

Village Echoes

More Light on the Cenotaph

Last year, at about this time, new documents were unearthed at Scotney Castle. They contained a sketch for the original wooden and plaster cenotaph designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens (1869-1944) dated 1919. It had been commissioned by David Lloyd George and was erected very quickly in time for the first Armistice. It soon deteriorated and was replaced the following year by a stone version we are familiar with. King George V conducted the unveiling in 1920.

Scotney's last owner before being taken over by the National Trust, Christopher Hussey, was an architectural historian. He wrote what was considered the best biography of the great man – “The Life of Edwin Lutyens” - in 1950. It is thought that he acquired the sketch in the course of his research. A great deal of the original documents for the project survive and will eventually be moved to the Kent History Centre in Maidstone.



Although more well known for his Country House designs, in collaboration with Gertrude Jekyll, he was appointed one of the three main architects by the Imperial War Graves Commission, creating many other commemorations to the dead, including the Memorial to the Missing of the Somme at Thiepval, the War Memorial in Dublin and Manchester Cenotaph.

Amongst his huge and varied portfolio, residential examples in Kent include a design to rebuild Great Maytham at Rolvenden and construction of The Salutation in Sandwich, which is considered to be one of his masterpieces. It is not known if he ever worked on Scotney Castle.