



Charles Rolls Heritage Trust

Memorial Plaque Viewing
Saturday 13th July 2024

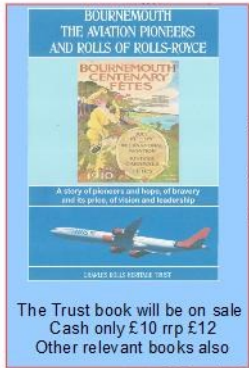


Programme

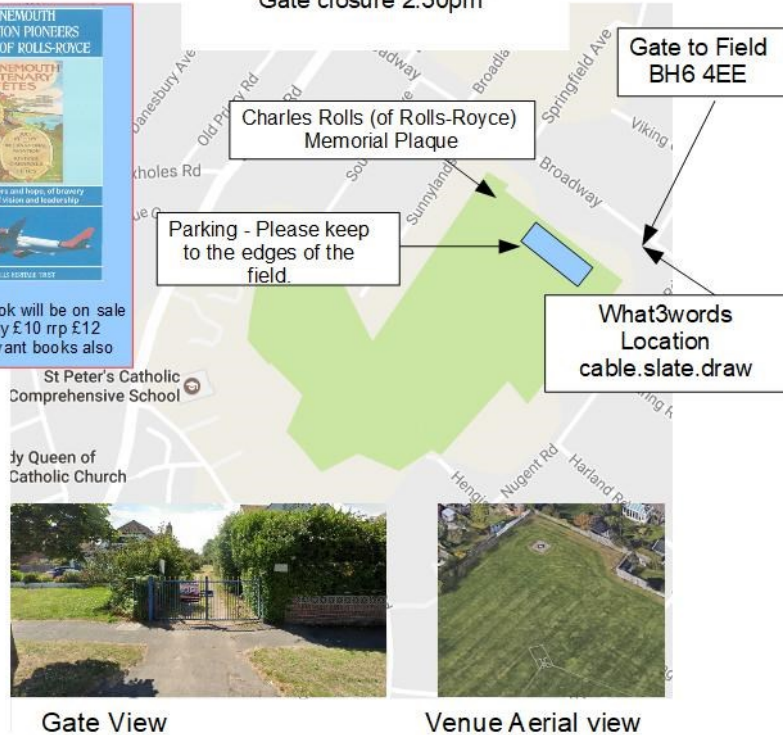
Gate Open 12.30
(If you arrive before then call
07796 470 978 for gate to be opened)
12.50 – Welcome
by Chairman CRHT
12.55 - Minute silence
Gate closure 2.30pm

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.



The Trust book will be on sale
Cash only £10 rrp £12
Other relevant books also



Gate View



Venue Aerial view

Note - there are no toilets on site – Less than a mile are - Hiker Cafe BH6 4EN,
Southbourne Cross Roads BH6 4AE, Solent Meads Golf Centre BH6 4NA.

By kind permission of St Peter's Catholic School, Southbourne
Charles Rolls Heritage Trust - Registered Charity 1174592
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The Hon Charles Stewart Rolls - MA, FRGS, AMIMechE 27 August 1877 – 12 July 1910

On Saturday 13th July from 12.30 to 14.30 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 will be attended by the local Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts Club which built the original memorial in 1987. The plaque and its surround was refurbished by Rolls-Royce plc, the aero engine company, in 2010 as part of Bournemouth's bi-centenary celebration.

Back 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 helped the Short Brothers and bought two of their licence built Wright Flyers. In June 1910 he flew his French built Wright Flyer on a non-stop return trip across the channel. This improved on Bleriot's single crossing and proved that England had ceased to be an island and was vulnerable to airborne attack

Why remember Rolls? He helped the Short Brothers who later built the Sunderland aircraft which fought in the Battle of the Atlantic, he co-founded Rolls-Royce which made 'the Best Car In the World' and the Merlin engine which powered the fighter aircraft during the Battle of Britain.