

HINDLIP, MARTIN HUSSINGTREE & SALWARPE PARISH COUNCIL

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SALWARPE WAR MEMORIAL

**Copcut Lane, Salwarpe,
Worcestershire**

Awarded Listed Building

Grade II Status

List Entry Number 1462082

**[Restoration of War monument
and surrounding Memorial Land]**



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OBJECTIVES

In 2009, the Parish Council proposed that with the Centenary of the commencement of the First World War being 4th August 2014 grants be applied for the project of initiating the restoration of the Salwarpe parish war monument and improvement works on the surrounding land. To enable the memorial area to be a safe and pleasant environment within the historic village and Conservation Area of Salwarpe, for the enjoyment of all.

Initially it was required to:

- (i) Establish who was responsible for the War Monument
- (ii) Establish who owned the surrounding memorial land.

BACKGROUND

Prior to 1920. Salwarpe parish affairs had been undertaken by the historic Parochial Church Vestry Committee. Usually headed by the parochial manorial Lord of the Manor formerly either residing at High Park or Salwarpe Court and latterly by Lady Agatha of Hindlip Hall.

1920 by general consensus and presumed to be through the Vestry committee, funds were raised by public subscription that enabled the War Monument to be erected on what had historically been manorial waste land perceived to be the village open space under common law.

1923 The War Memorial Act gave powers that a Parish Council or Parish Meeting may accept, hold and administer gifted property for the benefit of the inhabitants of the parish. There being only a Parish Vestry Meeting only a tacit undertaking was in place for the Church to maintain the monument and land.

1923 to 2002. Maintenance of the monument had been neglected and the upkeep of the surrounding land was sporadic. In later years only the cutting of the grassed area immediately surrounding the monument had been undertaken by a descendant of the Dovey family whose three sons had been killed in WWI and their names inscribed on the war monument.

2002 Salwarpe Parish Council became defunct and in 2003 the civil parish was amalgamated with the adjoining Parish Council of Hindlip and Martin Hussingtree.

AIMS: 2012 - 2014

- (1) **Apply to Wychavon District Council's New Homes Bonus scheme for a grant of £10,899; approved and allocated in two instalments In November 2012 and March 2013.**
- (2) **The Parish Council to register the common open space named locally as 'the memorial land on which the village War Monument stood.**

The memorial land recognised as an important feature of the historic village of Salwarpe, had remained unregistered having historically been accepted as common law land within the village. The village stocks and whipping post had stood on the land until the mid 19th Century.

- (3) Salwarpe Memorial land was registered on 18th October 2012. Possessory Title No.WR142619 granted to the Proprietor: Hindlip, Martin Hussingtree and Salwarpe Parish Council, administrative area Wychavon, Worcestershire.**
- (4) The Parish Council under the War Memorial Act 1923, s. 1 and 3 to exercise the powers that a Parish Council may accept, hold and administer gifted property for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish and may execute works of maintenance and improvement.**
- (5) The Parish Council to undertake from public funds; to insure and maintain the War Monument. To manage and take care of the public open space of 0.0315 hectares for its future preservation and for the benefit and enjoyment of the community and public.**
- (6) Hold a Parish Commemoration Service on the Centenary of World War 1 on Sunday 3rd August 2014 with Re-dedication and Blessing of the Restored War Monument.**
- (7) Display in Salwarpe Church background details of the men of Salwarpe killed in World War 1, for the preceding six months leading up to the centenary commemoration day.**
- (8) Hold a public display of World Wars memorabilia at the Salwarpe Fete on 16th August 2014**

RESTORATION

Original state of the memorial site 2010



AUGUST 2013

Original state of weakened and eroded base
Monument leaning backwards



MONUMENT BASE
EXPOSED ORIGINAL VICTORIAN RED BRICK FOUNDATION



SEPTEMBER 2013
MONUMENT BASE REINFORCED
with internal underpinned steel lintel ring beam and external reinforced concrete collar
3 STEPPED PEDESTALS STONE BLOCKS RE- MORTARED



[RESTORATION WORK DELAYED 2013-2014]

DUE TO THE SEVERN TRENT WATER AUTHORITY
STATUTORY REPLACEMENT OF MAJOR WATER PIPES RUNNING
UNDER THE MEMORIAL LAND, PROVIDING THE
WATER SUPPLY TO SALWARPE VILLAGE.



