

Changing Leicestershire War Memorials

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Abstract:

This paper draws together some of the research done by Elizabeth Blood, a PhD student at the University of Leicester, during the Century of Stories project run by Leicestershire County Council.¹ The research explores the nature of changes made to freestanding First World War memorials over the century since their erection and involved a public survey on attitudes to memorials and remembrance activities today. The fieldwork involved and production of an exhibition displaying the results of this are explained. The bulk of the analysis in the paper, however, relates to the public survey that was carried out in the summer 2018. The paper analyses public opinions and asks how they relate to the nature of alterations observed in war memorials in the field and the archives. Underlining this is a question about how the public relates to war memorials via remembrance activities and commemorative acts, and what this might mean for the future of First World War memorials.

Introduction

First World War memorials,² until recently, have predominantly been assessed within traditional architectural and art-historical narratives.³ The recent academic literature has turned to their socio-cultural and political values, both to those that erected them and to people who have interacted with them over time.⁴ Since, as Gregory puts it, "Somewhere in the region of three million Britons lost a close relative in the First World War, a substantial number in a population of under 42 million...those who would have under normal circumstances attended the funeral of the deceased encompassed virtually the whole

¹ The Century of Stories project ran from 2014-2018. Copyright is retained by the author

² Throughout, it is freestanding monuments in Leicestershire and Rutland that are the focus of this study. Many other types of war memorial exist and in much larger numbers but freestanding monuments are the focus of this research because they are focal points in the landscape and for remembrance activity

³ As in, for example, Whittick, A., (1946) *War Memorials*. London: Country Life; Moriarty, C., (1995), 'The Absent Dead and Figurative First World War Memorials,' *Transactions of the Ancient Monuments Society*, 39, pp.7-40; Boorman, D., (1988), *At the Going Down of the Sun: British First World War Memorials*. York: William Sessions Limited; Boorman, D., (2005), *A Century of Remembrance: One Hundred Outstanding British War Memorials*. Barnsley: Pen & Sword Military; Borg, A., (1991), *War Memorials: From Antiquity to the Present*. London: Leo Cooper

⁴ Cannadine, D., (1981), 'War and death, grief and mourning in modern Britain' in Whaley, J. (Ed.), *Mirrors of Mortality: studies in the social history of death*. London: Europa; Winter, J., (1995), *Sites of Memory, Sites of Mourning: The Great War in European Cultural History*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; Gregory, A., (1994), *The Silence of Memory: Armistice Day 1919-1946*. Oxford: Berg

population,”⁵ it is obvious why people looked to commemorate their dead with public memorials and use them as sites to grieve.⁶ This makes war memorials into touchstones of both individual and collective significance. Jay Winter calls memorial the “locus classicus of remembrance.”⁷ “Collective memory” is a term much-adopted in the literature on war memorials and remembrance practices. This idea was first meaningfully developed by Maurice Halbwachs in 1950.⁸ It has since been adopted by many who study commemoration. In this context, Winter and Sivan define it as: “public recollection... The ‘public’ is the group that produces, expresses, and consumes it. What they create is not a cluster of individual memories; the whole is greater than the sum of the parts.”⁹ By the 1980s, reports of memorials falling into decline and being seriously at risk from neglect triggered a renewed national interest in their sites, their materiality and their physical condition.¹⁰ There has been a corresponding rise in local interest and a growing body of locally-produced literature on memorials and casualties. Aspects of collective memory that are enacted at war memorial sites are thus very evident in the present day.

War memorials are now a familiar part of the historic environment (their significance as such is sometimes recognised through statutory designation), and they are focal points for remembrance activities.¹¹ They can also be highly politicised sites and locations for protest, vandalism and destruction.¹² Themes of power, memory and politics emerge strongly from this work, but is often based on remote critical observation, rather than deep engagement with the ‘actors’ in these cases; far less academic attention has been paid to the views of those who visit and interact with war memorials today than it has to the intentions of those who erected them. Thus, this research has been an opportunity to gather some new, primary evidence as to the opinions and feelings of a spectrum of people about these war memorials, a century on, through a public survey (see the survey in Appendix A and the accompanying Information and Consent Form in Appendix B).

⁵ Gregory 1994, p.19

⁶ Moriarty (1995); Winter (1995); Saunders, N., (2003), ‘Crucifix, Calvary, and Cross: Materiality and Spirituality in Great War Landscapes’, *World Archaeology*, 35(1), pp.7-21

⁷ Winter, J., (2006), *Remembering War: The Great War between Memory and History in the Twentieth Century*, p.135. London: Yale University Press

⁸ Halbwachs, M., (1950), *La Mémoire Collective*. Paris: Presses Universitaires de France

⁹ Winter, J. & E. Sivan, (Eds., 1999), *War and Remembrance*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

¹⁰ McIntyre 1990, Sharpe 1992, Moriarty 1995

¹¹ Winter, 1995; Marshall, 2004

¹² See Hocking, B., (2014), ‘Great Transformations: “Re-casting” Derry’s Diamond War Memorial for the Demands of a “Shared” Future’ in *The Canadian Journal of Irish Studies*, Vol. 38, No. 1/2 Special Issue: Text and Beyond Text: New Visual, Material and Spatial Perspectives in Irish Studies, pp. 228-59 on one such case in Ireland. Locally, the war memorial inside Melton Mowbray parish church was vandalised in October 1920, a sword being smashed from the statue of St George – see *Melton Mowbray Times*, 15 October 1920 p8, ‘A Dastardly Act’; at Countesthorpe, the local branch of the Royal British Legion campaigned after the Second World War to have the memorial relocated, due to its being “subject to abuse by the public,” – see Countesthorpe Parish Record File DE 1465/37/1 ‘Faculty for Re-erection of War Memorial (in the Churchyard)’ 23rd December 1949, Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland

In the past few decades in Leicestershire and Rutland (as, undoubtedly, elsewhere), the rise in numbers of heritage societies (and their growth and ‘professionalisation’)¹³ and the enabling and funding opportunities made available to them by local government (encouraged through ‘localism’ initiatives such as the ‘Big Society’, c.2010) and national trusts, charities and funding bodies (especially the Heritage Lottery Fund and the War Memorials Trust)¹⁴ has increased notably. Concurrently, the level of activity of heritage groups has increased, and increasingly turned to practical projects; often, interventions in the built environment.¹⁵ In the run-up to, and most especially during, the Centenary period, such interventions have focussed on war memorials.¹⁶ It is about these interventions that this research asks questions; what changes have been made to memorials and their sites, by whom, and why. This paper argues that the material (the fabric of the monuments today) and the emotional (the present-day people that interact with them and what motivates them to act) has not been sufficiently drawn together or critically examined previously, and that insights into the trends and tensions that appear in people’s views can illuminate this neglected area. Work on this might therefore illuminate and challenge the assumptions that are made about war memorial heritage.

Conservation

The conservation of the historic environment is central to the planning process and articulated through Government guidance documents such as the National Planning Policy Framework of 2012 (revised 2018), but links between the diverse array of professionals and practitioners working in the field still needs to be encouraged.¹⁷ The conservation of war memorials is central to their preservation for the purposes of social memory and practices of remembrance¹⁸ and cannot, therefore, be disassociated from any study of their meaning, use and management. Historic fabric requires sympathetic treatment, but public

¹³ By which is meant their formal constitution and management, their ability to seek and manage funding, and their increasingly well-equipped archives, museums, and venues (sometimes meeting Accreditation standards)

¹⁴ Both of whom received £5million funding from the Government for Centenary commemoration programmes

¹⁵ Trails (such as War Graves in Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester), landscaping projects (such as at Croft war memorial in 2014), installations (such as the Poppy curtain at Braunstone Civic Centre 2018) and interpretation media (such as the City Council’s *Story of Parks* project information board by the Lutyens memorial in Victoria Park, Leicester) are some of the kinds of project that have taken place during the Centenary in Leicestershire

¹⁶ An example of this within Leicestershire has been the Charnwood Great War Centenary Project, a Heritage Lottery Funded project that involved conserving and relocating memorials at All Saints Church, Loughborough. See the Project’s book (2017), *For the Fallen: “We shall remember them,”* Loughborough: Charnwood Arts.

¹⁷ Teutonico, J. & J. Fidler, (2001), *Monuments and the Millennium*. Maney Publishing - Heritage; Blood, E., (2011), *Museums, Communities, Conservation: How can museums encourage conservation in the wider historic environment through community projects?* MA Museum Studies, University of Leicester, (unpublished)

¹⁸ Sharpe, J., (1992), *The War Memorials of Leicestershire and Rutland*. M.A. Architectural Building Conservation Thesis, De Montfort University, Leicester (unpublished); Winter, C., (2009), ‘Tourism, Social Memory and the Great War’, *Annals of Tourism Research* 36(4), pp.607-626

expectations and judgment of the aesthetic appearance¹⁹ and levels of access to memorial sites for use can sometimes be in tension with the advice of conservation specialists or the wishes of the custodians.²⁰ The conservation of war memorials is another understudied area in the academic literature. Specialist conservation guidance is available from Historic England²¹ and War Memorials Trust,²² but such material is perhaps too 'niche' to make its way into the bulk of literature (grey or otherwise) on the conservation of historic buildings, sites and landscapes, or cultural artefacts (as per museological literature) that informs the conservation profession. Furthermore, awareness of how guidance is responded to by the public and by custodians remains to be critically examined.

In the museological literature, 'conservation' means measures that prolong an object's 'life' in the best condition and also protecting them during use.²³ This introduces one of the key tensions with war memorials: static preservation of historic fabric and character would seem to preclude interventions that change and update the monuments as used objects in the present. Questions arise as to who makes decisions about this and whose involvement should be required, invited, or welcomed. Ownership (or custodianship) of war memorials is sometimes unclear, contested and confused.²⁴ Little documentation appears to be kept by custodians on how their memorials have been looked after in the past. Visual evidence suggests that some management techniques have been sympathetic whereas other demonstrates inappropriate interventions (from the conservation perspective) ranging from overcleaning,²⁵ overwriting, cutting out inscriptions and replacing with alien stone,²⁶ jarring aesthetics, removal of original features, or adding new inscriptions without a context for the

¹⁹ Possibly influenced by the widespread awareness of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission design and aesthetic in war memorials, graves and cemeteries around the globe that was evidenced in responses to Q39 (and despite people admitting a lack of knowledge about the CWGC history and formation in Q26)

²⁰ These tensions are often reported in local newspapers, online, and recorded in local authority minutes and in planning documents

²¹ For example, in Historic England, (2015), 'The Conservation, Repair and Management of War Memorials'; (2016), 'Conservation and Management of War Memorial Landscapes'; (2017), 'Conserving War Memorials: Cleaning', and more, available online at <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/technical-advice/war-memorials/> [accessed 27/11/2018]

²² War Memorials Trust's website hosts scores of conservation help sheets, available at <http://www.warmemorials.org/helpsheets/> [accessed 27/11/2018]

²³ Jones, H. 2002. 'The Importance of Being Less Earnest: Communicating Conservation' *V&A Conservation Journal* 41 (summer), pp.20-21; Keene, S., (2002), *Managing Conservation in Museums*. Second Revised Edition. Oxford: Butterworth-Heinemann; Knell, S., (1994), 'Introduction: the context of collections care' pp. 1-10 in Knell, S. (ed.), *Care of Collections*. London: Routledge

²⁴ McIntyre, C., (1990), *Monuments of War: how to read a war memorial*, London: Robert Hale; Arbour, T., (2009), *Not forgotten: A review of London's war memorials*. London Assembly Planning and Housing Committee, London: Greater London Authority

²⁵ An example is the worn-down relief sculpture on the war memorial at Quorn from excessive cleaning conducted regularly each year

²⁶ As can be observed at Empingham cemetery, Rutland, where slate plaques were affixed over the top of original inscriptions in stone, without Listed Building Consent for the works, in 2010. A retrospective application for consent was sought – and originally refused – in 2011. See the Rutland County Council Development Control and Licensing Committee Report No: 25/2011 (8 February 2011), specifically the retrospective application APP/2010/1119 by Empingham Parish Council, pp.61-63. Available online at <https://rutlandcounty.moderngov.co.uk/Data/Development%20Control%20and%20Licensing%20Committee/20110208/Agenda/Report%20No.%2025-2011%20Planning%20Applications.pdf> [accessed 27/11/2018]

viewer.²⁷ In order to understand why such interventions have been made, the public survey included a number of questions on these observations and background researches.

