The Commonwealth War Graves Commission’s graves and memorials in the British Isles to mark 141 days of the Somme Centenary
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The poem ‘Nineteen’ was written by Valerie Bloom. © Valerie Bloom.

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All the material in the pack is for community use. Please print out or photocopy everything you find here as much as you like.
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The Living Memory Project

Foreword by Colin Kerr, Director External Relations, Commonwealth War Graves Commission

In 2016 our nation will remember the Battle of the Somme on its centenary. This summer, tens of thousands will visit the Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemeteries in France. One of the most devastating in history, the armies of the British and French Empires fought the German Empire over 141 days. A long and bloody struggle resulted in more than one million dead or wounded.

This summer, tens of thousands will visit the Commonwealth War Grave Commission cemeteries in France. We will welcome them - in particular to those many sites which are visited rarely.

But there are war graves here in the British Isles which are overlooked. These are in the main, the graves of the men who were wounded on the Western Front and later died in hospitals in Britain along with those who fell ill while serving their country including many men and women who died in the influenza epidemic. Their headstones stand in the midst of the large civic cemeteries in the big cities across the British Isles. Sometimes in a group and sometimes scattered, these graves also lie in village churchyards up and down the country.

Living Memory is encouraging you to remember them.
The Battle of the Somme started on the 1st July 1916 and continued until the 18th November 1916. A Franco-British offensive on the Somme was planned as the major Allied effort on the Western Front in 1916. However, the start of a desperate struggle between French and German forces at Verdun in February meant that the British Army assumed the main role in the Somme.

British troops were a mixture of pre-war regular soldiers and territorials, with tens of thousands of volunteers. Many belonged to ‘Pals’ battalions, drawn from local communities, clubs and places of work, who had joined up together, trained together and were now to fight together.

On 1st July 1916, after a week-long artillery bombardment of German positions, the infantry assault began. The bombardment was supposed to have neutralised German machine guns for the British and Allied troops, but the well-fortified German army withstood the bombardment. Across large sections of the frontline, British and Commonwealth forces made little progress and suffered heavy losses. By the end of the first day alone, the British Army had suffered some 57,000 casualties - including more than 19,000 killed.

Operations continued for 141 days. Men from every part of Britain and across the British Empire fought as part of the British Army. Both sides committed millions of men and huge quantities of munitions to the struggle.

The Somme can be described as a series of hard-fought battles remembered for the courage and sacrifice of the battalions and regiments involved. In the timeline you will find some of the notable events as well as a handful of the many men who fought and died. We have selected people who are well known outside of the military but the real significance of the Somme was the loss of so many individuals, many of whom were volunteers.

When the offensive was halted in November, more than one million British Empire, French and German servicemen had been wounded, captured, or killed. The battle had significant military, political, industrial and domestic consequences for all the countries involved.

The generally accepted figure for casualties for the armies of the British Empire on the Somme is 420,000, killed, wounded and missing. The casualties that died can be commemorated or buried at any number of cemeteries in and around the Somme. There are some 150 specially constructed CWGC cemeteries with other burials at 250 communal burial sites in the Somme region.

The Thiepval Memorial, the Memorial to the Missing of the Somme, bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20 March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916. The memorial also serves as an Anglo-French Battle Memorial in recognition of the joint nature of the 1916 offensive and a small cemetery containing equal numbers of Commonwealth and French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

The memorial, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, was built between 1928 and 1932 and unveiled by the Prince of Wales, in the presence of the President of France, on 1st August 1932.

More information on the Battle of the Somme can be found online at www.cwgc.org/somme.
In the opening attack, Captain Nevill and his men famously kicked two footballs across No Man’s Land; Nevill himself was killed. In the following weeks, both ‘Football Battalions’ were deployed.

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1st July
The offensive on the first day of the Somme began at 7:30am. This day was the most costly in British military history with more than 57,000 British Army casualties of whom 19,000 died.

In the opening attack, Captain Nevill and his men famously kicked two footballs across No Man’s Land; Nevill himself was killed. In the following weeks, both ‘Football Battalions’ were deployed.

14th-17th July
Battle of Bazentin Ridge remembered for a ‘hurricane’ bombardment, the British Army attacked at dawn on July 14th between Bazentin-le-Petit and Longueval. The Indian Cavalry charged at High Wood. It was the first cavalry charge of the war on the Western Front.

15th July - 3rd September
Battle of Delville Wood. Fierce struggle for control of the wood led by the South African Brigade of the 9th (Scottish) Division continued for several weeks.

You can use the timeline as a starting point to choose the date that you will mark the 141 days of the Somme. There are special anniversaries listed here and you can find some local connections. If you would like advice on selecting a date that reflects your region contact livingmemory@cwgc.org

6th July
Death of British European and World Welterweight Boxing Champion Irishman Sergeant Tom McCormick. His name appears on the Thiepval Memorial.

7th July
38th Welsh Division tasked with the capture of Mametz Wood. Llewellyn Wyn Griffith survived to write the account Up To Mametz in which he describes “the shattered trees, the bursting shells, the litter of discarded equipment”.

20th July
Robert Graves was so severely wounded during battle his family were told he had died. Graves survived to write best selling account of the war Goodbye to all That.

23rd July - 3rd September
Battle of Pozieres Ridge. Fierce counter attacks led to a costly attritional battle for control of the ridge. First engagement of the Australian Imperial forces on the Somme.

JULY 1916

5th August
Death of the Shropshire Lad composer Lieutenant George Butterworth. He was awarded two gallantry medals for bravery at the Somme and is named on the Thiepval Memorial.

24th - 26th August
JRR Tolkien reached the trenches at Thiepval Wood. He saw action at the Somme until he reported sick at the end of October.
3rd - 9th September
Battles of Guillemont and Ginchy. After capturing the strongly-defended village of Guillemont with the help of a ‘creeping’ barrage, British forces continued to advance on Ginchy in support of French attacks.

15th-22nd September
The first use of the tank (Churchill’s “Landships”) was at the Battle of Flers-Courcelette. 49 new tanks were deployed but only 32 made it to the front line, nevertheless resulting in a successful break out from Delville Wood.

7th October
Death of Lance Corporal Leigh Richmond Roose, former goalkeeper for the Welsh national team, who had 24 caps and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial.

