

Friends of War Memorials Bulletin

SPRING 2004

NUMBER 21

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Our latest successful grants

- How to correct errors in war memorials
- The Stanstead Mount Fitchet memorial
- The men of Stavistock who died in The First World War
- War Memorial in Arnold

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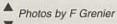
Naval Memorial at the British Gardens in Caen, Normandy



Commissioned by the Friends of Normandy, the Naval Memorial has been erected in the British Garden this Autumn, ready for the 60th Anniversary of the Allied landings in Normandy.

Codenamed Operation Neptune, naval activity included reconnaissance, minesweeping, escort duties with merchant shipping, air support, towing and placing the Mulberry harbour and fuel pipeline, shore bombardment, landing craft operations, X-craft beacon guidance and equipment disembarkation. All these operations are depicted in the three glass panels.

The 2nd Battalion of the Royal Ulster Rifles was the first to enter Caen and with the Canadians liberated the city.





Regional Volunteers Day

Friends of War Memorials has decided to alter the Regional Volunteers day format for 2004. Rather than a Saturday in September FoWM would like to invite you to attend an extra event on 1st July 2004, which would follow on from our AGM, at the Imperial War Museum (London).

Dr Pedro Gaspar, our Conservation Officer, will lead the session with other staff present to take questions and participate in discussion.

With the AGM commencing at 2.30 pm for an hour, to be followed by teas and coffees, we would hope to start our RV meeting at 4.00 pm.

We hope to see as many of you there as possible. Further details will follow closer to the time.

Photo by Graham Mitchell



Hymer College. Photo by Paul Bryan

Our Regional Volunteers continue to provide a valuable contribution to the work developed by FoWM. Mr Paul Bryan (RV in Yorkshire) collected over £670 from donations on Non-Uniform Day and Carol Concert events at Hymer College (Hull) in 2003.

Graham Mitchell (RV in Yorkshire) helped us with the relocation of the Kentish Town Parish Memorial Book (1914-18 and 1939-45). This memorial was donated to FoWM and was relocated in The Second World War Experience Centre in Leeds. Mr Mitchell kindly made a suitable presentation of FoWM's work and this project on the occasion of a lecture by Sir Max Hastings at the Centre.

FoWM accepts temporary custodianship of war memorials and Regional Volunteers are central in helping us in re-homing these.

REGIONAL VOLUNTEERS

Regional Volunteers are members who act as FoWM's eyes and ears locally and inform us of war memorials and rolls of honour in their area that need attention. We very much appreciate RVs assistance in a number of tasks. We may let them know of cases that need local knowledge, or they could relay details of war memorial problems and local contacts to us. We also ask RVs to attend re-dedications on our behalf and perhaps to lay a wreath where appropriate. RVs do as much or as little as they are able and, in effect, act as "reservists" to be called upon when needed, as well as being correspondents when they see fit.

We now have nearly 200 Regional Volunteers countrywide and extend a warm welcome to new RVs who have joined us recently. For a full list of RVs by area and to find out about becoming a Regional Volunteer, please contact Frances Moreton at FoWM. We are always delighted to welcome new RVs in any area but would be particularly pleased to hear from potential volunteers in North Wales and Scotland.

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THE OBJECTIVES OF FRIENDS OF WAR MEMORIALS

- 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.
- 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, archæological, 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 Sir Donald Thompson

I hope you all had a happy Christmas and a start of the New Year in good spirits. Unfortunately, conflicts worldwide do not seem to be diminishing and the new threats will undoubtedly, over time lead to more names of British service men and women being added to war memorials all over the country.

We are lucky enough to have found 5 young people who will take part in this year's marathon, carrying the shirt of Friends of War Memorials. If you would like to contribute to encourage our volunteers, please get in touch.

As ever, we need a constant flow of cash to keep our growing activities flowing. Donations, legacies and persuading businesses and friends to join us are objectives always in our minds. Having said that, it will be remissible not to thank the dozens of people who have supported us in all sorts of ways.

This year's most significant event will be remembering D-Day. If anyone is going to a local D-Day ceremony please let us know. Alternatively, if you know of a local ceremony that will take place and needs a Friends of War Memorial presence, do tell us about it.

I am on parade that weekend in Torquay.

Dr Pedro Gaspar has settled down amazingly well into his position as Conservation Officer. He has become a guide and friend to scores of committees seeking to restore and preserve their own memorials.

