



War Memorials Trust *Bulletin*

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Examples of War Memorials whose restoration was supported by Friends of War Memorials. The War Memorials Trust will continue this work for the preservation our War Memorial heritage.

War Memorials Trust

Friends of War Memorials has become the War Memorials Trust. The charity has not altered in any way apart from its name.

The Trustees of the charity felt that the new name, the War Memorials Trust, indicates the work, aims and objectives of the charity more effectively. The name change reflects the progress the charity has made since its registration in 1997 thanks to the efforts of its Director General Sir Donald Thompson, its founder Ian Davidson, all the staff and Trustees who have been involved alongside Patrons and Vice Presidents, and most importantly due to the backing from its members, donors and supporters.

The charity will continue to be the focal point for reporting concerns about War Memorials. It will provide advice and guidance on projects and administer grants that enable restoration and conservation work to be completed.

We hope that all our supporters will agree that the name change is appropriate. 's

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Formerly known as Friends of War Memorials

WMT would like to extend its thanks to all Regional Volunteers who have re-registered following the Autumn mail-out as well as all those who have indicated their willingness to remain as Associate Regional Volunteers. The WMT would welcome any further responses from those of you who have not yet got in touch. At the beginning of February, once all responses have been received, further information and literature will be sent out.

British Air Services Memorial by Ray Leach

On Saturday 11 September, a memorial to the British Air Services was unveiled on the World War I aerodrome of St Omer in France. Soon after the outbreak of WWI St Omer became the first home of the headquarters of the Royal Flying Corps (RFC), which arrived on Monday 8 October 1914. During the next few days the first flying squadrons moved in, No 3 Squadron being the first to arrive on 12 October together with No 4 and 5 Squadrons. It was from St Omer, on 26 July 1918 that the leading British ace fighter pilot, Major Edward 'Mick' Mannock, took off in company with the newest member of the No 85 Squadron, Lieutenant Donald Inglis, on what was to be his (Mannock) last fight.

In all, some fifty-six RFC squadrons flew from St Omer on operations over the Western Front during WWI. In an ironic twist of fate, the Luftwaffe moved in to St Omer following the evacuation of the BEF from Dunkirk in 1940. As a reminder of this, the German-built blister hangar is still in use by the St Omer flying club.

The unveiling and dedication service was attended by amongst many others, the CinC RAF Strike Command, Air Chief Marshal Sir Brian Burridge; General Gaviard of the L'Armee de L'Air; the British Ambassador to France; Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Michael Beetham; Air Chief Marshals Cousins and Graydon; Air Marshal Sowrey; Viscount Trenchard; Lord and Lady Newell; the Earl of Suffolk and Berkshire; Lord Waterpark and many other VIPs.

The ceremony was opened by an over flight by a Spitfire XIX (PS915) of the RAF Memorial Flight. Spot on time, the Spitfire passed over the memorial and returned to its home in Coningsby near Boston. The flight was a round trip, flown without refuelling; something close to the Spitfires safe range.

During the service of dedication, some thirty wreaths were laid by representatives of the RAF; the L'Armee de L'Air; the Fleet Air Arm and the Army Air Corps. In addition, other wreaths were laid by representatives of the Australian, Canadian and New Zealand Air Forces, followed by representatives of the squadrons which had flown over St Omer. There then followed wreaths being laid by representatives of several squadrons associations, namely,

Nos 3, 10, 16 and 29 squadrons. Other wreaths followed, amongst which was that of the War Memorials Trust. This part of the ceremony was brought to a close by the laying of wreaths by the British Ambassador, The Mayor of the St Omer and the Prefect du Pas-de-Calais; the latter laying a wreath on behalf of Madame Michelle Alliot-Marie, the French Minister of Defence.

The ceremony was brought to a close by an over flight by two French Mirage Fighters followed by two RAF Jaguars.



The North East War Memorials Project has been awarded an "Awards for All" grant of £5,000, which will help with the buying of office equipment. The presentation of the certificate happened in The Great North Fair at the Gateshead Stadium and the War Memorial Trust was represented there by Janet Brown, WMT's RV and director of the North East War Memorials Project.

REGIONAL VOLUNTEERS

A Regional Volunteer is a War Memorials Trust member who wishes to take on a more active role in helping the charity achieve its aims and objectives. Regional Volunteers are registered across the UK. They have become involved with the charity for a variety of reasons but all have a firm belief in the importance of the protection and conservation of War Memorials.

The activities in which Regional Volunteers can be involved include Monitoring, reporting on and listing War Memorials; Researching War Memorials; Giving talks on behalf of Friends of War Memorials; and Supporting our work through organising and running an event.

Being a Regional Volunteer enables you to help the charity protect and conserve War Memorials, offers stimulating and rewarding work to benefit War Memorials and provides the possibilities of working with others interested in the subject.

If you are interested in becoming a WMT Regional Volunteer then please contact the Administrator at WMT for an application pack and further information.

