



# Charles Rolls Heritage Trust

Memorial Plaque Viewing  
Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2023



## Programme

Gate Open 12.30

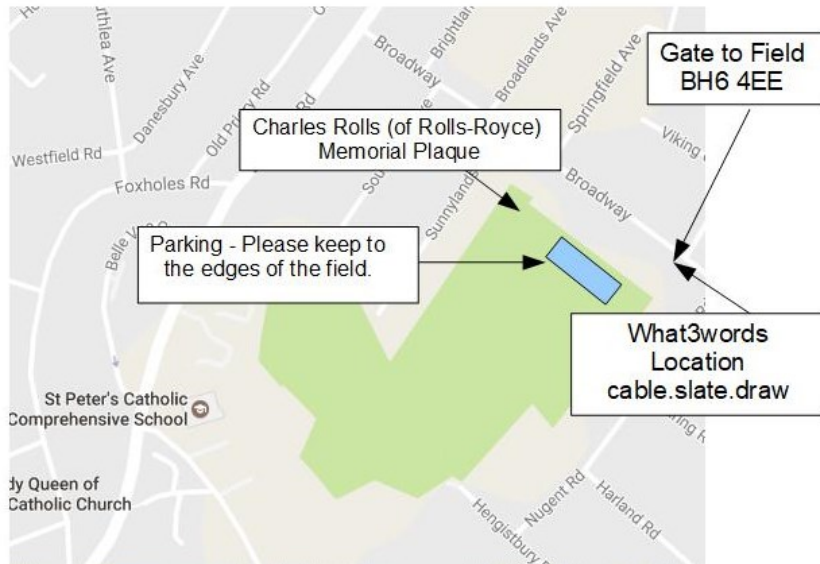
(If you arrive before then call  
07796 470 978 for gate to be opened)

12.55 - Minute silence

Gate closure 1.30pm

Please respect that  
this is the private land  
of St Peter's School.

Vehicle and  
pedestrian access  
is via the blue gates  
near the bus stop  
shown below.



Gate View



Venue Aerial view



## The Hon Charles Stewart Rolls - MA, FRGS, AMIMEchE 27 August 1877 – 12 July 1910

On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July from 12.30 to 13.30 there is a rare opportunity to visit the memorial plaque that commemorates the untimely loss of a great British pioneer. The plaque is on private land and is obscured by housing. Rolls (of Rolls-Royce) was the first Briton to die in a powered aircraft accident during Britain's First International Aviation Meeting in 1910 at Southbourne.

The Meeting had been organised to celebrate the Centenary of Bournemouth in 1910. Part of the competition had been to land as close as possible to a touch down point. Rolls had tried to improve on an earlier attempt but in the turbulent conditions the tail of his aircraft, a French built Wright Flyer (with a later tail modification) became overstressed at a critical moment and the aircraft plunged to earth from about 80 feet. So died Charles Rolls at the age of 32, whose partnership a few years earlier with Henry Royce created the famous Rolls-Royce company in 1906.

Already an established cyclist, racing driver and balloonist, Rolls was a pioneer of aviation in Britain and had met the Wright brothers. He promoted the Short Brothers by buying their licence built Wright Flyers. In June he had used his French built Wright Flyer for a non-stop return trip across the channel so as to improve on the achievement of Bleriot's single crossing and to show that England had ceased to be an island.

Charles Rolls' legacy was to help the Short Brothers who later built the Sunderland aircraft which fought in the Battle of the Atlantic, the development of the 'Best Car In the World – the Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost' and of Rolls-Royce and its Merlin engine, which, combined with the fighter aircraft it powered and the Dowding infrastructure of command and control, were the saviours of Britain during the Battle of Britain.

