

Broughton Gifford rededicates newly-restored War Memorial



Broughton Gifford Scouts lay wreaths at the War Memorial (By Diane Vose)

Residents in Broughton Gifford came together on Saturday to rededicate the newly-restored war memorial by commemorating the men who lost their lives in the First World War.

Nearly 200 villagers watched the service along with Scouts and Beavers who laid wreaths in honour of the 23 villagers who died between 1914-18.

The memorial was first installed in May 1920 after residents raised £300.

Although it has remained in a reasonable condition for the past 95 years, it was starting to show signs of ageing so the parish council decided to give the monument a facelift.

Councillors were awarded grants to pay for the work, which was carried out by local stonemason Phil Bines under the guidance of Cllr Rob Cumming.

Parish council chairman Mark Sullivan said: "It was a very important occasion and it was nice to have a chance to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the First World War.

"It was important to the village as we have quite a lot of families here who were related to the men who lost their lives."

The senior class of St Mary's School and the local Scouts have also been working hard on a special commemorative project.

Pupils have created artwork to show what life was like for villagers during the war.

Mr Sullivan added: "It was an expensive project to take on as a parish council. We had to do our research in applying for grants for the work.

"MP Michelle Donelan was there and I think everyone was pleased to see that people had put in the effort to get it restored.

"It took a lot of energy but it really does look beautiful and I hope it will stay that way for the next 100 years."



Martin Hooper and Mark Sullivan from the village lay a wreath at the War Memorial (By Diane Vose)

(Wiltshire Times – 22 July, 2015)