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The Objectives of the War Memorials Trust

1. To monitor the condition of War Memorials and to take steps to ensure that local authorities and other relevant organisations are alerted to such condition with a view to their undertaking any necessary restoration, essential maintenance, repairs and cleaning.
2. To liaise with secular and ecclesiastical authorities, regiments and other responsible bodies with a view to their accepting responsibility for, and undertaking repairs to and restoration of war memorials.
3. To publicise and to educate and inform the public about the spiritual, archaeological, artistic, aesthetic and historical significance of War Memorials as part of our national heritage; to encourage support groups and to inspire young people to cherish their local war memorials and the memory of those who sacrificed their lives in the cause of freedom.

Director General's Message by Sir Donald Thompson

Happy New Year.

Welcome to the first Bulletin from the War Memorials Trust. You will have noticed the new name on the front of the Bulletin and I hope you agree with me that it reflects a positive step forward for the charity. The charity remains the same organisation, seeking to fulfil its aims and objectives alongside its members, and we will continue to employ our old name, below the new one, on literature and material during a transitional period.

If you do however hold any old material, such as leaflets the office will be able to send you replacement literature so you are not distributing out-of-date copies.

2005 is a very important year, with the anniversary of the end of the War with VE Day on 10 July. It is also the Year of the Sea.

I referred, in my last message, to our plans for 2005 Ceremony at the Cenotaph and the AGM. Please note that the ceremony will be on the 3rd July at 2pm rather than noon. The AGM will then be on Monday 18 July on HMS Belfast, an interesting new venue I am sure you will agree.

We hope that 2005 will see us continue to develop as an organisation. As ever, raising funds will be important, so if you have any ideas or suggestions then get in touch. Some of you maybe interested in taking one of our Collection Tins and putting it in the local pub or shop – you will be surprised by how quickly it fills up and the proprietor generally welcomes the change when you empty the tin so you can send a cheque to the WMT.

Supporter Survey 2005

Our supporters, be they Regional Volunteers, members, donors or just interested individuals are the life blood of War Memorials Trust. Quite simply, without their support the charity would not exist.

As we embrace our new name, it also seems appropriate that we should make sure we are responding to the needs and ideas of all our supporters. Only by doing this can we become a more effective campaigning body, ensuring the protection and conservation of our War Memorial heritage.

We invite you to complete the enclosed short form and to be as frank as you wish. Please also leave any questions that you may feel uncomfortable answering, or that are not appropriate.

The answers will be treated in complete confidence and will only be used for purposes relating to War Memorials Trust.

Every completed form returned to us by 7th March 2005 will be eligible for our prize draw to win a bottle of champagne.

Cenotaph Ceremony and AGM 2005

The War Memorials Trust would like to give early notice for your diaries of the dates and times of the Cenotaph service in 2005 and the AGM.

As mentioned in the Director General's message in the last Bulletin the service at the Cenotaph will be on SUNDAY 3 July 2005 however there is a time alteration from that note. We will be on parade

at 2pm rather than noon. This is at the request of the police who have advised us there will be a 10km run ending in the area around noon and they have advised us to meet later.

The date for the AGM is Monday 18th July 2005. As the Ceremony at the Cenotaph has been moved later it is not appropriate to hold these on the same

day. The AGM will therefore be on the 18 September and will be held on HMS Belfast at the kind invitation of our Trustee, Nick Hewitt. Nick will join us to tell us some of the history of the ship and those who attend the meeting will be able to visit the ship after the meeting is completed. Further details on timings will be published in the next Bulletin.

My Work Experience at the War Memorials Trust

—by Khalid Ameer

My name is Khalid Ameer. I am a student from Phoenix High School and I chose to do my work experience at the War Memorials Trust in May 2004. My first contact with the WMT was during an initial interview where I met Frances and Pedro, who would become my supervisors. We discussed my schedule, travelling arrangements, health and safety and the interesting projects I would be working on during my work experience.

When I heard that my work experience placement would be in Victoria, my first thought was working in a gigantic building with many offices and staff. However, when I arrived I was surprised to find a small building but the staff were very nice and helpful to me. My aim was to develop my general skills, learn how to write business letters and create a quick and easy spreadsheet.

I was given many enjoyable and interesting things to do during my work experience, which included sorting out and writing letters, photocopying, internet re-

searches, preparing reports. On the second day, Pedro took me to a meeting with English Heritage and the Wolfson Foundation. I was a bit nervous when I saw everybody because they all seemed very important people in their own places of work, but I soon became comfortable and I really enjoyed it, even though the meeting was very long.

I wrote a number of letters for Sir Donald Thompson (Director General) during my time at the War Memorials Trust. It was very enjoyable to write important letters for him and I would print out the letters so he could proof read and sign them. I was very pleased with this because it was exactly what I wanted to do during this work experience. I soon developed my letter writing skills.

On the first Thursday I met Martin who is an office volunteer at the War Memorials Trust. He introduced me to the Conservation Database and the photo index, so I could help him with his work. I worked on this until it was time to leave. By this time I was very interested in the work and sad to leave it until the following day.

