

Linch war memorial



War Memorials Trust

Introduction

This war memorial is situated within the South Downs Park by the junction of Linch Road, Midhurst Road and Fernhurst Road. It remembers the men of Linch who fought and died in the World War I. After World War II a single name was added to remember an individual who had fallen during that conflict. The memorial was listed at Grade II in 2015 giving it extra protection.

This memorial provides an interesting example of how the accuracy of inscriptions can on occasion be challenged. The area where the memorial is situated was known as Lince in the Domesday book, is spelt as Lynch on the war memorial but is known as Linch today. War Memorials Trust would encourage people to respect the choices made at the time it was erected to respect its historical context.

Design and history of the war memorial

The memorial is made from stone. It takes the form of slim column or shaft which stands on a hexagonal plinth on a hexagonal four-stepped base. On top of the column is a small cross. Set in a slight alcove of the lower part of the column is a small bronze statue of St. George.

Beneath the figure is the inscription which reads 'To the glory of God and in memory of those who leaving this parish during the Great War died for their country we of Lynch dedicate this cross'. On the faces either side of the inscription are the names of ten World War I fallen. On the opposite face to the inscription is the addition of the single World War II name, Osbert Stephen Boothby who was a 1st Lieutenant aboard H.M.S Glowworm and died on 8th April 1940.

The memorial was dedicated on 27th November 1921. The Remembrance Day order of service from the local parish church St Luke's notes that the memorial was designed by B. G. C. Shore a local craftsman. It is believed that the original statue of St George was designed by Shore as well however it went missing. The figure which can be seen today is a replacement created by renowned contemporary sculptor Philip Jackson. It was installed and dedicated in 2000. More recently Jackson designed the bronze sculpture of seven aircrew which forms part of the Bomber Command Memorial in Green Park, London and was unveiled in 2012, <https://www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk/memorial/63405>.



Linch war memorial © War Memorials Trust, 2018



Linch war memorial following damage caused by a falling tree © S Collins, 2014

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Damage to the memorial

On 25th January 2014 Linch war memorial was severely damaged by a falling tree during a storm. The tree broke the memorial into three pieces and moved the base. Luckily the bronze sculpture of St George was undamaged. Linch has no Parish Council and as such had no guidelines or funds to repair the war memorial. The local community approached War Memorials Trust to apply for a grant and the Trust were able to offer £2,075 towards the project.



Linch war memorial following works to repair damage by fallen tree © S Collins, 2014

A survey of the damage was carried out before works began to establish which stone sections could be cut back and re-used. Best conservation practice indicates that it is favourable to reuse original stone where possible rather than using replacement stone pieces. The pieces of the shaft were taken to a workshop where the damaged stone could be removed. Holes were drilled and dowels inserted to connect the pieces of the shaft. New matching stone was identified to replace that which could not be reused. Work took place to piece in new stone to damaged areas and the shaft was re-erected using appropriate methods and techniques. Works were completed during the summer of 2014 so the memorial was reinstated for the start of the World War I Centenary.

Upon completion of the works it was recommended that SmartWater was applied to the bronze statue of St. George as part of the [In Memoriam 2014](#) project to provide additional protection. SmartWater is a forensic liquid that contains a chemical code which shows up under UV light. It is put onto metal parts of war memorials to make them more identifiable. SmartWater helps to protect war memorials at risk from theft or vandalism as it makes them easier to find if stolen.

Teaching suggestions

Information about and photographs of this memorial can be used in sessions with young people about:

- Threats to war memorials: the storm damage and the need to mark memorials with SmartWater to protect them from theft highlight some of the threats facing war memorials. War Memorials Trust's resources about why war memorials are important explore these and other issues which may face war memorials www.learnaboutwarmemorials.org/primary/pri-lessons/why-are-war-memorials-important
- Researching names: the 11 names on the war memorial could be researched. A lesson detailing how to carry out this activity can be found on our website www.learnaboutwarmemorials.org/primary/pri-lessons/researching-names

Useful links

The following links may provide additional helpful information about this memorial:

- War Memorials Online record: www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk/memorial/180423
- War Memorials Trust's Grants Showcase: www.warmemorials.org/search-grants/?qID=1067

Further information can be found at www.learnaboutwarmemorials.org/links which may help with lessons on some of the wider issues suggested here.

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