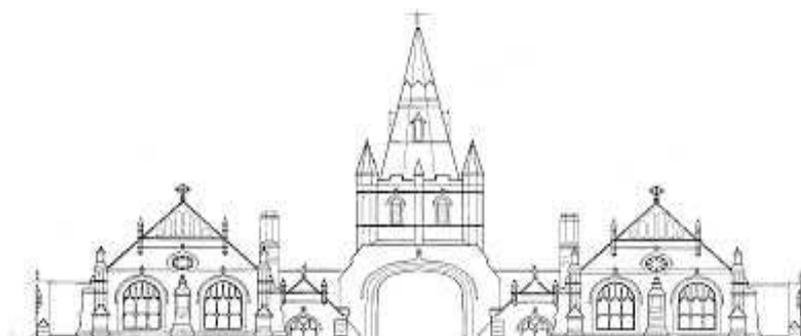


FRIENDS OF BRANDWOOD END CEMETERY



Newsletter Issue No 9

Autumn 2009

THE CHAPELS



There is no further news with regard to the Chapels. Discussions are still ongoing with Birmingham City Council.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Occasionally, the Cemetery office staff need to contact the owner of a grave. This is made difficult when they are not notified of a change of address or ownership of the grave. It would be helpful if all "Friends" could encourage any grave owners they know to notify the office staff at Brandwood End of any such changes.

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND POPPY CROSSES

A short Service of Remembrance and the laying of wreaths will take place at the Cross of Sacrifice in the main driveway of the Cemetery on **Sunday 8th November at 1.00 p.m.**

The Service will be conducted by the Rev'd Rosemary Reynolds and representatives of the Royal British Legion and Birmingham City Council will be in attendance. The attendance at this brief but moving ceremony increases each year. Please come along and join us if you can.



Once again, in the few days leading up to Remembrance Sunday, Poppy Crosses will be placed on the war graves in the cemetery. We are deeply indebted to the Midlands Co-operative Funeral Service for kindly agreeing to sponsor the purchase of a number of these crosses. The remainder will be purchased by the Friends.

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

INTERPRETATION BOARDS

Further to the information offered in Newsletter No. 7, as a result of the Sunderton Road development we have collaborated with Birmingham City Council in the provision of two boards which are situated at the Woodthorpe Road entrance and the Broad Lane entrance. We trust that you will find these informative additions to the Cemetery.



LITTER PICKS

We continue with our bi-monthly litter picks and although this keeps the litter down there is always plenty to be picked up.

The dates of the next two Litter Picks are:

Saturday 28th November 2009

Sunday 10th January 2010

Please come and join us; many hands make light work. Litter pickers and black bags are provided. All you need is suitable footwear and gloves. During the Litter Picks discarded cellophane wrapping and flower food packets are often in evidence and it would be a great help if these could be placed in the bins provided.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The fourth Annual General meeting of the Friends was held on 23rd April at St. Bede's Church, Doversley Road, Kings Heath. Mr. Julian Pritchard (Treasurer) was in the chair and the meeting was attended by approx. 40 members with 20 apologies received.

The Officers and Committee were duly elected as follows:

Chairman:	Tom Langley
Vice-Chairman:	Barrie Simpson
Treasurer:	Julian Pritchard
Secretary:	Jane Edwards
Membership Secretary:	Anne Courbet

Committee: Philip Brown, Sarah Courbet, Coral Howard, Derek Johnson, Carola Klein, and Pat Workman. We are delighted to welcome Sarah Courbet and Derek Johnson onto the Committee.

SUGGESTION FROM A MEMBER

The following has been sent in by a member of Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery:
"Visiting a countryside church earlier this year, I noted how neat all the graves were. Most of the families use troughs which can be planted 2 or 3 times a year, keeping within the bounds of the memorial stone and therefore not impeding the grass cutting between graves. This also does away with pots and jam jars which fly around in high winds, get broken and look sad and untidy."



TREE WALK

FBEC have produced a short tree walk leaflet, on a trial basis. It will be available by the end of October from the Cemetery office and at any of the events we attend. The initial walk covers a small area of the cemetery to the right of the main drive and can be completed in 30 mins. If there is an interest we intend to produce a more comprehensive leaflet. Any comments would be welcome.