I achieved all my goals during my work experience! I improved my communication skills and I learned not to be afraid of asking questions. I feel excellent because my work experience was very good and I liked the team very much. If I had the chance to do it again I would definitely do it!

Thank you and I wish you all the very best luck!!



Khalid Ameer and Najnin Islam during their work experience at WMT in 2004

New Website

Back in October the new website for the War Memorials Trust went live.

Based at a new website address, www.warmemorials.org (although the old website address should still work) the new look website aims to provide a unique reference point for information on both War Memorials and the charity itself. Help-sheets, information on Grants and application forms are available to those who need advice and guidance. For donors and supporters there is access to information on how you can help and support the charity including donation forms, gift aid declarations and standing order forms that can be downloaded.

STANDING ORDERS

Joining the War Memorials Trust or renewing your existing membership? Why not consider paying your subscription by standing order? It's easy and convenient for you and also helps WMT to keep its administration costs down.

Contact Frances Moreton at WMT for a standing order form!

Golf Club Appeal - 2005

To mark the 60th Anniversary of Victory in Europe and Victory in Japan, the War Memorials Trust is contacting every golf club in the country with a simple request that they mark this significant Anniversary in some way and in turn help to raise funds for the War Memorials Trust'.

We are very fortunate indeed, that the world famous golf commentator Peter Allis has agreed to be the 'face' of the appeal. We are equally fortunate in securing the sponsorship support of Allied Domecq, the international drinks company who have agreed to underwrite all the costs and provide prizes and gifts for participating clubs.

The appeal packs have been sent to about 3000 golf clubs and will hopefully be on display or on the agenda for the next club meeting. If your local club doesn't have the information, please let us know and we can arrange to send out the appeal information.

Similarly, a number of Golf Clubs have their own War Memorials and whilst we have been able to identify a number of these if you know of any please do contact us with the details.

On a final note, the Rt Hon John Major has also agreed to support a similar initiative, this time contacting all the senior cricket clubs and those were there is a known War Memorial. If your local cricket club play at the Memorial Ground or have a Memorial plaque in their pavilion, please let us know and we can include them in our appeal mailing.

For further information please contact Robert Pitts at the War Memorials Trust

Introducing Felicity

Felicity McCall has joined the War Memorials Trust team and will be helping with our Press and PR work. Felicity spent 20 years with the BBC as a radio and television researcher, reporter, presenter and producer before going freelance in May 2000. She continues to work as a freelance journalist specialising in Crown Court reporting, as well as teaching scriptwriting, journalism and drama. She is a co founder of a community writing and acting group, Handful Productions. Felicity is co-chair of the Parents' Council at her local Integrated College, and Ireland representative of the Miscarriage of Justice group, Portia .



London Marathon

The War Memorials Trust been allocated 5 places in the coming London Marathon.

If you are interested in participating please contact the office on Tel 020 7259 0403

A Will to Remember

In the last edition of Bulletin there was a short article about the importance of legacy giving for charities in the UK. You may recall that total bequests to charities last year amounted to an astonishing 1.5 billion pounds; a huge sum of money that underpins much charitable work and supports a great number of important 'not for profit' initiatives.

You may also recall that the War Memorials Trust, as a fairly new charity, has not been in a position to benefit from such income. By way of addressing this, the Trust is now able to provide a short legacy giving leaflet. This leaflet illustrates the importance of making a provision and ensuring that wishes are expressed through a will.

Encouragingly, a number of these leaflets have been requested and many have been returned, indicating that the War Memorials Trust will be a future beneficiary in a Will. In fact, since the Autumn edition of Bulletin the charity has also received notification of its first ever bequest. A significant gift that will help ensure that work of the War Memorials Trust continues to make a difference.

Drawing up a Will is not perhaps the most cheerful of things to do but it really is a simple process and it ensures that on your death your possessions go to the people you want. The existence of a carefully planned and up to date Will means that those closest to you will not have to face unnecessary worries at a difficult time for them.

A Will can also present a very special opportunity to make a mark in a way that most of us could never dream of doing in our lifetime. Many people find that they are able to leave a gift to a charity such as the War Memorials Trust. This can also help to reduce Inheritance Tax liability on what is left in your Will.

Above all it enables you to hand on your values and beliefs to the next generation. What better tribute could there ever be than protecting the 'memory of our future'?



Should you require further information, please contact Robert Pitts at the War Memorials Trust.

WMT's Small Grants Scheme

Hornchurch (Essex)

A grant of £250 was offered towards the restoration of these War Memorial plaques at St Andrew's Church.

WMT's Small Grants Scheme is able to give grants of up to £250 per project to assist War Memorials of all dates and types. Since its creation, the Small Grants Scheme has awarded over £50,000 to 245 projects.

The Small Grants Scheme is primarily targeted towards the conservation and repair of existing War Memorials, but related work such as addition of new names, landscaping and the creation of new War Memorials are also eligible for assistance. There is no listing requirements or geographical restrictions.

