COLSTERWORTH WAR MEMORIAL RESTORATION

In 2023, due to the support from the Colsterworth and District Parish Council to restore the Memorial, the substantial work required was finally approved thanks to the collaboration with **FCC Communities Foundation** who provided a significant grant for the Project.

The partnership between the Parish Council and the **Colsterworth Festival of Remembrance (CFoR)** demonstrated the community's collective support and the fundraising efforts (including the Co-Op Local Community Fund nomination for 2024) embracing the vision to safeguard the Memorial and preserve its historical significance for future generations.

THE RESTORATION WAS COMPLETED (DATE: XXXXXX)

Insert pictures of the restoration project?

The Memorial was erected in **1919** following the 1914-1918 WWI. The memorial is made up of a twenty feet (six metres) cross executed in Clipsham stone. The designer/architect of the memorial is unknown.

In **1949** the War Memorial was refurbished and the concrete posts and chain were installed by the Parish Council.

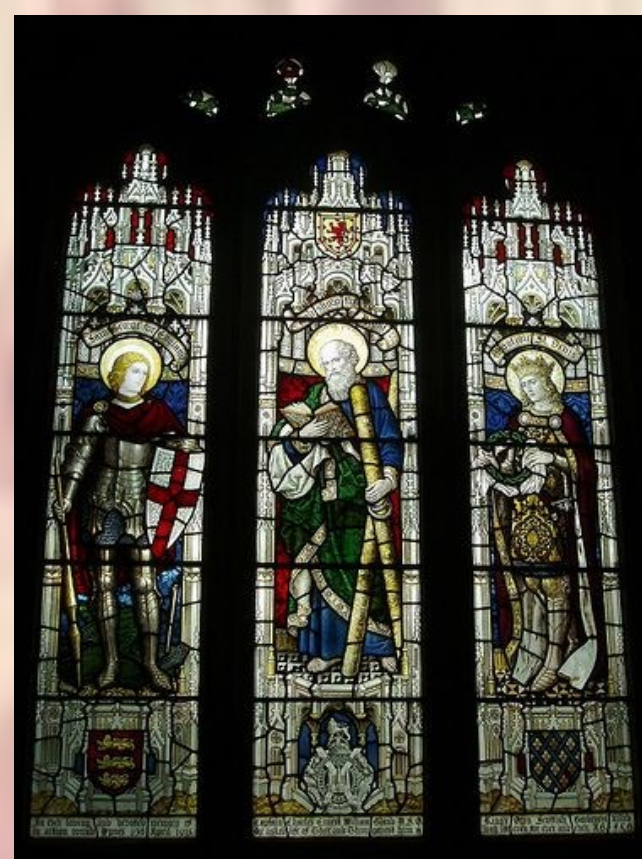It was designated a grade II listed structure in **1984**.

In **2009**, there was concern over the on-going structural stability of the Memorial as it had some vertical cracking to the shaft and some damage to areas of the masonry. In 2010 some restoration work was carried out .

By 2019 there was further accelerated deterioration of the stone at the base of the Memorial and the Parish Council applied for grants from the War Memorial Trust and South Kesteven District Council for professional advice to identify the remedial works required.

Due to delays during the Covid Pandemic in 2020 and lack of funding it was in 2023 that the work was approved and the restoration completed in 2024.

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,
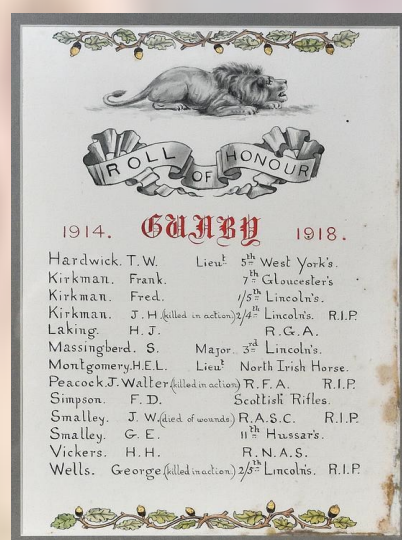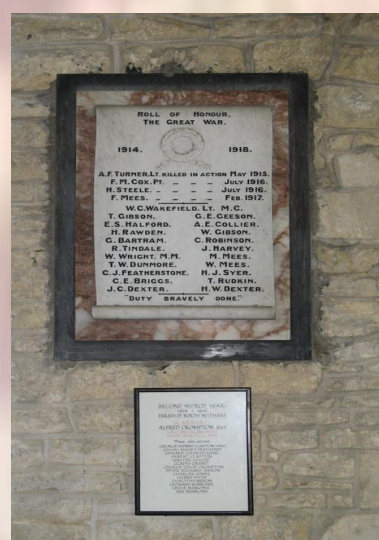*we will remember them*

In addition to the War Memorial there are other military memorials within the Parish Church of St John the Baptist further along the High Street.

There is a memorial stained glass window dedicated to Captain Charles Bland (First World War).

St John's is also the Custodian of the Rolls of Honour to those parishioners lost in WWI and those who served and were lost in WW2 along with the Royal British Legion Standard

There are further Rolls of Honour to be found in two other villages in the Parish at North Witham and Gunby.

There are thirty-four names on slate plaques gilded with inscriptions on the War Memorial - twenty-five for WW1 and nine for WW2.

These names are representative of families still living in the Parish including the small village of Woolsthorpe by Colsterworth, notable as the birthplace of Sir Isaac Newton.

Isaac Newton Commemorative Bench: Woolsthorpe Road

Another connection close by and linked to the heritage of the War Memorial is Twyford Wood which was the site of the Second World War airfield, RAF North Witham, where the allied US Forces played a crucial role in the D-Day operations.

Although their names are not recorded in the village, this memorial also allows us to remember those servicemen and servicewomen who have been involved in the many wars and conflicts that have taken place both before and since the two Worlds Wars.

Other commemorative items have been donated and placed on the small green surrounding the Memorial by CFoR and members of the community including a metal bench, planters and lone Tommy Statue including a tribute to Animals at War

The War Memorial gardens are maintained by Volunteers

The serving and veteran members of the Armed Forces are evident in the Parish with a Military Plaque Wall at the local White Lion Public House on the High Street, Colsterworth acknowledging our military history and heritage

FCC Communities Foundation is a not-for-profit business that awards grants for community, conservation and heritage projects from funds donated by FCC Environment through the Landfill Communities Fund

Supported by: