

## FERRING'S WAR MEMORIAL

Our War Memorial was erected in 1921, on a piece of land donated by Mrs Henty, the last of the family that owned three-quarters of the land and houses in Ferring. It was unveiled on Sunday 6 November by the 74 year-old Col Matthew Purcell, a recent resident, following a consecration service at St Andrew's Church conducted by Archdeacon of Chichester.

In 1914 Ferring was a farming village with a population of around 250. In rapid development after 1924, it had reached 795 in the 1931 Census and by 1939 it must have reached 2,000. This explains why the Second World War dead of Ferring far outnumber those of the First World War. Nationwide, three times as many died in the earlier conflict.

Twenty-six servicemen from Ferring died in the Second World War. Two other Ferring residents were killed, by a stray bomb that fell on what is now Sea Lane Gardens in May 1941. As was customary, the names of Mr and Mrs Mulkani were not inscribed on the War Memorial.

The additional plinth with the names of the 1939–45 military casualties was added only in 1951. It was designed by Geoffrey Claridge, a young architectural student who lived in Ocean Drive. The memorial garden setting was added in 1990, by the Royal British Legion and improvements to that setting by Ferring Parish Council in 2014, to mark the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. In 2015 the Memorial was given a Grade II listing by Historic England.



The War Memorial in the early 1920s



The Memorial today, after recent cleaning paid for by the Parish Council in time for the VE Day 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary

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