Please contact the Conservation Officer at WMT for more information, to request an application form or to discuss a potential application.

Halesworth (Suffolk)

A grant of £200 was awarded to the re-lettering and restoration of the Halesworth War Memorial, which was dedicated in March 1921.



Burwell (Cambridgeshire)

A grant of £250 was awarded towards the restoration, re-lettering and extension of the War Memorial.

Balsham (Cambridgeshire)

A grant of £250 was awarded to assist with the cleaning, repairs and re-lettering of this War Memorial erected in 1919.



Pensford (Bristol)

A grant of £100 was awarded to assist with the addition of a name—Pte Thomas Wood- on the Pensford War Memorial.

East Harling (Norfolk)

A grant of £200 was given to assist with the cleaning and re-pointing of the East Harling War Memorial, erected in 1920.



Colwall (Herefordshire)

Two grants totalling £300 were offered towards the cleaning, repair and re-painting of the Colwall War Memorial, erected in 1920.

West Dean (Wiltshire)

A grant of £150 was given to the cleaning and repair of this War Memorial in St Mary's churchyard.



Chevington and Broomhill (Northumberland)

A grant of £250 was awarded towards works for improving access to the War Memorial.

Thornton Hough (Wirral)

A grant of £250 was awarded towards structural work on the Thornton Hough War Memorial.

We are very grateful to
DFS Furniture

For their sponsorship of the WMT Bulletin



English Heritage Grants for War Memorials

To stem the tide of decay that threatens this unique aspect of our national heritage, and to ensure that they can remain as a reminder to future generations of the price paid by so many for the freedom we enjoy today, English Heritage, in association with the Wolfson Foundation and Friends of War Memorials, is making funds available for the repair of free-standing war memorials in England. There are no listing or conservation area requirements.

The types of work which may qualify for grant aid include:

- repairs to fabric, including works of structural stabilisation
- recutting and recarving of eroded inscriptions and detail
- relettering, releading and regilding
- cleaning where appropriate and clearly beneficial
- reinstatement of lost elements, particularly decorative features
- works to associated hard landscaping, where this forms part of the overall design

This scheme awards grants of up to 50% of eligible costs up to a maximum of £10,000. Please contact the Conservation Officer –Dr Pedro Gaspar– for further details, application form, advice or to discuss a potential application.

Work which has begun before a formal grant offer has been made and accepted is not eligible for grant aid.



THE
WOLFSON
FOUNDATION



WAR MEMORIALS TRUST

The English Heritage Grants for the Repair and Conservation of War Memorials was established in 2000 to assist with the restoration of freestanding, listed grade II War Memorials in conservation areas. In 4 years, this scheme awarded over £100,000 to 60 projects in England. In 2004, with the collaboration of The Wolfson Foundation, this scheme was widened to assist with all free-standing War Memorials in England and we are receiving record number of applications. In these two pages were present a highlight of grants awarded in the first 4 years of this scheme.

Fenton (Staffordshire)

A grant of £5,879 was offered in 2000 to carve and re-instate lost sculptural features on this War Memorial.

Hertford (Hertfordshire)

A grant of £5,000 was offered in 2000 for the cleaning and repairing of the Hertford War Memorial.

Isleworth (Greater London)

A grant of £5,000 was offered in 2001 for a survey and restoration work.

Crudwell (Wiltshire)

A grant of 3,700 was offered in 2001 for a repair and re-roofing the Crudwell lychgate.

The UK National Inventory of War Memorials has estimated that there are over 60,000 memorials throughout the United Kingdom

Royston (Hertfordshire)

A grant of £5,000 was offered in 2001 for cleaning and repair work.



Mill Hill (Greater London)

A grant of £5,000 was offered in 2001 for the restoration of the Mill Hill

Crediton (Devon)

A grant of £1,830 was offered in 2001 for the restoration of the Crediton Market Cross War Memorial.

Royal Naval Division (London)

A grant of £7,500 was offered in 2003 for the restoration of the RND War Memorial, which was later relocated to its original location at Horse Guards in central London.



Ardeley (Hertfordshire)

A grant of £3,790 was offered in 2002 for the replacement of a stolen statue on the Ardeley village War Memorial.

Bridgnorth (Shropshire)

A grant of £560 was offered in 2003 towards the replacement of lost bronze blade on the Bridgnorth War Memorial.

Destiny (Kent)

A grant of £2,300 was offered in 2003 towards the restoration of the Destiny Peace Memorial.

Moreton-in-Marsh (Gloucestershire)

A grant of £1,200 was offered in 2004 towards cleaning and restoration

Have we forgotten?

by Jack Watkins



Examples of some problems facing War Memorials. Unknown War Memorial found in rubbish skip in central London (left) and graffiti on Doncaster War Memorial (right).

There may be grander War Memorials than the stone cross in the village of Compton Bassett in Wiltshire, but few can occupy a more evocative setting. Beyond the narrow lane at the foot of the steps leading up to it, the ground falls away, amidst the trees and hedgerows, to rich green meadows grazed by herds of dairy cows. It is the sort of ‘Forever England’ landscape evoked by war poets.

