

# The Village War Memorial Restoration

The Village war memorial had over the years become a rather sad sight. The original flint around the base had started to fall out, the brick was crumbling and the stone cross and surroundings were dirty and broken. In addition to this concrete slabs had been placed on top of the walls some years previously.



In 2008 the Parish Council, having confirmed that it was ok for them to carry out the work, considered the options. Various ideas were looked at including simplifying the structure, but eventually when it was confirmed, using an old photograph belonging to Sheila Warnes, that it was as originally designed by Henry Leicester Hicks, a then well known architect. The council took lots of advice and set about restoring the memorial with the invaluable support and skill of Peter Snell, a local architect.

The total amount needed to both clean and to replace the broken Portland stone and to demolish and rebuild the brick and flint wall was around £20,000.

We were given grants from both South Norfolk District Council and the War Memorials Trust who are the body charged with the supervision of all of the nations Memorials. The remainder was donated within the village from the Village Association who organised special events including one with the amazing Ken Wallis, and from the Commons Trustees.

The sponsorship of the coping stones on top of the wall at £10 each was quickly and generously supported by many families and individuals, some of whom had very personal connections to those named on the Memorial.

The first stage was the cleaning of the stone which was done by "Swann and Associates". Their method used only the use of soft wire brushes and water, which was much gentler on the stone and surroundings than the alternative of chemical cleaners.



the cleaning  
process

underway  
and  
completed.



The bricks, including the coping stones, were sourced from a small brickyard in Aldeburgh, and the rebuilding including the flintwork was completed by Gray Developments in the summer of 2009.

Since its completion the structure has been Grade 2 listed.

On September 5th 2010 the War Memorial was rededicated, 90 years to the day from its original dedication.

The service was lead by the Rev. Ken Reeve, padre to the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment and a representative of serving men.

Those attending included descendants of those named on the memorial and a wooden cross was laid for each of the men by a member of their family.

Pupils from Framingham Earl School were there to read poems they wrote for the occasion and those were collected together into a booklet which was distributed on the day.

