



Remembrance Sunday

Poppies signify the ultimate sacrifice of our forebears who died so that the baton of freedom was passed to us. Their fight in history teaches us today that precious things must be guarded, that *their* values are our treasure, that the practice of liberty is not negotiable. The poppy helps us remember this.

But also we owe a duty of observance to those service men and women who fell in terrible wars crushing menace and tyranny to defend our freedom.

Remembrance Sunday is 10am, 12th November at the Harpenden War Memorial.

The detail of these notes matter:

Who should attend the parade: Cubs (*limit the numbers*); Scouts (*limit the numbers*); Explorers (*encourage all to attend*); Leaders (*At least 2 per contingent and all others welcome*).

Uniform standard: The absolute tops! Black shoes, dark socks, full correct uniform in perfect order, scarf ironed, rolled correctly with appropriate woggle. Hair tidy and respectful. Wear a poppy.

The Parade: The Scouts (that's all of us) will form up behind the Police Cadets at 10am. The Guides parade with the Scouts so that we arrive on the Green such that the youngest Guides and Scouts are at the front and the oldest at the back. Hence: at our head: the bearer of the District Scout flag, the wreath bearer and escort, then the DC and District team + invited dignitaries; then Rainbows, Cubs, Brownies, Scouts, Guides, Explorers, and lastly, Rangers.

Form up 4 abreast. From the command to move at 10.30, coach all Scouts to walk well (do not march) heads up, hands free at their sides, no chewing, keep formation and strict quiet.

Assembly on the Green: See map attached. The flag bearer, DC etc, should go to the end of the Scout-Guide area nearest the memorial. The flag bearer, alone, goes to the podium. As the parade arrives, the youngest should line up at the front (on the grass) along the entire length keeping their uniform colours together; then the next age and so on (on the road) until the entire area is full. Keep all uniform colours in line together. Leaders should settle at the back (*unless they judge they are needed forward*).

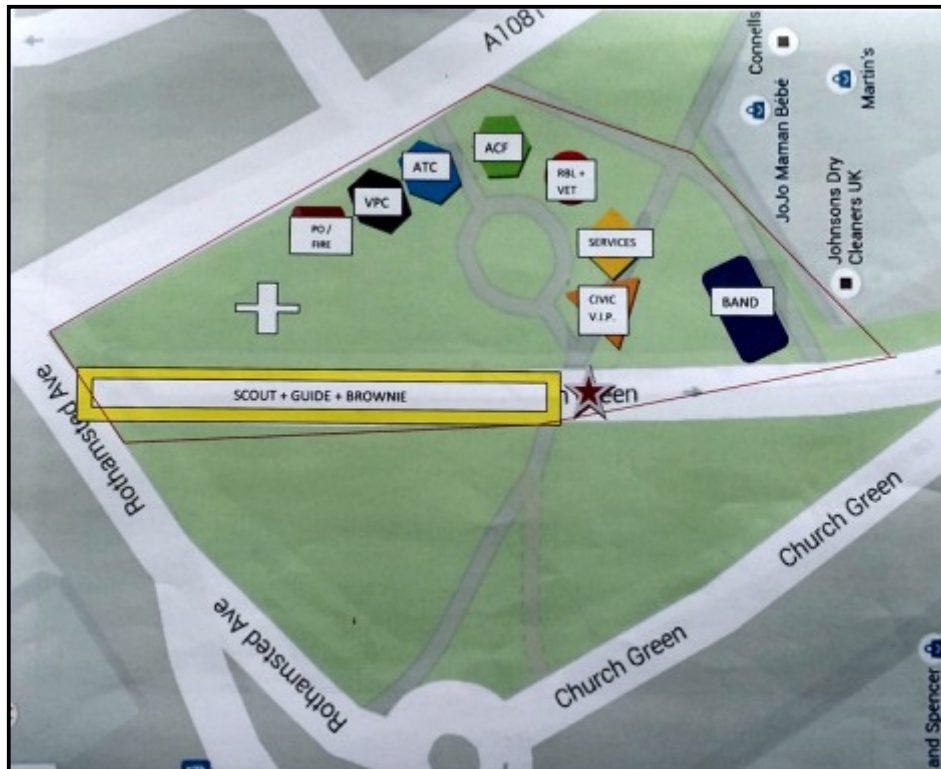
The wreath bearer and escort should join the wreath queue: Scouts are behind the Sea/Air/Army Cadets. After laying the wreath, the bearer and escort should join their Unit.

The service: Some service sheets will be available courtesy of the British Legion (but to ensure enough, a copy is attached for duplication). The service starts at 10.50, the 2 minute silence is at 11.00 and all concludes at 11.30. It is a solemn 40 minutes.

Reformation and return: The armed forces must reform first and all the attending organisations next. We should hold our position until the Police Cadets are formed up, then the youngest Scouts and Guides form up, and so, on until the Rangers are once again in the rear. Uniform colour should stay together. Leaders should disperse to facilitate the forming of the return parade. Time is always short so everyone must act on signal. After a short address, expect dismissal at 11.50.

Weather and well-being: If it is raining, we wear dark coats. If at all possible, we put extra clothes on under uniform so that we can stand the cold without coats. Coach all Scouts to eat and drink well before the event. Tell them what to expect. There will be a First Aid post on site.

Notes for Remembrance Sunday 2017



On the Green

Cubs and Brownies are first in the parade so that they arrive at the green first. They are to line up tight on the grass edge until the entire length is taken up. Then as the older members arrive they should again line up along the entire length behind the Cubs on the road.

The DC and team should form up in the position shown by the star.

The bearer of the District Flag should stand associated with the body of attending Scouts.

The wreath bearer and escort should find the queue of wreath layers and wait their moment behind the Forces Cadets.

Flag etiquette

This year the podium position will be taken by the Scouts. (Next year Guides). The bearer of the District flag should stay at the head of the Scout part of the parade until he/she reaches the star (on above map). He/ she should detach and walk smartly to the designated podium. (*DC to advise*).

The Explorer who takes up this honour must know that all eyes are watching and so it demands discipline. Throughout the 40ish minutes, the Explorer must stand well at the alert (not stiff or wooden) holding the flag comfortably at a constant angle. (For a guide, copy the military bearers). At all times head up looking forward, body nicely framed, mind engaged in the ceremony. Uniform perfect. The participants and public should notice the bearer's pride in being a Scout and they should feel that the duty is nicely done.

Flag bearers dip their flags as means to salute or show respect and it is expected that our flag bearer will dip the District Flag during the two minute silence and the national anthem. (Again, follow the military lead).

To dip the flag requires that it is slowly lowered to the ground. This is the only time flags should touch the ground. If the ground is muddy or very wet, it is permitted to control the flag's drape so that only the finial touches the ground. Movement down and up should be dignified.

Wreath layers and escorts

The act of wreath laying is solemn and is an honour. The laying of the wreath is the physical offering and so it is a visual performance and the expectation is dignity in movement and expression.

At the moment of laying, the wreath bearer is flanked either side by the escort. Three walk together to the monument but just before the final step the escorts stop and the bearer goes forward alone to lay the wreath.

Once laid, the bearer takes one step back to be between the escorts and all three salute together. (A confident well formed salute is essential). The bearer then turns about, the escorts follow and the three walk away and ultimately back to their Explorer Unit.

After the event

Be sure to get warm and fed as soon as possible if the event is adverse. Then take a moment to reflect on what just happened; be mindful of the privileges we enjoy. Celebrate freedom and do it well!