FLORA LONDON MARATHON

Places in the Flora London Marathon are like gold dust but FoWM has been fortunate to have the opportunity to place 5 runners in the 2004 Marathon. This year's runners are:

Gary Arthur (Lancashire) Sara Doughty (London) Glen Iceton (Warwickshire) Sarah Mulhall (Yorkshire) David Potter (Preston)

FoWM wishes them the best of luck!

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We would also like to ask for your help with this marathon. As one of our collection boxes was recently stolen, your contributions are more important than ever. Maybe you can sponsor one of our runners? Or maybe you can help us raising funds? **

Give us a call!!!

Member 2 Recruit a Member - a thank you!

At the end of 2003 FoWM had 1376 members. FoWM would like to thank all the members who participated in the "Member 2 Recruit a Member" campaign and we would like you to know that this is an ongoing campaign. Please do let us know of anyone who may be interested in receiving a copy of our newsletter. Alternatively, get in touch with the office for extra copies.

Major donors in 2003

Friends of War Memorials would like to thank the following donors for their generous contributions during 2003. These donations have allowed us to continue our work in preserving our war memorial heritage.

The Cowley Charitable Foundation

Lord Mayors Trust for Charities

Fishmongers Co

Westminster Foundation

Royal Northumberland Fusiliers

R J Larg Trust

Gargunnock Estate Trust

RAF Church Collections Fund

G E Foers & Co

The Salisbury Trust

Callender Charitable Trust

Masterfoods (Mars UK)

British American Tobacco (Holdings) Limited

The Hedley Foundation

Sir James Miller Edinburgh Trust

Maurice Laing Foundation

The Jordan Foundation

C H K Charities Limited

Harold Smith Charitable Trust

Alice Ellen Cooper Dean Charitable Foundation

The Lambert Charitable Trust

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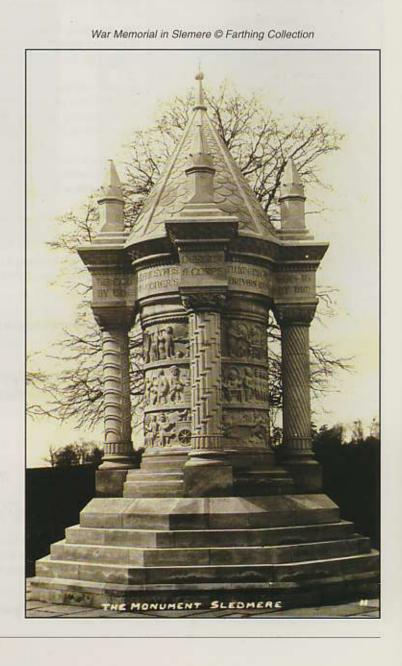
The Clore Duffield Foundation

The 600 Group

DFS Furniture

The A M Fenton Trust





FoWM Small Grants Scheme - SPECIAL APPEAL

ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL ELEMENTS

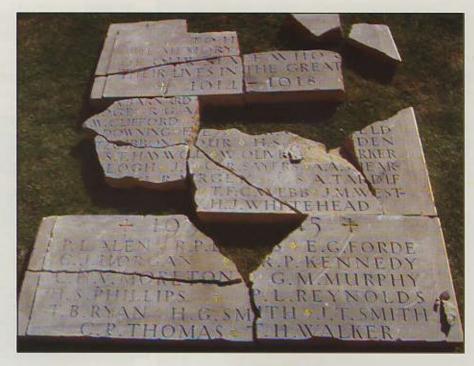
The Friends of War Memorials Small Grants Scheme is one of the most successful elements of the work undertaken by the charity. Since we started supporting projects through grants from our own fundraising more than 200 memorials have been restored, conserved, had names added or repaired from weather or vandalism with our help. Our discretionary fund has supported many projects, which have fallen outside the remit of other funds. Giving grants of up to £250, along with our professional advice has made the tangible difference between whether or not many of these projects have succeeded. The number of applications we receive each year keeps rising.



There are now more than 30 applications waiting for consideration at the next grants panel meeting. Each one represents a project to save or conserve a memorial or to add a to name that was originally omitted in error.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Currently, we do not have sufficient



funds to support each project. We would like to ask you to support this most important part of our work with a donation that will go towards helping one of these very important projects.

