

In Memoriam 2014



War Memorials Trust

On this sheet you will learn:

- What the In Memoriam 2014 project is.
- How you can get involved.

What is it?



This is a project that aims to **protect** war memorials at risk from theft or vandalism by marking them with **SmartWater**. SmartWater is a forensic liquid that contains a chemical code and shows up under UV light. It is put onto **metal** parts of war memorials and makes them **identifiable**, so if they are **stolen** they are easier to find. Criminals are less likely to steal something they think is marked with it because they know they have more chance of being **caught**. More information can be found on the project website at www.inmemoriam2014.org.

What can you do?

The project makes SmartWater available to the **custodians** of war memorials, who might be unfamiliar with the project or find it difficult to use the project's **website** to apply for the SmartWater. You could therefore help by:

- **Telling** the custodian about the project and encouraging them to take part. You may need to do some **research** to find out who the custodian is – your group leader or our 'Researching a war memorial' helpsheet can help you with this (www.learnaboutwarmemorials.org/youth-groups/general/11-18). You will then need to write to them. However you approach them, make sure you **discuss** this with your group leader or parents

first so they know what you are doing.

- **Helping** the custodian to apply for SmartWater to put on the war memorial – this is done **online** through the project website (www.inmemoriam2014.org) While the custodian has to apply or give permission to apply, you can assist with this if they need help.
- **Apply** the SmartWater to the memorial (see 'Things to remember' below for guidance on this).
- Afterwards, carry out **regular checks** to the war memorial to ensure that it is in **good** condition and not at **risk**. Further information on what you can do and what to look for are given below.

Depending on where you live this could become a more widespread project, with you working with your group to help **several memorials** in the area. You can also **combine** this project with other war memorial activities – see our other war memorial project suggestions and our information and activity sheets for ideas.

SmartWater isn't only used on war memorials – it is a widespread method of **crime prevention**. You could extend your work on the In Memoriam project to investigating how you can help to prevent wider crime.



A secondary school pupil helping to apply SmartWater to a war memorial
© Duncan Soar Photography, 2012.

Why should you get involved?

Apart from the obvious benefit to war memorials, this project has **advantages** for you as well. In Memoriam 2014 gives the topic of war memorials an interesting and more **modern** angle, by combining their **history** with the **scientific** aspect and cutting edge **technology** of how SmartWater works and the important idea of crime prevention, so has something to offer everyone whatever their interest. It also offers you a really **practical** and hands-on way of getting involved with something that has real **value** to your local community, which can be very rewarding and will raise your profile within the community. In Memoriam 2014 also aims to get whole **communities** working together and getting involved with their local history and heritage. War memorials can evoke strong feelings and it is a good idea to make other people aware of what is happening. Working closely with other people who have an interest in and responsibility for war memorials will help you **get to know** others in your community and will provide some great **positive** publicity for your group – people always like to see young people taking an interest and trying to help.

Things to remember

You need to work with the **custodian** of the war memorial (the person who has responsibility for it) on this project. **SmartWater** will be issued **free** of charge through the project to them, so although you can raise awareness of the project and help with the whole process you will need the custodian's **permission**. You or your group must not apply for SmartWater and then use it to mark lots of memorials – however well meaning this is you need to submit an **application** for each memorial otherwise it will confuse the system. We strongly recommend you use the information on the project website (www.inmemoriam2014.org) and contact us if you have any questions.

The other thing to consider is how you **apply** the SmartWater to the memorial

once you have got it (again this can be done by you but only with the custodian's permission). Although SmartWater is **invisible** once it has been applied to a memorial and will do no damage to the metal, it should be used in a place that is **inconspicuous** (e.g. the underside of a sculpture or the edge of a plaque). Each metal element should be marked. You must always ensure that you keep yourself safe when carrying out any war memorial work.



SmartWater being applied to a war memorial plaque (above) and showing up under UV light (left). © IM2014, 2011.

Summary

- A project that **protects** war memorials by marking them with **SmartWater**.
- SmartWater helps stop **theft** by making it easier to identify where materials have come from.
- You can work with **custodians** of local memorials and help to apply SmartWater to them.