

FRIENDS OF BRANDWOOD END CEMETERY

POPPY CROSSES - WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



For the third year running, we are deeply indebted to the Midlands Co-op Funeral Service for kindly agreeing to sponsor the purchase of poppy crosses from the British Legion. These were once again placed on all the war graves in Brandwood End cemetery prior to Remembrance Sunday in November.

On 11th November, Armistice Day, a short wreath laying ceremony took place around the Cross of Sacrifice. Wreaths were laid by Mr. George Jackson, Club Chairman of the Kings Heath Branch of the British Legion, Councillor Neville Summerfield, on behalf of Birmingham City Council and Mrs. Anne Courbet, on behalf of Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery. The wreath laying was followed by a short address by The Reverend Andy Delmege, Vicar of St. Bede's Church, Brandwood, and a minute's silence. In both the placing of crosses and the wreath laying ceremony we pay tribute to those men and women who gave their lives in both World Wars and in later conflicts.

LITTER PICKS

Litter Picks continue to take place bi-monthly and the next one will be on 1st December from 10.00 until 12 noon. These litter picks are an important part of our aim to make Brandwood End Cemetery a pleasant and restful environment to be used by the community. In addition to the litter picking, there are other ways of keeping the cemetery tidy. A stone placed in the bottom of flower pots and water bottles left full will prevent these items from being blown about by the wind and caught in the mowing machine. Glass jars etc. can also cause problems with the grass cutting.

SNIPPETS

Opening times: During the winter months the opening times at Brandwood End Cemetery are as follows:
Weekdays ~ 8.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.
Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays in December and January ~ 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.. February, March and April ~ 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Pot Holes: The pot holes on the main drive have now been filled in.

Litter Pick: The next Litter Pick will take place on Saturday 1st December, 2007. Do come and join us if you possibly can.

If you are already a member of the Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery, would you perhaps like to consider giving membership to a friend or colleague as a present?

If you are not a member of the Friends, are you reading a borrowed copy of our newsletter? If you would like to join and receive your own updates and information, please contact our Membership Secretary, Anne Courbet :

Telephone : 0121 628 1186

e-mail : friendsofbrandwoodendcemetery@blueyonder.co.uk

Address : FBEC PO BOX 13910, Birmingham B13 3FB



Newsletter Issue No 5

Autumn 2007

CIVILIAN GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE



After months of hard work this garden has now been completely transformed. The old pathway has been removed and replaced with limestone paving, a new hedge has been planted, new beds dug and planted, the brick pillars have been rebuilt and the original wrought iron gate has been restored and re-hung. In addition to this two new benches have been installed.

On Saturday 8th September 2007, approximately fifty people attended a re-dedication ceremony. Prayers were led by the Rev. Barrie Roberts and the ribbon across the gate was cut by Councillor Mike Sharpe, Deputy Lord Mayor of Birmingham. Councillor Sharpe then addressed those assembled and praised all who had helped with the restoration. We are grateful for a grant received from 'Awards for All' which made the re-creation of the garden possible, Brandwood End Regeneration which funded the new benches and Birmingham Air Raids Remembrance Association for a donation which paid for some of the roses. In this area of beauty, peace and tranquillity we once again have a fitting tribute to the civilians among our war dead.



Having achieved this transformation, there is now a need to keep the garden tidy and weed-free. Work will take place at the same time as the litter picks and we welcome any gardener who would like to help with this task. All you need are gloves and some simple hand tools with possibly a kneeler.

NEW SECTION MARKERS

The second set of granite plaques is now completed and in place. This has resulted in two new markers being placed on each section and the original markers will be restored and resited. This project has made the identification of graves much easier.