‘It is a wonderful view and a nice place to come and think your thoughts, even if some of them are painful ones’, reflects Alan Lewis, a veteran of the D-Day landings at Arromanches. He stands on the steps with his friend, Les Smith, two men steeped in the village and its dairy-farming traditions.

While Alan had three friends killed at Arromanches, both he and Les knew some of those commemorated on the cross. Moments later, up rolls Jim Taylor; like the other two, he was present at the memorial’s unveiling in 1950. Today, he carries a photograph of the ceremony.

It was two local military men, Captains Benson and Fielding Johnson (of Johnson’s Powder fame), who instigated the building of the memorial. Jim has some wry memories of the latter. ‘He wouldn’t put money into it unless the villagers got involved first. He had a little rubber dinghy set up and, for every sixpence (2.5 new pence) we threw in, he’d double it’.

Just over 50 years later, in 2003, locals of a community consisting of only 100 houses and a population of 200 had to dip into their pockets once again. Lichen and weeds were crowding out the inscriptions on the stonework. After being accorded Grade II-listed status and a grant offer from English Heritage of 50 per cent towards the total cost of repairs –£1,650– matching funds were required. ‘We sent out a letter to everyone in the village, saying that the cross has been here for 50 years and this was a chance to contribute to maintaining it’, explains Serena Henly, chair of the parish council. ‘So much was given that we have even been able to set aside a bank account for the memorial’s future upkeep’.

Dave Jackson, a local gardener at the mansion formerly owned by Captain Benson, is paid £180 each year to maintain the monument and its surrounds. His duties, apart

from some gentle hosing down of the stonework, include meticulous clipping of its extensive beech and privet hedges, and the mowing of the surrounding lawns. ‘He’s an absolute perfectionist’, says Serena. Indeed, his dedication seems reminiscent of those lost symbols of local pride, the park keepers.

The interest in the memorial felt throughout the village links generations. Dave points out a handwritten note a 12-year-old has recently pinned to it, paying her ‘respect to the men who lost their lives in two wars’. It is a sad fact, though, that the shifting society in which we live today has meant that many War Memorials elsewhere have slid almost unnoticed into decay.

Today, it seems that just as the generations that participated in the wars are fading, so too are many of the memorials that commemorate the fallen. In the small offices of the Friends of War Memorials in central London – a charity set up in 1997 to lobby for appreciation and protection of memorials– the shelves groan under the weight of files on monuments in need of urgent repair.

‘About 300 new cases are brought to our attention every year,’ explains Dr Pedro Gaspar, the charity’s English Heritage-funded Conservation Officer. ‘Many are suffering from vandalism or neglect. We have found them tossed in skips or at car-boot-sales. With the interest in wartime anniversaries at the moment, we have even seen people trying to profit by advertising them for sale on the internet.’

‘They tended to be built at a time when the understanding of the durability of materials was not high. The use of local sandstone and limestone means that many are deteriorating fast,’ he continues. ‘The crucial thing for a War Memorial is the lettering of its inscriptions, but once that has disappeared, there is often no record left of the names that

Photo by A Jones ▲

were listed.'

Another problem he cites is that many were, as in the case of Compton Bassett, raised by public subscription. While some were dedicated to the custody of the local authority, in many cases they were not; so finding someone to accept responsibility for their upkeep now is not easy. 'It is a grey area,' says Pedro. 'Local authorities can allocate money for repair if they wish, but they are not obliged to do so.'

The fascinating thing about War Memorials is their diversity –coming up with a strict definition of what qualifies is not easy. Before the last century, most tended to commemorate individuals of the officer class, or else were dedicated to soldiers of a specific regiment.

The Boer War of 1899-1902 inspired the building of memorials for ordinary servicemen, but it was the sheer scale of losses in the Great War of 1914-18 that really kick-started the proliferation of memorials. As a collective group, the memorials built to the dead of that war have been described as the greatest public arts projects ever carried out.

Because the government of the time refused to allow repatriation of the dead, memorials were erected as a substitute focus for the bereaved. They included crosses, lychgates, chapels and gardens of remembrance. After the second World War, many took on more practical forms, such as village halls and hospitals.

Perhaps the best way to get a taste of the richness of the design of our War Memorials is to walk through central London. The most famous of all is the Cenotaph in Whitehall –annual centrepiece of the Remembrance Sunday parades. Designed by Sir Edwyn Lutyens in 1919, it set the standard for others. A cluster of fine examples can be found around the Wellington Arch at Hyde Park Corner. The most notable is Charles Sargeant Jagger's splendid Royal Artillery Memorial, with its 9.2-inch Portland stone howitzer pointed in the direction of the Somme.

Steadily, aided by the public interest stimulated by recent wartime anniversaries, the profile of memorials is rising. In 1989, a National Inventory of War Memorials was established, curated by the Imperial War Museum. The database lists some 55,000 monuments. This has provided a valuable stock-take of the nation's War-Memorial heritage. And yet, as Pedro says, more money is still required to ensure that this heritage is adequately safeguarded.

