

DETERIORATING FAST

A grave insult

Historians plead for help to restore old memorial

Ron Moore

Military historians have condemned the "deplorable" state of a memorial honouring Paisley men who were killed in the First World War.

The inscribed shrine at Hawkhead Cemetery, which commemorates workers of the former Doulton & Co. factory, has fallen into such a state of disrepair that HALF the names of soldiers are missing.

Two giant ceramic tiles have fallen off the plaque, leaving only 11 men identified for paying the ultimate sacrifice, while a host of their fallen comrades go unremembered.

Now history buffs have launched a battle to save the crumbling shrine and are

“We hope the missing names can be identified

David McNay

urging people to help restore the commemorative artefact, as well as replacing the missing soldiers' names.

David McNay, chairman of the Scottish Military Research Group, said: "I think this needs to be highlighted, as this condition is frankly deplorable.

"The First World War memorial in Hawkhead Cemetery, which has been neglected for some time, is in danger of being lost.

"It is in a poor state and half of the names have disappeared already.

"If nothing is done, the condition of the memorial will deteriorate and there will be nothing left to commemorate the men of the former Doulton & Co. Factory who died in the war.

"We would be willing to work in partnership with any interested parties in Renfrewshire who would care to intervene to safeguard this memorial.

"While we are sadly not in a

position to act alone with regard to restoration or possible relocation, we feel we cannot stand by without bringing this to your attention and offering to help in any way we possibly can.

"We would like to hope the names which are now missing can be identified – possibly from old photographs, old newspaper articles or from local people who know of the memorial."

The memorial includes the inscription: 'In memory and honour of the men from these works who fell in the Great War 1914-1919.'

The company which originally erected the memorial, Doulton & Co, no longer exists. It went into administration in 2009 and was bought out in 2011 by Asian-based parent company Wedgewood Waterford Royal Doulton.

Mr McNay said: "It is our hope that the people of Paisley can identify the missing names and rescue the Doulton & Co memorial from further damage."

Last night, bosses at Renfrewshire Council said they are willing to help restore the memorial.

A spokesperson added: "The community of Renfrewshire has a proud military tradition and the council has played its part in fully supporting that – particularly with regard to commemorating those who have given their lives on active service.

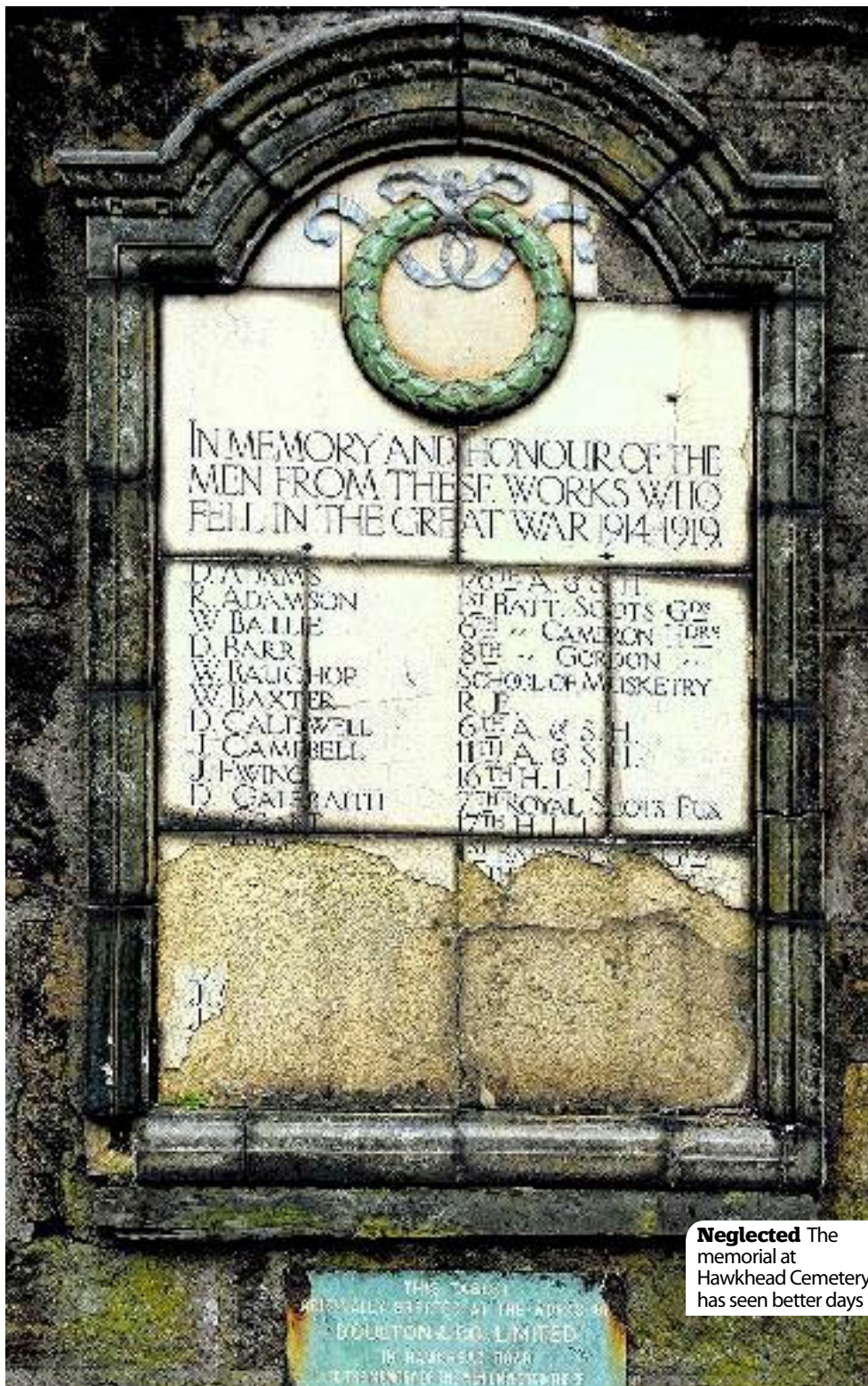
"We are arranging a service of rededication at Renfrew War Memorial on June 1 and, last year, we erected a plaque to commemorate military service personnel who lost their lives in post WWII conflicts.

