



THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR OF NEW ROMNEY COUNCILLOR PETER COE

Welcome to this Royal British Legion Service of Remembrance.

On the front of your Order of Service is a quote by Winston Churchill:

“A nation that forgets its past has no future.”

As with most things he said, it has relevance today. I will come back to this later/at the end.

Yesterday was Armistice Day when we held a service in remembrance of the cessation of hostilities on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918. Poppy Wreaths were laid as a mark of pride and respect.

Today is Remembrance Sunday when we gather to remember not only the millions who died in the two World Wars, but also the thousands who died in conflicts since, and again we will lay Poppy Wreaths as a mark of pride and respect.

Many more have returned badly damaged in some form or other.

These Remembrance Services are the not forgetting our past bit.

Currently there are some 18 Armed Forces Operations ongoing worldwide.

The Poppy, the symbol we wear to show our pride in the fallen, is also a sign of our fundraising support of the Royal British Legion.

The Legion was formed in 1921 to help care for survivors of the First World War in need of support, and continue to this day to support not just ex, but also serving servicemen and women and their dependants who are in need. The enormity of this task is shown in that it spends some £1.7 million a week on the 'four pillars' of Health & Welfare, Representation, Remembrance and Comradeship.

I have deliberately used the word 'support' several times as this reflects the **helping others** ethos of the Legion.

Yesterday, after the Armistice Day Service, in the evening I attended the Youth Festival of Remembrance at the Leas Cliff Hall in Folkestone in support of the Poppy Appeal. Apart from being a brilliant evening, showcasing the talents of our young people, it is the words **youth and remembrance** in the title I bring to your attention, as the youth of today are our future.

This brings me back to the Poppy on the front of your Order of Service and Churchill's quote about not forgetting the past and looking to the future.

In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt the dawn, saw the sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up the quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.