Original state of the boundary fencing in 2012



MARCH 2013
CLEARANCE OF DISEASED TREES AND OVERGROWTH.
REMOVAL OF BROKEN BOUNDARY FENCING



APRIL 2013
INSTALLATION OF NEW BOUNDARY FENCING



JUNE 2013
LAND RE-LEVELLED AND SEEDED



AUTUMN 2013
NEW HEDGE PLANTED AUTUMN 2013



APRIL 2014
NEW BOUNDARY POSTS INSTALLED AROUND MEMORIAL LAND



**SALWARPE VILLAGE CONSERVATION AREA
CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION SERVICE
SUNDAY 3rd AUGUST 2014**

RE-DEDICATION and BLESSING OF THE RESTORED WAR MONUMENT
Attended by parishioners



**REMEMBRANCE WREATHS laid
with MEMORIAL CROSSES placed by family descendants of
EACH SOLDIER INSCRIBED ON THE WAR MONUMENT**



SUNDAY 3rd AUGUST 2014
SALWARPE VILLAGE WAR MONUMENT



**BACKGROUND OF NAMES INSCRIBED
IN GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE OF THE MEN OF SALWARPE
WHO FOUGHT IN THE GREAT WAR
AND DIED FOR THEIR KING & COUNTRY**

WILLIAM BRUTON

PRIVATE, WORCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT
DIED OF WOUNDS. SEPTEMBER 1918.
BURIED IN GLAGEON, FRANCE

HENRY DOVEY

SERGEANT, ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY
KILLED IN ACTION. SEPTEMBER 1914. AISNE, FRANCE. AGED 32.
NO KNOWN GRAVE

ARTHUR DOVEY

PRIVATE, WORCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT
KILLED IN ACTION. OCTOBER 1916. SALONIKA, GREECE. AGED 19
BURIED IN KARASSOULI, GREECE

MATTHEW HARTLAND

PRIVATE, WORCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT
KILLED IN ACTION. AUGUST 1915. GALLIPOLI, TURKEY. AGED 36
NO KNOWN GRAVE

BERNARD MANTLE

CORPORAL, WORCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT
KILLED IN ACTION. DECEMBER 1917. CAMBRAI, FRANCE, AGED 25
BURIED IN VILLIERS, FRANCE

ALBERT PRESCOTT

SAPPER, ROYAL ENGINEERS,
DIED IN STENDAL PRISONER OF WAR HOSPITAL. GERMANY, JUNE 1918
AGED 38. BURIED IN BERLIN South West, Potsdam, GERMANY

PERCY DOVEY

PRIVATE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT
REPATRIATED HOME. DIED MAY 1920, AGED 28
BURIED IN SALWARPE CHURCHYARD

**NB: Additional inscription on West Plinth
1939-1945**

Rector of Salwarpe
The Reverend William Heading Mitchell
Chaplain, Royal Naval Reserve

*[Killed in the sinking of HMS Charybdis
23rd October 1943, Age 39]*

RESTORATION SUMMARY

- i. The monument's heritage significance ensured a permanent testament to the sacrifice made by local men in the Great War.**
- ii. The simplistic design and size in plain white Portland stone reflects the poignant value in a period of grief and austerity.**
- iii. The location of the monument within a Conservation Area, surrounded by a cluster of listed buildings in the historic village of Salwarpe, provides an enduring link of the past preserved for future generations of parishioners.**

Monument Description

Portland Stone Wheel Cross, tapering shaft, square plinth, three stepped square base, arms and shaft on North face decorated with relief carved interlace.

