

PRESS RELEASE



04/08/2026

WW1 Pebble Memorial Restoration Complete with Unveiling and Rededication Ceremony

Saltash Town Council are pleased to share that the restoration of the WW1 Pebble Memorial in Saltash's Peace Garden is now complete.



Initially installed in 2018, the Great War Pebble Memorial features 141 hand-painted pebbles, representing the 140 named Saltash fallen, plus one to honour those who were left unnamed.

Over time, the pebbles became faded through weather damage, and former members of the Saltash Great War Commemoration Committee (SGWCC) reached out to Saltash Town Council regarding the memorial's restoration.

In September 2025, each of the 141 pebbles were carefully removed by Wayne Hambly and his team at South West Surfacing Specialists. Local artist, David Whittle, then spent three months repainting each of the pebbles, using professional acrylic paints.

“ Some of the designs were quite intricate and small. I was absolutely amazed at some of the skill of the paintings on the pebbles.

— David Whittle, local artist

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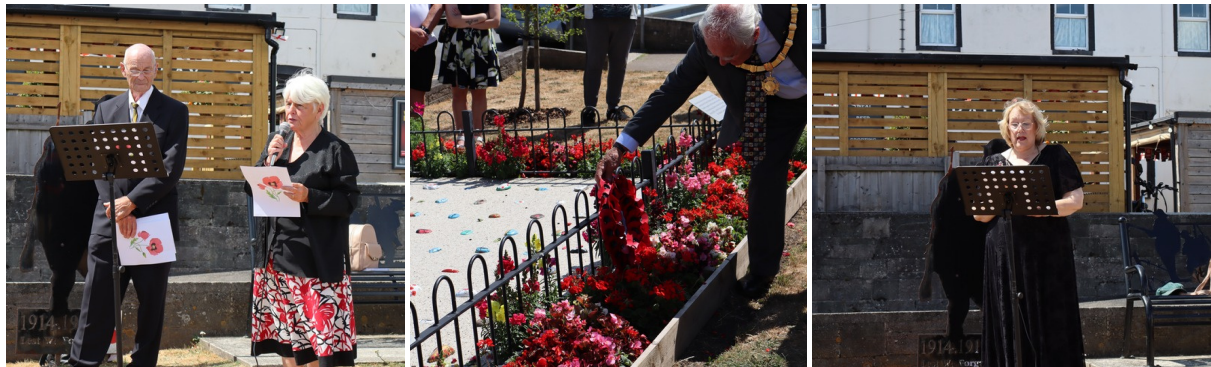
The choice of paint mattered, as the original pebbles had been painted with a range of different mediums - including nail varnish, sharpie, and even lipstick - which impacted how well their designs lasted.

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.



An unveiling and rededication ceremony for the memorial took place on Tuesday 28 July 2026, on the 112th anniversary of the beginning of WW1. The restored memorial was unveiled by Mayor Cllr Brian Stoyel, assisted by Krystal, who donated the initiation pebble that inspired the memorial.

The ceremony involved speeches from the Mayor of Saltash, Cllr Brian Stoyel, as well as former members of the SGWCC, Lynn Marsh and Sue Hooper. The Reverend Laura Bushell Hawke led the rededication of the memorial, which was followed by a wreath being laid by the Mayor and Mayoress of Saltash, Cllr Brian Stoyel and Mrs Maxine Stoyel.



Alongside these speeches, Deputy Mayor Cllr Brenda Samuels and Tony Marsh, former member of the SGWCC, recited poetry - 'Flanders Fields Revisited' by the late Steve Cannan, and 'Where the Poppies Now Grow' by former Saltash Community School pupil, Morgan Anniss.

A two-minute silence was held to honour those who the pebble memorial represents, followed by musical accompaniment by Piper, David Parry.



Former Mayor Cllr Rachel Bullock, fellow Cllrs, the Town Clerk, Saltash Town Council staff, David and Lynne Whittle, Wayne Hambly and his team at South West Surfacing Specialists, and members of the public were also in attendance.

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.

Saltash Town Council are proud to have been part of this project that works towards preserving local heritage, enhancing valued public spaces, and maintaining a place of remembrance. The Town Council would like to thank former members of the SGWCC, South West Surfacing Specialists, David Whittle, and all who were involved in making this project a success.



The World War One Pebble Memorial is unique in its simplicity - but every pebble tells a story. Preserving memorials such as this is incredibly important. They help future generations understand the sacrifices that were made, and encourage reflection on the values of service, resilience and peace.

I'm proud that Saltash Town Council has been able to support this restoration project, alongside former members of the Saltash Great War Commemoration Committee. This project demonstrates what can be achieved when local organisations, volunteers, councillors, and members of the community come together with a shared purpose.

— Mayor Cllr Brian Stoyel



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[The Saltash Great War Commemoration Committee's] mission was to commemorate Saltash's fallen during the First World War. For me, personally, one of the most poignant projects was the Pebble Memorial.

Unfortunately, over the years since installation, some of the pebbles had faded. Sue, John, Tony and I, out of respect and meaningful remembrance for the fallen, sought Saltash Town Council's permission for a renovation project - and our thanks go to them.

— Lynn Marsh, former member of the SGWCC

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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.