If you are able to donate to this special appeal, please send you donation to: Sir Donald Thompson at Friends of War Memorials, 4 Lower Belgrave Street, London SW1W 0LA



Unidentified war memorial found abandoned near The Florence Nightingale Hospital in London. Photos by Pedro Gaspar

Fundraising Support . . .

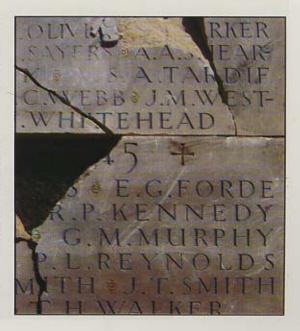
For so many charities, including Friends of War Memorials, fundraising can be an uphill struggle. Fundraising is not an activity which goes on somewhere in the background, it is the means by which all other activities can happen and it has to be considered very much in the foreground of any planning. Support can come from many different directions, but it is so often the loyal supporters who are able to make a difference.

This year is bringing increasing opportunities to preserve and restore war memorials all over the United Kingdom. Each successful

project means we have to find more money to help us achieve our aims. Therefore, we ask all our members to consider this problem and what you can do to help - not just our fundraising effort - but our core activities.

Can you find a member? Or arrange a fundraising event? Take part in a sponsored challenge? Organise a raffle? Do you have any useful contacts? We are looking for bright ideas and imaginative suggestions, and your best efforts will be reported in these pages to encourage others.

If you would like to discuss any ideas, call us on 020 7259 0403. We will be delighted to hear your ideas.



Friends of War Memorials Small Grants Scheme

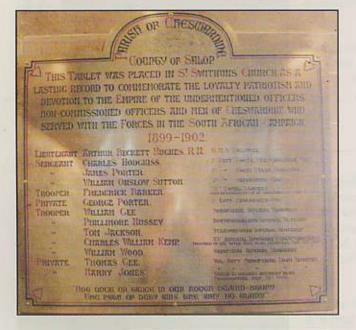
FoWM continues to support war memorial projects of all types through the Friends of War Memorials Small Grants Scheme. We have so far awarded over £21,000 to 89 projects. The number of applications keeps rising!

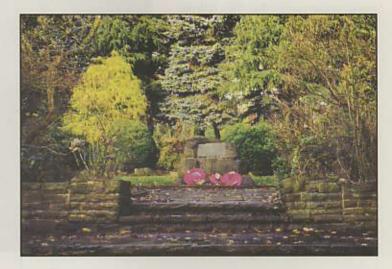
Our latest successful projects include the conservation and restoration of war memorials, the addition of names, hardlandscaping and the creation of new war memorials.

A grant of £250 was offered towards the restoration of the New Mills (Derbyshire) WWII war memorial. This involved cleaning and repointing the memorial and its hardlandscaping.

Photos by P Lewes







Restoration of three war memorial plaques at Cheswardine church (Shropshire). These plaques commemorate the men of Cheswardine who served in the South Africa Campaign, WWI and WWII. As they have always been located inside the church, protected from the elements, the restoration of these plaques only required the removal of old lacquer and cleaning

mild corrosion. repolishing of surfaces, retouching of lettering using enamel paints and relacquering. FoWM awarded an extraordinary grant of £300 for this project.



Photos by C Ullmer

Friends of War Memorials Small Grants Scheme is able to give grants of up to £250 per project to assist war memorials of all dates and types.

The Small Grants Scheme is primarily targeted towards the conservation and repair of existing war memorials. 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 requirement or geographical restrictions.

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

Friends of War Memorials Grants

War memorials take all forms. Through its grants schemes FoWM contributes to the creation of new war memorials. One such example is the Hale & Woodgreen (Hampshire) Book of Remembrance. FoWM awarded a £50 grant towards the creation of this book. It gives details of the lives and deaths of those we should remember. It was created with the principle of equal justice to memory of each man, no matter his rank and regardless in which branch of the armed forces he served, nor whether his death was attended by conspicuous bravery in the face of the enemy or as result of a fatal accident. George Vickery was one such man (right).



A grant of £250 was offered towards the restoration of the New Mills (Derbyshire) war memorials Gardens. This involved the cleaning of the stonework, mortar repair and the recutting of the lettering on the memorial. The latter is a common problem facing war memorials where the stone weathering badly affects the legibility of names.



