

Commemoration Overload?

DiPs at *The Blue Mugge* pub, Mon 18th January 2016

Theme as suggested by Tony Clark with notes below by TC and DT

1. Some examples:

- i) Up to 1 in 3 football matches this season have had a minute's silence/clap to remember either a national event, national personality or local football club member - it is getting to the stage where a minute's silence is part of the run up to the kick off along with handshakes and coin tossing!
- ii) David Bowie: *Daily Telegraph* had 5 pages + one full page obituary. BBC 10 o'clock news - 20minutes.
- iii) Every other week there is a picture in the *Leek Post and Times* of the British Legion commemorating some battle or other - not restricted to 75th; 100th anniversaries.
- iv) Remembrance Day – more two minutes silences than ever before... As we move further away from WW2 and fewer and fewer people with direct connection are alive we seem to take to remembering the fallen more and more...
- v) Flowers put on or nearby the spot where people have died a tragic death, including road accident victims. Tributes invariably refer to him/her being a pillar of the community...
- vi) A national minute's UK silence for Tunisia victims...
- vii) Other examples...

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2. What is happening to memorialisation?

- i) Is commemoration overload in some way linked to the decline in religious observance in the West with fewer people believing in the after-life meaning that funerals are less effective in helping people grieve?
- ii) How much of this is down to peer pressure - do the right thing - snowball effect -as opposed to real feeling? Whatever happened to the 'stiff upper lip'?
- iii) Or is this trend to be welcomed – as an extension of real feeling and sympathy for victims everywhere, and those who should be honoured through memory? Charities are gaining from this trend too, especially with new charities set up for children who have died, for example...