

# News statement



Date: Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2012

Status: Immediate release

## Starts

War Memorials Trust is pleased that the Minister for Crime Prevention has specifically chosen to visit a war memorial as part of his consideration of the issue of metal theft.

Amy Davidson, one of War Memorials Trust's Conservation Officers, commented on the current situation "War Memorials Trust supports any attempt to deter metal theft and we are delighted that the number of theft, attempted theft and vandalism cases reported to us has reduced by two-thirds since their peak in 2011. However, it is important that we do not become complacent as there are still an alarming number of thefts taking place so the challenge is now for everyone to work to reduce this number further."

Amy Davidson met with the Minister at the war memorial located on Church Manorway, Erith, Kent dedicated to the employees of the former Callender's Cables and Construction Company Ltd killed in both World Wars. It is part of the enduring legacy of the memorial that the 'proud and grateful memory' referred to on the memorial is honoured by former employees who still lay wreaths at the memorial and generally keep an eye on it. Sadly this memorial was one of fifteen reported to the Trust as having been targeted by thieves so far this year. An attempt was made to pull away one of the metal plaques on the memorial which carries the inscriptions. Thankfully, in this case there were people to notice that a theft attempt had been made. The former employees that tend to the memorial ensured an application was made to the In Memoriam 2014 project to have SmartWater applied to help prevent any further theft attempts in the future.

Unfortunately, in some cases there is no custodian for a memorial or those who take an interest in their welfare and it is in these cases where memorials face the greatest risk.

## Ends

## Contact

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## Notes to editors

1. As a national charity War Memorials Trust is able to comment on general issues but not individual cases.

2. For further information on theft and vandalism statistics for 2012 please refer to the Trust's news release of 25<sup>th</sup> October 2012 and accompanying appendix available on the Trust's press page: [www.warmemorials.org/news/](http://www.warmemorials.org/news/).
3. Photographs of the memorial mentioned are available upon request.
4. 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.
5. War Memorials Trust provides grants that can assist repair and conservation of war memorials including replacing stolen items like-for-like. Contact the Conservation Team to discuss eligibility on 020 7233 7356 / 0300 123 0764 or [conservation@warmemorials.org](mailto:conservation@warmemorials.org) or download a 'Grants Pre-application form' from [www.warmemorials.org/grants/](http://www.warmemorials.org/grants/).
6. 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](mailto:conservation@warmemorials.org).
7. For the recent press release and further information on the In Memoriam 2014 project please visit [www.warmemorials.org/im2014-press/](http://www.warmemorials.org/im2014-press/).