Aims and Methodology

The aims of this project were four-fold; to explore the nature of change observed in memorials in Leicestershire and Rutland, to present this visually in an exhibition,²⁸ to conduct a public survey about war memorials to gather contemporary views, and to examine how the survey results might illuminate those evidenced changes and interventions. The nature of change was established through a combination of fieldwork and research using archival and other primary and secondary sources. Primary sources included the working files of the Public Monuments and Sculpture Association's Leicestershire and Rutland survey held at the local Record Office,²⁹ contemporary newspaper articles, 'crowdsourced' photographs and unveiling programmes that were volunteered by the public, and architectural drawings and plans still held by local architectural practices. Secondary sources include published works on war memorials, a body of unpublished local history, some grey literature, some online material, and some unpublished theses. The nature of change was established by recording and categorising the evidence seen in the field and in the other sources. Visual and written accounts from different time periods were compared, and reveal a changing portrait, not a fixed one. It was not necessary to look at the 'natural' effects of time on these structures because this has been done in previous research.³⁰ This has allowed the focus to remain on alterations made with intention.

Observing and Exhibiting Change

The most common alterations observed tend to be small in scale and subtle in nature, thus it has not been possible within the scope of this project to analyse the full scale, nature and frequency of alterations made to memorials in Leicestershire (though it is hoped that this will be established by some forthcoming PhD research).³¹ But overall trends were established by this background work in order to inform the public survey questions. The

²⁷ Observed on the Barrow on Soar war memorial in Industry Square, where the name Taylor has been inscribed at a recent date (unknown) and is grouped neither with the First or Second World War names, but floats on its own on a higher tier of the monument's base

²⁸ Staged at the Century of Stories Conference on 9 November 2018 at The Venue, Leicester

²⁹ Collection DE6427 at the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland

³⁰ Sharpe (1992), Blood, E., (2011)

³¹ My PhD on local war memorials is expected to be made open-access by the University of Leicester in c.2021

work found that many memorials in Leicestershire have been relocated,³² replaced,³³ redesigned (see Fig. 1), had additional elements added to the structure or site, been landscaped,³⁴ or seen names and inscriptions added or replaced. Evidence as to these incidences was sometimes found on the monuments themselves in the form of an obvious alteration (or even, as at Earl Shilton, in the addition of an inscription about the renovation). Evidence can also be provided by historic images (see Fig. 2) or can be gleaned from descriptions in publications and newspaper reports, and from drawings and plans. Many First World War memorials had Second World War casualty names added, and so the majority of changes took place c.1945-55 when extra accommodation for names was found. Names that break the order of the rest can reveal change,³⁵ (as at Countesthorpe and Barrow upon Soar). Landscaping works can be seen from historic photographs or sometimes traced through local authority or grants schemes paperwork. Planning documents are also useful sources for listed memorials.

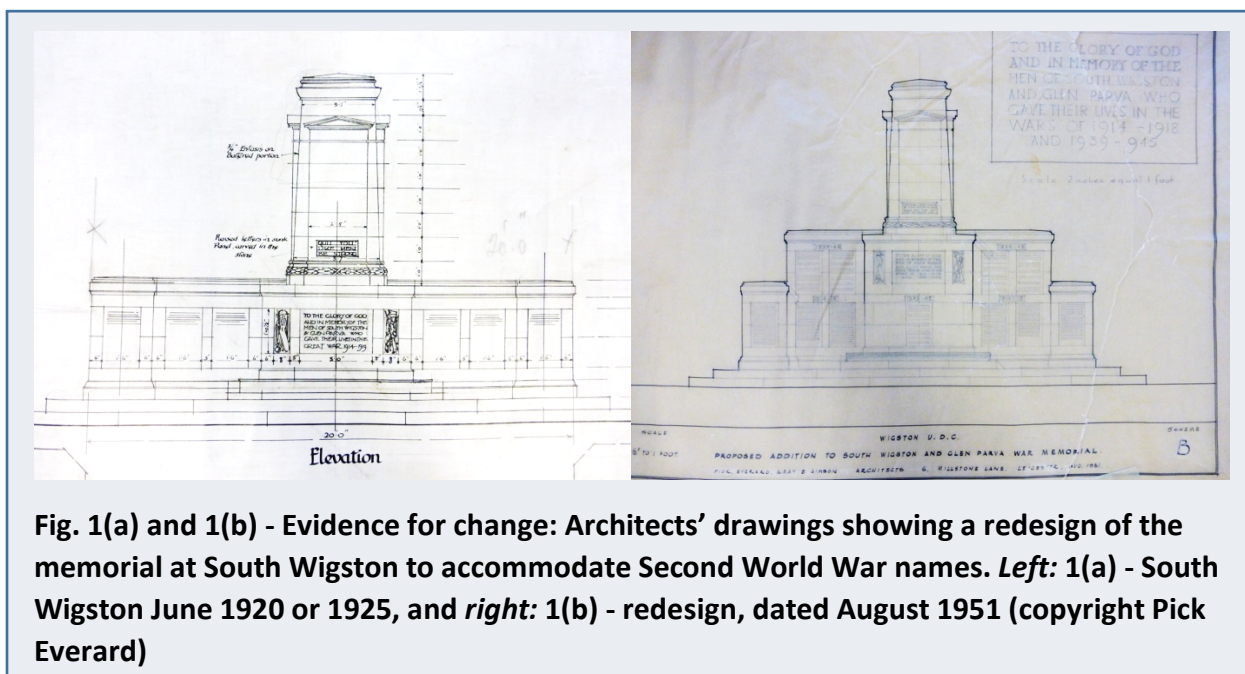


Fig. 1(a) and 1(b) - Evidence for change: Architects' drawings showing a redesign of the memorial at South Wigston to accommodate Second World War names. Left: 1(a) - South Wigston June 1920 or 1925, and right: 1(b) - redesign, dated August 1951 (copyright Pick Everard)

³² Incidences identified at Coleorton, Loughborough, Shepshed, Stoke Golding, Syston, Uppingham, Barwell, Countesthorpe, Lubenham, Evington, Sileby, and Coalville. Intended relocations that were never carried out were discovered at Market Harborough (from *Market Harborough Advertiser and Midland Mail*, 'Harboro' Memorial Call,' 07 January 1949, p.6) and Hinckley (from *Leicester Daily Mercury*, 'Hinckley War Memorial Committee,' 02 June 1950, p.3)

³³ Seen at Littlethorpe and Albert Village, only identified using 1990s photographs compared with recent fieldwork. A collection of 1990s photographs, acquired by the Leicestershire War Memorials Project in 2009, were consulted. Available online at <http://www.leicestershirewarmemorials.co.uk/war/memorials/view/648>, <http://www.leicestershirewarmemorials.co.uk/war/memorials/view/649> and <http://www.leicestershirewarmemorials.co.uk/war/memorials/view/3> [all accessed 27/11/2018]

³⁴ Incidences identified at Ashby de la Zouch, Lubenham, Bagworth, Countesthorpe, Croft, Earl Shilton, Hathern, Leicester, Loughborough, Lutterworth, Measham and Nanpantan

³⁵ This was also noted as a clue to change by Walls, S., (2010), in a thesis entitled *The Materiality of Remembrance: Twentieth Century War Memorials in Devon*, on p.201

The exhibition that accompanied this project displayed ‘then-and-now’ images side-by-side to challenge the onlooker to see the (sometimes very subtle) differences (see Fig. 2 and Appendix C). The exhibition encouraged viewers to undertake visual detective work in order to appreciate that the memorials we see today are not necessarily in their original state. Historic photographs, documentation, newspaper articles and design drawings have been compared to photographs taken through the years and during this project. It also displayed a range of media depicting war memorials, some of which provide evidence for change.



Public Survey

The main purpose of the public survey was to establish modern-day views about war memorial management and the remembrance activities associated with memorials, but it also aimed to capture some recent memory of interventions at remembrance sites.³⁶ The survey was circulated electronically to the Century of Stories audience, to local heritage networks and Universities, more widely via the War Memorials Trust, and also through social media promotion (see Fig. 3). 248 people completed in the timeframe of this

³⁶ A copy of the survey is included as Appendix A. Responses are held securely online for the purposes and duration only as stated in the Information and Consent Sheet (Appendix B). Responses were analysed and used anonymously

project.³⁷ Due to the scale of the survey response (approximately 50-70 responses were expected), it was necessary to select which answers to analyse here (the question numbers as they appeared in the survey are referenced and the full list of survey questions provided in Appendix A). Both quantitative and qualitative analysis of the data has been offered, but this paper presents mostly quantitative results and also focusses on memorials more than remembrance activities.³⁸ Data visualisation has been used where possible to make the interpretation more accessible. The character of individual memory emerges strongest where people volunteered free-text comments and so, since the research aims to explore both the collective portrait and the individual perspective, some limited qualitative analysis is included.



Fig. 3 - Electronic flyer for the public survey, 2018

Survey Data Analysis

The respondents to the survey were mainly members of networks that could be reached within the timescale. These predominantly fell into four groupings: firstly, local heritage networks known to the Leicestershire County Council and to the University of Leicester,

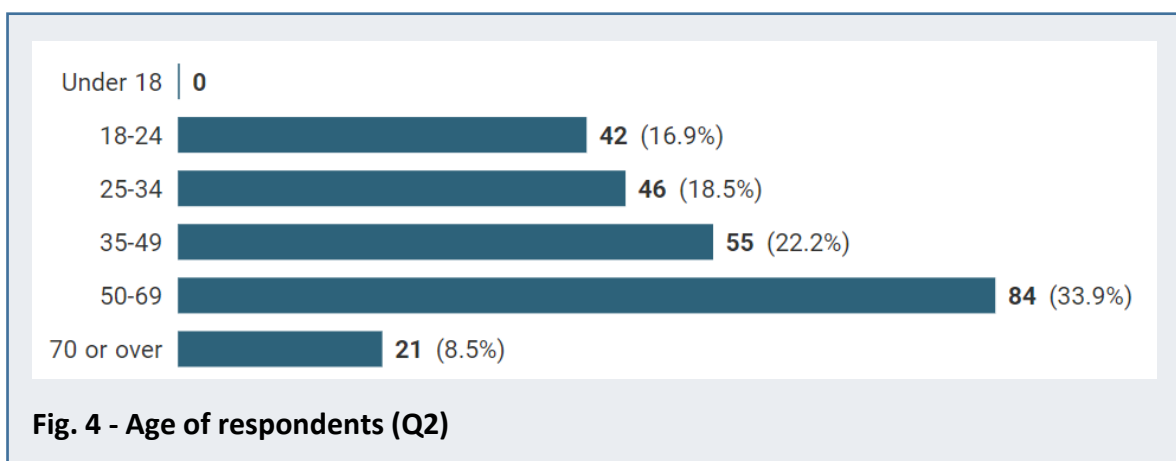
³⁷ The survey was created using Bristol Online Surveys and was live between 25 April and 31 July 2018. Its design was informed by academic guidance such as from Iarossi, G., (2012). *The power of survey design; a user's guide for managing surveys, interpreting results, and influencing respondents* (Washington: World Bank); Sue, V. & L. Ritter. 2012. *Conducting Online Surveys* (London: SAGE)

³⁸ It is hoped that the additional data yielded will be used in ongoing PhD work by the author

secondly, local professional organisation networks that could be reached (predominantly the staff of the Leicestershire County Council and staff of the Universities in Leicester), thirdly, national networks known to have interests in war memorials (mainly via the War Memorials Trust and Historic England), and, finally, as many people as could be reached through word of mouth and social media promotion.

