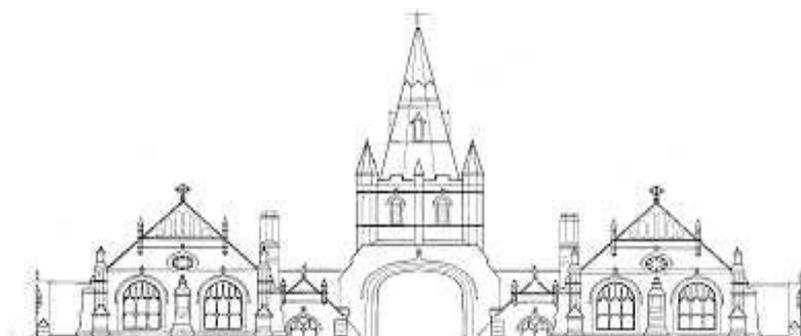


FRIENDS OF BRANDWOOD END CEMETERY



Newsletter Issue No 10

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THE CHAPELS

In October 2009 Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery launched a petition entitled “Save Our Chapels” with the aim of getting Birmingham City Council to acknowledge its responsibility for preserving our architectural and cultural heritage and support our efforts to restore these listed Chapels.

Members were out in force on Mothering Sunday as they invited visitors to the Cemetery to sign the petition asking the Council to take action over the deteriorating condition of the two Victorian Terracotta Chapels. People queued on foot and in their vehicles for a chance to sign and express their concern about this ongoing problem. Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery knew that there was local concern, as they formed some 5 years ago following a public meeting on this very subject. Even so they were overwhelmed by the strength of feeling over the neglect of the Chapels. People from all over the country and abroad visit the Cemetery and many are saddened by the sorry state of the buildings in this resting ground where their loved ones are buried. Over 600 people signed the petition in just 3 hours. To date over 1,000 signatures have been collected and it is intended to present the petition to the Council at the end of May. If you haven't already signed the paper version of our petition, you can sign at <http://bit.ly/saveourchapels> Please **do not** sign both.



WEBSITE

A reminder that our website can be found at www.fbec.org.uk and is regularly updated with the latest information.

Registered Charity No. 1114333

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND POPPY CROSSES

On Sunday 8th November 2009 at 1.00 p.m. a short Service of Remembrance took place at the Cross of Sacrifice. The Service was conducted by the Rev'd Rosemary Reynolds and wreaths were laid on behalf of the Royal British Legion, Birmingham City Council and Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery. This year we had the good fortune to have a bugler present to play the Last Post. Our thanks to Mr. Bob Johnson, Director of Music, Corps of Drums, Avon Fire Brigade. His contribution greatly enhanced the Service.



Unfortunately, there seemed to be a shortage of Poppy Crosses this year, which meant that we were unable to repeat the Poppy Cross "Cemetery". We did however obtain enough Poppy Crosses to place them on all the War Graves in the Cemetery. We are indebted to the Midlands Co-operative Funeral Service for agreeing to sponsor the purchase of a number of these crosses and to the employees of Wates Construction who placed them on the graves.



FRIENDS OF BRANDWOOD END CEMETERY GET SOCIAL

Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery have been very busy on the social networking front in the last few months. A wiki page was written on Brandwood End Cemetery and there have been many contributions to the page since its launch. Why not visit [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brandwood End Cemetery](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brandwood_End_Cemetery) - you can see the Cemetery from the air (Google Earth), read a little more about the history, or check out some of the reference links.

We are also now on Facebook (FB) and we are starting to use this to publicise events and link into other associations that support or are relevant to the Friends. Please go and find us on FB and show your support by joining our group.

If that wasn't enough we now have our own blog which can be found on <http://fbec.wordpress.com/>

It is very early days for the blog but we are already attracting attention from like-minded groups.

It is hoped that all this on-line activity will encourage more people to support the Friends and help us Save Our Chapels.

LITTER PICKS

The bi-monthly litter picks continue to take place and the date of the next one is **Saturday 8th May**. Meet at the Cemetery Lodge at 10.00 a.m. Further dates for litter picks will be arranged at the first meeting of the new Committee following the Annual General Meeting. The dates for these will be posted in our notice boards at the entrances to the Cemetery. Please do come and join us. Litter pickers and black bags are provided. All you need is suitable footwear and gloves.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you wish to contact Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery with a query, idea or article for this Newsletter please use one of the contacts below.

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