

Silhouette Soldier Sabotage!

How vandals brought a community together...

We will never know what passed through the vandal's minds, but we know that it was **wrong**.

This horrible event happened at the end of the summer 2018 in Ash Vale, Surrey.

As an act of remembrance, silhouette soldiers were erected around the country (I'm sure you've seen lots of them). They look like ghosts on the horizon. Well, in Ash Vale the soldier was sabotaged. His head was pushed down and nearly snapped off, luckily some very kind people saw this and fixed it, but the vandals struck again. Next, the Surrey council help and fix it properly, then lots of silk poppies appear at the soldier's feet. People lay down crosses and give the soldier a proper army scarf. The night before Remembrance Day some people put a candle down and it flickered all night to keep the soldier company. On Remembrance Day he had a poppy placed in his scarf.

We asked some people who live in Ash Vale what they think, one said 'I was very sad to see a memorial to the fallen treated so badly. However, the way in which the community came together to rescue our soldier and honour him was remarkable. All these small acts of kindness reminded me that there is more good than bad in our world. It was wonderful to see the poppies appear at the base of the silhouette, followed by memorial crosses, a candle burning and a proper army scarf for our hero. It brought hope at a special time of remembrance'.

This shows us how important community is and that working together we can make things better. 'Lest we forget' those who died for our country and how brave these soldiers truly were.