Who responded to the survey?

245 people answered Question 3 (Q3)³⁹ precisely enough to determine where the respondents lived, showing that 191 were from Leicestershire (the main target audience), 97 of whom were from the City itself. The remaining 54 being from the rest of the UK, i.e. roughly two-thirds of respondents were local and one-third from further afield. Q2 asked respondents their age, and the profile resulting is shown in Fig. 4 below.



The age profile shows that no respondents aged under 18 participated. This age group is hard to reach and would most likely require a targeted research project to engage them.⁴⁰ The largest group of respondents was that of 50-69-year-olds. There was good representation from the over 70s and it was also good to get 42 responses from the 18-to-24 year-olds, who can be hard to reach. There was a good response from ages 25-49. The majority, however, were over 50. Age will be used to cross-reference the importance of war memorials and remembrance below.

³⁹ Hereafter all question numbers will be referenced in this abbreviated format

⁴⁰ Further work in this area would be most illuminating. Many youth projects have taken place during the Centenary, but it remains to be seen whether any research has been undertaken that records their engagement and their feelings/opinions about the subject of First World War commemoration

How interested are these people in war memorials?

43 out of 246 responses to Q4 (“Which memorial(s) do you live nearest to?”) answered that they were “unsure” – suggesting that around a fifth of respondents had no special interest in the memorials around them.⁴¹ Q20 (Fig. 5) aimed to see if this corresponded to the number of people who say memorials are of interest to them. Asking respondent to denote their level of interest/importance on a scale of 0 (not at all interesting/important) to 5 (extremely interesting/important), the results showed that the large majority of respondents (c.75%)⁴² said they were important, very important or extremely important. Q5 asked about making deliberate visits to memorials and found that 73%⁴³ of the sample engage with memorials either regularly or annually, and the remaining 27%⁴⁴ never visit.

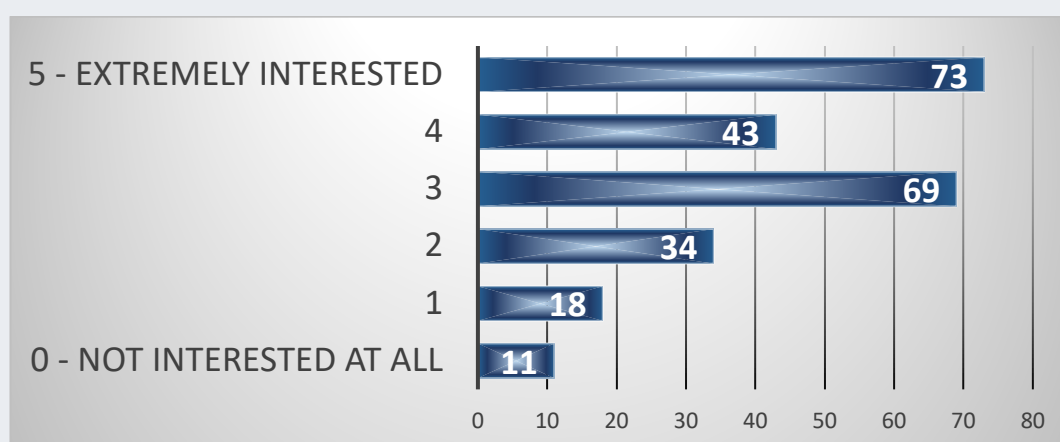


Fig. 5 - How interested people are in war memorials (Q20), amongst the 248 survey respondents

The relationship between age and the importance of memorials and remembrance

Q5 (“Do you visit your nearest war memorial regularly?”), Q18 (“On a scale of 0-5, how important/interesting are remembrance services to you?”) and Q20 (“On a scale of 0-5, how interested are you in war memorials?”) were considered the most important to cross-reference with the age profile for this study.⁴⁵ This was in order to establish whether generational patterns emerge. Figs. 6 - 9 below present a cross-referencing of age with the

⁴¹ One respondent interpreted this question in a highly personal way to say that the “closest” memorials were those marking the graves of veterans (sic)

⁴² 185 people scored their opinion at 3, 4 or 5

⁴³ 25 respondents said they visit regularly, 62 occasionally, 93 annually or for Remembrance Day only

⁴⁴ 68 respondents said they never visit memorials

⁴⁵ More cross-referencing would give greater insight across the total survey data but has had to be limited for the purposes of this paper

responses given about the importance of war memorials and remembrance services and the regularity of their visits/participation. This is shown in percentage terms to enable comparison (the numbers of responses from each age group can be recalled from Fig. 4).

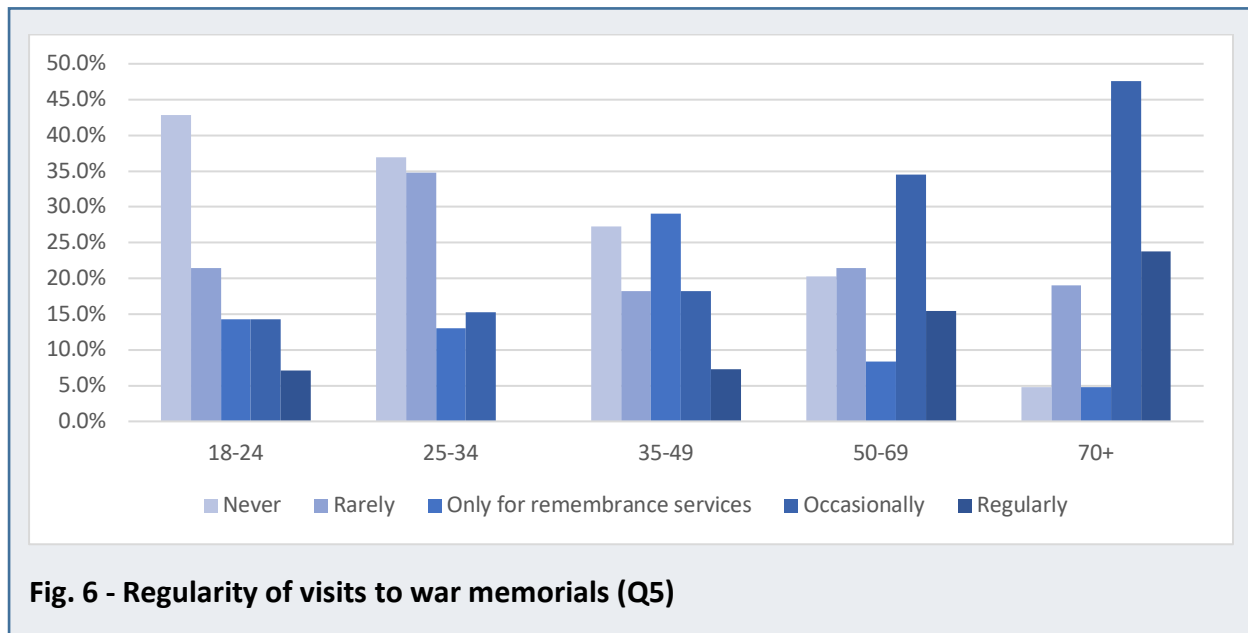


Fig. 6 shows a clear pattern: the proportion of people who say they never visit memorials (lightest blue) decreases markedly as age increases. A similar relationship applies to those who say they rarely visit, but it is notable that the largest proportion of people who said this were in the 25-34 age group. More people in the 35-49 age group say they only attend annually for remembrance events than any other age group. Occasional visiting rises steadily as age increases, at first, but then seems to rise markedly from 50+. Regular attendance rises steadily as age increases, excepting that no regular visitors were amongst the 25-34 age group.

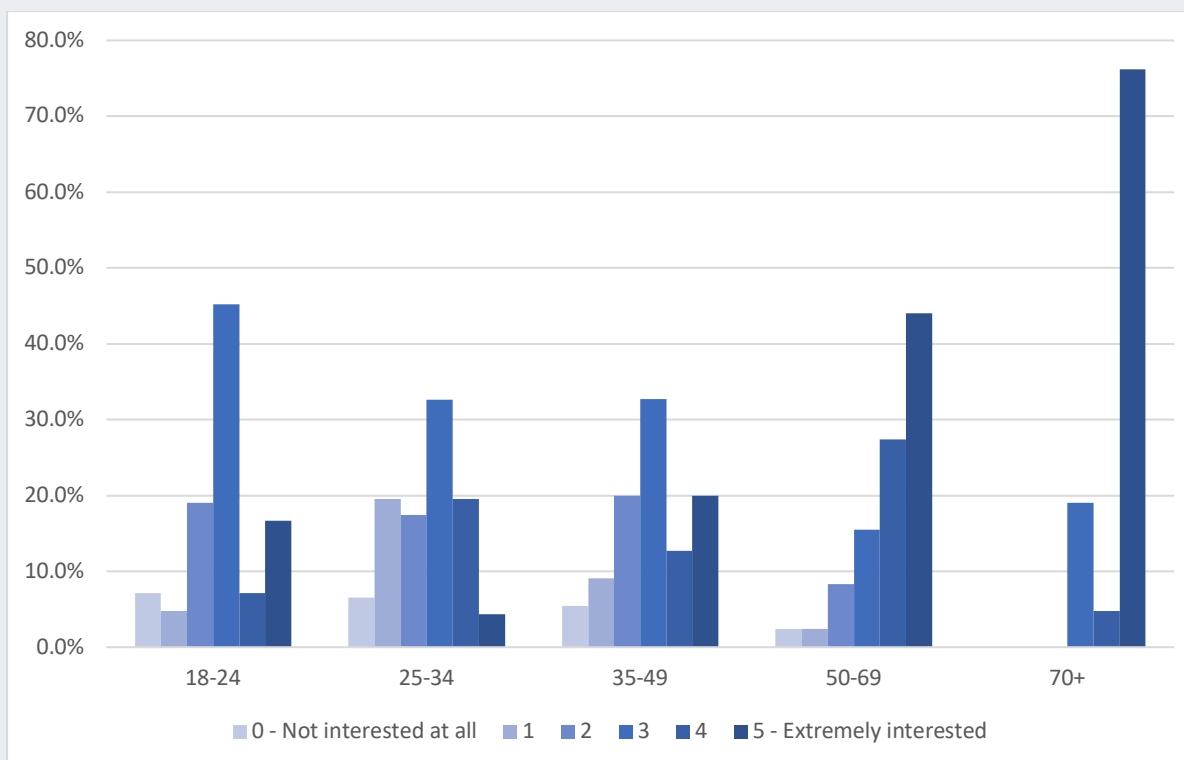


Fig. 7 - How interested respondents are in war memorials (Q20)

Fig. 7 supports the same patterns as Fig. 6, in that the proportion of people who say they are not interested in memorials at all (lightest blue) decreases with age, just as the number of people who never visit them decreases also. Curiously, the 18-24 age category breaks the pattern concerning those extremely interested in memorials (darkest blue). In this age category, a significant number of young people (16.7%) said they are extremely interested. The rest of the pattern shows, however, that a very small proportion (4.3%) of 25-34 year-olds are extremely interested, but then the proportion of people who are rises sharply with age, to 76.2% of the over 70s saying they are of extreme importance/interest. The surprisingly large number of the youngest people to say the same may be influenced by the recent educational programmes concerning the First World War, including schools' visits to war cemeteries on the Western Front, as well as the increased media attention, particularly on radio and television,⁴⁶ in film and theatre,⁴⁷ and in video gaming.⁴⁸

