

Message from the Director

Dear supporters,

Incredibly, this is the 50th edition of the Bulletin and, to celebrate this, the front cover features photographs of 50 war memorials we have helped through our grant schemes over the past 14 years. The Bulletin has been keeping members and supporters up-to-date with the work of the charity since the first edition in 1997 and it remains a vital tool in spreading the word about our work to protect and conserve our war memorial heritage. The Trust staff are reminded daily of the continuing importance of war memorials to a wide variety of communities and so, to mark this, this 50th edition of the Bulletin contains articles which show how communities today continue to engage with their war memorials and recognise their ongoing significance.

Sadly, engagement continues, at times, to be negative with our war memorial heritage subject to vandalism and acts of disrespect. We were therefore pleased to learn from David Burrowes MP that a campaign he has been running to encourage sentencing in such cases to take account of the fact that a war memorial is involved has won support from Justice Minister Crispin Blunt. Mr Blunt has written to the Sentencing Council to ask them to consider amending their guidelines to include war memorial desecration as a factor when considering appropriate sentencing. War Memorials Trust continues to be active in In Memoriam 2014, our partnership with SmartWater, to offer greater protection to war memorials across the UK to deter theft. You can read an update on this project on page 5.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the many new members who responded to the special report on war memorials and War Memorials Trust in the Daily Telegraph on Saturday 2nd July. We were delighted with the response and welcome those who have joined us to work for the protection and conservation of war memorials in the UK. We hope you find our Bulletin interesting and draw the attention of both new and old members to a forthcoming members event. Details of a talk by our Trustee Gavin Stamp are given on page 5.

A big thank you also to our many members who have responded to the recent direct mail appeal seeking support for our Learning Programme for young people. We have appointed a Learning Officer who will join the staff in August 2011 and further details of this Programme will appear in the next Bulletin. We have been delighted with the positive response to this Programme and look forward to working with young people to create a greater understanding of our war memorial heritage.

War Memorials Trust is delighted to have been given the opportunity to broadcast the BBC Radio 4 Appeal on Sunday 13th November. Some of you may remember we did this in 2006 and raised nearly £9,000. We hope this year to increase this and further details about the broadcast will appear in the November issue of the Bulletin.

We are pleased to introduce our 2011 Christmas card shown below right. It is early to be thinking of Christmas but as our next Bulletin will not reach you until November we do not want to leave it too late to let you know about the card. Purchasing will support the Trust in its efforts to preserve war memorials across the UK. Full details of how to order can be found on page 16.

Finally, you may be interested to know that the Trust is having an international impact. We were recently contacted by American War Memorials Overseas. When looking at their website I thought it would be interesting to see what information they provided about the maintenance of war memorials. It was very flattering to read the first source of information they suggested as "War Memorials Trust in the UK has a remarkable website that is a treasure of information on war memorials." Anyone interested in finding out more should visit www.uswarmemorials.org.

Best wishes,

Frances Moreton

