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# Thousands pay their respects to the fallen

Thousands of people converged on Angel Hill, in Bury St Edmunds, to mark Remembrance Day, on Sunday.

Under overcast skies and a cool breeze townsfolk and those from the surrounding villages took up vantage points to watch a parade which began from the Abbey Gardens, led by the RAF Honington Volunteer Band, which made its way towards the war memorial.

The parade featured a host of members of the armed forces, dignitaries and groups from the town including troops from RAF Honington, an American Honour Guard, 3AAC Wattisham, PME 662 Squadron, 3 Regiment Royal Anglians, 6 AAC 677 squadron Bury St Edmunds, the Royal British Legion, RBL Women's Section, 301 (Bury St Edmunds) Air Training Corps, 863 Thurston Squadron ATC, St Johns Ambulance, Bury St Edmunds Sea Cadet Corps and Band, the Glenmoriston Pipe Band, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, Royal Airforce Association, Culford School Combined Cadet Force, British Red Cross, Freemasons of Bury St Edmunds, 94th Bombardment Group, Suffolk Regiment OCA, Bury St Edmunds District Girlguiding and the 1st Honington Scouts.

Also in the parade was Bury St Edmunds MP Jo Churchill, Sir Norman Tebbit, the Mayor of St Edmundsbury Patrick Chung and local councillors and community members.

During the two minute's silence the drone of an Apache helicopter could be heard in the distance and it flow over the parade in timely fashion.

Following the service at the War Memorial there was a march past on Angel Hill where Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk David Barclay, RAF Honington Station Commander Group Captain Mick Smeath and Mr Chung, took the salute.

Members of No 3 Police Wing who were part of the parade relocated from RAF Henlow to RAF Honington in June and it was the first time members of the RAF Police have been part of this annual event. Eight members of 1 (Tactical) Police Squadron joined the main marching contingent from RAF Honington wearing their unique white hats.

Mr Chung said the event went well - with there being "huge support" from the towns and rural areas.

"It was a very powerful morning; I wish to thank people for coming to join us for Remembrance service to remember the people who sacrificed their life," he said.

He added he was pleased to see excellent support from the Scouting groups.



■ Top, a packed Angel Hill in Bury St Edmunds for the annual Remembrance Day parade and wreath laying with TS St Edmund Sea Cadets Band. Above, Hessett rededication. Right, the Remembrance service in the Rose Garden, in the Abbey Gardens.

ANDY ABBOTT/PHIL MORLEY/CONTRIBUTED



Photos:

The previous day a service was held in the Rose Garden, in the Abbey Gardens.

Meanwhile, the World War One memorial in Hessett was rededicated at a service on Sunday which included a muffled peal of church bells. The cross, erected in 1920, has been renovated to mark the centenary of the war. The project was organised and funded by the Friends of Hessett Church with

other private donations. The Rev Nick Cutler conducted the service and Michael Poulter, chairman of the Friends of Hessett Church laid a wreath. Andrew Robinson gave a Bible reading and Rachel Chester played Last Post.

More than 50 people attending the service were given a booklet with the stories of the 14 men from the village who died. Half of the men who died belonged to

the Suffolk Regiment and all but three are buried or remembered on memorials overseas. Two of the men are buried in Hessett churchyard. John Whiting died of his wounds in a military hospital in London after being shot at the Somme in 1916 and William Borley died from influenza three days after the Armistice.

Copies of the 36-page booklet are on sale in the church at £3.