

GODALMING TOWN COUNCIL



PRESS RELEASE

Vandalism at Godalming War Memorial

Godalming Town Council staff and their colleagues at Waverley Borough Council were appalled and upset to find that vandals attacked the flagpole at the Godalming War Memorial overnight on 30/31 July 2013. An attempt was made to pull the flagpole out of the ground and the pole was left hanging precariously at 45 degrees. The flagpole was beyond repair and for the safety of the public, contractors for Godalming Town Council removed the pole on the morning of 31 July.

Speaking today the Mayor of Godalming Councillor Tom Martin said "This is a disgrace! And makes me very angry – the War Memorial is central to Godalming and to our annual commemoration of those who gave their lives in the First and Second World Wars. It saddens me that a few members of our community can be so disrespectful and I'm sure that every decent resident of Godalming will be as outraged as I am".

The flagpole, installed in the autumn of 2008 (replacing an older flagpole at the same location), is used for the Town's annual Remembrance Service held every November in the Phillips Memorial. 109 names from the Second World War are listed on the War Memorial at this location; a further 105 names from the First World War are commemorated by the Memorial and recorded inside the nearby Ss Peter & Paul Church.

It is estimated that the cost to the Town of replacing the flagpole will be in excess of £1,000 .

Anyone with any information should contact Surrey Police by dialling 101.

Ends

In case of query please contact:

Louise Goodfellow

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