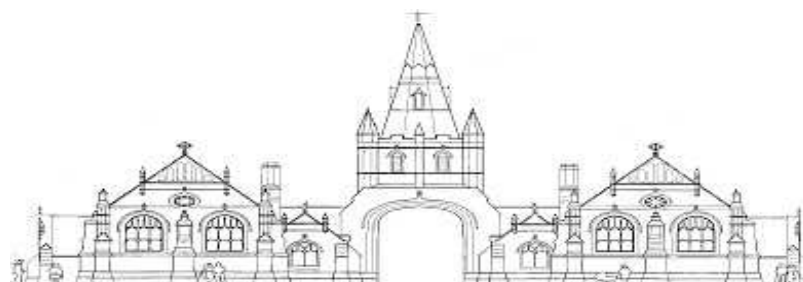


FRIENDS OF BRANDWOOD END CEMETERY



Newsletter Issue No 3

Summer 2006

THE CIVILIAN GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE



Excellent news. The message in Newsletter No 2 was “watch this space”. A bid to “Awards for All” which is a joint Lottery grants programme supported by Arts Council England, Big Lottery Fund, Heritage Lottery Fund and Sport England has resulted in a grant of £5,000 to restore the Garden of Remembrance for the Civilian War Victims 1939-1945.

This is a magnificent grant and will not only allow the garden to be restored as a fitting memorial to the local civilian dead of World War II but will also create an area of quiet contemplation for those using the cemetery.

We are also grateful to the Birmingham Air Raids Remembrance Association for their kind offer to donate rose bushes at the appropriate time.

Work will begin on this area very soon, so please make a point of watching progress when visiting Brandwood End. (Section 34).

DONATIONS

In addition to membership fees, a total sum of £1.360 has been received from donations in our first year. We are deeply appreciative of this positive support towards our aims to improve Brandwood End cemetery. Grateful thanks to all who have contributed so generously.

NEW SECTION MARKERS



An order has been placed for fifty black granite plaques, with silver lettering. One will be placed on each section in the cemetery, hopefully in October this year. This will be funded by a successful bid for Neighbourhood Renewal Funding from the Community Chest Allocation. This project has also been very generously supported by Midlands Co-operative Funeral Services and we owe them a great debt of gratitude.

The committee hopes that members will appreciate the impact the introduction of new markers will have on the general appearance of the cemetery and that it will enable visitors to find their way around more easily. Due to the NRF funding we have been awarded, it will now be possible to provide two plaques per section and this further improvement will be arranged in due course.



CHARITABLE STATUS

We are delighted to announce that the Charity Commission for England and Wales has registered Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery in the Central Register of Charities. This is excellent news, as it means that we now do not have to pay VAT and we can make use of the Gift Aid Scheme.

GIFT AID SCHEME

Under the Inland Revenue's Gift Aid Scheme, every Charity is entitled to reclaim the tax on gifts made by UK taxpayers. Effectively this means, for every £1 you donate, we can claim an additional 28 pence back from the Inland Revenue. There is no extra cost to you—all you have to do is make a Gift Aid Declaration. This simply means that you confirm you are a UK tax payer

and that you are happy for Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery to reclaim the tax. All donations qualify, whatever the method of payment.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a Gift Aid Declaration. If you would like us to raise even more money, then please complete and return the Declaration to us as soon as possible. Gift Aid can be claimed on any amount, membership or donation, since 6th April 2000 and can apply to all future gifts as well. You need only sign the declaration once and it can be cancelled at any time should your circumstances change. It's that simple and will go a long way to help the Friends achieve even more!

LITTER PICKS

Our third Litter Pick took place on Saturday 25th March 2006. It was a lovely spring day and four committee members were supported by the Clergy and members of the congregations of St. Bede's Church and All Saints Church. 34 bags of litter were collected, including half a child's bicycle! Councillor Mark Hill also assisted our efforts to improve the environment. We are very grateful to all who helped with the 'pick' and for the cakes provided by our helpers.