CONKERS GALORE

Autumn is coming to the Cemetery, the leaves are on the ground—see picture below - and the Cemetery has been full of young lads collecting conkers with their granddads. It is reassuring to see that some things never change! Wonder if they have read the Health and Safety Manual on the playing of “Conkers”?



GRAVE TENDING SERVICE

Birmingham City Council’s Bereavement Services Section is now offering various options for annual grave maintenance. Each grave tended by the City Council will be dealt with in a caring and respectful way giving you total peace of mind in knowing that there will always be someone there to keep a caring eye on things.

There are four options of service, two for lawn type graves and two for traditional graves. Each option carries an annual fee. Enclosed with the newsletter are leaflets detailing the options and charges, together with an application form.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Early in the summer some youngsters entered the Cemetery after it was closed for the evening and managed to set fire to a tree. Fortunately, one of the committee members saw the smoke and called the Emergency Services. The Local Police are aware of the problems caused by young people entering the Cemetery and are keeping a watchful eye.

The Cemetery belongs to us all and we have a responsibility to safeguard our heritage. You can play your part by reporting any anti-social behaviour you observe to the Cemetery office or if serious to the Police.

SNIPPETS

Opening times: During the winter months the opening times at Brandwood End Cemetery change slightly. Please check the times on the boards as you enter the Cemetery.

New Bench: Birmingham City Council has installed a new seat on the main drive opposite the Lodge.

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

SURPRISE VISIT

There was an unusual occurrence in the Cemetery recently when an Air Ambulance landed in response to a road traffic accident in an adjacent road.



PAST PROJECTS AND FUTURE PLANS

During the past five years the Friends' Committee has been responsible for many improvements to Brandwood End Cemetery. Some progress has been made in regard to the repair and restoration of the Chapels, the Civilian Garden of Remembrance has been restored, new Section Markers have been introduced, two boulders have been placed to mark Public Grave sites, 14,000 Spring flowering bulbs have been planted alongside the main drive, to name but a few projects.

The Friends' Committee is now looking forward to the future and your assistance would be appreciated.

Are there any improvements you would welcome?

If you have any ideas, even something quite simple, please contact Anne Courbet -Telephone No. 0121 628 1186, who will be delighted to hear from you.

HERITAGE FORUM

Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery will be represented at the December meeting of the Heritage Forum which will be held at Aston Hall.

NEW VISION

A new group has been formed to include representatives of Brandwood End Cemetery, Brandwood Pool, Jasmin Fields Nature Reserve and residents of the newly developed Sunderton Road and Bayston Road area. The group will be called New Vision and it is intended to continue the good work initiated by the '106' group.

A new community room will soon be available within the new development on Sunderton Road and it is hoped that it will provide a venue for local events and meetings. The object of New Vision is to bring local groups together to undertake projects for the good of the community in the area and aid communication between those groups.

Neighbouring Brandwood Pool has recently been the centre of a number of surveys being conducted by students from Birmingham University. A regular survey of the bats at this site has found it to be one of the most reliable spots for watching bat activity in the West Midlands. Surveys of water quality and invertebrates in the area have also been undertaken and the results should be available soon.

INSURANCE OF MEMORIALS

Is your memorial stone insured? It is advisable to insure all memorial stones against damage or vandalism. Most insurance companies will offer a level of cover as standard. The cover can be divided into two: damage to headstone and your legal liability to members of the public should your headstone cause an accident.

It is always advisable to insure memorial stones from the moment they are installed but they can be insured after installation subject to an inspection and valuation. Before taking steps to insure the memorial it is worth checking that it is not already covered by your household insurance.

Any Stone Mason should be able to arrange the Insurance on your behalf.

If you know anyone who would be interested in joining the Friends please contact our Membership Secretary, Anne Courbet:

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e-mail : friendsofbrandwoodendcemetery@blueyonder.co.uk

Postal address : FBEC PO BOX 13910, Birmingham B13 3FB