⁴⁶ The entire BBC programming relating to the Centenary period can be explored at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01nb93y> accessed 28/11/2018

⁴⁷ Such as Steven Spielberg's *War Horse* (UK release date 13 January 2012), a story that was also adapted by Nick Stafford from the original Michael Morpugo novel into a successful stage adaptation, and Peter Jackson's *They Shall Not Grow Old* (UK release date 16 October 2018)

⁴⁸ Such as *11:11 – Memories Retold*, by Aardman Animation (UK release date 09 November 2018)

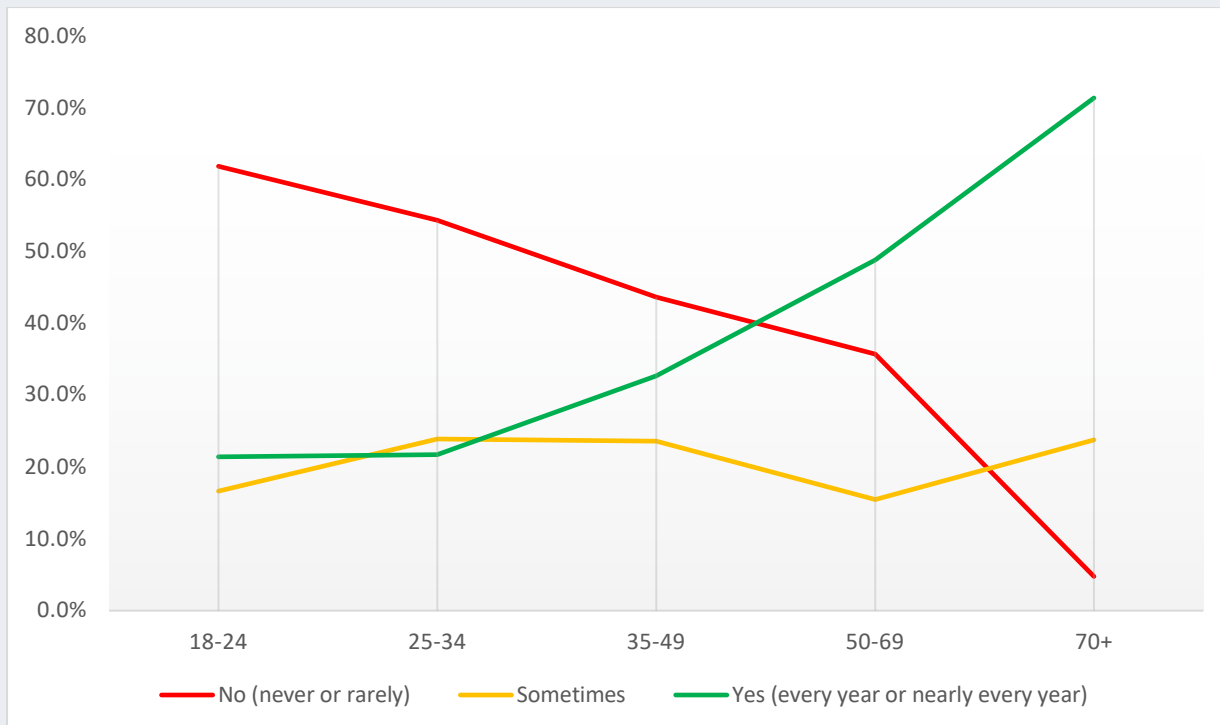


Fig. 8 - Regularity of attendance at remembrance events (Q12)

The same pattern emerges in Fig. 8 for the regularity of attending remembrance events as did in Fig. 6 for the regularity of visiting war memorials. This is clearly shown in the line graph above. The red line (those who say they rarely or never attend) begins with high proportions of younger people and this decreases with age. The green line (those who regularly attend) shows that small proportions of young people selected this option, and then rises to larger proportions of people in the older age groups.

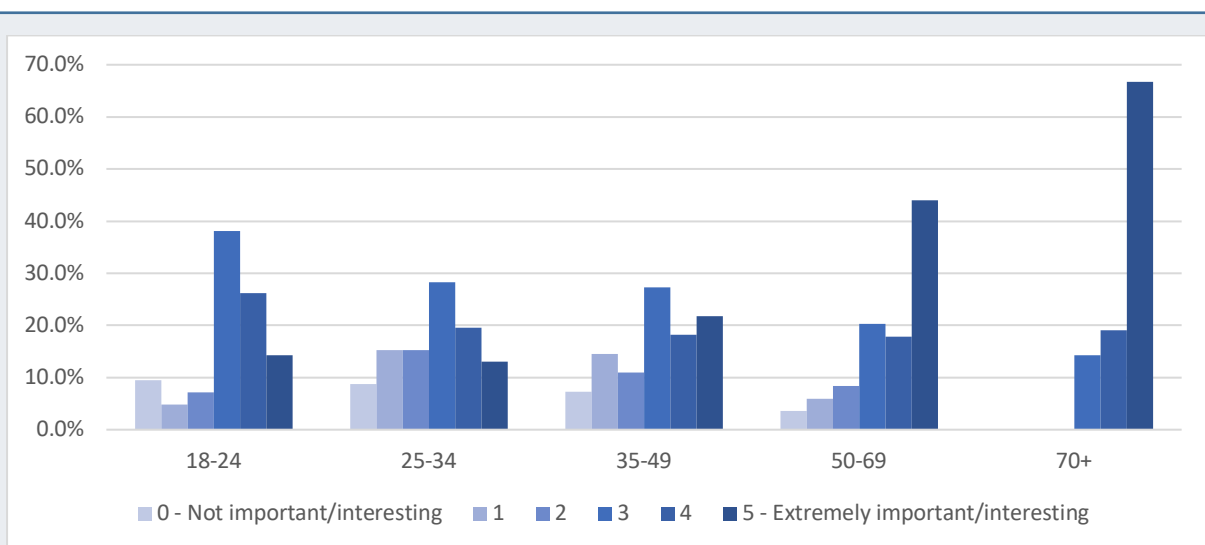


Fig. 9 - How important/interesting remembrance services are to respondents (Q18)

Finally, in this cross-referencing exercise, Fig. 9 supports the line graph above in that decreasing proportions of people say they have no interest in remembrance events (lightest blue bars) as age increases, and increasing proportions of people say they are of extreme interest (darkest blue) as age increases, markedly so from 50+. To sum up, the survey data do show a pattern of young people having the least interest and interaction with war memorials (except that a significant amount of the youngest age group said they were of moderate interest, possibly as a result of recent media attention and education programmes). It also showed that interest and interaction rises as age increases, but this is most marked once we reach the 50+ age groups. None of the over-70s said that memorials or remembrance were of low or no interest. What cannot be judged, however, is whether this is due to generational change, or whether it is simply due to age. That is, further research might be able to show whether interest in memorials in general is decreasing over time, or whether it will increase for all generations with age.

How much do people know about memorials and memorial initiatives?

In an effort to build a language-based portrait of attitudes to war memorials, the survey asked what war memorials meant to people and what words they conjured up (Q19). A word cloud was produced from the free-text responses and is shown in Fig. 10 below. What emerges strongest is a familiar language; the inherited rhetoric of remembrance. “War,” “death,” “fallen,” “loss,” “lives,” “conflicts,” “names,” “lost,” “sad,” “past,” and “never” stand out the most (reflecting highest numbers of usage in the responses), followed by words such as “reflect,” “remembered,” “pride,” “today,” “men,” “forget,” “cost,” “pain,” and “local.” After these come additional familiar words: “father,” “service,” “crosses,” “focus,” “choice.” Some of the smallest words are the most intriguing and original, such as “provoking,” “meaningless,” “esoteric,” “greed,” “forced,” “bleak,” “shame,” and “grave.” There are also direct contradictions, such as “relevant” and “irrelevant,” “heroes” and “cowardice,” “horror” and “hope.” Whilst this is a very superficial way to look at the responses to this question, it still strongly hints at the tangled mix of opinions, interpretations, meanings and emotions people currently attach to memorial heritage. It also conveys that the repetitive language associated with remembrance activity is widely pervasive.⁴⁹

⁴⁹ See Gregory, A., (1994), *The Silence of Memory: Armistice Day 1919-1946*, Oxford: Berg for early shifts in public attitudes; also Todman, D., (2005), ‘Modern Memory’ Chapter 7 pp.221-230 in Todman, D., *The Great War: Myth and Memory*, London: Hambledon Continuum, for an overview of shifting public opinions, expressions and myths around war memory up to more recent times

Knowledge of the historical development of local war memorials and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission were sought by Q25 and Q26. Another scale-based response showed low levels of knowledge being claimed by most respondents (Figs. 11a and 11b).