George Vickery - the unknown sailor

Sub Lieutenant (A) G. M. Vickery Royal Naval Reserve 7th October 1943 Age 22

[. . .] Above this inscription is the traditional insignia of the Royal Navy, an anchor with rope coil. These somewhat unexpected notes are intended to inform visitors to this quiet and secluded place of George Vickery, and why he was buried here.

Dr Edward P H Vickery, recently qualified in medicine, came to Fordingbridge in 1920, soon after the Great War was over, to learn about general practice. He brought with him his bride of a few months, Gladys Ruth. They were blissfully happy and soon a son was born, to be named George Malyn.

After a further year, he applied for and was given a very good appointment with a general practice in Lincolnshire. Thus the family moved to East Anglia, prospering in experience and adding a further four children to the family, three daughters and a second son, Michael.

In 1928, Dr Vickery returned to Fordingbridge to work in the busy General Practice. So it was that they removed (en masse) to Fordingbridge. Dr Vickery going on to serve the people of the town and its environs for about 40 years. George followed ably in his footsteps.

In 1940, George Vickery responded to an appeal he felt he could not refuse; to serve his country, using his talents as best as he could. This appeal he sensed in a speech broadcasted on the BBC Home Service by Mr Churchill, who could promise the people nothing but blood, sweat and tears. Having an interest in flying very common amongst the young of those days and a love of sailing from his boyhood, he decided to pack his course in Medicine at Cambridge and to try his luck with the Royal Navy. He was not deterred by the obstacles to be overcome. [. . .] In 1940 he was just 19 but almost old enough for flying duties, and as we now know he passed in with flying colours and, later passed the flying aptitude tests and basic flying instructions. After further training on Seafires at an operational conversion unit, he was posted to HMS Formidable, then on operational tour in the Mediterranean. In 1943 he was posted back to the UK to a squadron of the Fleet Air Arm, which was temporarily based on shore, for advanced combat training at HMS Vulture, RN Air Station, Cornwall. On 7th October, combat exercises, involving real-time perceptions, were planned to take off from RAF Chivenor. George was the pilot of a Seafire Mark1b, No 10. Flying low over the sea at Bideford Bay, George's Seafire, the first attacking aircraft, collided with the second of the two target aircraft.

At the request of George's family, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission readily agreed that George should be buried in the tranquil and beautiful cemetery at Godshill.

English Heritage Grant Scheme for the Repair and Conservation of 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 Friends of War Memorials, is making funds available for the repair of free-standing, grade II listed war memorials in conservation areas in England.

To be eligible for a grant, a memorial must be free-standing, situated in a conservation area in England, and listed in its own right at Grade II.

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

- repairs to fabric
- · 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 grant 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.



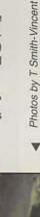


The UK National Inventory of War Memorials has estimated that there are 60,000 war memorials throughout the United Kingdom.

Our latest successful projects

We are offering a grant of £225 for a condition survey of the Radway War Memorial (St Peter's Churchyard, Warwickshire). This war memorial Lychgate (oak structure with slated roof) was dedicated in 1923 by the Bishop of Coventry and the Roll of Honour includes the Field Marshall Earl Haig.

We will address the structural stability (Is the lychgate stable? What are the causes of instability?) and analyse the roof's condition.







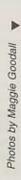
A grant of £1,290 was offered towards the conservation of Ratby War Memorial (Leicester). This involved cleaning and repairing the memorial and repainting the surrounding railing.

This war memorial with a figure of an angel (in Carrar marble) was unveiled and dedicated in 1920 by Field Marshall Earl Haig accompanied by the Vicar of Ratby. It was created-by Shirley Ward at a cost of £500, which was raised by public subscription and fundraising events.



"Blow out. You bugles. Over the rich dead There's none of these so lonely and poor of old. But. Dying. Has made us rarer gifts than gold. These laid the world away. Poured out the red sweet wine of youth. Gave up the years to be of work and joy. And that unhoped serene that men call age. And Those who would have been their sons they gave. Their Immortality."

> Rupert Brooke Hood Battalion





The Royal Naval Division Memorial commemorates over 45,000 casualties sustained by the RND on WWI. The fought in Gallipoli and on the Western Front, achieving a high reputation as a frontline formation.

Photos by P Gaspar

The Division was disbanded in 1919 and the survivors commissioned Sir Edwin Lutyens to design a memorial fountain to stand on the corner of the balustrade of Old Admiralty Building (Horse Guards). The site and design was personally approved by HM King George V.