15th September
Death of Lieutenant Raymond Asquith the son of the Prime Minister Herbert Asquith. He is buried at Guillemont Road Cemetery.

25th-28th September
Battles of Morval and Thiepval Ridge took place in autumn rain. A joint Franco-British advance continued in the south while the British army launched an attack at Thiepval to secure the ridge. This is the site of the Thiepval Monument today.

9th September
Death of Major Cedric Charles Dickens, the grandson of the author Charles Dickens died aged 27 and is named on the Thiepval Memorial.

18th September
Death of the England international rugby player Reverend Rupert Edward Inglis while serving as a stretcher bearer. He was hit by a shell fragment that killed him instantly and is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial.

1st-11th October
Battles of Le Transloy and Ancre Heights. The British army continued to push towards the high ground, suffering heavy casualties while British and Canadian forces sought to secure the heights overlooking the valley of the River Ancre. The weather deteriorated and the battlefield became muddy and waterlogged.

13th-18th November
Battle of the Ancre, British forces attacked north of the Ancre river before offensive operations were halted on 18th November as winter took hold. 1,800 people died in France on the last day of the Somme. As freezing conditions set in, the Battle of the Somme came to a close leaving more than a million men dead or wounded.
Introduction

REMEmBR UK WARR GRAVES

Whether you live in a large city or in a rural village, from the south coast to a remote Scottish island, you will find CWGC war graves. Remembering all those CWGC war graves in the UK is a fitting way to mark the Centenary of the Battle of the Somme. The map includes examples of men who were wounded at the Somme but are buried and remembered in the UK. If you would like help finding key CWGC locations in your area email livingmemory@cwgc.org

Bodelwyddan (St Margaret) Churchyard
This small churchyard in Flintshire North Wales contains 113 war graves. Many are for Canadians who were camped nearby whilst waiting to be returned home at the end of the First World War. They died of influenza during the catastrophic epidemic.

Belfast City Cemetery
565 war graves, split between the First and Second World Wars. Five of the graves are unidentified and three are Norwegian foreign nationals. This cemetery has a Cross of Sacrifice and the headstones are made of either granite or Portland stone.

Manchester Southern Cemetery
One of the largest CWGC sites in the UK with over 1,200 war graves, many of these graves are scattered but there are dedicated plots for the dead of the First and Second World Wars. Among the graves is that of Gerard K Webber, injured on the Somme in 1916, who died in February 1917.

Bristol Arnos Vale Cemetery
There were 16 military hospitals in Bristol during the First World War that coped with 89,000 casualties. Arnos Vale has over 360 war graves from the First and 149 graves from the Second World War. Samuel Hogan who was fatally wounded at the Somme and died on the 15th July 1916 aged 22 is remembered on the Arnos Vale screen wall.

Netley Military Cemetery
The Royal Victoria Military (or Netley) Hospital was established after the Crimean War. During the First World War hospital ships berthed at Southampton and wounded were moved by ambulance train to Netley, the principal reception hospital in the area. There are over 630 First World War graves here.

Plymouth (Ford Park) Cemetery
753 graves from the First World War, more than 200 of them in a naval plot, the rest scattered throughout the cemetery as well as 198 Second World War scattered burials. Private L. Rowe joined the Australian army and suffered a gunshot wound near Poziers on the 26th July 1916. He was transferred to England and died of his wounds at the Northern General Hospital in Leicester on the 8th August 1916. He is buried at the family grave in Ford Park.
Brookwood Military Cemetery
527 graves from both world wars, including men who died during the Battle of Jutland in 1916 and also 26 men from HMS Royal Oak who died when sunk by a German U boat in October 1939.

Newcastle St Andrew’s and Jesmond Cemetery
In the centre of Newcastle, 183 First World War graves include two female army auxiliaries. With its own Cross of Sacrifice the cemetery also has 30 Second World War graves from across the Commonwealth and 11 Norwegian seamen.

Cambridge City Cemetery
Because of the 1st Eastern General Hospital in Cambridge there are 181 burials in the city cemetery from the First World War. In the Second World War the city cemetery was the location for all RAF burials from nearby airfields. Over 820 burials are laid out in neat rows around the dedicated Stone of Remembrance in the RAF plot. Some casualty Norman Humphrey, a Private in the Australian Infantry from Tasmania, enlisted in August 1915 and was wounded in the fighting at Pozieres on 21st August 1916. He was transferred to the 1st Eastern General Hospital and died on 27th August 1916, aged 21.

Edinburgh Comely Bank Cemetery
302 graves include the youngest service casualty from World War Two, Reginald Earnshaw with the rank of ‘Boy’ who was just 14 when he died in the service of the Merchant Navy.

Manor Park Cemetery
430 war graves include the grave of Boy 1st Class Jack Cornwell who at the young age of 16 was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross following the Battle of Jutland in June 1916.

Lyness Royal Naval Cemetery
The largest CWGC cemetery in the UK, with impressive new memorials and over 5,000 war graves, including two individuals who were awarded the George Cross. You will find graves here from all parts of the Commonwealth as well as those of different faiths such as the dedicated Muslim plot.

Brookwood Military Cemetery
The largest CWGC cemetery in the UK, with impressive new memorials and over 5,000 war graves, including two individuals who were awarded the George Cross. You will find graves here from all parts of the Commonwealth as well as those of different faiths such as the dedicated Muslim plot.

Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France
The Thiepval Memorial – the memorial to the missing of the Somme – is the largest Commonwealth war memorial in the world.

This 45 metre high monument bears the names of more than 72,000 men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who fell in the Somme before March 1918 and who have no known grave.

The memorial also honours the joint nature of the fighting that took place here in 1916. A small cemetery at the foot of the memorial contains equal numbers of Commonwealth and French graves in recognition of the close bonds between Great Britain and France.

There are 150 specially constructed CWGC cemeteries for the Somme.
There are 300,000 Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) war graves and memorials here in the UK. Many lie in hidden corners of cemeteries and local communities are often unaware of their existence.

The practice of non-repatriation of the dead which was established during the First World War meant that Commonwealth servicemen and women who died on active service abroad, were buried abroad. The majority of those buried in the United Kingdom are therefore the men and women who died at home in military hospitals. Others died in training accidents or air raids and some were killed in action in the air or at sea in coastal waters, with their bodies washed ashore.

