

## **Full Explanation – Appendix to the AGM Minutes at UJC held 14/10/2022**

Now to the long-drawn-out negotiations with National Memorial Arboretum staff in our attempt to have a Writer's Memorial installed at the Arboretum. Back in 2016 I asked what types of memorials were available for our limited funds and was informed that a plaque and tree would fit the bill at a cost of circa £1200. I was also informed that there was no more land available at that time, but more land was expected to become available soon and I asked that the Association be informed when this happened. I kept in touch with the administrator and was informed in 2018 that more land had become available, but the NMA Administration had decided not to continue with the tree and plaque option, strange it is an Arboretum after all. They were considering alternatives and would inform me when their deliberation reached fruition. Again I had to continually chase the administrator and eventually in Jan 20 I received a long detailed email from one of the staff on what was allowed and the procedure for getting a memorial installed. The following criteria must be satisfied for a memorial to be erected on the site it must:

- a) Commemorate those who died in the service of their Country
- b) Those who served or suffered in the service of their country
- c) Must be sponsored by a national organisation
- d) It must enhance the Arboretum from a visitor perspective.

All proposals need to be approved by the Landscape and Memorials Advisory Committee which sits once a quarter. The Committee require a completed application pack of scale drawings together with details of materials to be used including any signage/text. The supporting organisation must bear the full design, build costs and insurance as it retains ownership of the Memorial and there is a £1000 application fee. The NMA charge for the installation and maintenance which must be negotiated beforehand this is normally a one-off payment of anything from £3,500 to £50,000 depending on the maintenance requirement and insurance value.

Thus, in the view of the Committee because of the cost it is a non-starter and seek agreement from the floor. If agreed the donors will be offered their money back.

***Colin Hughes***

RNWA President