



Friends of the Priaulx Library

Friends of the Priaulx Library Newsletter

Issue 1 2014

The Story of the Guernsey Bailiwick War Memorial by Liz Walton

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Newsletter Contributors our
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STOP PRESS

1st April 2014 at 6pm
The Friends' AGM
At the Priaulx Library

5th April 2014 at 7.30pm
The Friends' Quiz
At Western Community Centre
More details on Page 7



The Guernsey War Memorial
Smith Street, St Peter Port

The war memorial at the top of Smith Street in St Peter Port is a familiar landmark to visitors to the town. It is often referred to as a cenotaph but this is not strictly correct as a cenotaph is literally an empty tomb and the traditional cenotaph design is an obelisk topped with a coffin shape, whereas this memorial is a granite obelisk topped with a bronze statue of St George and the dragon.

In the years immediately after the Great War the need for a Bailiwick Memorial was evident but there was some controversy about the form of the memorial and where it should stand, which may be why it wasn't completed until 1926. The *Guernsey Press* was heavily involved in its creation from the start and published regular progress reports. The only Roll of Honour for the island was said to have been kept in their editorial office throughout the war, and the sub-committee charged with obtaining the list of names for the memorial met there. Names for the memorial were collected by volunteers in each parish and were then checked against the Press lists.

The organizing committee for the memorial was chaired by Sir Edward Chepmell Ozanne who was Bailiff of Guernsey from 1915 to

1922 and whose son, Captain Edward Graeme Ozanne was killed in action in Belgium and is buried in Ramparts Cemetery at leper (Ypres). The committee was charged with deciding what form the memorial should take and where it should be sited. Many suggestions were put forward, one being for a huge obelisk in pale grey granite to be built at Les Cotils Belvedere. This was turned down despite the design being endorsed by the famous British architect Sir Edward Lutyens. Lutyens had been appointed one of three principal architects for the Imperial War Graves Commission, (now the CWGC) and he designed the Stone of Remembrance found in all the large CWGC cemeteries, the Cenotaph in Whitehall and the Memorial to the Missing of the Somme.



Suggestion of Obelisk at the Cotils

An article in the *Guernsey Weekly Press* of March 4th 1922 provides a summary of the