Case study

The Coventry Society was inspired by one of their members, Civic Voice Trustee, David Tittle, to begin the rewarding process of locating, checking and recording the condition of local war memorials …

Getting started

January 2014

The Coventry Society's committee agreed to participate in Civic Voice's war memorials programme. Online research revealed there were many more than the four war memorials originally believed to be in Coventry, so the society set up a web page to help with tracking them down (www.coventrysociety.org.uk/heritage-and-history/coventry-war-memorials.html).

March 2014

An article placed in the society's newsletter invited members to send more information about memorials in the city. A partnership with the Herbert Museum and Art Gallery, who had plans for an exhibition relating to the First World War, brought about a significant increase in the number of missing monuments.
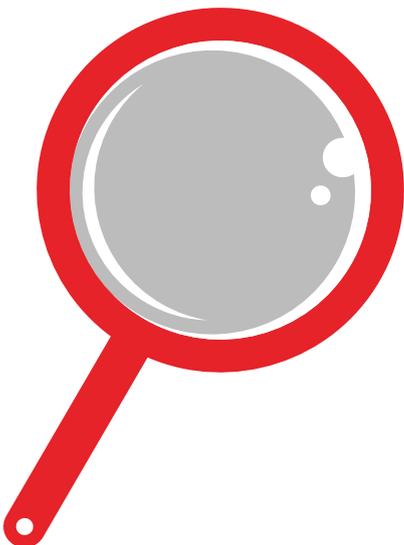
January 2015

John Payne, facilitator of Coventry Society's action group, attended a Civic Voice workshop in Birmingham giving him the skills to survey and record memorials and the inspiration to get started on a project in Coventry.

June 2015

Coventry Society organised a war memorials workshop for Civic Day 2015. Civic Voice led the training, and the enthusiasm of the attendees ensured the success of the event. Contacting local media, including radio stations and newspapers, about the 'lost memorials of Coventry' also meant that the event received good coverage.

Outcomes

- 57 war memorials identified
- 33 registered on War Memorials Online
- 22 surveys completed
- 11 remain unlocated
- 10 memorials no longer exist

TOP TIPS

☑ **Do your research, whether online, or in your library or museum**

☑ **Make friends with your local media**

☑ **Piggy back on national events like Civic Day to help your project take shape**

CIVIC VOICE
talking civic sense

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

2. Book a venue
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 time to 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

Next steps

Join forces with other volunteers to coordinate surveying activity and visit all your community's war memorials. You can apply for funding for any in need of repair and conservation or give them protection for the future by getting them listed.

🐦 **@civic_voice**

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War Memorials Trust