

PRESS RELEASE



29/06/2026

Restored WWI Pebble Memorial Reinstalled in Saltash Peace Garden

Saltash Town Council is pleased to share that the WWI Pebble Memorial in the Peace Garden on Alexandra Square, Saltash, has now been restored. The final stages of the restoration took place in May and June 2026, with the official unveiling ceremony to follow.

This step formed part of a collaborative project between Saltash Town Council and former members of the Saltash Great War Commemoration Committee (SGWCC), to preserve the memorial for many years to come.



All 141 pebbles, each representing 140 lives lost in WWI plus one to represent those who remain unnamed, were carefully removed in September 2025 by South West Surfacing Specialists.

Each pebble was then intricately repainted in its original design by David Whittley, a local artist, using professional paint that would be less susceptible to fading. This was a crucial factor, as many of the original pebbles were decorated with materials that sadly faded over time.

On 28 May 2026, South West Surfacing returned to the Peace Garden to resurface the memorial area and return each pebble to its original position. The team read aloud the name of the fallen soldier associated with each pebble, in remembrance, before placing them down one by one.

The event was both solemn and heartwarming, with attendance from Mayor Cllr Brian Stoyel and Mayoress Maxine Stoyel; former Mayor Cllr Rachel Bullock; former SGWCC members Sue Hooper, Lynn Marsh and Tony Marsh; artist David Whittley; the South West Surfacing Specialists team, including owner Wayne Hambly, plus members of the public who stopped by to watch the installation process.

Mayor Cllr Brian Stoyel brought along pasties for the South West Surfacing Team to enjoy, as a small gesture of appreciation for the incredible work they kindly carried out free of charge.



The repainted pebbles are as vibrant as they were when they were first installed in 2018, now encased in a UV-resistant coating to better protect them against the elements for years to come.

A plaque has been installed next to the memorial, which reads:



Renovation and restoration was generously carried out by David Whittley and Wayne Hambly, together with his team from South West Surfacing, during Autumn 2025 and Spring 2026 - as their kind contribution to the Saltash Community.

Saltash Town Council's support of projects such as this highlights its commitment to preserving local heritage, enhancing valued public spaces, and working with the community to maintain places of remembrance.

The Town Council would like to thank the SGWCC, South West Surfacing Specialists, David Whittley, and all who were involved in making this project a success.



It was a real privilege to see the WWI Pebble Memorial so thoughtfully restored. Each of these small pebbles carries an incredible amount of significance, representing a life lost and a story that should never be forgotten. It's so important that we preserve memorials such as this, so future generations can learn about and reflect on our shared history. I'm very grateful to everyone who gave their time, skills and generosity to make this possible – and I do hope the team enjoyed their well-earned pasties!

— Mayor Cllr Brian Stoyel



ENDS



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Notes To Editor

Saltash Town Council forms the third tier of local government and works with Cornwall Council who are our Unitary Authority. We are the largest Town Council in the south-east area of Cornwall.

The Town Council is committed to providing excellence in the Services and Facilities which it delivers. We aim to be responsive, accessible, and transparent in our approach and in the work delivered.

There are sixteen Councillors representing three Wards – Essa, Tamar and Trematon. Councillors are elected from the community every four years. Spaces are filled via by-elections, or by means of the Town Council choosing new Councillors via co-option.

The Chairman and Deputy Chairman are elected by Members of the Town Council annually at the Annual Town Council meeting held in May. The Chairman also undertakes the role of Mayor representing the Town Council and community at official engagements, with their consort.