

# APSE online Cemeteries and Crematoria Advisory Group -

26<sup>TH</sup> September 2023

WORKING TOGETHER  
FOR A BETTER BOROUGH,  
WITH PEOPLE AT THE HEART  
OF EVERYTHING WE DO.



Creating and designing a fitting tribute to commemorate fallen war heroes and veterans.

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1. Developing a partnership approach to create a reflective fitting area for Veterans.
2. The challenges overcome to deliver the garden.
3. The mental well-being benefits achieved by veterans from being part of the maintenance and care of the garden.

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Speaker Sonia Smith Bereavement Services Manager St. Helens Council

# Developing a partnership approach to create a reflective fitting area for Veterans.

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St Helens Council have a very successful Friends group – Established in 2005

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This partnership has been fostered for over many years.

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The group have a signed constitution, the Management Committee meet on a regular basis with the Council to discuss new ideas and initiatives.

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They are well respected within the local Community and beyond by visitors and other groups. They have worked with the local Veterans and other groups like the sea cadets, the British legion and other military voluntary groups.





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- During the WW1 (2014-18) Anniversary celebrations, the group funded a small Memorial and had a ceremony and parade.
  - The Council also placed a Tommy Memorial in the Cemetery following being approached by the Friends Group.
  - From 2014 every year the Friends Group worked in partnership with the local veterans to place a poppy tribute on every soldier's grave within St Helens Cemetery. The Bereavement Services Team supported them with this.
  - A Member of the Friends Group is now also a CWGC volunteer and carries out annual CWGC walks around the grounds.
  - The Friends Group also carry out heritage and soldier walks around the grounds they have taken groups of sea cadets, schools, etc on tours of the grounds also.
  - During Summer 2019 – met with the Veterans group and the Friends Group and agreed that they could do general cleaning up and basic maintenance in the grounds together every Friday.
  - Therefore, the small group met every Friday morning with a phase of pause during the pandemic and during this time the Armed Forces Memorial Garden idea was born.





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# The challenges overcome to deliver the garden

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- Pandemic delays.
- Other delays.
- Volunteer work.
- Having to direct and drive the project forward to ensure it was delivered as planned.
- Support from the Council to submit a bid for funding.
- Support from the Bereavement Services Team.
- Support from local businesses.



# The Opening Ceremony – September 2022





# A fitting Tribute to all fallen heros







At the going down  
of the sun  
and in the morning,  
we will  
remember them.

We Will  
Remember Them.

*They shall grow  
not old, as  
we that are left  
grow old. Age shall  
not weary them,  
nor the years  
condemn.*

  
Veterans Of The  
Saints Community Development  
Foundation  
Inspiring Communities Through Sport





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The mental well-being benefits  
achieved by veterans from  
being part of the maintenance  
and care of the garden

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- Much Improved Mental Health to any veteran helping maintain the Garden and the graves as the group do.
  - A sense of pride and purpose.
  - A feeling of belonging.
  - The veterans have a community garden where they plan to grow the plants for the flower containers.
  - The legacy is being maintained for all veterans with this special garden creation.

Thanks for  
listening  
today.

Any questions?

