

Keston Village War Memorial Centenary Commemoration Project

Saturday the 20th October 2020 will mark the centenary of the unveiling of the Keston Village War Memorial and the Keston Village Residents' Association (KVRA) has embarked on an ambitious and exciting project to commemorate this event. The project has three key work streams:

1. To hold an event to closely replicate the original unveiling ceremony followed by a social gathering at the Village Hall.
2. Installing an information board near to the Memorial which explains its history and lists the names of an additional twenty-three men associated with the Parish who died while serving with the Armed Forces during the Great War.
3. Installing a *'There But Not There'* silhouette in the vicinity of the Memorial adjacent to the information board.

The planned commemorative event at the Memorial will involve members of the Church and local faith groups, the Armed Services and Cadet Units, the Royal British Legion, the Mayor and Local Councillors, local schools and parishioners.

Students from Ravens Wood School have been invited to support the project and are designing the proposed information board. They presented a draft of their work at the KVRA AGM in June which was praised by residents and received very positive feedback.



The names of an additional twenty-three men associated with the Parish who died while serving with the Armed Forces were discovered by Edward Williams and Peter Zieminski while researching their book *'For King & Country – Keston Parish and the Great War.'* The KVRA project aims to honour the sacrifice of these men by mounting an additional bronze plaque bearing their names on the Memorial.

The final project work stream is to install a *'There But Not There'* silhouette in the vicinity of the Memorial adjacent to the information board. These metal silhouettes are of a British Infantry 'Tommy' bearing a poppy.



The above photograph shows a representative image of the proposed location for the silhouette (which will be transparent) and information board.

The Project Team is delighted to have already received donations totalling £1,200 from people who have heard about what is planned and we need to raise £750 more to meet the target costs. Every penny counts and if anyone wishes to make a donation then this can be done by Bank transfer marked up to the KVRA Account as 'War Memorial' to Sort Code 09-01-29 Account Number: 35321237 or by cheque made payable to 'KVRA' and 'War Memorial Fund' on the rear and sent or dropped off to 85, Heathfield Road, BR2 6BB or through the KVRA Just Giving Appeal by copying this link at:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/peter-zieminski?utm_medium=email&utm_source=ExactTarget&utm_campaign=20190802_114094

The KVRA hopes that the project provides a fitting tribute to those who gave their lives for others in all wars and echoes the words of Laurence Binyon's poem 'For the Fallen' ...

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*