

In Memoriam 2014

Messages in support of In Memoriam 2014

David Cameron, Prime Minister:

"I, like most people, have been appalled by the instances of theft from, and desecration of, our war memorials in recent times.

Of course, the Government commends any initiative that commemorates the sacrifices of those who served in Her Majesty's Armed Forces and died in the service of their country. It is to be hoped that the forthcoming centenary of the outbreak of the First World War will raise awareness about the condition of our war memorials. I recognise and appreciate the sterling work being carried out by the War Memorials Trust to help bring this about, so I would like to wish it every success in its efforts."

Nick Clegg, Deputy Prime Minister:

"Projects such as In Memoriam 2014 are a testament to this country's determination to remember our dead. I was particularly interested in learning about the role SmartWater can play in preventing crime and helping to ensure that our memorials serve as a focal point for commemorations."

Boris Johnson, Mayor of London:

"War memorials are there so that people of our generation, and the next generation, would never forget the sacrifice that was made. They were intended to be a permanent reminder of the sacrifices brave men and women made, and of the losses sustained by families and communities. The whole purpose of the memorial is to act as a physical reassurance that the deaths have not been in vain. It is a promise from the living to the dead – that we will always revere what they had done. It is therefore tragic when the monuments are cynically stolen so that the thief can make a few pounds. As for desecrating a memorial, the act is beneath contempt. I encourage our communities to look after the memorials and thank all the volunteers who are already doing this."

Ipswich Borough Council and In Memoriam 2014

Ipswich Borough Council was amongst the first to mark the war memorials for which it is responsible with free SmartWater through the In Memoriam 2014 campaign. The Council's War Memorials Officer submitted details of the war memorials online at www.inmemoriam2014.org. These were promptly assessed and the SmartWater solution dispatched by the Project Officer. On receipt of the solution the War Memorials Officer was able to personally mark the memorials, amongst which were the Ipswich Cenotaph and Boer War (Suffolk Soldiers) memorial, protecting them on behalf of the people of Ipswich.



Ipswich's War Memorials Officer marking the Cenotaph © Ipswich Borough Council, 2011

Ipswich Borough Council has identified heritage crime, and metals theft in particular, as a serious issue to which it is devoting resources. The Council was one of the first to sign the associated Memorandum of Understanding initiated by English Heritage, the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Crown Prosecution Service. As part of this approach, and thanks to the In Memoriam 2014 scheme, the opportunity has been taken to forensically mark all the memorials in the Council's care as a matter of priority as this has proved to be a concern of Councillors particularly in the light of national media coverage. Liaison is also being maintained with Suffolk Police, local Royal British Legion representatives and the Council's Community Safety Team and all the Council's senior managers have been briefed about the heritage crime issue.

To join Ipswich Borough Council and protect your war memorials whether you are a council, church, school or individual then visit www.inmemoriam2014.org or contact 07990 936 276, email enquiry@inmemoriam2014.org or write to In Memoriam 2014, c/o War Memorials Trust, 42a Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0RE.