

Am I bothered ?

In no way suggesting that the occasion should prompt another firework display, it is in fact 25 years since I came to this village – wife, children, dog ... but no cock sparrow. The temptation to reflect still comes easily, having a lively memory (which seems to increase rather than the other way round when one reaches the 'Victor Meldrew' stage of one's life) and this particular week end is very poignant to that memory. We had always attended a Remembrance Service wherever we lived but the first one here seemed all that more significant. It might have been that the Memorial was inside the church, but a sense was clear that so many young men of this community put on uniforms in the 2 World Wars and in terms of proportion, an awful lot of them did not return. That has not changed in the years that have followed.

One may then ask "What is the difference between then and now?" Well, to start with, 25 years ago the church was packed and we all had to squeeze up in the pews and be friendly. Now, there is no need to get there early and grab a seat. Then, there was a Women's Section of the British Legion (separate and active) but it disbanded a few years back and their Banner now hangs in the church in perpetuity. Pews were reserved for a full turn out of Brownies, Cubs, Guides, Scouts complete with their Banners, plus a goodly number from the School. By passage of time fewer and fewer members of the RBL itself attended until its inspired rejuvenation as a group took place in more recent times. Importantly though, there were lots and lots of 'others' attending ... and where are they now?

Remembrance Sunday is not just about 2 World Wars that took place a long time ago – it's too late now to argue about the rights and wrongs of those (or any) wars but let's not forget that there have been conflicts since then, including Malaya, Cyprus, Northern Ireland, the Falklands and now of course, Iraq and Afghanistan in which our service men and women were engaged and sadly, many of those not returning home. If the elderly people want to remember the 2 World Wars, that's fine and they will undoubtedly be there on Sunday. Where though are the not-so-elderly who will have known about all those other conflicts right up to the present day. It really should not matter if they have (or had) a friend or relation engaged in those conflicts but one is left wondering if so many just cannot be bothered.

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From the Chairman, Royal British Legion, Sedlescombe Branch

Remembrance – Not Religion

The census of 1911 showed a population of only 568 in our village, but by the end of the First World War some 34 of the young men of this village had died for our country and by 1945 a further 10 young men had died.

At 10.45am this Sunday, the 11th of the 11th again, we remember them and also all Service Men and Women who have served and died for us.

The Vicar of St John the Baptist and members of the Royal British Legion, Sedlescombe will lead the service but the service itself will not be unduly religious.

Our Memorial is in the Church and everyone is invited to remember those who gave their all for our freedom.

Neville Wright, Chairman

A request from the Churchwardens - if you arrive early for the Service of Remembrance, may we kindly ask you to wait outside until the West and South doors of the church have been opened as the 9.30am Parish Communion will be in progress until about 10.30 – thank you.

Neighbourhood Watch - we take the opportunity to remind readers that if they want to contact the Police, the number to call for non-Emergency situations is 0845 60 70 999 ... for crimes which may be in progress ring 999.

It is recommended by the Police that you leave a light or your radio switched on whilst you are out of the house during dark evenings. NHW can supply light timers @ £1.50 each if we can make up an order of about 20 so that postal charges can be minimised.

We continue to offer home security advice, supply and fit security items such as door chains if needed – without charge. For more information please contact any member of the NHW Committee.

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