The memorial was unveiled in 1925 and stood in silent remembrance until 1939, when it was dismantled and stored for the construction of the Citadel. It was re-erected in 1951 at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich. When the college ceased to be a naval establishment, the time was right to return this memorial to the ceremonial heart of the capital.

In a campaign to restore the RND memorial to its original site, English Heritage and FoWM contributed £7,250 towards the cleaning and repair of the fountain in its "new" location. The rededication ceremony (photograph on the right hand side) occurred on the 13th November 2003 in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent.

Photos by UKNIWM

Guyhirn war memorial was erected in 1920 with Private Stanley Butwright's name misspelled. The "w" was missing.

Pte Butwright was only 18 when he died after 6 weeks of service in France. He was involved in the army's attempt to push enemy's forces back towards the Passchendale Heights. From the 1/8 Battalion of the Royal Warwickshires there were 35 killed, 83 wounded and 54 missing, including Pte Butwright.

While researching his family history, Pte Butwright's great-nephew noticed the error on Guyhirn war memorial. He then enquired via the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website and found that his uncle is remembered at Tyne Cot cemetery, near Ypres. The next step was to find out how and where he died. The Public Records Office holds hand-written records bound into monthly sets, which represent the diary of Pte Butwright's Battalion.

Gathering original evidence of names, will strengthen the case for correcting misspells.

All these records show that the name is incorrect and therefore the custodian of the memorial should be informed. In this case, the Parish Council showed some resistance to correcting the name. It was the effort of the family, together with the valuable help of our regional volunteer Mr Brian Krill that the parish council has finally agreed, after more than three years, to correct this error.

This followed an intense media and fundraising campaign showing how effective lobbying with authorities can be and how FoWM collaborates with these projects.

Stanley Butwright's sacrifice will be properly recorded.

Links: www.cwgc.org

www.pro.gov.uk

Who is responsible for correcting errors on war memorials?

"A local authority may incur reasonable expenditure in the maintenance, repair and protection of any war memorial within their district, whether vested in them or not".

War Memorials Act. 1923

The creation of war memorials has traditionally been organised locally, with there being no central directives or government funding for war memorials. All questions regarding those commemorated and the form in which their details are recorded is usually held to be a local matter.

The War Memorials (Local Authorities' Powers) Act of 1923 and subsequent amendments allow for the correction of errors in a war memorial's inscription and additions to make a war memorial serve for conflicts subsequent to that for which it was erected. The provisions of the War Memorials (Local Authorities' Powers) Act would therefore enable a Council to add names to this memorial (and to any war memorial within its area) whether it owned the memorial or not.

ERNEST BUTT ROBERT BROWN. STANLEY BUTRICHT

THOMAS BULLIVANT

D' WILLIAM CARTER WILLIAM CRESSWELL

HARRY DENNEY

DONALD S. DENNIS MES W EDIS

We can help you!

The correction and omission names is one of the common problems encountered when dealing with war memorials.

Considering that the list of casualties were made in a computer-free era, and the large scale of casualties involved, it is surprising that so few mistakes occurred.

The correction and addition of names is one of FoWM's concerns. We have funded 10 such projects through our Small Grants Scheme and the number is rising fast. So far, we have allocated approximately £1,500 for this type of project.

The practicalities can be difficult, depending on the materials and techniques used, space available and the present condition of the memorial. In some situations, letters are simply replaced or carved on the menorial but in more difficult cases, new plaques or additions will have to be included.

If you know of any misspelling or omission contact FoWM for help.

The Stanstead Mount Fitchet Roll of Honour - by G Stoddart

The Royal British Legion has been assisting the Imperial War Museum in compiling a National Inventory of War Memorials. During my research for Stanstead, I became aware that both St John's and St Mary's churches did not have a village Roll of Honour, which prompted me to seek an answer.

One obvious area to search through was the local RBL branch minutes, which are held since its formation (1926). On searching the 1936 minutes book I came across entries for "Roll of Honour". It would appear the reason for these entries being made was to establish permission for the roll to be hung permanently in the church as it had been found in the vestry with the glass broken. From following entries, no permission was granted and the parochial church council proposed keeping it in a chest along with other church records "and will be available for inspection". The legion branch then decided to have a copy made and "The working men's club" be approached to have it hung. Today this copy is missing.