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Charles Rolls Heritage Trust - Registered Charity 1174592

Mobile: 07796 470978 email [stephen.robson10@bopenworld.com](mailto:stephen.robson10@bopenworld.com)



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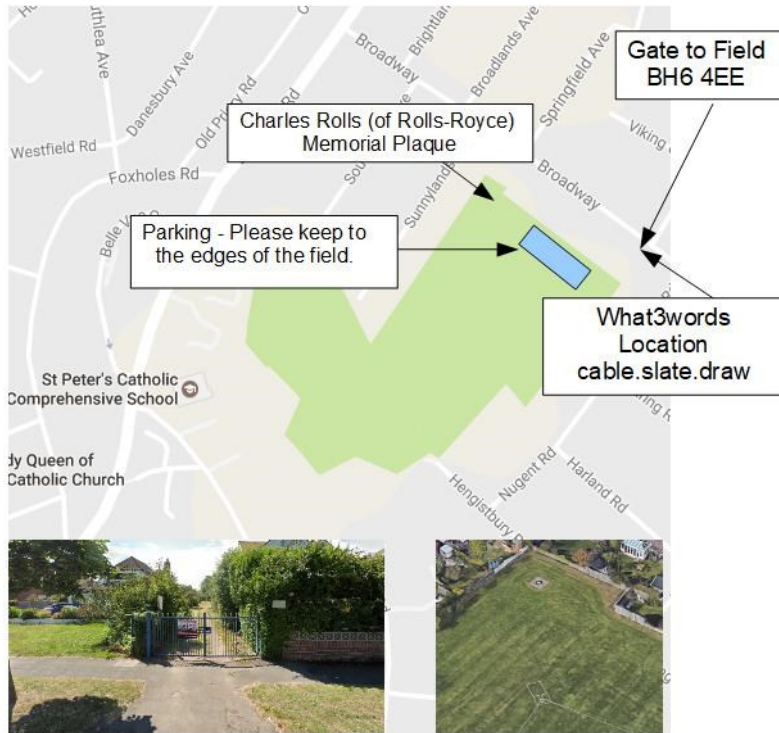


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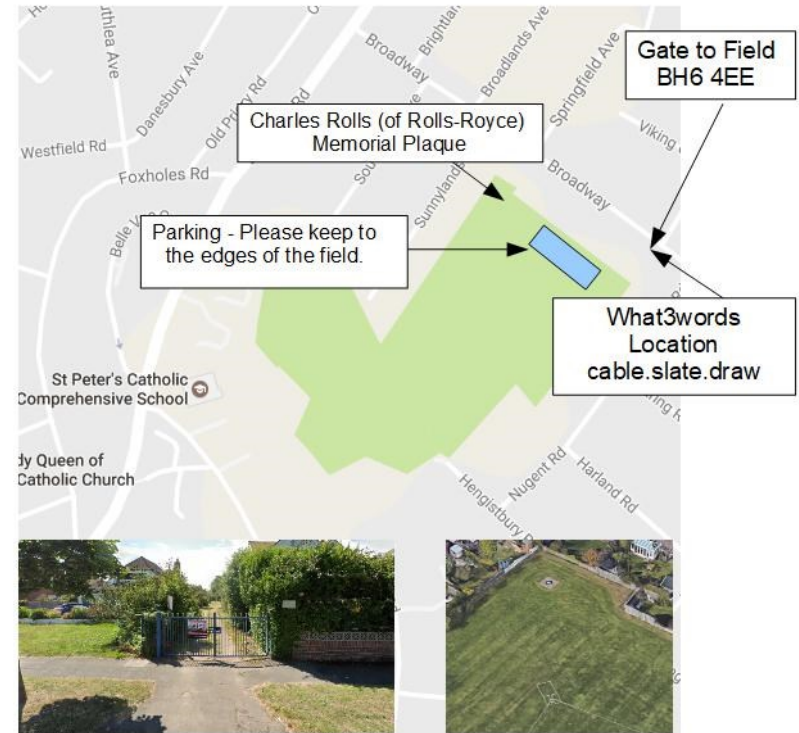


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