A further litter pick was held by committee members on Sunday 9th July and the next one will be held on Sunday 20th August 2006, from 10.00 a.m. until 12 noon. The litter pick following that will take place on Saturday 21st October. Why not put these dates in your diaries now and come along and join us?

R.S.P.B.

With a view to identifying and increasing the wild bird population in Brandwood End, John Bailey, an R.S.P.B. volunteer, is kindly undertaking a survey of the birdlife in the cemetery and additional bird boxes have been purchased with a much appreciated grant of £248 from the Neighbourhood Renewal fund. We are most grateful once again for this additional support.

FEEDBACK FROM MEMBERS

At the Annual General Meeting a member was singing the praises of the Friends and said how different the atmosphere of the cemetery has become since the formation of Friends of Brandwood End. The improvements have inspired her to have her family grave restored/ cleaned and when she visits she now tidies round the graves either side of her. Proof indeed that we are making a difference. (We invite all our members to send their news, views and ideas for keeping the cemetery looking good.)

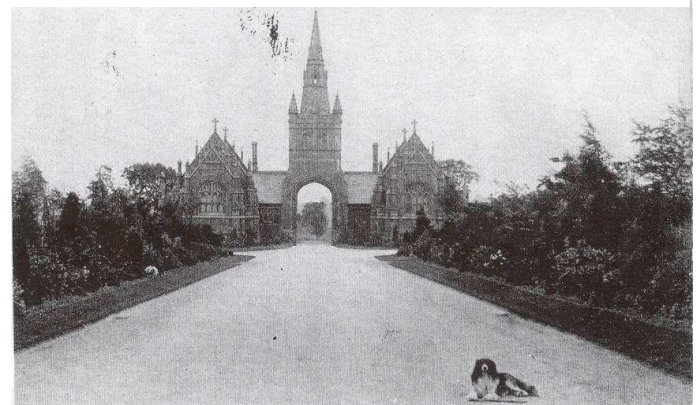
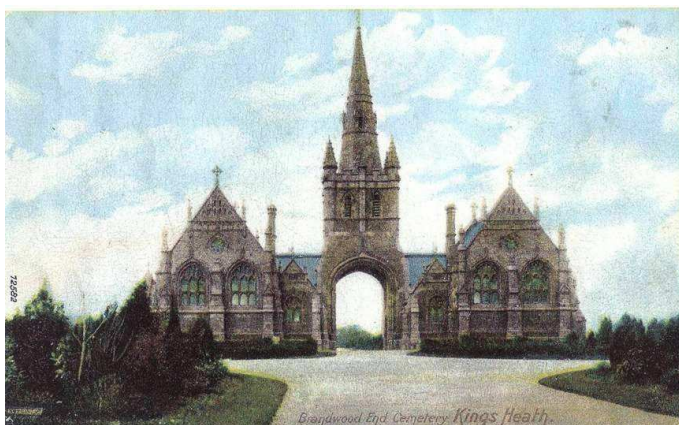
EARLY POSTCARDS OF BRANDWOOD END CHAPELS

Is this the Superintendent's dog?

Do you have any old photographs taken in or around Brandwood End Cemetery?

If you do then we are anxious to see them.

All pictures/photographs will have their source acknowledged and the originals will be returned.



Pictures/photographs may be sent to:
B. Simpson,
Institute of Archaeology and Antiquities,
University of Birmingham,
Edgbaston,
B15 2TT.

WEBSITE

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The first A.G.M. of the Friends was held on Monday, April 10th at St. Bede's church, Doversley Road, Kings Heath.

The meeting was well attended, the current Committee received the full support of the membership and were duly elected, as follows:

Chairman:	Alistair Morton
Vice-Chairman:	Tom Langley
Treasurer:	Julian Pritchard
Secretary:	Jane Graham
Membership Secretary:	Anne Courbet

Committee: Philip Brown, Coral Howard, Carola Klein, Barrie Simpson and Moya Smith.