Over 100,000 missing naval and air force casualties are also commemorated on the great memorials at Chatham, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Tower Hill and Runnymede.

To find out about a Commonwealth War Graves Commission site near you, email livingmemory@cwgc.org.
Step 01: Find Your Local War Graves

As there are war graves in more than 12,000 locations across the UK it is hard to be more than three miles away from a war grave. To find war graves near you, download the free CWGC App or visit the www.cwgc.org website and follow the steps below. If you would like advice on key sites in your area please email livingmemory@cwgc.org.

On the front page of the www.cwgc.org website you will notice a box like the one to the left.

Click on ‘Find a Cemetery’ and the option shown in red ‘Find Nearby Cemeteries’.

You will then be presented with the ‘Cemeteries Near You’ box (on the left) allowing you to either use information from the ‘Get my location’ button or enter a location of your choice in the free text box.

Your results are then shown as a map as detailed on the left. Underneath the map will be a list of locations. The list will detail the name of the location, the number of people commemorated and its distance from the entered location.

Step 02: Choose Someone to Remember

Remembering all those buried in CWGC war graves in the UK is a fitting way to mark the Centenary of the Battle of the Somme.

Choose an individual grave to focus your remembrance activity. Look for any simple connection which feels appropriate to you.

You may make your selection because you are struck by the age of the soldier or perhaps you are surprised by what you find. For example, there are some war graves for women who served in the First and Second World Wars.
Digital archives and detective work can lead to photographs and newspaper stories, even diaries and letters, building to a powerful and moving remembrance of an individual. For others, however, there is very little known.

Whether well-known or unknown, whether an isolated grave in a forgotten corner or an impressive CWGC site, each individual who died in the wars is equally deserving of remembrance.

Equality in commemoration is one of the founding principles of the CWGC and is at the heart of the Living Memory project. All ranks, faiths and nationalities should be given the same respect in death.

**WAR GRAVES FOR WOMEN**

In the British Isles there are approximately 500 war graves for women who died in service in the First World War and 1,500 from the Second World War. If you’re looking for women to remember try the following search terms in the additional information box or in your location spreadsheet: Staff nurse/ Daughter/ Voluntary aid detachment/ Women’s Royal Air Force

**Step 03: Discover Individual Stories**

When you have selected a grave or graves to remember, return to the CWGC website cemetery page and read the information provided there about the individuals you have chosen.

- Click on the ‘See Casualty Records’ red button below the site image.
- The CWGC database lists details of all the one million Commonwealth forces war dead from the two World Wars and where they are commemorated.
- It is simple to use and a powerful tool which will let you explore your community connections in various ways.
- The following illustrations show how to use the CWGC database to find a casualty.

**Option 01:**

When you click on a name in the CWGC casualty records, you will generate a page like this which gives you information to search further.
Within your community there is likely to be a war memorial or a local roll of honour. If you make a note of names you will be able to look their details up on the CWGC.org website.

The War Memorials Trust has a database where you can find and report war memorials www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk. When you search the names on the memorial you may find local men and women commemorated throughout the world in CWGC cemeteries.

Most names in the database repeat several or many times. Sometimes you will see a first name listed; sometimes initials. Use additional information such as date of birth, date of death or location to select from the individuals listed.

You may have to use some detective skills and use some of the additional fields on the advanced search screen.

You can export your results into an Excel spreadsheet which enables you to search any relevant term such as street name or other key words.

Open the spreadsheet and use the ‘FIND & SELECT’ tool which appears in the top right hand side of the spreadsheet and resembles a pair of binoculars, to search for a particular street name or other indicator. For example in the Holloway spreadsheet illustrated, ‘Penn Road’ produces the names of three men.
Searching for Somme causalities buried in the UK requires some investigating. The best way to start is to use the CWGC database to search for casualties in your chosen cemetery who died from the 1st July until the end of 1916, which allows for wounded men to be brought back to the UK and die in the following weeks.

You may be able to do further research, for example into the service or regiment the soldier served in. You could contact a local history group, explore information on www.livesofthefirstworldwar.org or use one of the First World War Forums online such as www.1914-1918.invisionzone.com/forums. Here’s an example from Brighton (The Downs) Cemetery.

We searched during the period of the 1st July until the 30th November 1916 in Brighton (The Downs) Cemetery. The results show four casualties within this period.

Following some further investigation and research on a forum into these four names, we found information about Private Douglas Goldsmith, which revealed he was wounded on the 29th August 1916 on the Somme and died of wounds on the 17th September 1916.

So we found that in Brighton (The Downs) Cemetery, at least one of the soldiers, Private Goldsmith, was a local man who fought at the Somme, was injured, died from his wounds and is buried in the cemetery not far from where he lived.

The Living Memory team are searching for 141 Somme casualties buried in the British Isles to mark the 141 days of the Somme. Your research into those buried in local cemeteries is welcome. If you find a Somme casualty please email livingmemory@cwgc.org
Explore

Choose from a range of activities suitable for your visit to the cemetery.

Once you have found where your local Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) war graves are, plan a visit to the cemetery with your group to explore the site.

This section contains a range of creative and practical activities for your cemetery visit.

These activities have been tested by community groups across the UK and their inspiring examples are included.

Try out at least one of these Living Memory activities and tell us what you’ve done via our Facebook page www.facebook.com/CWGC-Living-Memory
Visiting Your Local Cemetery

Visiting a war grave in the UK can be very different from visiting a CWGC cemetery on the continent as most of the cemeteries are not owned by the Commission. There are many things that you might want to consider before setting off on a visit to find your local war graves.

1. Some locations can be very large and finding particular graves can be more challenging. In most cases there will be no map of where the grave sites are and you will need to search the cemetery. CWGC headstones are often grouped together and can be found more easily although graves are sometimes scattered.

2. Remember, some are buried in family graves and will not have the distinctive CWGC headstone so may be harder to locate.

3. You will need to consider that the war graves may well be in a cemetery that is still operational with regular activity including funerals. Out of respect for others visiting the cemetery and those buried there, please observe appropriate behaviour.

4. When visiting in a large group it is best to let the local cemetery manager know that you are visiting.

5. Cemeteries can be quiet places with few visitors on any one day so it is advisable to visit in a group.

6. Keep to the paths; caution should always be taken as the ground around graves can be uneven and old gravestones can sometimes be unsteady.