Through grants from English Heritage and the Friend's own Small Grants Scheme, he says that £210,000 has been spent on 313 projects over the past four years. Yet the number of cases on the Friend's files cold, he feels, easily gobble up £265,000 a year. 'There is money available, and interest is growing fast,' he adds. 'When we issued a press release about the English Heritage grants scheme this March, we had 250 new requests for information within one or two months.'

'This new scheme distributes funds from the Wolfson Foundation provide wider discriminatory powers than ever before for the repair of memorials. Previously, only Grade II-listed memorials in conservation areas were eligible. Now £60,000 is available each year for freestanding ones, listed or otherwise.'

As Pedro says, 'They represent history. They are a reminder of grief and pain, duty and sacrifice. They transmit those values from one generation to another.' They perpetuate a sense of community –just ask the residents of Compton Bassett.

Work in progress on the Chilworth (left) and Reach (right) War Memorials. Both projects were funded by the War Memorials Trust

This article was first published in *Heritage Today*, the magazine for members of English Heritage in the September 2004 issue. For further information on this publication please contact members@english-heritage.org.uk

Memorials For Military Cyclists

- by Jim Corke

In 1869 the first British cycling club was founded in Liverpool. Others soon followed and by the end of the century there were more than five hundred drawing members from a national population of some 1.5 million cyclists. In 1885 the Volunteer Rifle corps tested the potential of bicycles for communications, medical services and reconnaissance. By 1888 most Corps had cyclist sections and one, the 26th Middlesex, became the first unit in the British Army entirely comprised of cyclists.

Cyclists were deployed in the second Boer War proving their worth and earning the commendation of the Commander-in-Chief, Lord Roberts who was to be the instrument of their further development when the Volunteers became the basis of the new Territorial Force created in 1908. Together with nine other cyclist battalions the 25th Battalion of the London Regiment (formerly the Middlesex Cyclists Corps) and the Army cyclists Corps were declared fully up to strength in 1914 with long waiting lists of potential recruits.

The De Laune Cycling Club, founded in 1889 numbered twelve territorials among its active strength of eighty. Many more joined up later and eight, including the Club Secretary, lost their lives.

To honour its fallen, the Club decided to create a War Memorial for them at Newnham, Kent near to which was Sharsted Court, home of the De Laune family which had helped found the Club based at Kennington, South London and which had supported it throughout its development. On Easter Day 1920 the memorial at Newnham Parish Church was dedicated with Club members riding from London to attend the wreath laying. This pattern was to be repeated for many years although members no longer gather at Sharsted Court or ride their bikes to the annual ceremony. The names of five more members

killed in WW2 were later added to the stele-like memorial in the churchyard.

In 1919 the 'Cyclist' magazine organised a public meeting of its readers who voted to create a National Cyclists' Memorial for all cyclists killed in the Great War. An obelisk in Cornish granite was constructed by noted memorialists, White & Sons of Birmingham, and erected on Meriden green the following year becoming the focus of remembrance services by many clubs, notably the Cyclists' Touring Club.

By 1922 all the cyclist battalions had been disbanded or reassigned although one, the Huntingdon Battalion enjoyed a brief revival, wearing its old cap badge, as a Home Guard battalion in WW2. The Kent Cyclist Battalion served in India during WWI and had erected a brass

monument to its members in the garrison church at Ferozepore from where it was repatriated and rededicated in Canterbury Cathedral following Indian Independence in 1948. These three memorials are believed to be the only ones exclusively dedicated to cyclists who have died in British service in the twentieth century. The diligent researcher will, however, discover the names of individual members of cyclists' formations listed on local memorials across Britain, identified by affiliation to them.

The De Laune Club will be 125 years old when the centenary of the outbreak of WWI is remembered. Bicycles no longer feature prominently in the armed forces as a 'military vehicle' but the Army Cycling union is a competitive sports organization which enjoyed a 'Golden Age' during the National Service years.

Rev George Baisley and De Laune Club President John Kavanagh at the Newnham memorial following the service of remembrance at the parish church 21st November 2004 ▼

Would you like to develop a similar project?
Campaign for the preservation of a local war
memorial? Research the history and lives of those who died during conflict?

The War Memorials Trust can help you by giving advice, guidance and grants.

Contact the Conservation Officer for information.

Jim Corke is a regional volunteer in Kent for the War Memorials Trust and the UKNIWM. His forthcoming book, 'War memorials in Britain', is due for release by Shire Publications in Spring 2005.

Listing Reports

FoWM campaigns for the protection of our War Memorial Heritage and, as part of our work, we encourage the listing of War Memorials. The list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest is the statutory registers recording the best of our heritage. It includes a wide variety of structures, from castles to village pumps. Not all the items on the lists are what we might conventionally think of as beautiful or attractive - some are included purely for their historical value. For this reason, Friends of war Memorials believe that all freestanding War Memorials should be listed and we participate in this process by preparing reports and submit listing requests, when appropriate. This is central in the preservation of our heritage.

