

News statement

War Memorials Trust's response to new funding for war memorials and how you can help



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Status: Immediate release

Starts

War Memorials Trust welcomes the recent announcement by Prime Minister David Cameron that £5 million is being made available to help local communities conserve, repair, protect and interpret their First World War war memorials, cemeteries and burial sites.

Frances Moreton, Director of War Memorials Trust, said "War Memorials Trust is delighted to learn of further resources available to support war memorial conservation and the thousands of war memorial custodians across the country. The charity looks forward to working with Department for Culture, Media and Sport, Commonwealth War Graves Commission and English Heritage in developing this initiative and identifying how that additional funding can have greatest impact. War Memorials Trust will also continue its work helping those memorials from all other conflicts which need repair and conservation to ensure all our war memorial heritage is protected for generations to come."

From statistics gathered through the website [War Memorials Online](http://www.warmemorials.org) it is believed up to 10% of war memorials in the UK may be in 'Poor' or 'Very bad' condition. Of those war memorials recorded so far on the website 74% are associated with the First World War. War Memorials Online is asking the public to assist in creating a greater understanding of the condition of war memorials through the centenary to ensure resources can be targeted at those memorials in greatest need. Anyone can register to upload information, share photos and provide condition updates and we call on people to get involved.

In 2013 War Memorials Trust's Small Grants Scheme, which supports war memorials of all dates and types in the UK, has made grant offers in excess of £100,000; an increase of a third on the grants offers made in 2012. This indicates a growing interest in war memorials and their conservation. In addition, a further £81,000 has been allocated in 2013 through the Grants for War Memorials Scheme funded by English Heritage and The Wolfson Foundation which supports works to freestanding war memorials in England. In Scotland War Memorials Trust is administering the Centenary Memorials Restoration Fund for the Scottish Government and Historic Scotland which is making £1 million available for the repair and conservation of memorials in Scotland. The first batch of three CMRF offers in November shared £22,500. War Memorials Trust is also talking to Cadw about plans for war memorial funding in Wales during the centenary. Information on funding currently available can be found at www.warmemorials.org/grants/ with information and advice provided at www.warmemorials.org/conservation-advice.

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 Online is a website seeking to create a greater understanding of the condition of war memorials. Due to the interest in war memorials generated by the centenary of the First World War this is a wonderful opportunity for everyone to help. Anyone can upload images, add condition updates, contribute information and raise concerns about war memorials at www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk. Any concern raised, or memorial reported in 'Poor' or 'Very bad' condition, is passed to War Memorials Trust to follow up. This will ensure available funding and support is targeted at memorials, and their custodians, in greatest need of help.

War Memorials Online is managed by War Memorials Trust with the support of English Heritage. It is working with other organisations to share information to support war memorial protection and conservation across the UK.

3. 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/.
4. 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.