



War Memorials Trust

Call to remember

What can you do to look after your local war memorials?



Start by going and looking. If **your** local war memorials are in 'Good' condition then make a note to keep an eye on them and ensure they are maintained in that state. Contact the custodians and thank them. They have taken on the responsibility for cherishing the memorial and they will appreciate knowing the community recognises their efforts. Add any information **you** find to War Memorials Online, www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk . If **you** have any concerns about war memorials or want to get more involved with their conservation then please read on...



If you have concerns about the condition of your local memorial

Take steps to follow this up:

- 1** Find out who is responsible for a **local** war memorial. This can be difficult as not all war memorials have identified custodians. Please see War Memorials Trust's 'Ownership of war memorials' helpsheet for information on ownership.
- 2** Raise **your** concerns with the custodian/owner and pass on the details of War Memorials Trust's website as a source of information about looking after war memorials. **You** may want to offer to help with monitoring the memorial regularly in the future or consider how **you** might assist, or drive, a project to undertake works required now.
- 3** Report **your** concern, or register the memorial's condition on **War Memorials Online**, www.warmemorials.org.uk. Any concerns or 'Poor'/'Very bad' condition updates are passed to War Memorials Trust to follow up. Or **you** can contact War Memorials Trust directly.
- 4** If no one will take responsibility for the war memorial raise the issue in the **local** area through the media, **local** newsletters or parish meetings. See if anyone comes forward with information. Use War Memorials Trust's helpsheet 'Researching the history of a war memorial' to investigate further.
- 5** Motivate **local** people to get involved in conserving the memorial. War Memorials Trust's helpsheet 'Setting up a **local** group to look after **your** war memorial' can help structure a group. Encourage people to identify what they want to see happen to the memorial and involve them. Refer to the history of the memorial to ensure any proposals reflect the intention of those who originally paid for the memorial and who knew those commemorated upon it.
- 6** If **you** decide works are required make sure these follow conservation best practice to ensure anything **you** do is for the long-term preservation of the memorial. Cleaning with the wrong products, or removing bits of the memorial, can damage it. Be cautious about any work. Consult expert professionals such as a **local** conservation architect, **local** authority Conservation Officer or use the resources available from War Memorials Trust's website.



Advice available from War Memorials Trust

War Memorials Trust has a range of helpsheets and information available as well as administering a number of grant schemes. Below we provide just a flavour of what we can offer:

Helpsheets

War Memorials Trust has a huge number of helpsheets available to assist **you** with all sorts of war memorial issues. They can be found on our helpsheets A-Z page at www.warmemorials.org/a-z.

- Advice on maintenance and War memorial theft: Prevention and solutions
- The legal issues including designation, planning and Parliamentary Acts
- Conservation of limestone, brass, bronze, concrete, etc.
- Landscaping around war memorials and dealing with lichen on memorials
- Conservation principles and day-to-day management of memorials
- Comprehensive advice on managing a project including finding contractors, tendering, managing a project and dealing with a grant offer
- Advice on raising money for war memorial projects
- Details of dedication or rededication services
- How to research a war memorial or the names on it
- Advice on setting up a **local** group to look after a memorial or memorials
- General issues such as dates, addition of names, insurance, why war memorials are important and why war memorials should not be sold

How War Memorials Trust can help you



War Memorials Trust is the charity that works to protect and conserve war memorials in the UK. It provides advice and information on a range of war memorial issues, as well as administering grant schemes that assist repair and conservation. To

access the comprehensive advice from the Trust visit www.warmemorials.org where **you** will find a range of information from technical advice on dealing with specific materials to general issues commonly faced by those involved with looking after war memorials. The **same principles** which apply to conserving the wreath at the top of the Cenotaph, shown above, may well apply to **your local** war memorial so take advantage of shared conservation best practice advice to ensure any works help preserve **your local** memorials and cause no damage.

The Trust can also advise on many of the things to **avoid** when dealing with memorials. Sometimes well-intentioned actions can have unfortunate repercussions that damage the memorial in the long-term. Some general points:

- **DO NOT** clean the memorial with household products. War memorials are often historic structures and using chemicals on them can cause lasting damage as it gets into the material and increases the speed of deterioration.