From further entries in the legion's minutes books, the Roll of Honour seems to have been forgotten. Having found this evidence, the parish council was approached and the original roll finally found cracked in half with corners broken away and missing.

How could such a social document of a most harrowing period in our history be so mishandled?

The Stanstead Royal British Legion along with friends in the villages agreed to seek a restoration and framing of the roll. Our final task was to find the identity of eight names from the bottom corner, with only part surname and Christian names we thought this would be very difficult. With the kind assistance



Photo by G Stoddart

of a local historian and modern methods of searching, we found the surnames. The Christian proved less difficult; these were mostly supplied by relatives and close associates.

To complete the roll of honour the names had to be professionally penned in, as near to the hand of the original scribe as possible and then framed. The glass used will cut out most UV rays to save further fading and the roll protected from climatic change.

St John's church has agreed to hang the Stanstead Roll of Honour in its rightful place for which we give thanks.

Staines War Memorial



Photos by M Goodall A and R Pembrooke

Spelthorne Borough has relocated Staines memorial from its previous position within the Memorial Gardens to the Market Square, enjoying a more prominent location.

Also, with the help of the Royal British Legion (Twickenham Branch) and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, a new plaque was created to commemorate those who fell in WWII.



They also served!

In a major tribute to the role of animals in war PDSA, Britain's leading veterinary charity, has commissioned a bronze sculpture featuring pioneer World War II search and rescue dog, Beauty DM.

The work celebrates 60 years of the PDSA Dickin Medal - internationally recognised as the "animals' Victoria Cross" - and is available for purchase in a limited edition of just 60 bronzes worldwide.

Whether you are moved by stories of animal gallantry or collect World War II memorabilia, Beauty DM captures perfectly the devotion and service of animals during times of conflict.

Sculpted by internationally acclaimed artist, Caroline Wallace, the bronze stands 27cm (10.5 inches) high and incorporates an impression of the PDSA Dickin Medal awarded to Beauty in January 1945. Beauty and her 59 PDSA Dickin Medal animal colleagues have saved literally hundreds of human and animal lives from World War II to the recent conflict in Iraq. Here beauty is depicted resting in the arms of her owner Bill Barnet, a PDSA Animal Rescue Squad Superintendent.

PDSA is proud to offer this exclusive bronze of Beauty DM at the special price of £1,995 (including VAT and postage). To register your interest, send details to Director General, PDSA, Whitechapel Way, Priorslee, Telford TF2 9PQ or telephone 01952 204732.



We will remember them

The men of Tavistock who died in WWI

Almost a century has passed since the First World War, and yet that conflict continues to exercise a powerful grip on our emotions and imagination.

The project to construct the Tavistock Parish War Memorials was launched in February 1919, when a public meeting unanimously endorsed the creation of a granite cross, placed in the south-west corner of the churchyard with the names of the fallen inscribed. This mirrored the country's lament and desire to remind future generations of tragic events, loss and sacrifice.

However, the cost of the project (£600) proved too high for a town in the depths of depression. A cheaper alternative had to be found and installed in the corner of the council-owned Guildhall Square. 119 names were listed.

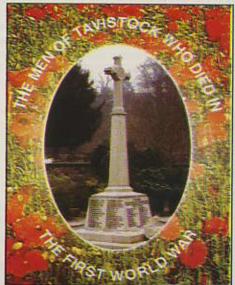
In recent years the suitability of the site has been questioned. With the original

intention of the Tavistock's residents in mind, it was decided to relocate this memorial in the churchyard, as discussed in the first meeting 85 years ago.

To commemorate this special occasion, Alex Mettler and Gerry Woodcock decided to create a book of individual stories of the men commemorated in the Tavistock memorial. It was written for future generations, to whom remembrance remains both a need and a duty.

This book researches the community, the men who fought, where they died and where they are commemorated (from Lambeth to Basra in Iraq). It tells the heartbreaking story of families, loss and hardship. A tribute from a community to their men.

"We Will Remember Them"
by A Mettler and G Woodcock,
Published by Tavistock Local History
Society, ISBN 0-9544284-1-2
www.tavistockwarmemorial.co.uk



Would you like to develop a similar project? Research the history and lives of those who died in conflict?

FoWM can help you by giving advice, guidance and grants. Contact the Conservation Officer for information.

