

Bulletin



War Memorials Trust



Number 54 August 2012

War Memorials Trust news

Royal support for In Memoriam 2014

On a rare sunny morning in June the Trust was honoured to be joined by our Patron HRH The Duchess of Cornwall at the Royal Artillery Memorial on Hyde Park Corner in London. As part of the In Memoriam 2014 campaign she marked one of the metal plaques on the memorial with SmartWater as well as meeting some of those involved with the project. In Memoriam 2014 is making Smartwater available free to all war memorial custodians. The crime prevention fluid will not only make memorials uniquely identifiable, it also offers robust traceability should a theft occur. This will act as a significant deterrent to those considering desecrating our war memorials by massively increasing their chances of detection and subsequent arrest.



HRH The Duchess of Cornwall receives a demonstration of SmartWater © Duncan Soar Photography, 2012

Welcomed by War Memorials Trust's Chairman Algy Cluff and Director Frances Moreton the Duchess was introduced to representatives of SmartWater and its Foundation by Trustee John Peat. Sir Keith Povey, Chairman of the SmartWater Foundation and Phil Cleary CEO of SmartWater were joined by JonMichael Teare and Annette Gaykema who have been working on In Memoriam 2014 for the Foundation. War Memorials Trust Trustees Lord Cope and Gavin Stamp introduced Major General John Milne CB Controller of Charities Royal Artillery, Simon Thurley Chief Executive of English Heritage and Richard Hoare OBE Trustee of The Bulldog Trust who had been invited to attend due to their involvement with the memorial.

The Duchess moved on to meet some of the Trust's Regional and Office Volunteers who were introduced by Nancy Treves, Membership and Volunteer Officer. Terry Giles (London), Jim Day (Kent) and Deirdre Cockcroft (Hampshire) represented many of the Regional Volunteers who have worked incredibly hard promoting In Memoriam 2014 in their local communities. Completing the group was long-standing Office Volunteer Martin Shorthouse whose support within the office, and willingness to file, scan and photocopy whatever we throw at him, releases the staff to develop projects such as In Memoriam 2014.

Having met guests the Duchess was escorted to the foot of the memorial. On ascending the steps JonMicheal Teare of the SmartWater Foundation demonstrated the SmartWater product before the Duchess undertook the marking ensuring the memorial is protected. She was witnessed not just by the invited guests and photographers but also by members of the public and tourists who were somewhat surprised, and obviously delighted from the flashing cameras, to have come across the event.



HRH The Duchess of Cornwall meeting students © Duncan Soar Photography, 2012

Descending from the memorial the Duchess moved on to speak to staff and students from Knights Templar School in Baldock. Teacher Richard Robertson was joined by Sixth Form History student Rosy Boxall and Year 9 students Nathan Gilbert, Alexander Hepburn and Nicholas Bell. They discussed some of the research they have been doing on their local war memorial with the Duchess seemingly delighted with their enthusiasm to engage with their war memorial.

Everyone involved with War Memorials Trust and In Memoriam 2014 extends their sincere thanks to the Duchess for joining us on this occasion and supporting this vital campaign.

Anyone seeking to ensure their local war memorial is protected with SmartWater should visit www.inmemoriam2014.org for further information.



HRH The Duchess of Cornwall meeting WMT volunteers © Duncan Soar Photography, 2012