

Historic England Press Release

ELTHAM CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY HELPS TO LIST ELTHAM WAR MEMORIAL

PUPILS FROM ELTHAM CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL WILL BE LAYING A WREATH TO COMMEMORATE THE LISTING AT ELTHAM WAR MEMORIAL ON FRIDAY 10TH NOVEMBER AT 2PM. PRESS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS WELCOME TO ATTEND.

Pupils at Eltham Church of England Primary in Royal Greenwich have successfully helped to list their local war memorial.

Historic England has pledged to protect 2,500 war memorials by 2018 to mark the centenary of the First World War. As part of this project, children taking part in Historic England's Heritage Schools Programme are being invited to put their local war memorials forward for listing.

Eltham War Memorial in Greenwich listed grade II

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1450335>

Eltham Church of England Primary is one of 300 schools around the country involved in this scheme which has been set up to encourage school children to develop an understanding of their local heritage and its significance.

Year 6 pupils worked with retired teacher and former archivist at Eltham Parish Church (St John the Baptist), Margaret Taylor, to research the names on the war memorial that also appeared on their school roll of honour. After carrying out a survey of the war memorial's condition that they uploaded to War Memorials Online, they viewed the roll of honour inside the church and paid their respects to the war dead buried in the churchyard. Using newspaper articles from Greenwich Heritage Centre Archive and The Eltham Society newsletters they researched the history of the memorial and the men inscribed on it. Working with Helen Spencer, Historic England's Local Heritage Education Manager for the region, they decided to apply to Historic England to consider listing the memorial.

Joshua, Year 6 pupil, said: "We really enjoyed finding out about the pupils of Eltham who served and died in the war. It was incredible to think that they were part of our school, and helped us realise the sacrifice that they made."

First World War Minister Rob Wilson said:

"Over a million Britons lost their lives in the First World War so it is extremely important that as a nation we commemorate the sacrifices made by that generation. This programme is a fantastic opportunity for young people to learn about the history of their cities, towns and villages in the First World War through their local war memorials."

Karen Bradley, Culture Secretary, who leads for the Government on First World War commemorations, said:

“The First World War was of utmost importance and significance in our country's history. Nearly 900,000 Britons lost their lives and the centenary commemorations provide an opportunity to pay tribute to those who sacrificed so much.

Local war memorials are important reminders of the bravery of those who served and integral to honouring their memory. I encourage everyone to visit their local war memorial to learn more about their community's connections to this pivotal point in our history.”

Roger Bowdler, Director of Listing at Historic England said: “Recommending up to 2,500 more war memorials for listing over the next five years is a major task but one that Historic England is proud to undertake. These memorials, will gain a place on the National Heritage List for England to tell the story of this country's sacrifices a century ago, and this will help ensure their future safety. It's brilliant that schools are getting involved: all generations are taking a close interest in the centenary.”

Tracy Stringfellow, Chief Executive Officer of Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust, said: “We are very happy that Historic England has chosen to list the Eltham War memorial which was laid in honour of the men of Eltham who died in the Great War. As the custodians of the memorial, Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust know this is a memorial very dear to the local and wider community. With the generous support of the Royal Borough of Greenwich Eltham Ward Councillors, we have been awarded funding to support works to the memorial which will see the names re-inscribed; helping us remember those who gave their lives as was the intention”.

Carlie Silvey, Learning Officer for War Memorials Trust, said: "It is always a joy to hear when young people are involved in projects and activities linked to their local war memorial and take the first steps to becoming the war memorial custodians of the future. War Memorials Trust was delighted that the pupils from Eltham Church of England Primary School carried out a condition survey of their local memorial alongside their research into the names that appeared on it and their school roll of honour. The First World War centenary is a fantastic opportunity for young people to engage with local history, especially war memorial heritage and we hope that other schools and youth groups will also take this opportunity to record the condition of their local memorial."

Clive Efford, MP for Eltham said: “I congratulate the pupils of Eltham Church of England Primary School for what they have achieved on behalf of our community. As those who experienced war first hand pass on the duty of remembering, it is very important for young people to understand what they stood for and why it was so important. What these pupils have achieved will be remembered for as long as the memorial remains, which will be a very long time.”

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For details on getting a memorial listed or repaired – or both, look at www.historicengland.org.uk/warmemorials

For teaching resources on how to carry out a condition survey of your local war memorial with schoolchildren, visit the Historic England website:
<https://historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/education/teaching-activities/doing-a-condition-survey-with-your-class-guidance-for-teachers>

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For further press information please contact the Historic England Communications team on communications@historicengland.org.uk or 0207 973 3250

Notes to Editors:

- The Historic England Heritage Schools team has worked with many hundreds of schools since the project began in 2012
- Over 300 schools have achieved the Heritage Schools Award and the programme has reached over 100,000 children
- There have been over 3000 attendances at Heritage Schools teacher training sessions
- In 2016 the programme received the prestigious European Union prize for Cultural Heritage, the [Europa Nostra](#) award
- Historic England also offers free teaching resources to teachers on its [website](#)
- Historic England is the public body that looks after England's historic environment
- Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust is a registered charity, formed in 2014 to look after key structures, objects and historic records within the Royal Borough of Greenwich <https://www.greenwichheritage.org/>