Below, we present the latest additions to the list.

Walpole St Andrew (Cambridgeshire)

The Walpole St Andrew War Memorial was erected in 1920 at St Andrew's Church. The architect was Captain Oliver Hill and it was made by Messrs Broadbent of the Kupron Works, Clerkenwell and put up by Messrs A J Davis and Son of Wisbech. Oliver Hill was amongst the most eminent English architects of the interwar period. Hill had a distinguished war record and he also designed a similar War Memorial for his regiment, erected in Messines, Belgium.

Thame (Oxfordshire)

The Thame War Memorial was erected in 1920 and includes names from both World Wars. It was unveiled by the Rt Hon David Lloyd George, Prime Minister, on the 30th July 1921.



Hockham (Norfolk)

The Hockham War Memorial was erected c1920. The first casualty amongst those listed, presumably a member of the BEF, was killed within the first few days of the presence of British Forces in the field. This is an impressive and unusually severe War Memorial in a 'modern style', with strong carving and lettering.

48773

When can a simple number be a War Memorial? Answer ...when it's a steam engine. Number 48773 is a steam engine known as a Stanier 8F (2-8-0,) a heavy freight locomotive and one of over 600 built. They were rarely given names, no doubt a reflection of their no nonsense, work horse nature.

Despite the large numbers of locomotives made, today there are very few remaining, especially in working order. Fortunately, before their demise the 8F Preservation Society (later to become the Stanier 8F Locomotive Society) was established and was able to purchase one of these fine steam engines.

This was in fact engine number 48773, an engine not only in excellent condition but with a fascinating history of service in the Middle East during World War II.

In 1986 the locomotive was dedicated as a War memorial by the Dean of Hereford to the memory of over 350 Railway Sappers of the Corps of Royal Engineers, who lost their lives in WW11.

It seems that this is not a unique dedication, although it is

Paul: Photo from X-mas cards.

extremely rare. A photograph of the Steam locomotive 48773, together with a picture of the dedication plaque was used as the War Memorials Trust Christmas card for 2004. There are a small number of these cards still available, at the specially discounted price of £3.00 per pack of five.

June 2005 will mark the steam engine's 65th 'birthday' and to commemorate this the locomotive will be restored to its full WD livery. For those who would like to take a closer look and find out a little more about 48773, there will be a 'Meet the Engine' event together with footplate rides at Kidderminster on 18th June 2005.

For further information, or to order your Christmas cards for 2005, please contact War Memorials Trust on 020 7259 0403

The Albion Inn - Chester

Mike Mercer has been the landlord of The Albion Inn in Chester for almost 35 years. His name has been over the door, as they say, since 1970.

This well-preserved Victorian pub offers something of a surprise to the uninformed visitor. Mike has furnished the pub with hundreds of pictures, memorabilia and artifacts from and depicting the First World War. The Albion Inn is a remarkable tribute to the memory of Great War, 1914 - 18.

Not content with creating a unique and by all accounts warm and welcoming atmosphere, Mike recently resolved to take things a little further. He decided to run a number of 'Trench' dinners in aid of the War Memorials Trust. Drawing on the superb home cooked food traditionally available at The Albion Inn (rather than WW1 rations which might be less well received) Mike's evening dinners, with special guest appearances, music and recitals, has proved a great success.

Pictured is Great War veteran William Stone together with warrant officers from HMS Albion and Mrs Karen Rimmer,

winner of the grouse sweep. Mike Mercer by the way is the chap in the red bow tie.

The War Memorials Trust would like to take this opportunity to thank Mike Mercer for all his hard work and his much valued support. The next time you find yourself in Chester, why not take the opportunity to pay The Albion Inn a visit. I know I will.

Photo by Mike Mercer ▲

Your Informal War Memorial Photographs

Many of you responded to our request for informal and unusual War Memorial photographs. Reproduced here is a wonderful scene of Adlington War Memorial, buried in snow. The photograph was taken by Stuart Clewlow. Sadly Stuart also had to report that since this photograph was taken a number of the stone orbs have been stolen.

WMT will be advising on this situation and making recommendations about the best way forward. The charity now has a useful supply of 'candid' photographs but if you have anything unusual lurking in your photo albums we should love to see them.

Photo by Stuart Clewlow ▲

Somme Video

We have recently been sent a video film made in France and Belgium at some of the battlefields on the Somme. The production is entitled 'Somme'. It was made in November 2000 by Arnold Mathews in conjunction with his company Video South West.

Whilst it was originally intended as a personal reference, Mr Mathews who is a documentary maker has decided to make the film available to supporters of the War Memorials Trust.

Featured are the Services held at Menin Gate on November 11th during the day and the Last Post at eight o'clock in the evening. The latter has of course been performed every evening since 1928, except for the years of the second world war.

The account portrays a somewhat different angle from the usual record but it does contain some archive footage. Arnold Mathews suggests that the film would be of interest to the many people who had relatives involved in the battle of the Somme and the First World War.

