



Civic Voice is part of a partnership called the First World War Memorials Programme which has been set up to help communities discover, care for and conserve their local First World War memorials.

Case study

Recording the condition of war memorials

Based in Sutton Coldfield, Ynyr Owen got involved in the First World War Memorials Programme after attending a Civic Voice war memorials workshop in Birmingham in July 2016.

Why get involved?

Like many people, Ynyr holds an interest in the First World War because of his family connections to it; his Great-Grandfather fought at the Battle of the Somme. He finds that by visiting memorials to record them you can learn so much about the community's history. Doing something positive, to ensure that those who sacrificed their lives are not forgotten, is also what motivates him to record the condition of memorials.



Ynyr outside Birmingham's Hall of Memory

What Ynyr likes about the Programme

Ynyr likes the flexibility of the programme which allows him to fit in visits to memorials around other commitments such as work and family.

Over the last few months Ynyr has been incredibly busy recording the memorials of Sutton Coldfield and has completed over 40 surveys. He's also journeyed over to Shropshire and has recorded memorials in several villages in the area that he grew up in.

In fact, wherever he goes, he usually has a camera with him so he's prepared to photograph a memorial should he happen to see one!

Ynyr's Top Tips

- Plan ahead – make appointments to visit memorials that are located inside buildings.
- Before you make your visit, check the Imperial War Museum Register and the War Memorials Online website to see if there are any other memorials nearby.
- Find out if anyone else in your area is involved in the Programme – there's a lot of support out there!
- Once you've completed a couple of surveys and added them to War Memorials Online it becomes second nature.