

Saltash Memorial Peace Garden - WW1 Pebble Memorial

Whilst the Great War Commemoration Committee was in full flow, a painted pebble was left on Chair Sue Hooper's doorstep. This led to an idea. Why not ask Saltash residents to paint a pebble for each of the 140 Saltash casualties of World War One as a tribute on the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One.

Word soon spread and the reaction from young and old, and many Saltash organisations, was overwhelming. We soon had more than 140 individual pebbles and began planning a pebble laying ceremony for the 11th November, 2018. We invited Colonel Dawes and Ann Widdicombe, who has family connections in Saltash, in addition to local dignitaries and the media.

The ceremony involved uniformed groups include Brownies and Cubs to lay the pebbles along the path in the Memorial Peace Garden. There was a simultaneous reading of the 140 names by 2 local students.

This moving and poignant event led to discussion within the Committee about what to do with the pebbles, which were now each identified with a WW1 casualty's name.

From this, and to cut a long story short, the 'Pebble Memorial Garden' was conceived. Each pebble is laid into a resin surface and identified on an adjacent board. Conception and planning took approximately 11 months, and an official unveiling ceremony followed. These events and the signage were fully funded by the Great War Committee, with no expense to Saltash Town Council.

Moving on 6 years, the site is now an official war memorial and adopted by Saltash Town Council. However, sadly the pebbles have faded, and in a lot of cases no design is left. We therefore, respectfully, have a suggestion for the Council on how to bring the site back to its original state. This involves removing each pebble, repainting faithfully to the original design, and refitting them in a fresh layer of resin, with a protective coating applied. We have identified and spoken to a local artist and surfacing company who are both competent in achieving this aim.

Thank you for listening.

Lynn Marsh
(Member of the former Saltash Great War Commemoration Committee)

11 July 2025