- **DO NOT** jet or power-wash a memorial. Historic stone needs to be treated appropriately depending on its type, age and condition. Jet and power-washing can damage the surface of the stone which makes it more vulnerable to weathering and means it may decay and get dirtier quicker.
- **DO NOT** use permanent marker pens to paint lettering. The ink will run into the stone and may cause staining. We know people have done this and it can be very difficult to remove.

War Memorials Trust is not directly responsible for any war memorials and has no legal authority. It is a small charity, established in 1997 because of concerns about the neglect and vandalism of war memorials; at that point there was a lack of specialist war memorial information. The Trust has worked hard to fill that void, but it still has just four Conservation Officers covering the estimated 100,000 war memorials in the UK. We hope through this mailing that **you** will look at **your local** war memorials, check if anything needs to be done and contact the charity if assistance is required.

If **you** do contact the Trust following this mailing please be aware we are anticipating a surge in interest so we will respond as soon as we can. If **you** can visit our website **you** will be able to obtain information and advice more quickly. Alternatively if **you** want to raise a concern about a memorial or alert the Trust to a memorial in 'Poor' or 'Very bad' condition **you** can submit information directly on War Memorials Online www.warmemorials.org.uk which will be passed to War Memorials Trust to follow up.

Grant funding

UK: Small Grants Scheme

The Small Grants Scheme is administered by War Memorials Trust and is funded purely through voluntary donations raised by the Trust's fundraising.

This scheme is open to all memorials throughout the UK. The maximum grant is 50% of eligible costs up to a maximum of £2,500.

England: Grants for War Memorials

The Grants for War Memorials scheme is funded by English Heritage and The Wolfson Foundation and administered by War Memorials Trust on their behalf. The scheme is open to all freestanding war memorials in England with a maximum award of 75% of eligible costs or £30,000, whichever is the smaller. The scheme has four rounds annually for the years 2013/2014 and 2014/15.

Scotland: Centenary Memorials Restoration Fund

War Memorials Trust manages this scheme on behalf of Historic Scotland and the Scottish Government. The scheme is open to all war memorials in Scotland.

There are quarterly assessment dates for this scheme which has a maximum award of 75% of eligible costs up to a maximum grant of £30,000.

Further details of all the schemes, and how to apply, can be found at www.warmemorials.org/grants. The first step is to complete a Grants Pre-application form which is a simple two sided document which will allow War Memorials Trust to assess which scheme **your** project may be eligible for, send **you** advice on what **you** will need to consider in **your** application and dispatch the relevant Guidance Notes and Application Form.



My war memorial is in 'Good' condition, what else can I do?

Recording the history of war memorials is vital. Make sure **your local** war memorials are recorded on War Memorials Online, www.warmemorials.org.uk. **You** can contribute to recording the history of the memorial and its evolving condition.

Understanding why people made their decisions about design, location and who was recorded is important. It should influence how we manage the memorial today; respecting the original intent whilst retaining the memorial as a relevant focal point for remembrance.

“The stories of those recorded by our war memorials, and the memorials themselves, are fascinating and can provide an interesting area of research”

Working with young people

Hearing about those commemorated is a way to draw in young people and encourage them to appreciate our war memorial heritage to ensure they will continue to preserve it in the future. Visit www.learnaboutwarmemorials.org or contact War Memorials Trust for further information about our educational programme for young people.

Information collected about the war memorial, its history and those remembered can become fascinating exhibitions, books or websites to enable everyone to find out more. There is support and funding available, from other organisations, for people who want to undertake wider research projects and activities.

How you can help War Memorials Trust?

The most important thing is to highlight war memorials which need assistance. A simple way of doing this is keeping an eye on **your local** memorial and ensuring it is on, and condition is regularly updated at, War Memorials Online.

This could take just a few minutes each year and make a vital contribution to highlighting any problems early.

To get more involved **you** can support the Trust's work, and help us develop further resources to support **local** communities look after their war memorials:

- Join as an annual or life member
- Donate to the Trust's work
- Become a Regional Volunteer
- Leave the charity a legacy in **your** will

To find out more about all of these opportunities:

- Visit www.warmemorials.org/get-involved
- Call 0300 123 0764
- Email info@warmemorials.org



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