

Working with the community



War Memorials Trust

On this sheet you will learn:

- What you can do to raise awareness of a war memorial in the community
- How you can help a war memorial through community events

What is it?

A key way of making sure a war memorial is well cared for is to make sure people are **aware** of it – this might sound obvious but war memorials are such an intrinsic part of our landscape that it can be easy to not notice them or even know that they exist. Many communities have changed since the war memorial was unveiled and its location may be less **accessible** than it was. Raising awareness of the war memorial can be beneficial for two reasons: if the community **know** about the memorial they are better placed to **care** for it; and it will help people **learn** about their local history.

What can you do?

We have provided information and activity sheets about **researching names** on a war memorial, which you can use to find out more about the people commemorated.

You can use this to help raise **awareness** of the memorial and its history within the community. If you are good with **computers** you could put your information online (many places have a town or village **website**). Or you could present your information to local interest **groups** such as a veterans' association; create a small **display** or booklet for a local library; or visit other youth groups or **younger** children in schools to spread your knowledge to them. Discuss the possibilities with your leader.

You can also get involved in **fundraising** for a local war memorial or similar cause. Doing this and getting involved in events relating to the war memorial can also help to raise both your profile and awareness of

the issues affecting war memorials.

Why should you get involved?

Finding out about the history of a war memorial, and particularly the people named on it, can be very **interesting** and give fascinating insights into what your community was like in the past and how people reacted to war. **Learning** about the people behind the names makes the memorial much more **personal** because you 'get to know' the people it commemorates, making it easier to understand importance of remembering them and to relate to how bereaved relatives must have felt. It can be particularly thought provoking for people your age to find out about those named on memorials because some of them might not have been much older than you.

Things to remember

You should bear in mind the **sensitivity** of this subject. War memorials generate strong **feelings** among a community. In some areas, particularly smaller towns or villages, descendants of those named might still live close by. While this can mean **support** for your work it does also mean that you should be sensitive to the fact that the people you are researching were someone's relatives and deal with information you find accordingly.

Summary

- You can raise awareness of a war memorial within your local community by researching names and telling people about the memorial.
- You can create a local **display**, put information on a **website** or give a presentation to interested people.
- If the community is trying to raise money for a war memorial your group could hold a **fundraising** event.