

Newspaper Articles about the
unveiling of the radar memorial
at St Aldhelm's Head
by Sir Bernard Lovell
on Saturday 27th October 2001.

DAILY ECHO

Monday October 29, 2001

SWANAGE ADVERTISER

Thursday November 8, 2001



MEMORIES: Sir Bernard Lovell chats to Reg Batt of Harmans Cross

Picture: Richard Crease

The right signals!

SIR Bernard Lovell, the 87-year-old legendary astronomer who founded Jodrell Bank in Cheshire, came to Dorset at the weekend to unveil a radar memorial.

The metal and stone memorial at St Aldhel's Head – comprising two miniature radar dishes and fire baskets – recall ancient and modern methods of invasion warning.

“Fires were lit to warn of the approach of the Spanish armada and now we rely on radar,” said Tony Viney, chairman of the memorial trust. “The memorial is a symbol of technical evolution

in this county that has contributed so much to the safety of our country.”

Radar was developed in Britain by a team of scientists based in Worth Matravers and their work was described by the late Sir Winston Churchill as the biggest deciding factor in winning World War 11.

“It was here that the great breakthrough in radar and new discoveries in that field were made,” Mr Viney recalled.

The stainless steel memorial, set on a Purbeck stone base, cost £2,500 and was made totally by local people.

Memorial to radar pioneers

A CLIFF-TOP sculpture commemorating the pioneering development of radar has been unveiled at St Aldhelm's Head.

The innovation which helped Britain win World War Two was made by scientists who turned the village of Worth Matravers into a temporary wartime town.

The idea for the nine-ft high memorial came from members of Worth Matravers parish council.

It has been placed on the headland where the first radar echo was picked up by aircraft.

The sculpture was officially unveiled by Sir Bernard Lovell, who is internationally renowned for the Jodrell Bank radio telescope which applied radar to astronomy.

He was joined by Reg Batt, 80, who survived a car crash on the Corfe-Wareham road earlier this year which claimed the life of his wife, Dorothy.

In 1940 Reg was appointed a scientific assistant in the Telecommunications Research Establishment and later wrote a book titled *The Radar Army*.



● Sir Bernard Lovell with former comrades including Reg Batt, front, of Harman's Cross



● Sir Bernard Lovell unveils the Radar Memorial at St Aldhelm's Head in Worth Matravers