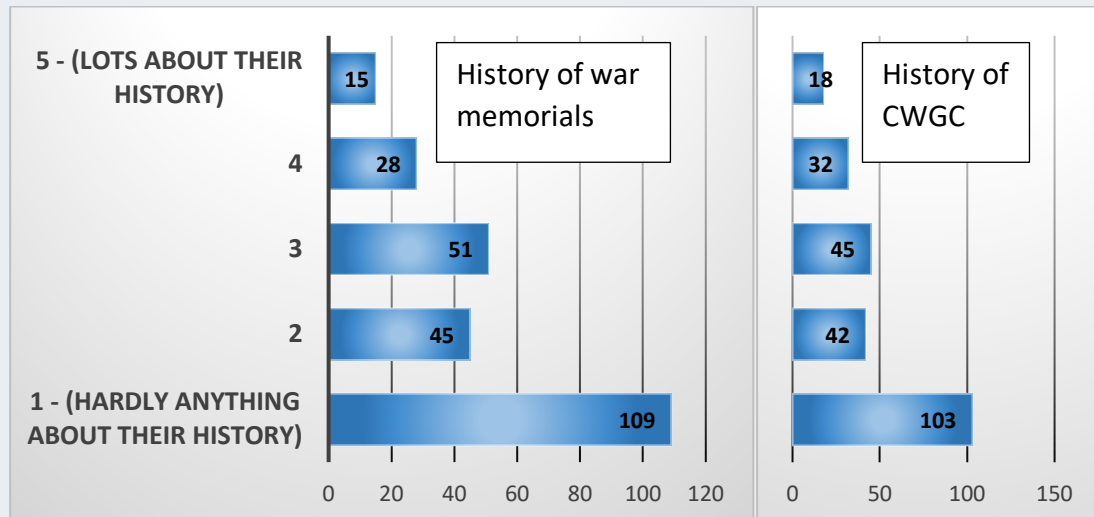


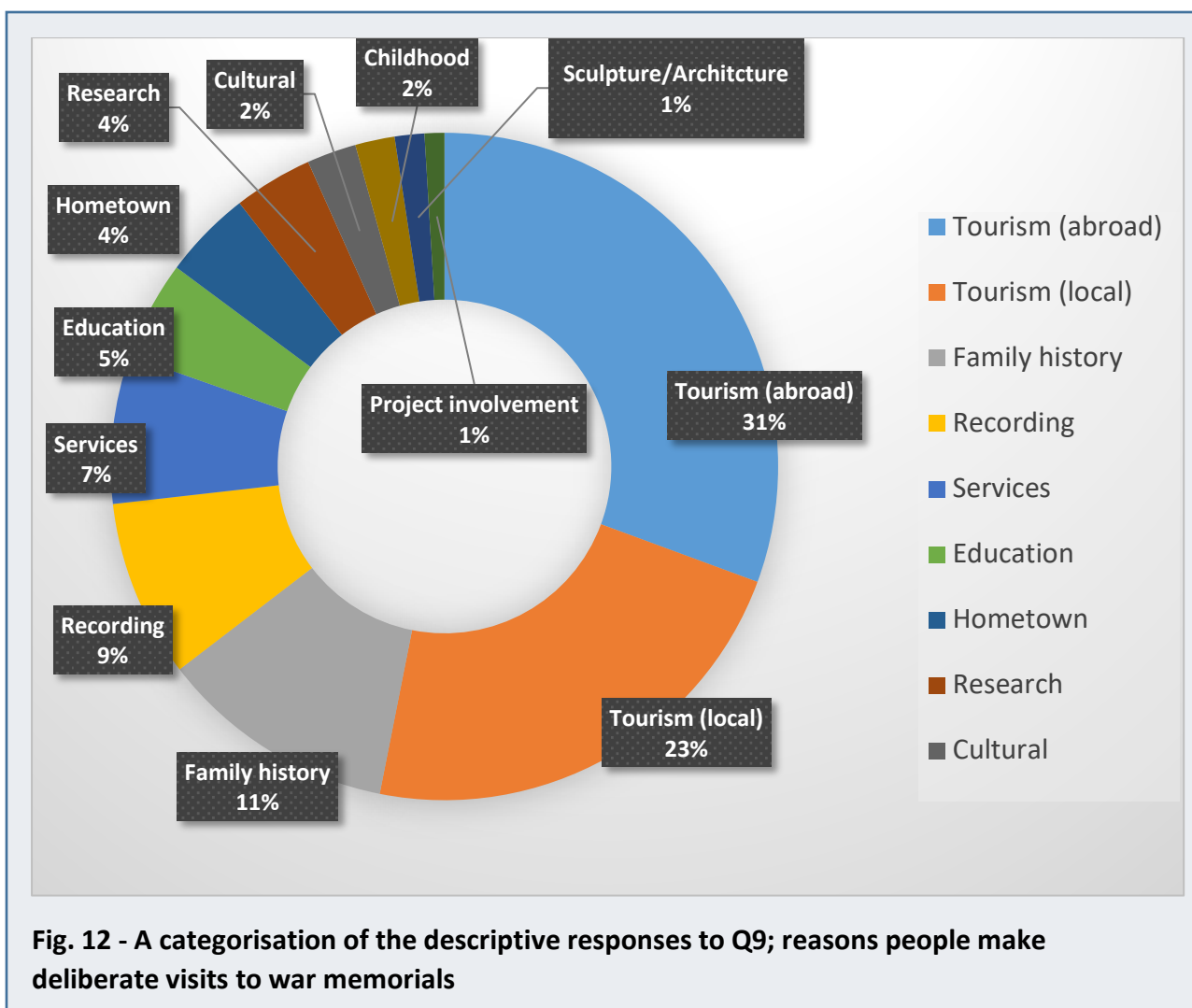
Fig. 11a (left) and 11b (right): answers to Q25 and Q26, referring to levels of knowledge about the historical background to war memorials or the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

An interesting picture that emerges is that while a large proportion of the sample said memorials are very important and interesting to them, the data do not show a corresponding deep level of knowledge about memorials' history, design and management.⁵¹

Why do people visit memorials?

Q9 asked of the 142 people who said they make deliberate visits to war memorials what their motivations were. This allowed free-text responses but these have been categorised as seen in Fig. 12 in order to build an overall picture of motivations.

⁵¹ This, of course, is a generalisation. More in-depth cross-referencing of responses would reveal variations within this overall pattern



Answers to Q9 reveal a widespread engagement with memorials and a range of motivations for visiting. The categorisation of responses shown in Fig. 12 reveals that travel and tourism (abroad and in the UK) are the most common reason for visiting memorials, and the comments reveal an array of motivations for this. These included: “We were in France for the Paris-Roubaix bike race so were in the area. When we realised we were so close to the memorial we decided to go and visit it out of interest and respect,” “War graves abroad as part of a tour visiting various places,” “and “I visited the Menin Gate in Belgium, the Holocaust memorial in Berlin, the Caen Memorial in France, and various others. I tend to make more effort to visit memorial abroad than in the UK.” The latter comment is particularly interesting, as at least 25 people referred to battlefield tours, school visits, or family travel that involved seeing multiple sites in France and Belgium; organised tours are accessible (and appealing) to increasing numbers of people.⁵² This overlaps with the number of people whose primary motivation was family history links to the memorial. Comments to this effect included: “Emanuel Church, Manchester. Commemorate my wife's grand uncle,” “Earl Shilton - family history research,” “As part of my Family History Research I try to visit the memorials on which my family members have been remembered,” and “The Helles

⁵² Winter (2009)

Memorial in Gallipoli to look at the name of a family member.” It is interesting that some of the comments reveal that discovering a family member’s name on a memorial somewhere (including abroad) can drive visitation to memorials that may otherwise not have happened, and hints at an expanding group of people who interact with memorials on the basis of rediscovered family history.

Far fewer people visit to see the work of particular architects, sculptor or artists (only 1% as shown in Fig. 12), supporting the response to Q24 in which 69% of people do not know or are not sure who designed or built their nearest war memorial and Q25, in which 62% of people said that on a scale of 1-5, their knowledge about the background of local war memorials was limited to only 1 or 2 (1 being “hardly anything” and 5 being “lots”). Responses included: “art appreciation of sculpture,” “Two memorials in Wolverhampton/Black Country Museum as sculpted by Robert Jackson Emerson who was born in Rothley,” “Leicester war memorial in Victoria Park - interested in it as something designed by Lutyens” and “Many others around the country when on holidays - interest, history, architecture, sculpture.” Similarly, only a few included comments about emotional drivers: “Visited all of these out of curiosity, to pay respect and to gain a sense of what was lost,” “Bomber Command in Lincolnshire to remember those who were forgotten for a long time,” “Shot at Dawn is such a moving tribute,” “Tyne Cott memorial in Belgium. Wanted to see it and was moved to tears by the sheer number of graves and names of the missing presumed dead.” Further research on the emotional drivers of present-day memorial visitors and remembrance participants might yield fascinating insights. Other reasons for visiting were for varied recording and research purposes, including trails, books, websites, photographic projects and dissertations. Others said they visited specific memorials because they had visited as a child or because it is the memorial of their hometown. Others visit to assess memorials for the Public Monuments and Sculpture Association, War Memorials Trust or Historic England. Others had a role in remembrance services, or local history projects, or go out of a general interest. Some visited to learn more about particular forces or nations (such as two Polish people visiting Polish memorials). One person commented “out of curiosity, to pay respect and to gain a sense of what was lost” (someone who had visited the Jewish memorial in Berlin and the Warsaw uprising monument). Memorials mentioned in the responses included Holocaust memorials, specific regimental or battle memorials, Vietnam memorials, and memorials in Canada, America, Australia and Cuba, proving the distances travelled to make specific visits.

Why do people take part in remembrance activities?

Something that stands out in the survey data is the level of interest and participation in organised public remembrance events (Fig. 13). Over 75% of respondents said that remembrance activities were either important, very important or extremely important to them (Q18).

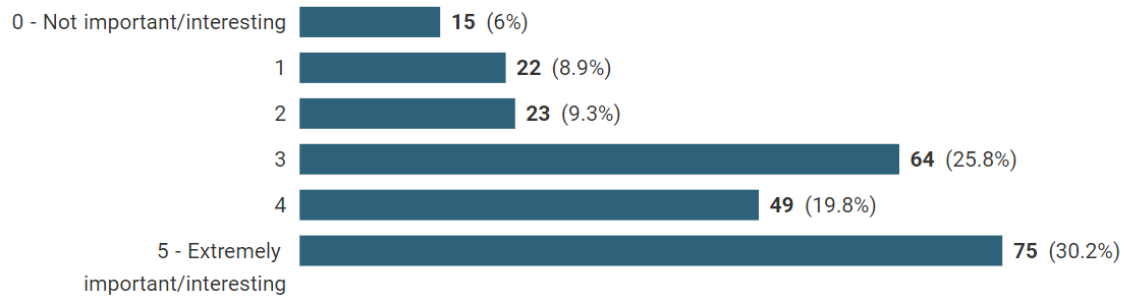


Fig. 13 - On a scale of 0-5, how important are remembrance activities? (Q18)

Who was not interested in war memorials, and why?

Responses showed that 68 people never visit their nearest war memorial (not even once annually, Q5), 24 people had not heard of the Cenotaph, 46 people had not heard of the National Memorial Arboretum, and 41 did not know what Commonwealth War Graves Commission memorials are. 106 people said they never or rarely attend remembrance services (Q12), and the responses to Q14 ("If you do not attend services at war memorials, what are your main reasons for not going?") allow us further insight (Fig. 14 below).



Fig. 14 - Reasons people do not attend memorial remembrance services (Q14, a question in which people could choose more than one option)

Fig. 14 excludes those who do attend. The 115 people who said they do not attend made 211 selections from the options in Q14; so each gave more than one reason for not attending (115 is presumed from taking the number of N/A responses from the total number of respondents to the survey, 248). As Fig. 14 shows, especially in contrast to Fig. 12, reasons for not attending are multiple and varied and there is no outstanding response. The largest response was 38 people who said that they simply have no connection to the war memorial. Interestingly, the next-highest number of people, 27, opted to give reasons in their own words (see below). 23 people said they were too busy, 21 said they had no connection to the military, 21 found the services too religious and 19 found them too political, and 16 said they do not know when these activities take place, to be able to attend. 12 people held the emotive view that "Services are not good enough to make up for wars," nine that "the events are too military," eight that "I do not support military interventions" and six were unafraid of saying "the services are stuffy and boring." Five admitted the events are too formal for their liking. Three said "I do not like war memorials and what they stand for." This strong view against memorials and their use is important to acknowledge. Four people put non-attendance down to disability, health problems, or phobias linked to the nature of the event (crowds). Three people also said, "I do not wish to take my children there," which is interesting in light of the current national educational programmes aiming to involve school children in remembrance activity.

Other comments of note included: "My interest lies in the historical, cultural associations of war memorials as well as the personal connections and stories, known or imagined. In general staged, organised events hold little attraction for me, personally," "Whilst I do want to continue to remember all those who have died or were injured in all wars, I prefer to do this in a very personal manner, rather than in a group setting," and "I choose to remember in my own way." These all express views that reveal the individualisation of approaches to recent remembrance practices that may be strongly connected to the family history connections explored above, but which may also be linked to disapproval of the content or character of remembrance events. Others, for example, had said "I think we are too far away from the First World War for it to be meaningful. I dislike the kitsch element that has kept in with the centenary," "I find the politicisation of these events uncomfortable, especially the debates and shaming that goes on around poppies," and "I follow services on tv or radio." People who chose to say in their own words why they do not attend remembrance services are thus highlighting the issues that some people take with the way they are currently carried out, ranging from logistical barriers, to cynicism about the character of services, to objections to political, religious, or other cultural overtones that in some way exclude or dissatisfy.

Non-attendance for cultural reasons

The data require an awareness of the multicultural nature of our modern-day cities and towns, and how present-day remembrance practices appeal to the public as a whole or not. Comments made by respondents suggest that there is a lack of awareness of the cultural sensitivities of some people that are not always considered as part of traditional services. For example, one comment (in full) was:

“Being of Chinese Ethnicity, it is always difficult during armistice/remembrance days let alone attending services at war memorials. New generations seem to feel that lives were lost when allied forces assisted China against Japan, but do not think about potential consequences and what might happen if Japan had not been stopped, not to mention they occupied Hong Kong at a time when it was a colony of the British Empire. So there is a lot of racial prejudice present which makes it difficult to attend these ceremonies. The same people with racial remarks either don't know or forgotten about the opium war and the war crimes committed by the west in the ransacking of the Summer Palace in Bei Jing.”