Mr Mathews goes on to note that the video is not offered as entertainment but rather as a thought provoking statement, as a means of reminding ourselves of the devastating waste of war in terms of human life. In the 1920's, he observes, it was popularly thought of as the 'War to end all Wars' but of course history proved otherwise.

Should you wish to acquire a copy of 'Somme' you will be interested to know that Mr Mathews has agreed to provide copies in consideration of any contribution, half of which will be made as a donation to the War Memorials Trust and the other half used to cover production costs.

In addition to your contribution you will need to add £2 postage and packing. The film is available either in video format or as a DVD - please indicate which you require.

All enquires and orders should be sent to: War Memorials Trust Office.



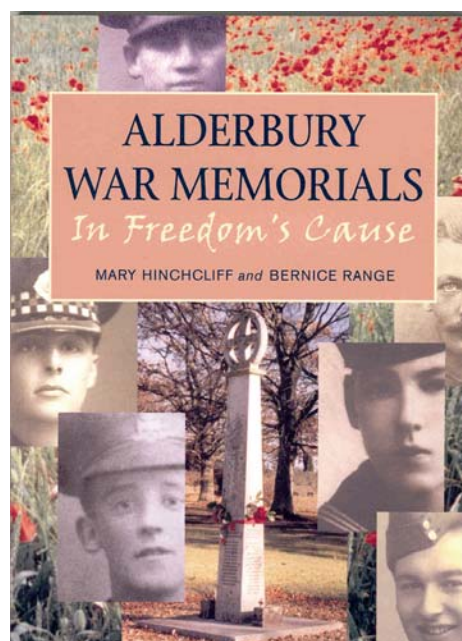
Clips from video-film 'Somme'

ALDERBURY WAR MEMORIALS - In Freedom's Cause

This highly readable book, published by The Alderbury & Whaddon Local History Research Group, tells the stories of the men from Alderbury, Whaddon and Clarendon in south-east Wiltshire who gave their lives in two World Wars. It also includes a few who were omitted from the memorials. The principal memorial is of Chilmark stone and stands on Alderbury village green and there are memorials in the church including, unusually, one listing those who returned from World War I.

The book sets out the men's experiences in the context of each area of operations. With 128 pages, 34 maps and 25 photographs it is excellent value at £6-50 (p & p £1-25) and may be obtained from:

Brian Johnson, at
"Hawthorns", Old Road, Alderbury, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP5 3AR
(cheques payable to Alderbury & Whaddon LHRG).



OUR HERITAGE IS PRECIOUS
HELP WMT TO SAVE IT

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Art & Architecture • British Sundial Society • Fountain Society • Landscape and Arts Network • Public Monuments and Sculpture Association • Royal British Society of Sculptors • Society of Portrait Sculptors • War Memorials Trust

Spring Talks 2004, 2005, 2006
CONNECTING WITH SCULPTURE
from concept to conservation

This three-year series of six-weekly talks is organised jointly between the PMSA and groups who will illuminate varying stages in the life of a public sculpture. The second in the series, in Spring 2005, will consider 'Ideas into Reality'; in 2006 we will conclude with 'Life after unveiling'. Detailed below, the programme for this year's unique initiative promises to continue a stimulating cross-fertilisation of ideas on aspects of public sculpture.

A 14 February 2005
'Ideas into Reality' Barry Mason
Convenor: Anne Rawcliffe-King, Director, RBS

B 21 February
'The Design and Construction of Three Sundials in Widely Differing Materials: perspex, glass and yew'
Douglas Bateman, Secretary, British Sundial Society
Convenor: Patrick Powers, Registrar, British Sundial Society).

C 28 February
'Not by Half' Richard Wilson
Convenor: Camilla Clews (Art & Architecture)

D 7 March
'The Thing about Memorials'
Harriet Frazer Memorials by Artists
Convenor: Pedro Gaspar (Conservation Officer, War Memorials Trust)

E 14 March
'The Journey from Dreams into Stone' Glynn Williams
'Bright Sparks, from new Triggers', Eileen Woods
Convenors: Jo Darke (PMSA) and Eileen Woods (Chair, Landscape and Arts Network)

F 21 March
'Challenging the Past' Dr Rosalind Hopwood
Convenor: Peter Knowlson (Chair, The Fountain Society)

Mondays at 6.30pm
The Gallery 70-75 Cowcross Street (courtesy Alan Baxter), London EC1
(Tube or Thameslink: Farringdon Street)
£5 for one lecture (available through booking or on door) or £15 season to attend the whole series

Please book [] season ticket(s) at £15 each or individual tickets (please indicate number required) at £5 each for the following lectures:

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Address

Tel Email

Please return this slip along with your cheque (made payable to the PMSA) to Jo Darke, 72 Lissenden Mansions, Lissenden Gardens, London NW5 1PR

Contact jo.darke@courtauld.ac.uk, 020 7848 2614
jo.darke@inted.demon.co.uk 020 7485 0566