



The Armistice Day Commemoration

Tuesday, 11th November 2025

10.45 am

Harpur Square, Bedford

Organised by Bedford & District Branch, The Royal British Legion on behalf of The Mayor of Bedford

The Royal British Legion Registered Charity Number 219279



BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL



Bedford
and District
Branch

Veterans, Dignitaries, and Members of the Public being assembled in the Harpur Suite to watch the Live Link from the Mayor's Parlour, the Vice Lord-Lieutenant, the Mayor and Invited Dignitaries read the names of the Fallen of the Bedfordshire Regiment.

All proceed into Harpur Square, forming a Hollow Square facing the Harpur Suite.

The Vice Lord-Lieutenant, the Mayor and Mayoress, and Major Walter proceed into Harpur Square and take up their positions

Led by the Pipers, the Standards March On.

Mr Barry Tappenden reads the Introductory Poem.

In Retrospect

*The world asks a great deal of the poppies,
insists they carry the wounds of war
and shoulder the weight of remembrance.
Such flimsy, wavering plants;
we painted their flowers the colour of blood
and punched dark holes in their heads
as if bullets had passed through,
then trimmed them with green sprigs of hope.
And from deep in the seeds we concocted
the essence of sleep and dreams and resting-in-peace.
Almost weightless even in full bloom
we made them souls, the poppies, souls
of those who we lost, and – let it be said –
those who we killed.*

*Poppies – nursed in darkness, nourished by dirt.
But for all their spindly roots, frail stalks
and papery petals – as easily smudged as a butterfly wing –
they joggle into existence
again and again, unearthing themselves
in fallow fields and railway sidings,
on roundabouts, verges and no man's land,
from the brickwork of old chimneys and bridges
and cracks in the pavement.
They nod and they nag,
reminding us not to forget, flagging a red alert
as their crumpled petals unfold.
So, rightly, the poppies ask a great deal of the world.*

Simon Armitage, Poet Laureate

Composed for the 80th Anniversary of VE Day, 2025

**The Branch Chairman of the Bedford & District Branch,
Royal British Legion gives The Exhortation**

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
We will remember them.

All respond: We will remember them.

At 11.00 am, the Last Post is sounded.

The Two Minutes Silence is kept

Reveille is sounded.

A Member of the Bedford & District Branch, Royal British Legion gives The Kohima Epitaph:

When you go home, Tell them of us and say:
“For your tomorrow, we gave our today”.

The National Anthem is played

God save our Gracious King,
Long live our noble King,
God save The King.

Send him victorious, happy and glorious;
Long to reign over us,
God Save The King.

The Standard Bearers and Parade are Inspected.

The Parade is Dismissed