This makes an important point about cultural awareness and suggests that this respondent has faced racial abuse at remembrance events. Another respondent shared the sentiments (if not the personal bad experiences), saying: “The services are unreflectively patriotic and rarely confront that: (1) few enemy soldiers were taking part in war because they liked killing British men or wanted to be killed by British men; (2) the British soldiers were not morally superior to the soldiers on the other side. The services continue the hagiography of wretched people killing and dying for morally ambiguous aims.” This fascinating critique on the content and purpose underlining remembrance practices reminds us that interaction with war memorials is politically charged. Nowhere are these themes more prevalent than in Ireland, where First World War remembrance and the wearing of poppies still causes deep divisions in the community.⁵³ Terrorist acts have sometimes centred on Irish war memorials.⁵⁴ One respondent commented that: “From an Irish background, I have no family connection to British Army, but when visiting a memorial I do take time to reflect on a personal level.” Another said simply, “I am from another country and sympathise more with celebrations that are held there.” These comments reveal that some people do not participate in remembrance activity because they either reject the precedent as a whole, or the execution of its aims, or because they identify with, relate to, or are more interested in alternative remembrance practices from the places or cultures of their heritage. It is important that this has highlighted the view of those who feel marginalised by or uncomfortable with remembrance activities in the country today.

⁵³ See Iles, J., (2008), ‘In remembrance: The Flanders poppy’, *Mortality*, 13: 3, pp.208-09

⁵⁴ The Remembrance Day bombing at Enniskillen on 8 November 1987 killed 12 people (see Dawson, G., (2007), *Making Peace with the Past?: Memories, Trauma, and the Irish Troubles*. Manchester: Manchester University Press), and a viable pipe bomb was found near Omagh’s war memorial before Remembrance Day in 2017.

How many of these people hold views about what should be done to war memorials?

Q29 asked people for their views on alterations to memorials. Only 10 out of all 248 people said they had no view. This is fewer than said they were not interested in memorials (see Fig. 5, Q20), suggesting that even people who are not interested still hold views about how they should be managed as features of the environment.

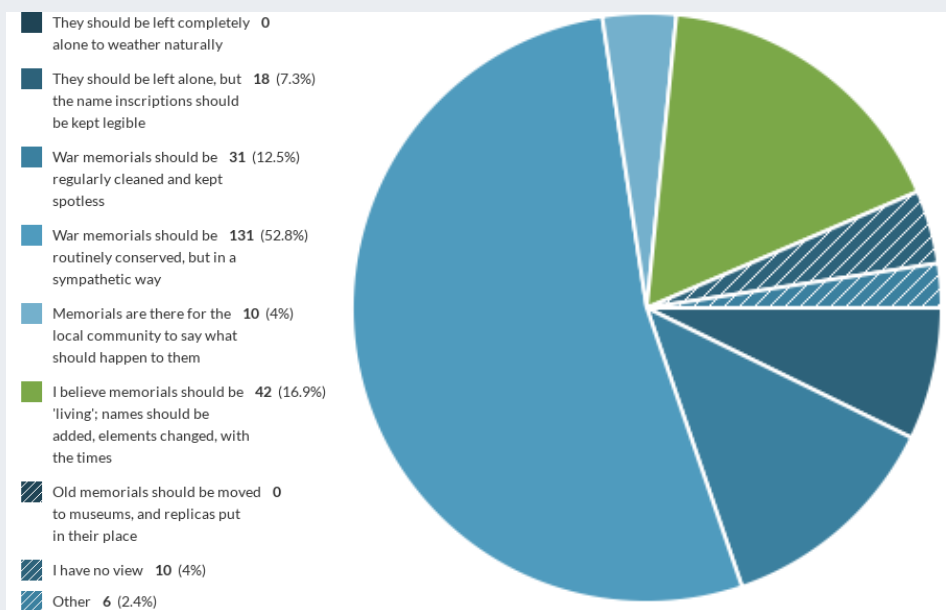


Fig. 15 - People's overall attitudes to war memorial management (Q29)

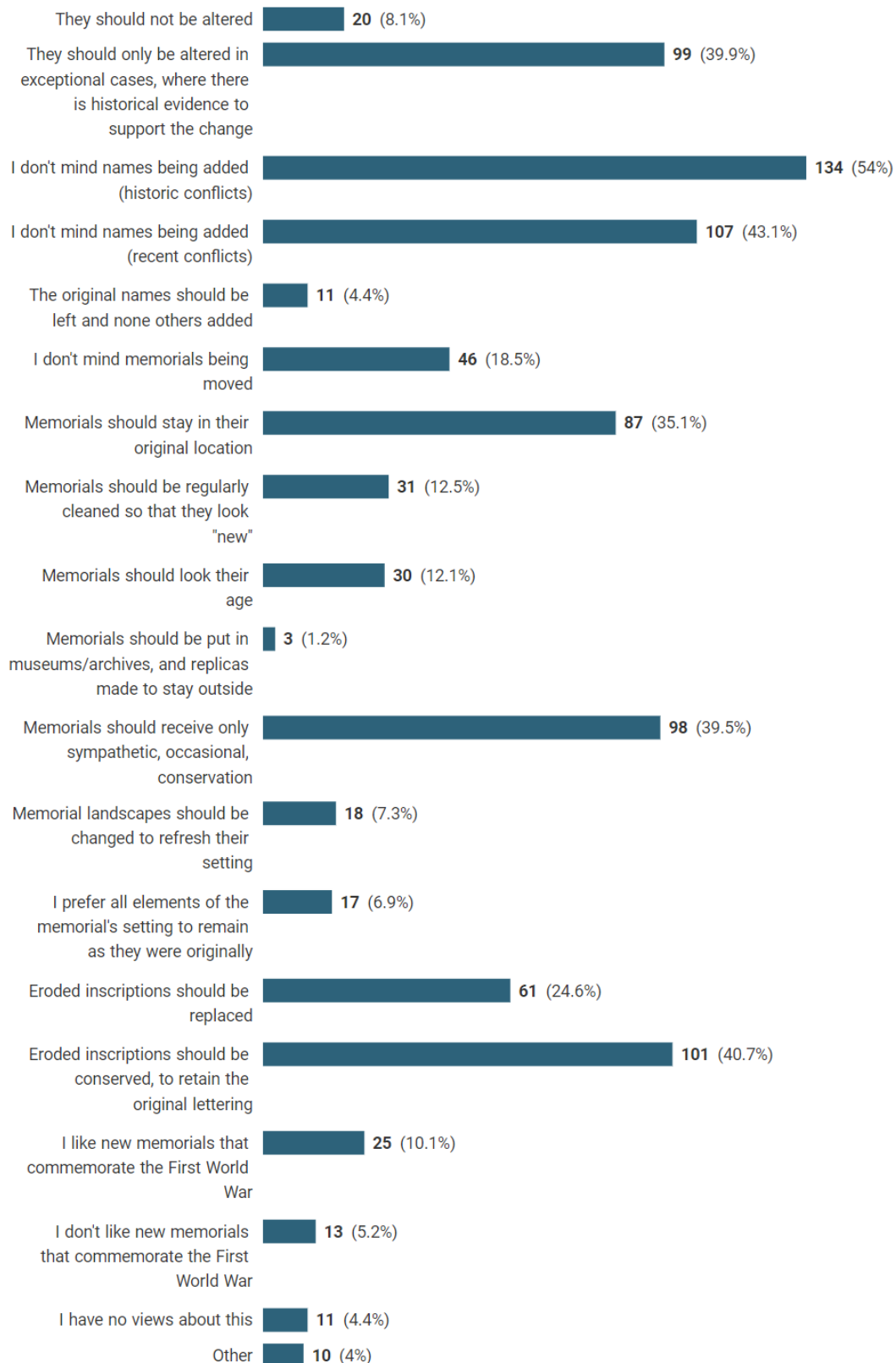
Given the evidence for the way many local memorials have been changed it is almost surprising that, as Fig. 15 shows, so many people said they preferred sympathetic overall conservation and sympathetic treatment of inscriptions (although two-thirds as many said they would prefer inscriptions to be replaced as said they should have the original lettering preserved), rather than the more radical options being selected. Again, a significant number of people preferred original locations and only seeing changes made where there is a historically-evidenced case for doing so. There are, however, comparable numbers of people with utterly opposing views. Whereas, in the free-text responses to Q31a ("What best describes your feelings about First World War memorials being altered?"), one person said, "I prefer to see memorials in their original location, in order to preserve their integrity and meaning," another in the free-text responses to Q29a allowed that "I would not object to a vulnerable sculpture or artefact being removed to a safer place." The comments in response to both free-text questions about war memorial management (Q29a and Q31a) also expressed strongly-held opinions about memorials, or about whose views should be taken into account as regards their management: "I would like if all war memorials which currently don't acknowledge the women involved had an inscription added to acknowledge the sacrifice of the families of the fallen," "It's hard to generalize but I do believe that it

should be up to the local community to decide...(the WHOLE community),” “the families of the named deceased should have a say in what happens to the memorials.” An interesting comment related to new memorials that have been created by communities was offered: “I only partly like new memorials that commemorate the First World War. Modern trend is mawkish.” These questions revealed the diversity and strength of opinions offered, some of which would seem to broadly overlap, whereas others stand in contradiction.

The range of options provided in Q31 (“What best describes your feelings about First World War memorials being altered?” - see the results in Fig. 16 below) was wide and in parts contradictory, to allow a gamut of opinion to emerge (and it does). Options that received over 50 selections appear to be the more popular standpoints, and these were as follows:

- 134 people do not mind names from historic conflicts being retrospectively added to First World War memorials
- 107 people do not mind more recent casualties’ names being added to First World War memorials
- 101 people felt that eroded inscriptions should be conserved so that original lettering is retained
- 99 people said that memorials should only be altered in exceptional cases, where there is historic evidence to support the change
- 98 people said that memorials should receive only sympathetic, occasional conservation
- 87 people felt that memorials should remain in their original location
- 61 people felt that eroded inscriptions should be replaced

In total, 400 selections were made in favour of change, including adding names, replacing inscriptions, and relocating or re-landscaping memorials. 463 selections were made in favour of keeping elements as they were originally, including locations, inscriptions, lettering, and the condition of historic fabric, preferring only sympathetic, conservative treatment of these. This comparison of numbers is interesting as the result would seem to be in contrast to the regularity of interventions causing change that were observed in the field. It was expected that this question would reveal the desire for change that is evidenced on memorials around the county, but it was not expected to find as many or more expressing (sometimes extremely) conservative views. It is perhaps this that has halted, reduced, or changed the nature of interventions being made. On a case-by-case basis, however, outcomes of requests for change will depend on the local circumstances.



