



Newsletter Issue No 23

March 2017

Registered Charity No. 1114333

The Chapels



Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery was inaugurated with the main aim of rescuing the Chapels and saving them from further neglect. At this time of austerity, the City Council does not have the necessary funds for repairs but we continue to keep the Council aware of our aim and in the meantime we work to improve various areas of the cemetery.

Litter Picks

Litter Picks continue on a quarterly basis and play an important part in keeping the Cemetery clean, tidy and cared for. If you have never taken part in one of the FBEC Litter picks why not give it a try? We supply the pickers and rubbish sacks and you can enjoy the fresh air and exercise.

Future Litter Pick dates as follows:

Sunday 4th June 2017 **10.00 a.m.**

Sunday 3rd December 2017 **10.00 a.m.**

Important Notice

The twelfth Annual General Meeting of Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery will be held at 10.30 a.m. on 13th April 2017 in the Conference Room at St. Dunstan's Church, Kings Heath. As you enter the main gate from Kingsfield Road, the Conference Room is to the right. Please come along to receive the Annual Reports, elect the Committee for the forthcoming year and enjoy tea, coffee and cakes.

Silver Gilt Award

As the last newsletter was published we were awaiting the results of the Royal Horticultural Society Heart of England, Britain in Bloom Competition (Cemeteries Category). When the results were announced in September we were thrilled to learn that we had been judged worthy of a Silver Gilt award. A sincere thank you to all who worked so hard in the cemetery in the weeks leading up to judgement day.



JANE EDWARDS (CHAIRMAN) AND JULIA GRIFFIN (COMMITTEE MEMBER) RECEIVING THE CERTIFICATE ON BEHALF OF FBEC

Civilian Garden of Remembrance



The refurbished garden was officially unveiled on 24th September by Councillor Eva Phillips. About 20 people attended and as it was a dry day the garden was displayed in all its splendour. Councillor Phillips made a short speech about the uncertainties in our world today and the need for international peace. She then cut the ribbon and declared the refurbishment complete. Those present were invited to adjourn to the Superintendent's Lodge where tea and cakes were served and many memories exchanged.

Our thanks to our anonymous donor and Darren Rudge and his group of students who made this possible.

Service of Remembrance 2016

This took place at the Cross of Sacrifice on Sunday 13th November. The Service was attended by approximately 100 people and was conducted by Rev. Deacon David Fairbotham from St. Dunstan's Church, Kings Heath, to whom we extend our thanks. Thanks are also extended to the two young buglers who performed brilliantly and the representatives of organisations who laid wreaths.



Poppy Crosses

A sincere thank you to those who helped place Poppy Crosses on all of the War Graves in the Cemetery and the member who created a field of Poppy Crosses. A special thank you to Christopher Gascoigne of Gascoigne and sons who helped sponsor the Poppy Crosses.



CWGC Living Memory Project

As part of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission "Living Memory Project", we highlighted the grave of one service member who lost his life in the preparations for the Battle of the Somme. The grave highlighted was that of 2nd Lieutenant Frederick Clifford Alabaster and we were pleased to welcome his great niece Wendy Alabaster to the Remembrance Service.

We are indebted to Alison Wheatley, Edwina Reece, Pat Franklin and Julia Griffin who carried out the necessary research.

Whilst highlighting one particular grave, we remember that all lives lost are equal. Also that there are many war dead buried in Brandwood End Cemetery who died on English soil; in the preparations for battle, as victims of air raids or who returned home injured and later died from those injuries.



Help for Hedgehogs

FBEC, the Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust and the Ranger Service have been very busy since the launch of the hedgehog project on 10th September 2016. The launch was attended by over 30 people who took part in walks and activities.



During autumn half-term week 80 people attended a follow on event for families, with lots of hedgehog information, hedgehog house making, with two being placed on site, and bug hotel ideas. In addition to this a story corner was led by Mrs Tiggywinkle's friend Julia.

Emma from the Wildlife Trust and Ranger Jan attended assemblies at Woodthorpe and

Saint Alban's Schools to introduce the project and explain the part that pupils could play. The pupils then made bug houses and created hedgehog homes and log piles. They also made a film of their activities with assistance from Rachel.



Half-term week in February saw the final Family session in the Cemetery and Lodge with bug houses being distributed, more hedgehog activities inside and the carrying of logs to a suitable site for a demonstration of how to make a log pile.

On Monday 20th March there will be an adults only information session from 7 – 8 p.m. at Park House in Kings Heath Park. Two more school visits will follow and there will be three opportunities to view the film.

Ivy Clearance

From time to time, some of the older memorials in the Cemetery become overgrown with ivy almost to the point of oblivion. February is an excellent month for the removal of ivy because it can be carried out with minimal disturbance to birds and other wildlife.



On 19th February members of FBEC committee, clad in stout footwear and gloves and armed with secateurs, descended on the ivy and trimmed it back.



What a difference a trim makes.

Tree Husbandry

Some trees on the site are having their lower branches reduced and some self-set trees are being removed. This work is being undertaken following consultation between the Tree Officer for Birmingham City Council and Bereavement Services Department.

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