

# Consultation on Additional Names to the War Memorial

Thatcham  
Memorial  
Foundation



Registered Charity No. 300214

Thatcham Memorial Hall,  
Brownsfield, Bath Road,  
Thatcham, RG18 3AG

01635 868244

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The Foundation was formally approached in summer 2017 regarding names of WWI servicemen that were understood to be missing from Thatcham War Memorial. In response the Foundation formed a working party including trustees and representatives from Thatcham Branch, Royal British Legion; Thatcham Historical Society and faith leaders. There remain places on the working party for residents.

Among longer term goals, the group has been pursuing the names believed to be missing at the time of unveiling in 1920. All works with regard to the War Memorial have been taken under advisement from the War Memorials Trust UK – a registered charity that works with Historic England to preserve, repair and conserve such memorials across the UK.

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The addition of names to an existing memorial is not new and there are a number of cases studies for reference. The Foundation's process started in January 2018 with a 12-week call for information; a press campaign together with social media and pushing information out through clubs and societies resulted in 19 names being put forward for consideration.

Each of these names have been independently researched by three historians. Their work has then been compiled, cross referenced and checked independently by two further historians. Final names are then presented to the Working Party for agreement against a set of criteria.

1. To be considered official war dead.  
[as per the criteria of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission; 4.08.1914 – 31.08.1921]
2. The serviceman is not remembered on a *community war memorial* elsewhere.  
[subject to reasonable efforts to research and conclusive evidence]
3. Sufficient evidence shall be presented to validate the connection with Thatcham.  
[to include at least one *official* document]

*Final list of names to be added is at the discretion of Thatcham Memorial Foundation*

Additional plaques will be made of Karin grey granite to match existing plaques and sourced from the same quarry. Plaques will be placed on the uppermost base step adjoining the central column. The funds to commission the plaques are being secured.

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Thus far no owner of Thatcham War Memorial can be conclusively proved; therefore, as stated in the War Memorials Act 1923 the monumental structure itself is styled as the property of the people of Thatcham. Consultation must take place to gauge the town's feeling towards any direct works.

We are asking the community to engage with the Foundation to support the addition of two new plaques bearing the names of currently unrecognised servicemen.

A number of key stakeholders have been invited to engage as organisations; we invite all parishioners to respond.

**DEADLINE: Midnight Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018**