



Newsletter Issue No 25

March 2018

Registered Charity No. 1114333

The Chapels



In January further maintenance work commenced on the Chapels and is ongoing. The roof of the Chapel with the least damage is being made weatherproof and the other, will have a temporary roof installed subject to planning permission. This is not a renovation project but an attempt to prevent further deterioration.

In addition to this, the fencing surrounding the chapels has been moved closer to the buildings thus allowing staff to cut a wider swathe of grass around the perimeter of the fence. This should improve the look of the whole area.

Hopefully in the not too distant future an interpretation board will be installed to explain the history of the Chapels and what the future might hold.

Safety and Security

Please ensure that your car is locked and all valuables hidden when attending a grave.

Important Notice

The thirteenth Annual General Meeting of Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery will be held at 10.30 a.m. on 12th April 2018 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, listen to our plans for the near future and enjoy tea, coffee and cakes.

Litter Picks

Dates of future Litter Picks:

Sunday 3rd June 2018

Saturday 1st September 2018

Sunday 2nd December 2018

The Litter Picks start at 10.00 a.m. and finish at 11.30 a.m. Pickers and rubbish sacks are provided, all you need is stout footwear, a pair of gloves and a smile. All are welcome and children must be accompanied by an adult. It is amazing how much litter can accumulate in the space of three months. The litter consists mostly of flower papers and artificial flowers which have been whipped up by the wind and blown into fences and hedges round the cemetery boundaries. We endeavour to replace the flowers where it is obvious to which grave they belong.

If picking litter does not appeal, help with tidying the Civilian Garden of Remembrance is always welcome. Many hands make light work.

Service of Remembrance 2017

Once again attendance was increased at this annual Remembrance Event. Our thanks as usual go to Deacon David Fairbotham for very thought provoking words, our young bugler, and Bereavement Services staff, who made sure the area of the Cross of Sacrifice was leaf free. A two minute silence was observed and wreaths were laid on behalf of the Royal British Legion, Birmingham City Council, The Masons, The Order of Buffaloes, Selly Oak Royal British Legion, Brandwood Neighbourhood Policing Team and ourselves.



A Poppy Cross was placed on every War Grave and a field of Poppy Crosses was created to the side of the Cross of Sacrifice. A sincere thank you to all who helped with the Poppy Crosses and a special thank you to Christopher Gascoigne of Gascoigne and Sons who helped sponsor them.

The Unremembered Project

Following the Service of Remembrance on November 12th, some of the attendees then took part in a "Living Memorial" to highlight groups of people who had often been forgotten for the service they provided at times of conflict. One of these groups is the Labour Corps. There are nine members of the Labour Corps from WW1 either buried or remembered on the screen wall in Brandwood End Cemetery.



Participants held a small placard with information about each individual being remembered. There was also a large poster on display that gave some background information on the Labour corps and its formation. It was manned by members of various regiments and initially by those who had been wounded and deemed unfit to return to the front line.

Battle of Passchendale

This took place between July and November 2017. As part of the commemoration of its 100th anniversary, Doug Smith and Julia Griffin carried out some research into the life of one soldier, who died of his wounds after returning to England.

Private William Shakespeare was born in Birmingham in 1882, married Elizabeth Chambers in 1903 and went on to have several children. In 1915 the news from the front was not good and William enlisted. He was accepted into the 16th Warwickshire Regiment. He fought in many battles during 1917 and was hit by a shell burst in an attack which began on 9th October. William was brought back to England on a stretcher and taken to Dewsbury in Yorkshire where, on 6th November 1917, he died of his wounds aged 35. Elizabeth was almost full-term with their final baby, John, who was born the week after William died.

William's father paid for him to be buried in Brandwood End Cemetery.



Help for Hedgehogs



The Help for Hedgehogs project culminated in December with the unveiling of an interpretation board by Councillor Tristan Chatfield who was accompanied by two other Councillors. St. Alban's School brought their film makers along and Woodthorpe School brought a whole class. Also in attendance were members and Committee members of FBEC, Bereavement Services staff, Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust and Park Ranger Jan.



Thanks are due to everyone who has been involved in any way with Help for Hedgehogs and a special mention for Jane Edwards, FBEC Chairman, who was the inspiration for and driving force behind the project.

New Tree Walk

Work on this is progressing. A small committee of three has now gathered lots of pictures and is in the process of choosing a variety of trees to include and suitable routes to walk.



Civilian Garden of Remembrance

On a bright sunny morning towards the end of February, the Civilian Garden of Remembrance underwent a spring tidy. A few members of FBEC Committee, armed with rakes, shears, brooms and large bags of bark, descended on the garden and set to work.

Weeds were pulled, a few straggly bits clipped and the beds top dressed with bark. The garden is now looking splendid once more and ready for the growing season.



Heritage Open Days

This year National Heritage Open Days are being held over the weekends of 6-9th and 13th-16th September. FBEC will be taking part in this event on Saturday 15th September. 2018 is the Centenary not only of the end of WW1 but also the Centenary of some women gaining the right to vote. At the moment it is hoped to have a theme of "Extraordinary Women" running alongside the commemoration of the end of WW1. For this we need to gather information about women buried or remembered in the cemetery. If you have knowledge of perhaps a grandmother, mother or aunt who stood out for one reason or another please could you contact us?

During the day there will be organised Grave Walks and displays of information relating to WW1. It is hoped that members of the public will bring along their own memorabilia, stories and artefacts to share.

We might even run to some light refreshments.

Spring is arrives at Brandwood End



Dates to remember

12th April 2018 Annual General Meeting

3rd June 2018 Litter Pick

1st September 2018 Litter Pick

15th September Heritage Open Day

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