

SALTASH GREAT WAR COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN – GENERAL SECRETARY

SUE HOOPER MBE

1 DOWN CLOSE, SALTASH, CORNWALL – PL12 4PZ

TOWN CLERK

MRS SINEAD BURROWS

SALTASH TOWN COUNCIL

SALTASH GUILDHALL

17 LOWER FORE STREET

SALTASH

PL12 6JX

31st July 2023

Dear Mrs Burrows and Councillors,

It is with the deepest appreciation and gratitude that I acknowledge the unstinting work and dedication of the Great War Commemorative Events Committee, which indeed, over the past five years has worked tirelessly and very closely with the Saltash Town Council, local community, businesses, organisations, churches and various local authorities. Moreover, Saltash schools and retirement homes; with the sole purpose of commemorating the end of the Great War; and honouring the Saltash fallen brave and valiant.

The Committee have organised over 25 events and projects, including; community poppy carpets, WW1 Silent Soldier, Perspex Soldiers and a WW1 Pebble Memorial situated in the Saltash Memorial Peace Garden.

Furthermore, WW1 memory and story boards and plaques on Saltash Railway Station, Saltash Waterside, Saltash Memorial Peace Garden and Saltash.net Community School. In addition, a WW1 Anthology and CD in association with Saltash and Plymouth Schools.

The Committee additionally, organised WW1 re-enactments, Hand across the River Tamar, WW1 films and Sing-A-Longs. One of the highlights of the Committee's events was the community musical drama 'Lowena' based on Wearde Encampment during the Great War and beyond. Moreover, the Committee produced a Wearde Encampment supporting booklet.

Furthermore, recently completed was to acknowledge the history of Defiance Halt, with a Plaque and information board sited at Defiance Halt Railway Bridge. Defiance Halt Railway Station, hosted railway travel facilities for the personnel of the Wearde Encampment and HMS Defiance.

The final project from the Committee, is an engaging illustrated booklet, encompassing over 2,000 years of Saltash's involvement in Warfare in various aspects and importance; which indeed, has shaped Saltash and its landscapes, fittingly, many aspects and relics still remain as evidence today.

The Saltash GWCEC most sincerely acknowledges and appreciates the support given to our group throughout these past 5 years by Saltash Town Council unequivocally.

The Committee is now looking to retire from its projects, and proudly reflect upon the work that has been done on behalf of Saltash.

With that in mind, the Committee have asked me to write to the STC to request that the Council kindly considers adopting our more recent memorial projects, which are sited at Defiance Halt.

The Committee have installed a History Board and Plaque on the site of where Defiance and Wearde Camp personnel for decades boarded the train at Defiance Halt.

There will be little to do to the installations (the Plaque is placed on the wall) (and the History Board is placed on the existing Network Rail stanchion) as although the Committee has been granted written permission (see attached) from Network Rail to install the memorials, it is only Network Rail personnel that can enter and maintain the surrounding site of greeneries. Therefore, the memorials will only need very limited and occasional inspection - (which can be discussed) - (see photos attached).

Members of our Committee would gladly attend a discussion meeting with Saltash Town Council for furtherance of consideration from Councillors.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course, at the same time reiterate our sincere thanks and warm appreciation for all the past financial and practical help and support given to our Committee by the Saltash Town Council.

Yours sincerely,

Sue Hooper MBE

Chairman and General Secretary

Saltash – Great War Commemorative Events Committee