

Commemorating History

Commemorating History and events is a way of remembering and signifying the past. By incorporating examples such as diaries, photographs and oral memories it adds to the sense of community.

History is all around us, it is collected by the past, but historians can be self-selective. Choices can be made based upon

- Project aims
- Education,
- Political agenda,
- Scientific knowledge and output
- Religious impact.

History can be steered; it can focus on the successful and powerful leaving the silent majority forgotten.

Learning history is about facts, skills and understanding. Without understanding we are doing nothing more than being reliant on learning parrot fashion and our memories.

Evidence behind the event is significant and without it challenging in a debate is simply pointless.

There are different sources of historical knowledge, but even events that are witnessed can be altered with a recording or simply by recollections being different or altering with time and changes of perception. Eye witnesses to the same event rarely agree 100% on the same event.

Learning is a skill, with names, dates and places at the root of history.

War Memorials

War Memorials typically commemorates the fallen. Or does it? Who made the decision on who was to be named? Pacifists and those who died on home front through aerial bombing are typically not named. Is that right?

The powerful need to commemorate those in death. Why is that?

Look at the location of the parish memorial?

- Centre of the village or town?
- Local park or garden?
- Local Parish churchyard
- Village Green
- School or college

Further questions –

- Why is it there?
- Who paid for it?
 - Subscription
- Who chose the particular memorials?
 - Designer
- Who is named and who isn't named?
- Who owns the land where it is situated?
- Who pays for the up keep
- Does the memorial reflect a gift?

What is the expectation of a memorial?

What is its function?

- A list of public record
- A Religious memorial of a lost life
- A place to express gratitude?

Symbols of Loss

Poppies – Grown in abundance in France and Flanders.

Simple, yet powerful

Why?