

News release

Scrap Metal Dealers Bill 2012



Date: 13th July 2012

Status: Immediate release

Starts

Following the second reading of Richard Ottaway's Scrap Metal Dealers Bill in Parliament today Amy Davidson, Conservation Officer, commented:

"Metal theft has had a devastating impact on some war memorials and communities across the country as inscription plaques and statues are stolen from the memorials paid for and put up by communities to commemorate and remember their loved ones killed in conflict. War Memorials Trust supports all measures that might help prevent and deter such crime.

The charity sees Richard Ottaway's Scrap Metal Dealers Bill as a means to tackle metal theft and hope that it might be successful in reducing the number of these devastating crimes."

The Trust estimates that on average it receives around one report a week of a memorial which has suffered theft or vandalism; this peaked at around three reports a week around Remembrance Sunday 2011. The Trust has embarked on its own measures to try and combat metal theft from war memorials through In Memoriam 2014 which it is running in partnership with the SmartWater Foundation. In Memoriam 2014 protects memorials at risk of theft or damage by marking them with a forensic liquid called SmartWater. The crime prevention fluid, which is being made available at no charge, 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.

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. Further information on In Memoriam 2014 is available on the website: www.inmemoriam2014.org