

Memorials to the Chorley Pals



War Memorials Trust

Chorley, like many towns across the UK, saw its surviving soldiers come home after the war and in the years that followed various memorials and other forms of commemoration developed to remember Chorley men, including the Pals, who had served in the war. This sheet gives information on some of these memorials which are located in Chorley. There are also various memorials to the Pals on the former battlefields at Serre.

Astley Hall and Park

In 1922 Astley Hall (see photo to the right) was donated to the people of Chorley as the town's war memorial. It later became a museum which, among other exhibits, houses books detailing men from Chorley who died during the war (these books can be seen at www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk/node/213813). Further details of the hall, which could be updated and added to by students, are available at www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk/node/163601.



Astley Hall, Chorley © Stephen Williams, 2010

Astley Park gates and column

As well as the hall and park, there are several further monuments within the grounds that are also memorials to Chorley's part in World War I and subsequent conflicts. At the entrance to the park is an imposing archway (see left) which was moved to its present location and dedicated as a war memorial in 1923 (www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk/node/163398). Just inside these gates is a stone column which can be seen in the photo below left. Names from various conflicts have been added to this memorial on a wall behind it.



Astley Park gates © Stephen Williams, 2013

Chorley Pals Roll of Honour

An illuminated scroll listing the men who joined the Chorley Pals at the start of the war was unveiled in 1924 – at the time the only memorial specifically to the Pals. It is now located in Astley Hall. The scroll is headed with the words 'Roll of Chorley Pals Company which afterwards became "Y" Company, 11th (Service) Battalion Accrington, The East Lancashire Regiment. The above Company was raised in September 1914 by voluntary enlistment for the duration of the war from the borough of Chorley and District.' Following this, there are two lists: those who died and those who served and survived, along with the theatres in which they served.



Chorley war memorial column © Philip Platt, 2013

The Chorley Pals memorial

On 23rd February 2010 – 95 years to the day after the Chorley Pals left their hometown for Caernarvon – a statue was unveiled as a permanent memorial to the 221 original Chorley Pals. Each man's name is inscribed on a plinth along with the theatres of war they fought in (including the Somme; see photo bottom left). On top of the plinth is a statue of a soldier



carrying a rifle (above); it was specifically designed to be holding the rifle the same way the Pals would have been carrying theirs as they went over the top on 1st July 1916. The memorial is located on the Flat Iron in the town – the same place the Pals paraded on in 1914 and 1915.



Photos of Chorley Pals memorial © Stephen Williams and Philip Platt, 2013

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