

Newsletter Issue No 18

August 2014

THE CHAPELS



Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery are in discussions with Bereavement Services and local Councillors about innovative ways to acquire funding in this time of austerity for Birmingham City Council. We are still intent on finding a way to preserve our beautiful Victorian chapels and ensure their future upkeep.

In the meantime, we continue to work on other projects within the cemetery and endeavour to make improvements to the general environment of this very special place of peace and tranquillity.

ARCHIVIST REQUIRED

FBEC is looking for an interested member of the public to take on the volunteer role of Archivist. This will not be very time consuming but it is important that materials such as news cuttings, photographs etc. are kept in an orderly fashion for future reference. The task would require a person with access to a computer, a scanner and the internet, plus an interest in preserving information. If you think you could help please contact Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery via the website or e-mail address on the back page.

OBITUARY

Sadly in January we learnt of the death of Mr. Ivor Davis. Ivor and his wife Joan (who died in 2008) were among the very first members of Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery and were always very supportive. Sympathy is extended to Ivor's family.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The ninth Annual General Meeting of Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery was held on Thursday 10th April 2014. The venue was moved to St. Bede's Church, Doversley Road, Kings Heath in the hope that it would be more accessible to members and this was partly successful. Thank you to those who were able to attend.

The Committee was duly elected as follows:
Philip Brown, Sarah Courbet, Jane Edwards, Pat Franklin, Adrain Harris, Coral Howard, Carola Klein, Julian Pritchard, Brian Rai and Barrie Simpson.

At the first Committee Meeting following the Annual General Meeting, the following duties were allocated:

Chairman:	Jane Edwards
Vice-Chairman:	Coral Howard
Secretary:	Jane Edwards
Treasurer:	Julian Pritchard
Membership Secretary:	Sarah Courbet
Newsletter:	Coral Howard

DRIVEWAY REPAIRS

Hurrah! The long overdue repairs to the driveways have now been started and a huge improvement can already be seen and felt. By the time you receive this newsletter the repairs should be complete.



WORKING WITH SCHOOLS

On a very wet morning in March, pupils from St. Alban's R.C. Primary School came to the Cemetery to help plant a hawthorn hedge round a Commonwealth War Graves Commission burial area, close to the Civilian Garden of Remembrance. Fortunately the wet weather did not dampen the spirits of the pupils who set to the task in hand with enthusiasm. The hawthorn whips were purchased via a grant from Veolia Environmental Services. The event was attended by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, together with representatives from Veolia, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, New Vision, Bereavement Services and Quadron Contractors. A number of teachers and parents from the school and local residents were also in attendance.



WORKING WITH SCHOOLS cont.

As part of their ECO week in July, pupils from Woodthorpe Junior and Infant School, enjoyed a visit to Brandwood Pool to take part in pond dipping and bug hunting. They were joined by members of Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery and members of Friends of Brandwood Pool who helped supervise the pond dipping. The pupils were fascinated by the number of frogs in the area and the tiny creatures in the pool. Fortunately no one fell in.



APPRECIATION

Following the hedge planting in March, the following was received from a local resident and long standing member:

"Congratulations to all members of Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery, for their continued hard work in helping to keep the cemetery in good order.

Having been a member since the beginning of the Friends involvement, I am very pleased to see the development of local schools support for various projects which have enhanced the overall care of Brandwood End Cemetery. It was a great pleasure to share the planting of the War Graves hedge with the children from St. Albans and their staff. I am sure the children had an enjoyable morning and learned a lot about sharing in community projects which improve and keep our environment a good place to live.

Best wishes to you all."

Editors note:

Lately a great deal of work in the cemetery has been carried out by those working with the Community Payback Scheme.

BIRMINGHAM MAIL WISH TOKENS

Many thanks to those who donated "Wish Tokens". A total of 4,500 tokens were received and the sum of £103 was subsequently allocated to Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery.

OAK TREE ISLAND

The oak tree on the main drive has long been a cause for concern. This beautiful tree which had been a "signpost" for other areas of the cemetery sadly succumbed to a serious fungal disease which weakened its trunk and made it a danger. Therefore there was no alternative but to fell it. A replacement tree in the same spot would not be suitable as there may be fungal spores in the soil. The stump has now been ground out in readiness for the installation of a World War One Memorial.

CIVILIAN GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

Thanks are extended to the brave souls who gave the hawthorn hedge a much needed trim during a very heavy downfall on 19th July. This garden is now looking really good and this is due to the very small number who work on the trimming, weeding and clearing of debris in the flower beds and around the hedge. Many hands make light work and if anyone is interested in helping to maintain the garden in its present state please contact us at friendsofbec@gmail.com



SECURITY

In the interests of security please remember to hide all valuables and lock your car when visiting or tending a grave.

LITTER PICKS

Litter Picks continue on a quarterly basis and the dates for the 2015 and the remainder of 2014 are as follows:

Saturday 6th September 2014

Sunday 7th December 2014

Saturday 7th March 2015

Sunday 7th June 2015

Saturday 5th September 2015

Sunday 6th December 2015

All commencing at 10.00 a.m.

Thanks are due to all our regular litter pickers including Scouts from 148th (St. Dunstan's) Scout Group. Litter picks are an excellent way of getting some fresh air and improving the local environment. Why not join us? You will be warmly welcomed.



Two of our regular litter pickers enjoying a well earned rest in the sunshine.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

The Annual Subscription is due in April of each year and FBEC relies on this source of income for the production and postage of the newsletters. This is a gentle reminder to those who have not yet paid for 2014. Membership remains at £6 for waged and £3 for non waged.

SECTION MARKERS

Every Section in the cemetery now has the optimum number of markers that its position will allow.

THE SQUIRREL'S LARDER

In the autumn of 2008 a number of spring bulbs were planted along the main drive and all except the crocuses made a splendid show. It was therefore assumed that the squirrels had eaten all the crocus bulbs. During the March litter pick this year a wonderful display of mixed crocuses was discovered but not where they had been planted. The squirrels had not eaten the bulbs, just moved them into their larder. Did they then forget to eat them?



HERITAGE OPEN DAY

On Saturday 13th September between the hours of 11 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery will join with Bereavement Services staff in providing small displays and WW1 commemorative events. These will include short WW1 grave walks and members of the public are invited to bring along items of WW1 memorabilia and share stories passed on through their families. There is a special interest in hearing from those who have relatives buried in the cemetery with a connection to WW1. Please come and join us if you can but the event is not suitable for children under eight years of age.

ANNUAL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Each year on Armistice Sunday a short Service of Remembrance takes place at the Cross of Sacrifice on the main drive of the cemetery.

On Sunday 9th November 2014 the Service will Commence at 10.50 a.m. to include two minutes silence at 11 a.m. and the laying of wreaths. All are invited to attend this short but meaningful Service to pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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