

News statement

War memorial graffiti in London



Date: Monday 27th May 2013

Status: Immediate release

Starts

War Memorials Trust is saddened to learn of the graffiti to the [Bomber Command](#) and [Animals in War](#) memorials. Such acts, whether planned or spur of the moment, are deeply offensive to both the memory of those named on, or recorded by, the memorial and the family, friends and comrades who have erected it as a place to pay their tribute.

With both memorials recently erected they represent the growing interest in war memorials and the desire by many, especially Second World War veterans, to ensure their Comrades are memorialised. With the forthcoming centenary of World War I war memorials will receive even greater attention and War Memorials Trust is available to help any community seeking to repair or conserve their war memorial.

Fortunately comprehensive advice is available to custodians about dealing with graffiti removal to minimise damage but it is an expert job which should be lead by the custodians and professionals. Inappropriate removal could cause as much damage as the graffiti and other communities facing this challenge are welcome to visit the Trust's advice on this issue www.warmemorials.org/a-z/.

Frances Moreton, Director of War Memorials Trust stated: "War memorials across the UK are sites for people to remember the fallen. Damage such as this graffiti is fortunately relatively rare but when it does happen it sends shock waves through communities at the disrespect to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. War memorials were primarily erected following conflicts where the bodies remained buried overseas. Memorials acted as graves for the many families who could not travel to see their loved one's resting place. War memorials remember people not conflicts and their use for political or other purposes shows a lack of understanding and respect for the memory of those members of our communities who bravely went to serve their country when called.

War Memorials Trust seeks to work with communities whose memorials suffer graffiti to see them returned to their rightful condition. It also encourages communities to recognise and monitor their war memorials by sharing information on [War Memorials Online](#) where condition can be recorded and concerns raised to enable the Trust to provide assistance. In addition, the charity has a programme to educate [young people](#) about war memorials and ensure that tomorrow's custodians understand how and why it is important to preserve our war memorial heritage."

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.
4. Advice on dealing with Graffiti can be found on the Trust's website www.warmemorials.org/a-z/#G