Multi answer: Percentage of respondents who selected each answer option (e.g. 100% would represent that all this question's respondents chose that option)

Fig. 16 - Views on the alteration of First World War memorials (Q31, in which up to five answers could be selected by each respondent)

Responses to Q29 and Q31 also revealed that inscriptions seem to be the area where people are most likely to make active interventions, i.e. it is views on inscriptions that have been most commonly acted upon. It is also an area where strong opinions are expressed: “They should be updated to problematise WW1,”⁵⁵ “[they should be] either left with inscriptions kept legible or kept living and updated, depending on space available.”⁵⁶ Responses to Q31 (see Fig. 16) show that 11 people felt that inscriptions should not be altered from the originals and another 101 said that original inscriptions should be sympathetically retained. In contrast, very large numbers of people said they do not mind names being added, either for historic conflicts or for more recent ones (134 and 107 people respectively). Furthermore, 61 people would prefer to see eroded inscriptions replaced rather than retained. The largest numbers of respondents ticked options relating to inscriptions, highlighting that they are of great concern to people today, and yet the opposing views that people hold about how inscriptions should be handled shows what a sensitive and political subject it can be, and thus one that is particularly difficult for custodians to manage.⁵⁷



Fig. 17a (left) and 17b(right) - Different handling of eroded inscriptions – 17a: insertion of slate plaques into original stone face at Great Easton, and 17b: original lettering being retained through re-cutting at Medbourne

⁵⁵ A response to Q31a

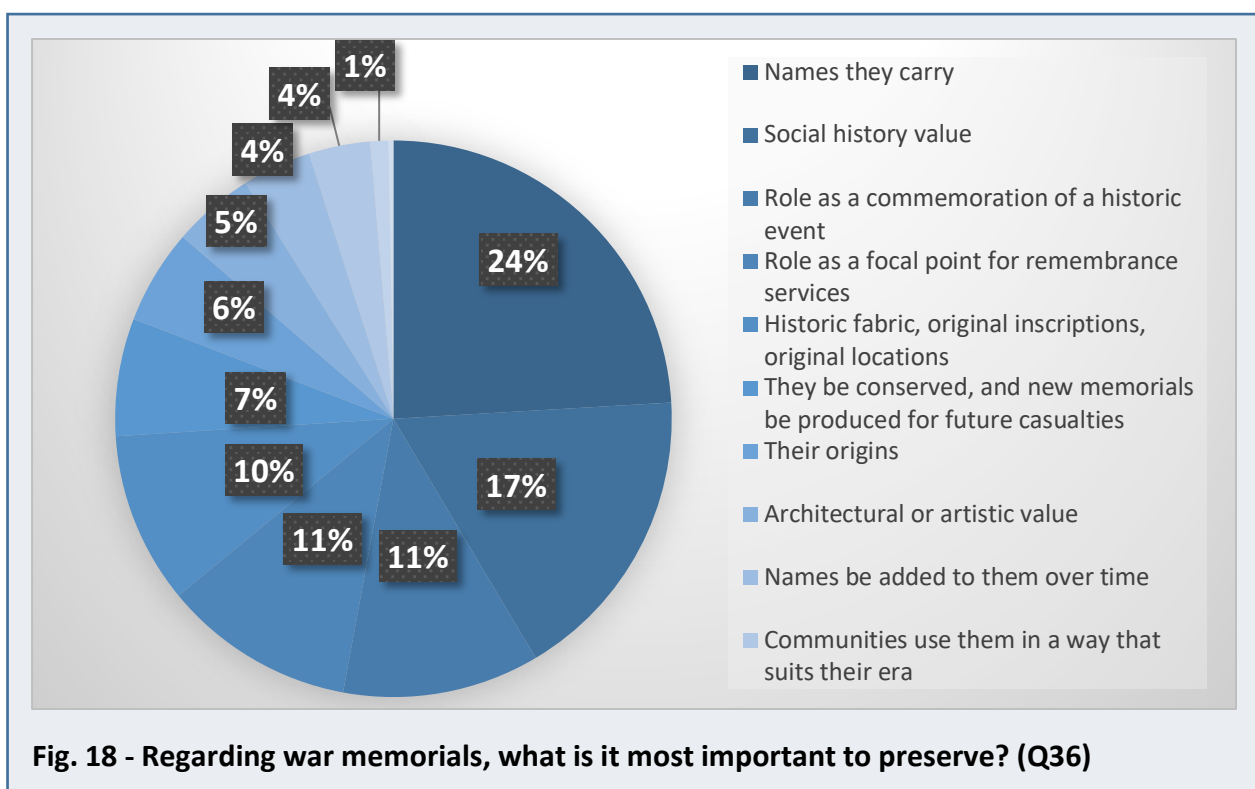
⁵⁶ A response to Q29a

⁵⁷ See, for example, *Leicester Mercury*, 14 June 2014, ‘Henrietta in bid to add men’s names to Countesthorpe memorial,’ and *Leicester Mercury*, 4 October 2018, ‘70 bed care home plan at Market Harborough Cottage Hospital site approved,’ (available online at <https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/news/local-news/70-bed-care-home-plan-2073335> accessed 27/11/2018) in which public campaigning, directed to memorial custodians, is mentioned

Requesting Alterations

Only small numbers of respondents said they had ever requested changes to existing memorials or that others be erected, but looking at these two issues offers some interesting results. Q32 revealed that eight people had requested changes be made to memorials (and an additional 10 people said they had supported others who had made such requests). When asked about the nature of the change they requested, the free-text responses showed that single requests were made for repositioning, corrections to inscriptions, and renovation, but that eight requests were for the addition of names; further highlighting the importance of the inscriptions to present-day public but also suggesting that this is the issue most public will intervene on. When asked in Q36 what people felt was the overall most important thing to preserve about war memorials going forward, the largest proportion (24%) said “the names” (Fig. 18).

Similar numbers of requests for new memorials were shown in Q34; 11 people had requested one and another 14 had supported others’ requests. The motivations for these requests proved more wide-ranging. Two were about wanting an external monument in a place that formerly did not have one, and two requests were for new, post-1945 memorials. The other reasons given were all unique, and consisted of family drivers, having memorials to unrecognised wars, wanting supplementary memorials to one already existing, having a memorial to women, having a suburban memorial in London, engaging in a public project to design one, and making the request because there was a public campaign going on (Q35). What this shows is that although most alteration requests related to names, requests for new memorials had widely differing motivations, demonstrating, perhaps, the pervading influence of First World War memorials as a replicable format for commemorate things of a much more varied nature.



Conclusion

War memorials in Leicestershire and Rutland have evolved over the last century. Names may have been added after subsequent conflicts, their location may have been changed, their surroundings altered, and their designs reworked. There are also unintended aberrations to the 'natural' life of memorials; damage, vandalism, defacement, theft, destruction. They have also seen periods of neglect or of regular interventions. Over the past few decades, there has been a great rise in the interest in war memorials by the public. This has coincided with the advent of online genealogical databases and increased media coverage of recent conflicts and has led to a large number of recent interventions and alterations to war memorials that tells a story of commemoration and public participation throughout the last hundred years.

Of those interested in memorials, the data yielded by this survey shows that people felt memorials *and* remembrance activities were extremely interesting and important to them, but that they lacked a historical understanding of them and admitted lacking practical knowledge. People are, nevertheless very interested and active in local projects, including those that intervene in the built environment. Complexity arises from the web of custodians, public, local authorities, conservation advisors and contractors, as well as other 'stakeholders' that may be identified when a change to a memorial is requested. Names and inscriptions are by far the topic people felt most strongly about and were more likely to act on. The data shows, however, a disparity between those who feel that historic lists of names should be preserved as they are, and those who feel that names being discovered by continuing local research should continually to be added, as should those of more recent casualties. What is more, increasing numbers of new memorials that relate to the First World War are being created, and it remains to be seen what impact these will have on future remembrance activities and on existing historic war memorials.

While many people's language and participation in remembrance activities suggests a strong attachment to the traditions of collective memory of the First World War in this country, the data yielded by this survey show that, for a minority, remembrance may not be fully inclusive. There may be issues with character, content, and relevance for a small, but growing, number of people. A few voices made it clear in their own words in response to the public survey that current remembrance activities at war memorials can create a feeling of exclusion, make life difficult for people of certain backgrounds or ethnicities, and even potentially lead to racial abuse occurring on remembrance days. There are also people who find formal remembrance activities stuffy, religious, political, unreflective, and prefer to remember privately and to explore their own connections to the war in their own ways. The nature of remembrance as a collective activity is being challenged here by personal connections and private motivations that are increasingly driving individualised acts of remembrance. This may have implications for the future of "national remembrance" and how this concept evolves (or breaks down), as well as for issues around social cohesion in society more broadly.

There is clear evidence from Leicestershire that the country's remembrance traditions remain strong and are being rediscovered and redefined by generations that did not experience global warfare and may not have any links to the military or to war casualties. This is clearly evidenced by the current levels of participation in war memorial-related projects and organisations, and by the interventions that have been made at memorial sites. People continue to seek ways to remember the lives, often through existing and new memorials, that were lost in the First World War, as well as (increasingly) to recall the experiences of underrepresented groups (such as women, conscientious objectors, colonial troops and more recent casualties). The data gathered as part of this project reveals the increasingly individualised views on remembrance, and more diverse way to arrive at personal connections to the First World War. Memorials remain a focal point and a touchstone and as such are the object of our evolving remembrance and commemorative traditions. Data show both consensus and dissent about how they should be managed, conservative views and more radical ones. More quantitative and qualitative analysis of public opinion is needed to explore how the relationship between memorials and remembrance and the public will go forward, but this project has yielded significant insight from a snapshot of Leicestershire opinion during the First World War centenary period.

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APPENDIX A

Changing War Memorials Online Survey:

This is a copy of the online survey that was used in this research project.

p. 1 Page 1 - About you

Add item

Welcome to the Century of Stories research project on Changing War Memorials.

This survey invites you to share your knowledge, thoughts, experiences and photographs relating to First World War memorials local to you and more widely across the UK.

As well as seeking to find out what war memorials mean to you, the survey is particularly interested in memorials that have evolved over time.

By filling out the survey, you confirm that you have read the [information and consent sheet](#), and agree to the terms and uses specified in that.

You must leave your email address to be entered into our £100 Amazon voucher prize draw. The winner will be notified by email on 2nd August 2018.

Thank you!

Add item

1 T Your name

Add item

Add item

2 Your age *

Under 18

18-24

25-34

35-49

50-69

70 or over

Show less

Add item


Add item

3 T Where do you live? (Village/town/city) *

Add item

Add item


Add item

4  Which memorial(s) do you live nearest to? Please briefly describe the memorial so that we can identify it. Please put "unsure" if you don't know.

Add item

Add item

5  Do you visit your nearest war memorial regularly? (By visit, we mean a deliberate stop-off at a memorial to look at it, read it, sit by it, photograph it, etc., not just that you pass one regularly) *

- ☐ Regularly
- ☐ Occasionally
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Only for remembrance services
- ☐ Never

[Show less](#)

Add item

Add item

Jump

6 ☒ Have you visited the Cenotaph in Whitehall, London? *

- ☐ I have not visited
- ☐ I have visited once
- ☐ I visit, but rarely
- ☐ I visit occasionally
- ☐ I visit regularly
- ☐ I am not aware of it

[Show less](#)

Add item

Add item

7  Have you visited the National Memorial Arboretum near Alrewas in Staffordshire? *

- ☐ I have not visited
- ☐ I have visited once
- ☐ I visit, but rarely
- ☐ I visit occasionally
- ☐ I visit regularly
- ☐ I was not aware of it
- ☐ I volunteer/work there (or have done in the past)

[Show less](#)

Add item

Add item

8  Have you made specific visits to any other memorials? *




Yes

No

Can't recall/Not sure

Add item


Add item

9  If you answered "Yes" in Q.8 above, please state which memorials you have gone to visit, and if possible give your reasons for visiting.



Add item

Add item

10  Have you visited Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstones or war memorials from the First World War in Britain or abroad?



Yes, in Britain

No, in Britain


Yes, abroad

No, abroad

I am not sure what these are

[Show less](#)

Add item

11  What do you think of Commonwealth War Graves Commission memorials? E.g. their appearance, management, inscriptions, architecture.