War Memorial in Arnold, Nottinghamshire by Arthur Clarke

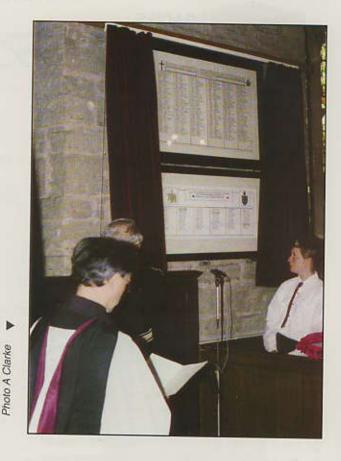
In April 1993 I was appointed to the position of vicar of Arnold in Nottinghamshire. In 1914, Arnold was a large village about 4 miles north of Nottingham. In the years following World War I the population grew considerably and in 1993 numbered about 21,000. Since 1919, on every Remembrance Sunday, a service has been held in the parish church to remember the men who gave their lives for their sovereign and country. A small chapel in the south aisle of the church was dedicated in 1920 as a memorial chapel with a tablet inscribed with the names of all those who gave their lives in the first World War, some 284 men.

Strangely, there was no memorial to the men who died in the Second World War. There was no tablet and no record anywhere of those who laid down their lives. Being a former serviceman myself, I felt that a grave injustice was being done and decided to do something about it.

I made an appeal in church the following Sunday for someone to write to all the regimental associations we could think of, contact the editors of various local and national newspapers, approach local firms, schools, boy scouts associations and as many other organisations as we could think of, who might have some record of former employees, students or members who had been killed in the Second World War. The local borough of Gedling, in which Arnold is situated, has two War Memorials in the borough, but again they only contained the names of those who fell in the First World War.

A lady in the congregation, who had just lost her job, volunteered to search the records and write the letters. And so we set off on a mammoth search. Over the next six months this lady and I contacted every organisation and firm we could think of. In reply, we received dozens of heartbreaking letters from widows, mothers, brothers, sisters etc, giving detailed accounts of their particular relative's death in the war - often describing poignant memories, childhood adventures, call up, even courtship.

Eventually we decided that we had come to the end of our search, and decided to compile a Memorial Register. However, having read through the numerous letters in our files we felt that we couldn't just write a name in a book and leave it at that. So we decided to compile a Memorial Register giving details of all the men of Arnold who fell in the Second World War and subsequent conflicts (up to 1993) giving the name, rank, number, unit, squadron or ship, age at death, details of how and where and in



what action each man was killed, home address and next of kin. One family lost 3 sons: one in a Japanese prisoner of war camp, one in the Royal Navy and one in the Gloucester's in Korea.

There was tremendous interest in the project and we had to decide what to do next. We obviously had to erect a memorial tablet, present the Registers etc, but how should it be done? The numbers of people who would want to attend a service in the church would have filled it several times over.

However, I feel that that is enough for one issue of the bulletin. I don't want to bore our readers. Perhaps in a subsequent issue, if the editor allows it, I will describe the events which followed the completion of our search.

П STANDING ORDERS п Joining Friends of War Memorials or renewing your 0 existing membership? П Why not consider paying your subscription by standing order? It's easy and convenient for you and also help FoWM to keep its П adminstration costs down. П П

The second part of this article will be published in the next issue of our bulletin. If you would like to contribute to the FoWM Bulletin, call: 020 7259 0403

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Unveiling of the Hammersmith War Memorial on 11 November 1922 © Farthing

Somme Day - Lest we forget

Friends of War Memorials would like to remind all friends, members and supporters of our annual Somme Day Ceremony on 1 July. In 2004 this event will commence at 12 noon and will, as normal be held at the Cenotaph in Whitehall, London.

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Laurel wreaths will be laid, and all attendees are encouraged to bring their own sprigs of laurel to lay on the steps of the Cenotaph.

Further details will be available in the next bulletin be we thought we'd catch you early to put the date in your diary.

Friends of War Memorials would like to invite all members to the Annual General Meeting on 1 July. In 2004 the Imperial War Museum in London will be our host, with the meeting due to start at 2.30 pm with teas and coffees at 3.30 pm.

Further details will be available in the next bulletin.



FoW Bookshelf



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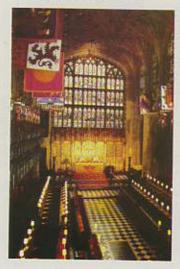
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Mystery Memorials

Can any readers help us identify the location of these memorials?





