

Community Spirit. Alive and well?

Everyone thinks they know what is meant by the term 'Community Spirit', but it can be a misunderstood term unless you stand back and look at those two little words and think. What is the definition of both words? If you were to look them up in the dictionary there are at least 10 definitions for the word 'Community' and at least 27 definitions for the word 'spirit'.

Feel free to look them up in the dictionary of your choice.



To the casual observer the term itself means a sense of belonging, a sense of camaraderie, a sense of togetherness. You can relate to it if you are a supporter of a team, be it football, cricket, rugby or whatever.

Having said that, not everyone is a team player, so individual opinions count for a lot, but the most overwhelming perception is of a neighbourhood rallying round whenever the need arises.

Holy Cross Church has a wonderful community spirit, but does your place of employment? Do you feel a part of a community when you are on the Tube or at the shops? Where does 'the Community' stop and just being 'an individual' start. If you stop and think about it, every time you are on a tube or a bus you are a part of a community for a short period of time.

I am not old enough to remember the war, but I have enough living relatives to remind me of the spirit that existed at that time. Currently I am involved in a different war, a different situation in a faraway place, but nonetheless the spirit is still there. Everyone pulling together for a common cause, hoping that an end is in sight.

There is a danger of harking back to the halcyon days of middle England in the sixties, when people left their front doors open and neighbours popped in and said 'any chance of a cuppa' and the postman would tell you if the cat hadn't been seen for a while. Sadly those days are gone.

What Community do you belong to?
What Spirit do you have?
Discuss.

Feel free to write a reply/comment/article for future publication

Gary Marsh