Add item

Add item

Add item

12 ☒ Do you attend annual Armistice/Remembrance services held at memorials? *

Yes (every year or nearly every year)

No (never or rarely)

Sometimes

Add item

Add item

13 ☒ If you attend services at war memorials, what are your main motivations for attending remembrance services?
Please select "N/A" if you do not attend, and skip to the next question. *

Family tradition to attend

I am involved in the organisation of the service

I am local, and feel I should be there

Interest in military history

I am a veteran

I am serving personnel

My family has military connections

I am related to a casualty

I want to support the Royal British Legion

To show support for those who fell

I have a role in the official service (e.g. marching, music, wreath-laying)

To support currently-serving personnel


I am a local civic leader and see it as a duty

N/A (I do not attend services at war memorials)

Other

[Show less](#)

Add item

a  If you selected Other, please specify: *

Add item

14 ☒ If you do not attend services at war memorials, what are your main reasons for not going? (Please select "N/A" if you filled out Q12 because you do attend). *

I do not like war memorials and what they stand for

I have no connection to the war memorial

I am not aware of when and where they happen

I do not support military interventions

I have no connection to the military

I am too busy

I do not wish to take my children there

The events are too military

The events are too political

The events are too formal

The services are too religious

The services are stuffy and boring


Services are not good enough to make up for wars

Other

N/A

[Show less](#)

Add item

a  If you selected Other, please specify: *

Add item

15 Tell us what you think about the way annual remembrance services are organised and run, highlighting anything you have strong feelings about. *

Add item

Add item

16 Do you like the way remembrance services are currently held? Would you prefer any changes?

Add item

Add item

17 Can you remember the first time you attended a remembrance service, and why you were there? E.g. were you involved as a Scout/Guide, a musician, or were you taken by your family?

Add item

18 On a scale of 0-5, how important/interesting are remembrance services to you? *

0 - Not important/interesting

1

2

3

4




5 - Extremely important/interesting

Show less




Add item

Add item

Add item

19  What do war memorials in general mean to you? How do you feel about them? What words and images do the words "war memorial" conjure up for you?  

Add item

20  On a scale of 0-5, how interested are you in war memorials? *  

0 - Not interested at all

1

2

3




4

5 - Extremely interested

[Show less](#)





Add item

Add item

21  When, how and why did you first grow interested in war memorials? (If you have stated that you are not interested, please skip this question).  

Add item

Add item

22   Which of the following links to war memorials apply to your interest in them? (Tick as many as are relevant to you personally) *  

Memorial is local to me

Memorial commemorates a relative

I appreciate their local history value

I am a veteran (regular)

I am a veteran (territorial)

I did National Service

I come from a military family

I have an interest in military history

I am or represent a war memorial custodian

I am currently-serving military personnel

I attend services at war memorials

I have researched the history of a war memorial




It is traditional

Other

None of the above




[Show less](#)

Add item

a  If you selected Other, please specify: *  

Add item


Add item

23  Other than attending services, have you been involved with war memorials in other ways? What are these? (If you have been involved in a project relating to war memorials, can you describe this project, your role and motivations, and how you felt about being part of it?)  

Add item

Add item

Add item

24  Do you know who designed or built your nearest war memorial? *


 

Yes/Think so

No/Not sure

Add item

Add item

25  On a scale of 1-5, how much would you say you know about the history of local war memorials in Britain (their design, commission, building, etc.)? *

1 - (Hardly anything about their history)

2

3


4

5 - (Lots about their history)

[Show less](#)

Add item

Add item

26  On a scale of 1-5, how much would you say you know about the history of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission?

1 (Hardly anything about its history)

2

3

4

5 (Lots about its history)

[Show less](#)

Add item

27 Who do you think is responsible for looking after your nearest war memorial? (Please guess if you do not know) *

- Present day military/Ministry of Defence
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission
- Royal British Legion
- Parish/District Council
- Local community
- Church/Parochial Council
- War Memorials Trust
- Other
- I don't know/am not sure

Show less

Add item

a If you selected Other, please specify: *

Add item

Add item

Add item

28 Do you have any memories relating to the way a war memorial has been looked after, changed, damaged, etc., in the past? If yes, can you remember when, and what happened?

Add item

29 Which of the following best describes your view on looking after memorials? (Choose one, or please state Other). *

- They should be left completely alone to weather naturally
- They should be left alone, but the name inscriptions should be kept legible
- War memorials should be regularly cleaned and kept spotless
- War memorials should be routinely conserved, but in a sympathetic way
- Memorials are there for the local community to say what should happen to them
- I believe memorials should be 'living'; names should be added, elements changed, with the times
- Old memorials should be moved to museums, and replicas put in their place
- I have no view
- Other

Show less

Add item


a If you selected Other, please specify: *

Add item

Add item

Add item



Add item

30  Do you know of any local war memorials that have been altered since they were built? Please identify the memorial(s) and describe the alteration(s) here. List as many as you can think of.


Add item

Add item

31   Which of the following best describes your feelings about First World War memorials being altered? Select up to 5 answers. *

 ☐ They should not be altered☐ They should only be altered in exceptional cases, where there is historical evidence to support the change☐ I don't mind names being added (historic conflicts)☐ I don't mind names being added (recent conflicts)☐ The original names should be left and none others added☐ I don't mind memorials being moved☐ Memorials should stay in their original location☐ Memorials should be regularly cleaned so that they look "new"☐ Memorials should look their age☐ Memorials should be put in museums/archives, and replicas made to stay outside☐ Memorials should receive only sympathetic, occasional, conservation☐ Memorial landscapes should be changed to refresh their setting☐ I prefer all elements of the memorial's setting to remain as they were originally☐ Eroded inscriptions should be replaced☐ Eroded inscriptions should be conserved, to retain the original lettering☐ I like new memorials that commemorate the First World War☐ I don't like new memorials that commemorate the First World War☐ I have no views about this☐ Other[Show less](#)

Add item


a  If you selected Other, please specify: *

Add item

Add item


Add item

32  Have you ever requested that a war memorial be altered? *

 ☐ Yes☐ No☐ No but have supported another/others who have

Add item

Add item

33  If you answered yes, what was the memorial, what change did you request, and why? What was the outcome of your request?

Add item

Add item

34  Have you ever requested that a new war memorial be created? *




Yes

No

No but have supported another/others who have

Add item

Add item

35  If you answered yes, what was the memorial you requested, and why? What was the outcome of your request?



Add item

Add item

36   Going forward, what do you think is most important about war memorials? Please select up to 3 answers. *



Their origins

Their historic fabric, original inscriptions, original locations

The names they carry

Their architectural or artistic value

Their social history value

Their role as a focal point for remembrance services

Their role as a commemoration of a historic event

That names be added to them over time

That communities use them in a way that suits their era

That they be conserved, and new memorials be produced for future casualties

None of the above/I have no views


Other

[Show less](#)

Add item

Add item

Add item

37  Has a WW1 centenary project or event happened where you live? * ☐ Yes/Think so☐ No☐ Don't know


Add item

Add item

38  If such a project has happened, did you take part/support it by participating and/or volunteering? ☐ Yes☐ No


Add item

Add item

39  Have you heard of any of the following? (Choose as many as apply) * ☐ Leicestershire War Memorials Project (Leicestershire County Council)☐ Leicestershire "At Risk" War Memorials Project (based at All Saints Church, Leicester)☐ War Memorials Trust☐ War Memorials Register (Imperial War Museum)☐ UK National Inventory of War Memorials☐ Commonwealth War Graves Commission☐ War Memorials Online (War Memorials Trust)☐ Every One Remembered (Royal British Legion/Commonwealth War Graves Commission)☐ First World War Centenary (Imperial War Museum's www.1914.org)☐ Trent to Trenches☐ Rutland Remembers☐ Century of Stories (Leicestershire County Council)☐ 14-18 Now (Centenary Art Commissions)☐ None of the above[Show less](#)



Add item

Add item

40  Have you supported local WW1 Centenary/war memorial projects by giving money (including buying tickets, purchasing books, etc., connected to those projects)? ☐ Yes/Think so☐ No/Not sure

Add item

Add item




41 ☒ Have you actively participated in any of the following? (E.g. volunteered, uploaded material to websites, subscribed or become a member, etc.). Choose as many as apply.  

- Leicestershire War Memorials Project (Leicestershire County Council)
- Leicestershire "At Risk" War Memorials Project (based at All Saints Church, Leicester)
- War Memorials Trust
- War Memorials Register (Imperial War Museum)
- UK National Inventory of War Memorials
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission
- War Memorials Online (War Memorials Trust)
- Every One Remembered (Royal British Legion/Commonwealth War Graves Commission)
- First World War Centenary (Imperial War Museum's www.1914.org)
- Trent to Trenches
- Rutland Remembers
- Century of Stories (Leicestershire County Council)
- 14-18 Now (Centenary Art Commissions)
- No/I was not aware of any of these

Show less

Add item

Add item

42  Have you been involved in a war memorial restoration/conservation project? If so, can you tell us about your experience? Please include your experience of finding funding, if your role involved applying for grants.  

Add item

Add item



"Then and now" images of Ratby war memorial. Development of the local school has taken place in the background, but the original railings and sculpture are unchanged. Later names were added to this memorial.

Do you have any "then" or "now" images you would like to share, for an exhibition at the Century of Stories conference day on 9th November 2018? Please [get in touch with the researcher](#) to submit them.

Add item

43



Please leave your email address, so we can contact you if you have materials you are willing to share. You must include this if you would like to be entered into our £100 Amazon voucher prize draw. The winner will be notified by email on 2nd August 2018. Your contact details will only be used for this purpose, and will not be kept beyond the end of the research.



Add item

Add item



If you have photographs, postcards, or memorabilia of war memorials, both old and new, that you would be willing to tell the researcher about, [please email us](#).



We are particularly keen to see images and memorabilia, or creative photography of war memorials now.

You will receive a reply for anything you submit, and if your image is used as part of the research, or as part of an exhibition for the Century of Stories project, your contribution will be acknowledged. Get in touch for more information.

Add item



Thank you...



...for being part of this Century of Stories project!

To learn more about the Century of Stories project, [visit its website](#).

Your contribution is much appreciated.

Add item

APPENDIX B

Information Sheet and Consent Form, as uploaded to the online survey:

Century of Stories: Changing Leicestershire War Memorials research

Information Sheet and Consent Form

Thank you for participating in the Changing Leicestershire War Memorials research. The research is being carried out by Elizabeth Blood for the Century of Stories Project.

The research investigates how local WW1 memorials have changed since they were built. It seeks to capture local people's knowledge, opinions and images. The online survey seeks public views on war memorials and their meaning to inform work being done on how people feel about war memorials today.

The data will also be used as part of a University of Leicester PhD project being carried out by the same researcher. This project seeks to understand how people feel about and have got involved with war memorials during the WW1 Centenary period. All Data Protection laws and University of Leicester Ethics Policies will be strictly adhered to.

Consent

By taking part in the survey, you agree that you have read and understood this information, and that you give consent to the following:

- All data provided may be used by Leicestershire County Council and the University of Leicester and its PhD student, Elizabeth Blood, for the purposes of the research outlined above;
- Use of data by the above is allowed for any non-commercial purposes, including for the research, for further educational, teaching, or exhibition work connected with the research projects;
- Reproduction of the data for non-commercial, educational purposes is allowed, in educational material, online exhibition, and published formats by both organisations and the PhD student;
- Rights to use and reproduce any material sent to the researcher is allowed, including photographs, scans, and hard copy materials submitted. You agree that what you submit can be used in this way and that you have the rights to upload and share as outlined. Attribution will be given unless expressly unwanted (and this specified in the survey responses and/or emails to the researcher).

Thank you for your participation and agreement. We look forward to your survey response!

Elizabeth Blood

Researcher, Century of Stories project | PhD Candidate (University of Leicester)



APPENDIX C

Photographs of the exhibition staged on 9 November 2018 at The Venue, Leicester:



Above: the extend of the exhibition



Above: the table of artefacts and interpretation



Above: Conference delegates viewing the exhibition



Above: one of the table displays, including books, postcards, photographs and playing cards



Above: two of the frames exhibiting "now-and-then" images of local war memorials



Above: table of artefacts, including a postcard album, china plate, print, crested china wares, ceramic jug and bowl, and postcards