Caring for War Graves

The CWGC is responsible for the maintenance of all Commonwealth graves from the First and Second World Wars, wherever they are in the world.

So, this also applies to the war graves here in the UK. The headstones are inspected regularly and replaced when they become illegible or become badly damaged. The grass is cut, often by the local councils, on a regular basis.

While it is important that the headstone is not interfered with in any way, the CWGC welcomes your acts of caring:

- If there is mud on the headstone (from heavy rain), then brush it off, with water if need be (but no chemicals or detergents)
- Remove any large weeds which may have appeared since the last visit
- Remove any rubbish which may have been dropped in the vicinity

If you come across a very neglected war grave then please notify a member of the Living Memory team livingmemory@cwgc.org
The Commission is founded on principles of equality, respect and honour. The Commission believes that everyone who lost their lives should be remembered equally regardless of race, rank or creed. Sir Frederic Kenyon wrote in 1918, “what was done for one should be done for all, and that all, whatever their military rank or position in civil life, should have equal treatment in their graves.” Therefore all CWGC headstones are identical in terms of their style and there is no distinction made for rank, race or creed. However, there are interesting differences which you can learn about here.

**National Emblem or Regimental Badge**

Many graves feature a design which represents a national emblem or regimental badge. Originally the headstones were carved by hand, now all headstones are made by computer aided machinery in the CWGC workshop in France. This grave shows Private C.H. Jagger.

**Details of the individual**

Will normally include military number, name, rank, military awards, regiment, date and age of death.

**Personal inscription**

Graves were made more individual through a personal inscription. With a limit of 66 letters the words chosen were often lines from a prayer or a simple message to a loved one.

**Religious emblem**

Most CWGC headstones include a religious icon like this Christian cross. On joining the military services, recruits would state their religion. The religious faith would then be represented on the headstone. In addition, where possible those of the Muslim faith were buried facing Mecca. Hindu soldiers were cremated and in special circumstances buried.
**Explore 01: Grave Hunt**

**WHAT:** As a group see if you can locate some or all of the war graves in your local cemetery. To help you do this, before visiting the cemetery you can visit [www.cwgc.org](http://example.org) and download the full list of casualties buried locally.

If you have a smart phone or tablet you can also access the database on your device when you’re at the cemetery. You could then divide up the list and give members of your group the task of finding one of the graves each.

As a follow up activity you could also ask members of the group to note down the dates of birth and death of those they have discovered, to work out their ages. As a group calculate the average age of the war casualties in your cemetery.

**COST:** £0 - £10

**TIME:** 1 hour

**RESOURCES:** Printed copy of casualty list for your cemetery/ pens/ pencils/ clipboards/paper or notepads

**TAKE INSPIRATION FROM:** Brent Mencap Willesden who took a downloaded list of those buried in their local cemetery with them when they visited. At the cemetery they divided up the list of names and each set about finding the individual headstones.

**Explore 02: Headstone Rubbing**

**WHAT:** Take some large sheets of paper to the cemetery and using either pencil, charcoal or wax crayons take a rubbing of the headstone. Take time to note the different markings and symbols on the headstone.

*Please take care not to mark the headstones. Before you start make sure the headstones are secure. Do not to lean too heavily on the headstones.*

On your return, you could display these on the walls to re-create the cemetery in your venue and share your discoveries with others that weren’t able to join you.

**COST:** £5 - £30

**TIME:** 1 hour

**RESOURCES:** Large sheets of A3 or larger paper, pencils/ wax crayons/ charcoal, ‘blu tack’ or display boards and pins

**TAKE INSPIRATION FROM:** Kingsweston School Bristol who visited their local graves in Shirehampton. The school is a specialist centre for young people with autism and took part in the Living Memory pilot in November 2015. They followed the steps in ‘Explore One’ and divided the list of graves amongst all the children in the school. The young people then used large sheets of paper to make headstone rubbings which were displayed along the corridors of their school on Armistice Day. Several of the children asked to go back and leave a message at the grave of their soldier, just like they would with a relative. “Can we go back when it’s his birthday?” or “Can we go back on the date of his death?”

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Students from Manchester Academy at Manchester Southern Cemetery
Explore 03: Lay Flowers

WHAT: Grow your own flowers to lay at your local war graves throughout the 141 days of the Battle of the Somme Centenary.

There is a long tradition of laying flowers on graves as a tribute and act of remembrance. We are all familiar with floral wreaths and the poppy wreaths which are laid at Remembrance time but this project encourages you to grow flowering plants from seeds and lay simple floral tributes. If you don’t have time to grow flowers you can otherwise buy them.

You can grow flowers outdoors in a planter or flower bed. The soil should be well drained, and you’ll need a sunny position to give the plants the best chance of flowering.

If you don’t have your own garden try contacting local gardening clubs, allotment societies, schools, community centres, community/ city farms, friends and neighbours.

Annuals are a good type to go for as they will flower throughout the summer and autumn. This includes flowers such as pot marigolds (widely used in India for garlands) love-in-a-mist, cornflowers (French remembrance flower) & godetia. They can be grown from seed without any special skill.

The flowers that are most associated with the battlefields are the corn poppies (Papaver rhoeas) as well as other varieties of poppies which can be easily grown in a wide range of colours although they wilt quickly when picked.

If you plan to lay flowers later in the summer think about growing dahlias and sunflowers.

Seeds can be planted from March onwards and take from 12 -16 weeks to flower. Refer to seed packets for the best time to sow and depth for seed planting. Don’t forget to water in dry periods.

When you are ready, cut near the base and lay on war graves near you. Please send us pictures of your flowers laid at the local war graves and tell us who you’ve remembered livingmemory@cwgc.org

COST: £5 - 20

TAKE INSPIRATION FROM: St Johnstone Football Club in Perth who worked with children aged 10-12 at Our Lady’s Primary School, Perth. St. Johnstone under 20 players visited the school and discussed how they could remember the local soldiers buried in Perth at the team’s home match on Saturday 7th November 2015. As a follow up, fans planted flowers at the stadium to be taken to the CWGC war graves at Wellshill during the anniversary of the Somme in 2016. Patricia Keppie who led the project said, “This was an excellent project for the football club and football league because it offers a very simple model for commemoration and definitely heightens the awareness of the commission’s sites”.