Again, we acknowledge the Midlands Co-op Funeral Service for their generous assistance in the supply of these markers, Wates Construction for fixing, and to the Brandwood Ward Advisory Board for the allocation of funding from the NRF Community Chest.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The second A.G.M. of the Friends was held on Thursday April 19th at St. Bede's Church, Doversley Road, Kings Heath. Thirty four Members attended and the Officers and Committee were duly elected, as follows:

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

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

PENS

Les Bridgwater and his sister, Kathleen Watts, very kindly donated over 200 pens for sale by members of the Committee to raise funds. We are delighted to report that a sum of £112 has so far been added to our account. Thank you Les and Kath for your kindness. The pens cost £1 and are excellent value. Pens are available from Committee members and at Litter Picks.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FRIENDS OF CEMETERIES

Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery were represented at the Annual General Meeting of the National Federation of Cemetery Friends which took place on Saturday 9th June and was hosted by Friends of Key Hill Cemetery at the Council House, Birmingham.

OBITUARIES

It is with the greatest regret that we have to report the deaths of three of our members.

Percy Jeffrey on 10th March 2007. Percy was Chairman of the Friends of Brandwood Pool and had worked tirelessly to improve this area. In January 2005, when discussions took place regarding the establishment of the Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery, Percy was a member of the working party. His organisational skills will be greatly missed by all who worked with him. Our sympathy is extended to his widow, Sylvia, and his family.

Councillor Ken Hardeman on 17th July 2007. Ken Hardeman supported the inauguration and development of the Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery and was an energetic and dedicated Councillor in Brandwood Ward. As Birmingham City Council cabinet member for regeneration he devoted boundless energy and considerable expertise to this role and will be extremely difficult to replace. We offer our condolences to Shirley, his widow, and his family.

Alistair Morton on 7th October 2007. Alistair was a founder member of Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery and was elected as the first Chairman. Due to business commitments, he expressed a desire to stand down as Chairman and was elected Vice-Chairman at the 2007 Annual General Meeting. Alistair was a fountain of knowledge and a steadying influence during committee meetings. He will be sadly missed and fondly remembered. Our sincere sympathy is offered to his widow, Lesley, and his family.

THE CHAPELS



A tripartite partnership has been established between Birmingham Conservation Trust, the Bereavements Section of Birmingham City Council and Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery. The next step, an Options Appraisal, will take time and perseverance. In October, the Chapels were featured in the BBC News programme 'Midlands Today' as part of its Heritage Under Threat series. Two of our Committee Members, Anne Courbet and Barrie Simpson were interviewed by Bob Hockenull. In the short time allowed they put forward very good reasons for repairing the Chapels. This feature brought the Friends some very important publicity.

PUBLICITY LEAFLETS

Following a successful bid to B:CEN we received funding for a large number of publicity leaflets. These have now been printed and are being distributed. One of these leaflets is included with this newsletter. Please do your best to pass it on to some-one who might be interested in joining Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery. If you could distribute some leaflets in your work place, sports club etc. that would be even better. Just contact the Membership Secretary via our PO Box No. printed on the leaflet and she will be pleased to supply them. Membership numbers and local support will form a vital part of the Options Appraisal of the Chapels. Therefore it is imperative that both be increased.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Earlier this autumn Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery manned a stand at both Kings Heath Gardeners' Weekend and Kings Norton Nature Reserve Open Day. This gave us the opportunity to hand out some of the publicity leaflets and to answer questions about our aims and achievements. Another way of raising awareness of who we are and what we do. So far we have been represented at these events by members of the Committee. In order to spread the work load a little, it would be extremely helpful if one or two members could volunteer to be present at such events. If you enjoy meeting people and wish to further our aims in this way please notify the membership Secretary via our PO Box No. with your telephone number and/or e-mail address. Many hands make light work.



BIRD BOXES

In October some more bird boxes were installed making a total of approximately 14 including 3 robin boxes. These are all fitted with anti-tamper plates to deter squirrels and woodpeckers. We still have some owl and bat boxes to fit but as the owl boxes are very heavy and large they will require rope hoists to get them in place.



WEBSITE

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