of the 11th day and Remembrance Sunday ceremonies. The main aim of the event will be to involve as many as possible of Battle residents of all faiths and no faith in a celebration of peace and to pay homage to all service personnel, their families and civilians who have survived armed conflict and reflect on the difficulties faced by them when armed conflict in world wars and later hostilities ended.

- The event will take place on the Abbey Green and will involve music, song and recitations and will probably precede the traditional Remembrance Sunday service at St Marys Church when the sacrifice made by service personnel will continue to be recognised in the time honoured fashion. It is intended the traditional parade will be integrated into this event
- A small stage with an awning and PA system is assembled on the pavement in front of the Abbey Gatehouse.
- Each cadet or young person will place on a “tree of peace” placed in the “bullring” individually named ribbons in remembrance of the fallen from Battle. Other names could be added chosen by members of the local community.
- A wreath of white poppies to be placed next to the tree by a member of a community organisation in remembrance of relatives of service personnel and other civilians whose lives are or have been adversely affected and in remembrance of those who survived wars but were maimed physically or mentally by the conflicts. The wreath will commemorate the victims from either side of the conflict.

Possible schedules:

09:40 Air cadets and others march from Market Square area to Abbey Green

09:55 Air cadets assemble in a ring or horseshoe on the Abbey Green

10:05 MC (to be decided) introduces the event outlining its aims

10:10 The Dean of Battle, The Very Reverend Canon John Edmondson and representatives of other churches - Prayers for Peace

10:15 Sung version of Elgar's *Sancta Deus (Nimrod)* and “in Flanders Fields” (Battle Abbey Choir?)

During which placement of ribbons on the “tree of peace” by representatives of youth organisations and placement of wreath of white poppies by a local organisation (WI?)

10:30 Song: Lester Simpson's *Shuffling Jack* (Battle Choral Society?) performed while parade reassembles and marches to St Marys. Those not attending the church service remain in the square. After departure of parade:

Other choral pieces (Battle Abbey Choir or Battle Choral Society?) to accompany locals as they pin names of own personal loved ones on a ribbon to the tree. Poems: Wilfred Owen's *Dulce et Decorum Est* (CCC Head Boy?), Mary Gabrielle Collins' *Women at Munition Making* (Mothers' Union?), Wilfred Owens' *Disabled* (BBFC?), Ruth Fanlight's *Handbag* (WI?) Reading: Extract from Michael Morpurgo's *War Horse* (CCC Head Girl?)

11:00 Maroon, 2 minutes silence. Bugler if one can be secured.

11:02 Music performed by Battle Band (if available?)

11:30 End of event. Those who wish make their way to St Marys and witness wreath laying.

PTO

Alternative schedule:

No breaking of ranks by Air Cadets and later departure from Market Square.

09:55 Air cadets and others march from Market Square halt and about turn to face Abbey Green

10:10 The Dean of Battle, The Very Reverend Canon John Edmondson and representatives of other churches - Prayers for Peace

Schedule continues as per previous plan but air cadets have two representatives, one male and one female, to place named ribbons on tree of peace.

We will need to examine the impact of different timings of road closures on both these schedules.