CWGC GARDENS

The Commissions’ cemeteries are planted with mostly perennial plants which are left in place, and cared for rather than using plants which are grown from seed. However, when the cemeteries were first created, soldiers collected and sowed seeds in the burial places before they were formally laid out and therefore sowing seeds for flowering plants has a very strong connection to the battlefields of the great war. The Commission is famous for its beautiful horticulture around the world.
Explore 04: Public Speaking

**WHAT:** Whilst visiting some of your local First World War graves you could take the opportunity to say a few words to acknowledge your visit. You could read a poem, read a letter, or encourage members of your group to share their thoughts and messages of remembrance at the graveside.

**COST:** Free

**TIME:** Up to 1 hour

**RESOURCES:** Poems or letters to read

**TAKE INSPIRATION FROM:** Edson Burton, Poet, who was interested by the stories of South African soldiers buried in Arnos Vale Cemetery, Bristol. Edson used the CWGC database to learn more about the soldiers and was inspired to write a poem in response to their graves called ‘Exiled in Rest’. Edson returned to the graves to read the poem on Remembrance Sunday and made a short film of his reading which you can watch here [www.vimeo.com/146006701](http://www.vimeo.com/146006701)

Explore 05: Art & Photography

**WHAT:** During your visit to the cemetery, take a sketch book and draw pictures of some of the graves, the Cross of Sacrifice or Stone of Remembrance. If drawing isn’t your strength, why not take some photographs, either on a camera or your phone. These can be shared online or displayed in your community. Look for interesting, atmospheric shots and try to tell a story through the images. You could also turn these drawings or pictures into prints. To do this you need to:

- Trace your image
- Using a sharp pencil mark through the tracing paper on safeprint foam sheets
- Use water based block printing ink to cover the foam sheets
- Print onto paper

**COST:** £5 - £20

**TIME:** 1 - 4 hours

**RESOURCES:** Sketch book/ Paper/ Drawing Materials i.e. pencils, charcoal, pens/ tracing paper/ foam sheets/ printing ink/ ink roller

**TAKE INSPIRATION FROM:** Manchester Academy whose students visited some of the 1200 war graves in Manchester Southern Cemetery and spent several hours doing headstone rubbings, drawing pictures of the cemetery and headstones and taking photographs. On their return to school they then turned these images into prints which were displayed around the school on digital displays to mark Armistice Day.
Explore 06: Play the Last Post

**What:** Take time to stand and remember and play the Last Post either on an instrument or on a mobile phone at the grave.
Although the Last Post is traditionally played on a bugle it can be performed on any instrument. We have a number of arrangements of the Last Post for different instruments (guitar, woodwind, piano, violin) email livingmemory@cwgc.org

**Cost:** Free

**Time:** 30 minutes

**Resources:** Musical instrument/ Phone or electronic devise to play MP4 recording.

**Take Inspiration From:** The Music Department at Merchants’ Academy, Bristol who took students to Arnos Vale Cemetery in Bristol to perform the Last Post as an ensemble at the graves of several soldiers who died during the First World War. The performance took place on Armistice day to a wider audience of members of the public.

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The Last Post

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\begin{align*}
C & \quad G & \quad C & \quad G & \quad C & \quad G & \quad C & \quad Am & \quad G & \quad C/G & \quad G & \quad C & \quad Am & \quad C/G \\
C/G & \quad G & \quad G & \quad G & \quad C & \quad Am & \quad G & \quad C & \quad Am & \quad G & \quad C & \quad C & \quad C \\
C & \quad Em & \quad Dm\flat & \quad G & \quad G & \quad G\flat & \quad C & \quad C/G & \quad C & \quad C & \quad C/G & \quad C \\
C & \quad C & \quad C & \quad Em & \quad Am & \quad G & \quad G & \quad C & \quad C & \quad C & \quad C & \quad C & \quad C \\
G & \quad G & \quad C & \quad G & \quad C & \quad G & \quad C & \quad Am & \quad C/G & \quad G & \quad C & \quad C & \quad C
\end{align*}
\]

The Last Post, arrangement by Thomas Hamill

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Students from Merchants’ Academy playing the Last Post at Arnos Vales Cemetery, Bristol

The Last Post was played for Stephen Burns on the violin
Explore 07: Hold a Vigil, 30th June - 1st July

**WHAT:** The night before the Somme offensive soldiers prepared for battle. To remember the dreadful impact of the battle, hold a vigil at some point between 30th June and 1st July. There will be a large scale vigil at Westminster Abbey, and across the country thousands will remember those affected by the Battle of the Somme at smaller informal events. A vigil could consist of a few minutes of quiet reflection at your local cemetery. Invite friends or colleagues to attend the graves with you.

**COST:** £0 - £5

**TIME:** 1 hour

**TAKE INSPIRATION FROM:** The National Vigil at Westminster Abbey

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Explore 08: Cycle to War Graves

**WHAT:** We’ve teamed up with Sustrans to map some of the CWGC UK sites against the National Cycling Route. You can view the map on the Sustrans website [www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk) and search for a safe route near you. You could team up with other members of your community, friends or family to plan a special Somme commemorative cycling event, visiting war graves near you throughout the 141 days of the Battle of the Somme Centenary. Look out for UK Somme connections such as graves of those who were injured at the Somme and subsequently buried in UK cemeteries. Please visit the Sustrans website for safety advice and guidance when undertaking this activity.

**COST:** Free if you already have a bike

**TIME:** 2 – 6 hours depending on the length of your route

**TAKE INSPIRATION FROM:** Reading Boys Brigade who in November 2015 planned a cycling route to visit war graves in Reading as part of their Living Memory project. They visited cemeteries and stopped to take pictures and then used the CWGC database to discover more about those buried locally on their return. They also created an exhibition and a presentation about their cycling journey to share their discoveries with others.
The Battle of the Somme lasted 141 days from the 1st July – 18th November 1916. To mark the centenary, choose a day between the 1st July – 18th November 2016 as a focus of your remembrance activity. The Living Memory project encourages communities to remember throughout the 141 day period not just on the 1st July.