Height: 2255mm + front ground level 20mm and rear ground level 50mm.

Base: 1524mm x 1524 mm

Stone blocks: Two blocks on each of four sides. Length of each block:

Length 762mm x Width 228.6mm x Depth 177.8mm.

Restoration requirements:

Restore extensive deterioration of Victorian red brick base collar and Portland stone blocks. Re-mortar eroded and cracked seams of base blocks. Re-inforce destabilised weight of monument leaning backwards due to erosion of lower rear ground level, by:

- i. Excavate surrounding ground, width 304.8mm x depth 203.2mm.**
- ii. Apply damp proof membrane.**
- iii. Internally underpin with 228.6mm steel lintel ring beams, infill with reinforced concrete.**
- iv. Re-align/re-level pedestal blocks with lime mortar in same colour and texture.**
- v. Clean monument stone face.**

Additional requirements:

- i. Re-establish original eroded land levels of surrounding memorial area.**
- ii. Erect new boundary fencing.**
- iii. Re-plant boundary hedging.**
- iv. Pollard existing mature trees.**
- v. Re-establish grassed area and seed with seasonal wild flowers including poppies.**

Restoration Funded by grants from:
Wychavon District Council £10,899
Wychavon WW1 Centenary Fund £250
Worcestershire County Council £1,000

Consultations with English Heritage, National War Memorials Trust, Imperial War Museum, Worcestershire County Archives, Wychavon District Conservation and Heritage Officers, Canal & River Trust, Severn Trent Water Authority, County Highways and Contractors.

Advice from The Royal British Legion in tracing the Regiments and backgrounds of the soldiers named on the monument.

The restoration project commenced with the registration of possessory title of the surrounding memorial land as a village Public Open Space in perpetuity.

The restoration programme delayed by winter storm damage in 2012 required felling of several historic oak trees; theft of the original 1771 canal-side metal boundary railings to be renovated and re-erected, resulted in additional costs of replacement with appropriate metal estate style railings. All works ceased whilst The Severn Trent Authority carried out ground excavations and statutory replacement of the village water pipeline running under the memorial land.

The main objective was achieved, to restore the War Monument in time for the parish commemoration Service of dedication and blessing for the 1914-2014 WW1 Centenary on the declared National Sunday of 3rd August 2014.

A WW1 community exhibition was displayed in the village church throughout 2014 up to Remembrance Sunday November 2014.

An additional public exhibition was displayed at the Salwarpe Fete in August 2014 supplemented by artefacts on loan from Worcestershire County Council Archives. The fete was opened by Nigel Huddleston MP, Mid Worcestershire, who attended the WW1 display.

An oak Village Notice Board was purchased and erected adjacent the War Monument for WW1 Centennial Armistice Day 11th November 2018. A brass plaque inscribed:

***“Centennial Commemoration,
First World War 1914-1918.
In remembrance of the men of Salwarpe
who fought and died in the conflict,
11th November 2018***



The project culminated on Sunday 11th November 2018 Armistice Centenary, when the Parish Council invited parishioners to take part in expressing their personal tributes to the sacrifice of local men 100 years ago.

The tribute marked by the lighting of the village Brazier beacon at 7pm; joining in the Nation's 100 years of Remembrance Tribute of 1,000 beacons of light simultaneously lit throughout the United Kingdom. Followed by Salwarpe Church pealing its bells joining 1,000 cathedrals and churches 'Ringing out for Peace' across the country.

2019

The Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport decided on 5th February 2019 to add Salwarpe War Memorial to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. The memorial listed at Grade II. The listing marking the building's significance and to celebrate its special architectural and historic interest.

The national recognition in conjunction with the land registration of the Memorial Green ensures the historic asset remains a permanent testament to the sacrifice made by local men in the Great War, along with securing that the names of the men will live on with the naming of streets within the new 'Copcut Rise' housing development in the parish of Salwarpe, providing an enduring link of preservation of the past for the future generations of parishioners.

Parish Councillor
Ms Barbara Meddings
2019