

News release

RAF Bomber Command memorial



Date: 25th June 2012

Status: Immediate release

Starts

War Memorials Trust is aware of the unveiling of the Bomber Command memorial scheduled for this week. War Memorials Trust has had no direct involvement in the project. War Memorials Trust does not fund new war memorials but does have a [helpsheet](#) outlining some of the key issues involved in erecting new war memorials to assist individuals and communities considering this issue.

New war memorials are erected on a regular basis in towns and villages across the country both to commemorate current conflicts and also to remember those from earlier wars. War memorials have always been erected by local communities. Communities may be geographical, regimental, work-place, school or church based. Funding has traditionally been raised from that community representing their response to conflict and loss. Discussion and debate leads to decisions about location, design and style. There is no requirement to register these with War Memorials Trust or any other organisation and therefore War Memorials Trust does not hold a record of where or when they are put up.

War Memorials Trust does not hold an opinion on whether new war memorials are, or are not, erected. However, the charity seeks to encourage anyone embarking upon a project to learn from history and ensure that appropriate measures are in place to preserve the memorial over the years ahead. Much of War Memorials Trust's work is associated with war memorials where no clear ownership was established and thus no obvious responsibility for maintenance. In the early 1920s when the majority of the UK's war memorials were erected little thought was given by communities lost in grief to the mundane issues of maintenance and repair. They could little have imagined that in the years ahead looking after these memorials would become a question of finances and be judged against other responsibilities and needs. Today, those erecting memorials should learn from this and put in place contracts or endowments that will ensure the memorial is cherished in the years ahead. Creating a memorial is challenging but ensuring its future is as important if it is to fulfil its purpose as a place to remember.

War Memorials Trust's Director, Frances Moreton: "War memorials have been erected for hundreds of years; a community response to loss. On a daily basis War Memorials Trust supports local communities as they repair and conserve their war memorials often facing the challenges of a lack of clear ownership or sources of funding to support preservation. The Trust encourages all those erecting or planning to erect war memorials today to ensure they put in place adequate plans for long-term maintenance so tomorrow's custodians are not faced with the problems experienced today."

Ends

Contact

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Notes to editors

1. War Memorials Trust is an independent registered charity. Established in 1997 due to concerns about neglect and vandalism it works to protect and conserve war memorials. It provides advice, information and administers grants schemes that assist the repair and conservation of war memorials across the UK. As a charity the Trust relies on voluntary contributions to undertake its work. Supporters include annual and life members, donors, charitable trusts and corporate contributors.
2. War Memorials Trust provides grants that can assist repair and conservation of war memorials. Contact the Conservation Team to discuss eligibility on 020 7233 7356 / 0300 123 0764 or conservation@warmemorials.org or download an 'Expression of interest' form from www.warmemorials.org/grants/.
3. War Memorials Trust provides a free advisory service to anyone with a war memorial enquiry. Specialist Conservation Officers are available on 020 7233 7356 / 0300 123 0764 or conservation@warmemorials.org. A range of helpsheets can be viewed at www.warmemorials.org/a-z including the New War Memorials advice.