



## Case study

**As the 'Home of the British Army', Aldershot Civic Society felt it was their duty to investigate and record the condition of memorials to their local soldiers**

### First World War Memorials Programme

## Getting started

### The big announcement

Aldershot Civic Society heard about the First World War Memorials Programme when it was announced at a meeting of the group in early 2015. The announcement quickly gained the interest and support of several committee members who planned to take the project forward.

### The bigger considerations

The Aldershot volunteers began considering the work required to record the condition of their local war memorials; touring the area and completing surveys. Not surprisingly, as the 'Home of the British Army', Aldershot has a significant number of First World War memorials, as well as those commemorating earlier and later conflicts. The realisation that the task may be too large came around 6 months later, resulting in the society approaching the local council and local historians to help collate a list of local memorials.

### Training daze

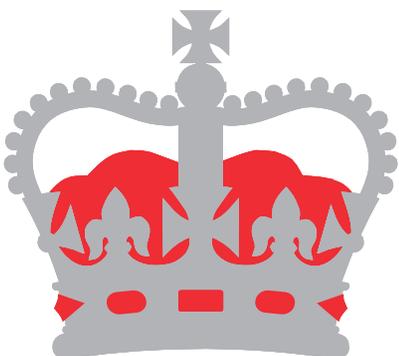
Having attended a workshop in early 2015, the volunteers contacted the Civic Voice team for further training and support. They decided to organise a workshop to encourage more people from Aldershot to volunteer and help share the workload.

### Publicity, publicity, publicity

Using social media, a high traffic local military history website, their own website, and the British Legion, they spread their message throughout the surrounding communities and beyond. Using the media to motivate people, they also liaised with their local newspaper and the BBC local radio station; with support from Civic Voice staff, this was a very successful approach.

### What happened next?

After all their hard work and preparations, Aldershot Civic Society volunteers were rewarded with a successful event. Whilst local residents did not attend the workshop in large numbers, the efforts of the core group of regular volunteers has been extremely valuable throughout the process.





## TOP TIPS

- ✓ **Cast your volunteer net wide. Sometimes a group needs more than good intentions**
- ✓ **Make sure to hold your events at a time that all volunteers can attend**
- ✓ **It isn't always easy to find the time to set up; but it is worthwhile.**

A partnership between Civic Voice, Historic England, Imperial War Museums and War Memorials Trust has been set up to help communities discover, care for and conserve their local First World War memorials. According to research by War Memorials Trust, up to 10,000 war memorials in poor or very bad condition. As the nation commemorates the First World War, we want to change this. Our aim is to ensure as many war memorials as possible are in good condition by the end of 2018.



## 7 simple steps to success

### 1. Contact Civic Voice

Workshops are being held around the country giving you all the information you'll need to locate, assess and record your local war memorials. You'll also learn about grants to help restore them. Contact Civic Voice on [info@civicvoice.org.uk](mailto:info@civicvoice.org.uk)

### 2. Book a venue

Whether it's your town hall, drill hall or even somebody's kitchen! Pick a venue to suit your needs.

### 3. Rally your troops

You're going to need plenty of help so decide how you're going to get local people involved. From talks to tweets, posters to press releases – communication is key! Prepare a plan of action to get your message out there.

### 4. Recruit!

Recruit, recruit, recruit! Take the time over the next four weeks to and get as many volunteers to sign up as you can. The more volunteers are involved; the more memorials you can survey.

### 5. Train

The condition survey workshop will demonstrate how to locate your local war memorials, how to carry out a condition survey and how to log your results on the War Memorials Online website. Finally, there will be a chance to plan future activity with fellow volunteers.

### 6. Survey

Walk, drive or ride to your local memorial. Complete a condition survey (approx. 30 minutes). Don't forget to take plenty of photographs.

### 7. Record

Record your findings at [www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk](http://www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk)

## Now it's your turn

For further information or to get involved in the First World War Memorial Programme please contact Civic Voice:  
**[info@civicvoice.org.uk](mailto:info@civicvoice.org.uk) • 0151 707 4319**

 **@civic\_voice**



 Historic England

 War Memorials Trust