"The council is certainly willing to look at how we can support proposals to help a joint approach to restore the plaque or help identify the missing names on the plaque.

"We are already asking families to come forward if they wish the fallen of modern wars to be commemorated.

"Hopefully, we can help with similar support to remember the veterans of 1914-18 whose sacrifice was honoured on the plaque at Hawkhead."

● If you can help to restore the memorial, send an e-mail to scottishmilitaryresearch@live.co.uk or call Ron Moore at the Express newsroom on 0141 887 7911 anytime between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.



Neglected The memorial at Hawkhead Cemetery has seen better days

Footie fan arrested after Old Firm clash

Gavin McNally

A football fan from Paisley has been arrested in connection with shameful scenes which marred a Youth Cup Final between Old Firm rivals Rangers and Celtic.

The 16-year-old boy was picked up by cops who are investigating vandalism and public disorder complaints following the highly-volatile Under-17s match played at Firhill, in Glasgow, on Monday, April, 29.

A 28-year-old Erskine man was previously arrested as part of the ongoing investigation.

Police say a total of seven arrests have now been made in connection with the hate-filled cup clash – with more expected.

Fans set off flares and smoke bombs and damaged seats during the powderkeg match, which Rangers won 3-2.

Last night, a Police Scotland spokesman told the Paisley Daily Express: "A further two people – both 16-year-old males – have been arrested in connection with a disturbance during the Rangers versus Celtic Youth Cup Final at Firhill.

"On Wednesday, officers attended addresses in Penicuik and Paisley and arrested the youths with regard to their alleged conduct and behaviour at the game.

"A report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

"Enquires are continuing into the incident and it is anticipated that there will be more arrests."

Fair play

Talented performers from the Elderslie Kirk Players will take centre stage tonight as they present their latest production.

Theatre lovers can enjoy a performance of Fairway to Heaven, by Diana Raffle.

This tale of farce focuses on Lady Fotheringham, who is in her 70s, a bit deaf and likes arranging 'events' for her friends.

For her latest event, Lady F has arranged a kissogram.

The performance takes place at the Elderslie Kirk Hall, in the town's Main Road, and starts at 7.30pm.

Tickets are priced £5 for adults and £3 for concessions and will be available at the door.

Probe after mum dies and daughter is injured

FROM PAGE 1

within a hallway at the hotel, with the other woman found in a nearby bedroom.

Last night, police revealed that both Margaret and Nicola had suffered "significant" injuries.

They were taken to Inverclyde Royal Hospital for treatment but Margaret died yesterday afternoon.

Nicola remained in a critical condition in hospital last night.

Margaret's loved ones were too distraught to comment at the family home

in Corsebar Avenue.

However, one shocked neighbour, who asked not to be named, told the Paisley Daily Express: "Margaret seemed like a really lovely lady. She was always friendly and polite."

Officers have said both Margaret and Nicola were seen in the Paisley area on Thursday morning but it is unclear where they went before they were found at the hotel yesterday morning.

Detective Inspector David Wagstaff said: "Enquiries are at a very early stage and

we are piecing together the movements of Margaret and her daughter, who are both from Paisley.

"We know that both women were in the Paisley area around 9am on Thursday. However, we are trying to establish their movements from that time until 7am on Friday, when they were found with serious injuries within the hotel.

"We are unable at this time to establish whether there are any suspicious circumstances.

"We know that the women

had access to a red Suzuki Swift, which was later recovered from the car park of the hotel.

"I would appeal to anyone who saw these two women in their vehicle to come forward to police. As yet, we have been unable to speak to Margaret's daughter, due to her ill health. I need anyone who can help us put together their last movements to come forward."

Anyone with information is asked to call the police on 101 or ring Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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