If your group is looking for a local connection to the battle, contact livingmemory@cwgc.org for suggestions. This could be a date which is the centenary of your local battalions and regiments going into action.
Remember 01: Create an Exhibition

**WHAT:** An exhibition could take a number of interesting forms:

- **Photography** – create an exhibition of new and old photographs illustrating the lives of those in your local CWGC war graves.
- **Illustration** – create pieces of art in response to your local war graves.
- **Archive materials** – make a display of archive materials including newspaper sources, war medals, information from the records office to paint a picture of the First or Second World War in your community. You can contact livingmemory@cwgc.org to enquire about the CWGC archive, or visit www.cwgc.org/about-us/what-we-do/archive.aspx for more information about the collection. Records relating to individual casualties are available online through www.cwgc.org The archive also contains administrative records relating to each of the 12,300 sites in the UK where war dead are commemorated, and this material is readily available to visitors to our archive in Maidenhead. The archive team would welcome any researcher to the archive who was interested in viewing this material.

**COST:** £10 - £50

**TIME:** 1 - 10 hours

**RESOURCES:** Display boards/ materials to fix images to display boards/ display cabinets/ promotional materials i.e. posters and flyers/ information boards and signs.

**TAKE INSPIRATION FROM:** Project One Zero a community arts organisation based in Islington. They held a Living Memory open day where they presented an exhibition that included photographs members of the group had taken at Highgate Cemetery. They also displayed drawings and a large hand-drawn map showing the locations of other Commonwealth War Graves around the world. It was important for the group to show that the war graves commemorated not just “British born” soldiers, but soldiers from lots of different countries including countries in the Caribbean.

Remember 02: Make a Remembrance Tree

**WHAT:** A remembrance tree is a simple way to capture thoughts and reflect on the experience of visiting a cemetery. Display them on a notice board or a small branch or handmade symbolic tree. At the heart of this is the idea that everyone contributes their own personal thoughts and reflections.

**COST:** £0 - £10

**TIME:** 1 hour

**RESOURCES:** You can create your own leaves out of paper, or you could use paper luggage tags.

**TAKE INSPIRATION FROM:** Kingsweston School Bristol who created a remembrance tree on a school corridor wall. They created small leaves for students to write their thoughts and comments after their visit to Shirehampton Cemetery.
Remember 03: Hold an Assembly or Public Presentation

**WHAT:** Share some of your research alongside images, drawings, grave rubbings and poems from your visit to your local cemetery. Make a digital presentation to share some of your key findings and tell others how they too can find and visit war graves nearby. Email livingmemory@cwgc.org to request a copy of the Living Memory PowerPoint template.

**RESOURCES:** Computer to create PowerPoint presentation/ projector/ display boards

**TAKE INSPIRATION FROM:** Age UK Manchester, St Anthony’s Primary School and Willows Primary School who came together for an old fashioned tea dance in November 2015. The students presented what they had learnt about their local war graves and the First World War whilst the older members of the group shared stories of their own family memories of the First and Second World Wars. One of the teachers at St Anthony’s Primary School said that the project had been a “complete eye-opener”.

**COST:** Free

**TIME:** 1 hour

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Remember 04: Tell Fans at Local Sports Event

**WHAT:** Connect with other public events during the 141 days of the Somme Centenary and include the war dead buried locally in your commemorations.

Many sports teams already hold 2 minutes’ silence at November fixtures and some play the Last Post. The Living Memory project is encouraging groups to reflect on those you have chosen from local war graves at your existing remembrance event. Football teams are encouraged to select 11 war dead so that each player has a name to read out.

There are several sport-specific research projects which might help you discover more relevant history. For example, you can look into the players who served on many local teams in the archive section of www.footballandthefirstworldwar.org

**COST:** Free

**TIME:** 1 - 3 hours

**TAKE INSPIRATION FROM:** Sutton United Football Club and St Johnstone Football Club in Perth who both researched the names of those buried in local cemeteries who died in the First World War. The press team at St Johnstone put out a call for information about the soldiers buried at Wellshill graveyard, and as a result discovered that amongst those remembered was William Christie, whose descendant is a Season Ticket holder, and former club footballer John Cameron, who died in 1915. The names of those buried locally were then read out by both clubs on home games on the 7th November 2015 and fans were encouraged to visit their local CWGC graves.
Remember 05: Write Your Own Poem and Take Inspiration from Valerie Bloom

WHAT: Following your visit to your local war graves write a poem to remember those buried there.

TAKE INSPIRATION FROM: Harrow Green Community Library writers’ group who visited five local cemeteries and undertook research to learn more about several of the graves they discovered. They then wrote poetry and prose as a response to their visits (and some older members engaged in reminiscence in their homes) and at a final event they shared their research and poems with each other. They intend to publish the work that they created in their next publication.

Jamaican-British poet Valerie Bloom visited Seaford Cemetery where CWGC war graves include 19 soldiers from the British West Indian Regiment.

Valerie Bloom says:

“I was deeply moved when I visited the graves of soldiers from Jamaica, St Vincent, Grenada, Barbados, Trinidad and Guyana who died 100 years ago. I had never heard their story, and visiting their resting place inspired me to find out how they came here. It was a heart-breaking journey. These men volunteered to fight, but fell sick and died before they even reached the front. I called my poem “Nineteen” for the nineteen graves and I reflect on their sad loss. Remembrance is a profound duty and I am very proud to take part in the CWGC’s Living Memory project which encourages people across the British Isles to discover and remember those who rest in war graves near to them”.

Valerie Bloom’s suggestions for how to write a remembrance poem

Research
You may already know a lot about the war, but the research will not just give the facts but will throw up ideas and suggest different angles for looking at your poem. Make notes of the interesting points. When I went to Seaford Cemetery I also visited the Seaford Museum. The staff there told me about local historian Kevin Gordon. Kevin shared his research into the lives of the West Indian soldiers from his book Seaford and Eastbourne in the Great War. He had found out about their campaign to be allowed to sign up, and the hundreds who came. I discovered that those buried in Seaford sadly fell ill within weeks of arriving in Britain.

Assemble your tools
There are three books which are especially useful – a dictionary, a thesaurus and a rhyming dictionary. These can all be found online, but my experience is that the printed versions work best.

