

Become a
Friend of Ilam Cross
and help secure its future!

The restoration of Ilam Cross was just the first stage of securing its future. It will need ongoing maintenance to prevent it ever again falling into a state of disrepair.

The Ilam Cross Trust invites you to become a **Friend of Ilam Cross** and help ensure its survival. A donation of just £10 per year will enable us to:

- survey and inspect the Cross for future deterioration;
- insure the Cross against damage;
- raise awareness of its importance;
- provide information and education activities.

please tear off below and return

Standing Order Mandate

I would like to become a Friend of Ilam Cross.

Name: Address:
..... Post Code:

Name of Bank: Account Name:
Sort-code: Account No:
Bank Address:

Please pay annually on 1st September until further notice the sum of TEN pounds (£10.00) to The Ilam Cross Trust (Sort code: 089299 Account 65137905).

Date of first payment: 1st September 20....

If you are a UK taxpayer and would like to Gift Aid your donations please tick here

Signature:

Date:/...../20.....

Company no.4978686, Charity No.1101384

visit www.ilam.org.uk for more information

The restoration of Ilam Cross was supported by grants and donations from the following organisations:



- LEADER
- Pilgrim Trust
- Peak District National Park Authority
- Staffordshire Moorlands
- Francis Coales Charitable Foundation
- Leche Trust

And by kind donations from individuals.

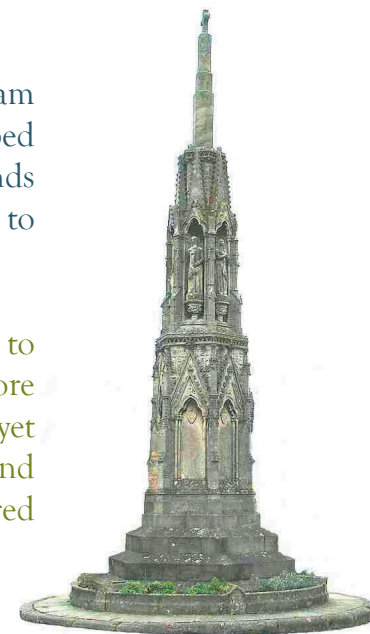
“one of the finest Gothic Revival monuments in the country”

Ilam Cross

Locally known as Ilam Cross, the Mary Watts-Russell Memorial is a local monument of national importance. After 170 years Ilam Cross is restored to its original splendour.

Years of weathering and erosion left Ilam Cross in a sorry state. This was not helped when disaster struck in 1962 with high winds knocking the delicately carved top section to the ground.

In 2003 the Ilam Cross Trust was formed to take ownership of the Cross in order to restore it to its former glory. Work on this careful yet exciting process began in October 2010 and has brought a new lease of life to this treasured local landmark.



To celebrate the restoration of the Cross and ensure its ongoing care, the Ilam Cross Trustees invite you to become a **Friend of Ilam Cross** and help preserve this grade II listed monument for future generations. Find out more inside...



The heart of the village

Ilam Cross provides a focal point in the small village of Ilam and is woven into the fabric of the community. It looks down on the daily bustle of village life and plays host to many visitors too, with groups often resting on its steps or peering skywards at the carvings and full height of the memorial.

Cherished but often overlooked, it took the energy and passion of one man to bring the village and its friends together to realise the significance and value of their Cross.

“We’ve got this national monument in our tiny village and it was not really noticed because we saw it every day. It took someone from outside to help us recognise and value this astonishing thing.”

Ilam’s champion

Phil Mottram, an Ilam historian for over thirty years, has been tireless in raising local and national awareness of the Cross. It was Phil who led the battle to secure the repair and restoration of the Cross now underway. As well as gaining the support of local villagers, businesses and organisations, Phil enlisted help from national experts on heritage monuments including Dr Julian Litten, Marjorie Trusted of the V&A Sculpture Department and Jo Darke, Founder of the Public Monuments and Sculpture Association.



October 2010

Phil Mottram looks up at Ilam Cross as preservation work begins.

Phil’s determination led to the establishment of the Ilam Cross Trust whose first challenge was to secure ownership of the Cross. Following this and after much planning and campaigning, the Trust raised sufficient funds to save and restore the Cross, but as Phil and the Trust know, this is far from the end of the story...

Their enduring challenge is the ongoing upkeep and awareness of this precious national monument for which they would welcome your friendship and support.

The Ilam Imp is an example of the Gothic Revival style of Ilam Cross. The Imp is the mascot of the Trust.



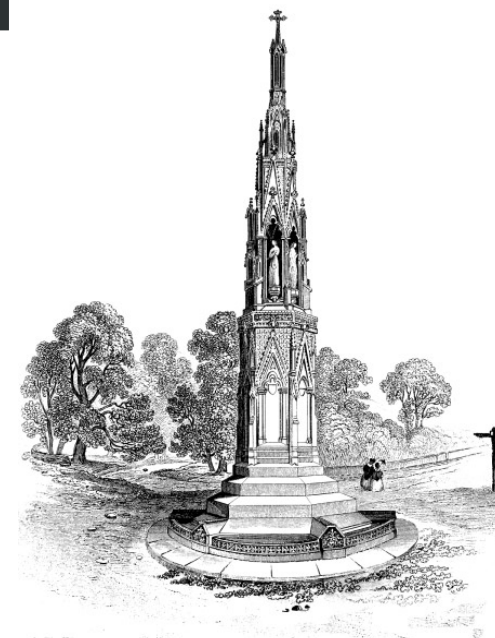
Jesse Watts-Russell and his wife Mary

The Watts-Russell family had a major influence on Ilam. Among other things they commissioned the ‘model village’ of Alpine-style houses that flank the Cross and typify Ilam.

Tribute to a loving wife

Ilam Cross is officially called The Mary Watts-Russell Memorial. It was built in 1841 for Jesse Watts-Russell, the squire of Ilam and resident at Ilam Hall, in memory of his wife who had died in 1840. The memorial was designed by John Macduff Derick and sculpted by Richard Westmacott.

Ilam Cross is modelled on the Eleanor Crosses commissioned by Edward I to mark the resting places of his wife Eleanor’s body as it travelled from Harby in Nottinghamshire for burial at Westminster Abbey in London in 1290.



A new lease of life...

An early job for Ian Ward and his team of specialist stone masons was to remove the most badly damaged angel for transfer to their Somerset studios. There, the missing parts of the angel were added back in clay, forming a model for the newly-carved replacement figure.

Early restoration work revealed that the Ilam Imp (left) might be a dragon! If this were not surprise enough, he has also been found on Twitter! You can follow the Imp’s Tweets on life in Ilam at www.twitter.com/ilam_imp