Brainstorm
Write down every word/phrase/idea you can think of that might be useful for your poem. Include those from your research. If lines suggest themselves, write them on a separate sheet of paper. Experiment with different viewpoints - poems in the first or third person will sound very different.

Start writing
At this point, don’t worry about the arrangements of the lines or stanzas too much. Just get your ideas down in some shape on the page. If writing in rhyme, use a rhyming dictionary.

Redraft
A poem is never finished at one sitting. The redrafting can be done at once or later. This is also where you use the thesaurus to ensure you have the right words in the right places. Check the flow of the lines to make sure the poem scans; check that your lines sound just the way you meant them to sound; check spellings, punctuations, and the shape of the poem on the page. Rearrange lines and stanzas if necessary. Then redraft. Ideally leave some time between the two final redrafts – at least a few days. You’ll then see the poem with ‘new’ eyes and will be able to pick up any flaws.
We came for country and for glory,
    The light of battle in our eyes,
    And courage that only those
Who are young or foolish recognise.

We’d been told that we were needed
    By the motherland,
And we answered the call to arms,
    Flimsy suitcase in our hand.

We arrived, eager to fight
    In some far-off foreign shore,
And ill-prepared for a mother’s embrace,
    Bitter, cold, and raw.

It was not for us the bugle’s summons,
    Not for us the cannon’s roar,
Or the endless treks through mud-fields,
    Hungry, tired and footsore.

Not for us heart’s painful pounding
    At drone of bombers overhead,
Not for us sweet rest in Flanders,
    Poppies nodding round our bed.

And not for us the victor’s laurels,
    Medals dangling from our breast,
Not for us the decorations
    Or commendations of conquest.

Even though we too have fallen,
    Not in Ypres or Flanders Field,
We like others gave our lives,
    And like them, refused to yield.

We came prepared to face the trenches,
    Poison-gas, and grenades, but
Not building, cleaning, freezing, shivering,
    In an unheated Seaford hut.

Ambushed by the English winter,
    Defeated by the stealth attack
Of mumps, pneumonia and influenza,
    We had no weapons to fight back.

Here, a hundred years from home,
    A simple headstone tells our story,
In the corner of this foreign field,
    Where we’re waiting still, for glory.
Remember 06: Find Out More and Remember People on Lives of the First World War

**WHAT:** Remember online at Lives of the First World War. This online archive project from Imperial War Museums is setting up individual Life Story pages for 8 million soldiers who served during the First World War. A Life Story page is a web page dedicated to the memory of an individual with links to archive resources. The Lives of the First World War website is free to use with options to pay in order to access more archives.

As well as being a research tool, The Lives of the First World War website also enables you to Remember online:

- Create a log-in
- Find the soldier you have chosen to remember from the LFWW database.
  Click on the Remember button to add your commemoration to this national archive
- Upload your photographs of the grave or images you have created of the soldier you have remembered using the upload an image option on the right hand side of each Life Story page
- Add your thoughts and experiences of remembrance using the share a story option on the right hand side of each Life Story page.
  - [www.livesofthefirstworldwar.org](http://www.livesofthefirstworldwar.org)

Remember 07: Create a Cemetery Map

**WHAT:** To help others easily identify the location of CWGC graves in local sites create your own map and provide some additional information about some of those buried there.

**COST:** £50 - 100 for printing

**TIME:** 5 - 20 hours

**TAKE INSPIRATION FROM:** Bangor Grammarians who created a trail to connect CWGC graves in Bangor Cemetery. They researched several stories of those buried there who lost their lives in the First and Second World Wars. This was then shared with the local community and they also created remembrance cards containing pictures of those buried there to lay on the graves and to make available to others.

In Seaford, the Museum in partnership with a local historian also created a cemetery guide which was made available in Seaford Museum and Library and was also shared with the Tourist Information Centre.

Remember 08: Produce a Short Film

**WHAT:** Creating your own short film is a good way to raise awareness of your local CWGC site. This could be shared on social media and presented at a sharing evening.

- A narrated tour of your local war graves
- A short film following the research process to discover more about the life of one of the war dead in your local cemetery
- Interviews with members of the local community about family stories and their knowledge of those buried in your local CWGC site
- A recording of your visit or the reading of a poem or letter at a grave

**COST:** £0 - £50 (if you already have the filming equipment).

**TIME:** 5 - 10 hours

**RESOURCES:** Camera phone/ digital camera or film equipment/ video editing software

**TAKE INSPIRATION FROM:**

- Demesne Community Association – YouTube ‘CWGC Living Memory Project with Demesne Community Association St Anne’s Academy, Manchester’
- Edson Burton – Vimeo ‘Exiled Rest in Arnos Vale - a poem by Edson Burton (with the Living Memory Project/Commonwealth War Graves Commission)’
- History Hub Ulster – YouTube ‘Living Memory Pilot Project Belfast City Cemetery’
Champion

Become a
Commonwealth War Graves Champion.

The Living Memory project is the beginning of a journey for us all, discovering war graves in the British Isles.

As part of Living Memory you will have discovered your local war graves, you will have found out about the men and women buried there, and shared this with friends, family and others where you live. Your actions mean that they will not be forgotten.

We hope that everyone taking part feels a commitment to champion these UK war graves. Lay flowers, tell your friends, tell the local school, tell the key groups in your communities. Be part of re-connecting your community to these men and women.

To mark your commitment, we are awarding Commonwealth War Graves Champion certificates to participants. To request your certificate email livingmemory@cwgc.org
Share your discoveries with others via social, printed and online media. Facebook and Twitter are good ways to share news, raise awareness of your local site and engage others in your community.

To raise awareness of the war graves here in the UK we are encouraging everyone who takes part to share their discoveries with others.

Whether via social media, newspapers, local radio or TV, or online, telling other people what you have done is an important contribution to remembering and championing.

Facebook and Twitter are good ways to share news, raise awareness of your local site and engage others in your community. In this section you’ll find details on how to go about this and advice from the CWGC media team.
Social Media

Facebook
Interact with other groups is via the CWGC Living Memory Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/CWGC-Living-Memory

Post the latest details of your project and discuss your plans with others. CWGC Facebook team will be looking for stories to share with the wider community of 29,000 followers on the main CWGC Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/commonwealthwargravescommission

Twitter
Twitter only allows you 140 characters for each post – so it’s perfect for sharing quick updates and images.

Including images is a great way to get your tweets noticed. However, please ensure that you have appropriate permissions in place before sharing any images on social media. If photographing young people or vulnerable adults you will need written consent from parents, guardians, schools or supporting institutions before publishing the images.

If you want us to see your post, make sure you tag us in it! The official Twitter handles for CWGC, DCMS and DCLG are:

www.twitter.com/CWGC The official Twitter feed for the CWGC, with over 22,000 followers @CWGC

www.twitter.com/CommunitiesUK The Department of Communities and Local Government have co-funded this project and will be sharing Living Memory activity with over 90,000 followers @CommunitiesUK

www.twitter.com/DCMS The Department of Culture, Media and Sport have co-funded this project and will be sharing Living Memory activity with over 145,000 followers @DCMS

The hashtag we are using for the overall project is #LivingMemory. By including this in your tweet, users will be able to click on it and link your work with the wider initiative.

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss how to make the most of your project social media, please email livingmemory@cwgc.org

Local Press

To help with local press we have produced a press release template which is available upon request. Please email livingmemory@cwgc.org

The Story
When writing your release or speaking with a journalist, think about the story you are trying to tell. Make sure it is newsworthy – your information should be new, noteworthy, and relevant. Journalists love human interest stories and your Living Memory project is a perfect opportunity to tell a very good story.

- Tell them about why you got involved in Living Memory
- What did you get out of the project?
- Are there any interesting stories and images you have found about the cemetery or the war casualties buried there?

As soon as you know when your group will be getting together, contact the press a few days before, remembering to check the newspaper / other media’s deadlines. For example, weekly papers normally go out after print on a Friday, so a Thursday would not be a good day to organise an event and expect the press to be able to turn up.
**Be prepared**
Journalists will ask questions. Make sure you have thought of a few answers and also have some resources you can share e.g. photos or research.

**Photos**
Pictures are a great way to tell a story. Think about capturing good quality images of your event and group in action.

If the press can’t make your event, take some good photographs yourself – remembering to ask those in the picture for their permission – and resend the press release with an update on how the day went and some photos.

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**PHOTOGRAPH PERMISSIONS**

Please ensure you have appropriate permissions in place before sharing any images on social media or with the press. If photographing young people or vulnerable adults you will need written consent from parents, guardians, schools or supporting institutions before publishing the images.

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**Make yourself available**
Provide contact details such as an email address or contact number on your press notice. When you receive a call or a message from a reporter, get back to him or her as soon as you can.

**What if I don’t know the answer?**
If you need to refer the journalist to the CWGC or another organisation, please pass on our email media@cwgc.org

**Publicity Materials**
We have created a poster and flyer template for you to edit and print yourselves to help promote your events and activities. To request copies or to access copies of our logos to create your own publicity materials please email livingmemory@cwgc.org
Additional Resources

Useful External Links

- Ancestry.co.uk
  www.ancestry.co.uk
- BBC World War One at Home
  www.bbc.co.uk/ww1
- Big Ideas Company
  www.bigideascompany.org
- British Association for Local History
  www.balh.org.uk
- British Council
  www.britishcouncil.org
- British Library
  www.bl.uk/world-war-one
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission
  www.cwgc.org
- Europeana
  www.europeana1914-1918.eu/en
- Imperial War Museums
  www.iwm.org.uk
- Institute of Education Battlefields Programme
  www.centenarybattlefielldtours.org
- Libraries Northern Ireland
  www.librariesni.org.uk
- Lives of the First World War
  www.livesofthefirstworldwar.org
- National Federation of Cemetery Friends
  www.cemeteryfriends.com
- Roll of Honour
  www.roll-of-honour.com
- Royal British Legion
  www.britishlegion.org.uk/remembrance/ww1-century
- SUSTRANS
  www.sustrans.org.uk
- The Centenary Partnership
  www.1914.org
- WW1 Home Front Legacy
  www.homefrontlegacy.org.uk
- War Memorials Trust
  www.warmemorials.org

With thanks to our strategic partners
Planning your Living Memory Event

Discover

• Which Commonwealth War Graves Commission UK war graves will you visit? Remember to email livingmemory@cwgc.org for help with finding a suitable location to visit.
• Who will you discover using the www.cwgc.org database?
• For more information on the Battle of the Somme visit www.cwgc.org/somme
• Do you need to apply for funding to support your visit or activities? You can apply for up to £200 towards expenses for your Living Memory activity email livingmemory@cwgc.org for more information.

Explore

• Who will visit the cemetery?
• How will you get to the cemetery?
• Do you need to check with the cemetery manager to confirm your visit?
• When during the 141 days of the Somme Centenary will you visit the cemetery?
• Which activities will you undertake at the cemetery?
• How will you make your visit safe? Have you done a visit and risk assessment?

Remember

• Who will you remember?
• What remembrance activities will you do?
• Who will you share your remembrance with?
• When will you remember someone? Remember to email livingmemory@cwgc.org for help with finding a suitable date.
• Don’t forgot to use our poster, flyer and press notice templates to promote your event – email livingmemory@cwgc.org for copies

Notes:
Checklist for Living Memory Events

☐ Choose a cemetery to visit
☐ Plan travel and undertake risk assessment for visit
☐ Invite people to join cemetery visit
☐ Select activities and resources for cemetery visit
☐ Use the CWGC database to discover more about local cemetery and those buried there
☐ Discover more about at least one person buried locally who died in the First World War
☐ Submit any UK Somme casualty stories to livingmemory@cwgc.org
☐ Plan remembrance activity during 141 days of the Somme Centenary
☐ Publicise cemetery visit and remembrance activities via social media
☐ Invite press to any suitable activities or events
☐ Get permission to use photographs of participants.
☐ Request Commonwealth War Graves Champion certificates and send pictures to livingmemory@cwgc.org
☐ Complete Living Memory evaluation

Notes:
DISCOVER

Find out about a CWGC site near you, choose one or more graves to remember and discover more about them.

EXPLORE

Choose from a range of activities suitable for your visit to the cemetery.

REMEMBER

The 141 days of the Somme. Information on the Battle of the Somme and ideas for remembrance events.

BECOME A CWGC CHAMPION

Choose from a range of activities suitable for your visit to the cemetery.