



## Newsletter Issue No 22

September 2016

Registered Charity No. 1114333

### The Chapels



There have been no further developments regarding the Chapels and FBEC continues to maintain dialogue with the City Bereavements Department.

### Litter Picks

The Litter Picks continue on a quarterly basis. They play an important part in keeping the Cemetery clean, tidy and cared for.

Future Litter Pick dates as follows:

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2016**

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2017**

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017**

Please join us. We supply the pickers and rubbish sacks.



### Help for Hedgehogs

FBEC are proud to announce that they have been successful in a bid to the **Heritage Lottery Fund** and will be working with Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust and the Ranger service to train members and local residents to survey for local Hedgehog activity. This will be followed by the introduction and improvement of habitat in and around Brandwood End Cemetery, thus encouraging an increase in numbers of this threatened species.

If you would like to be involved in training or events please contact us on [friendsofbec@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofbec@gmail.com) or 0121 605 4316. We will be launching this event officially on September 10<sup>th</sup> 2-4pm at the Lodge, so watch our web site [www.fbec.org.uk](http://www.fbec.org.uk), notice boards and Facebook page for details. (You can join activities any time in the next 12 months.)



## Annual General Meeting

The eleventh Annual General Meeting of Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery took place on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2016. As an experiment the meeting was held during the day in the Conference Room at St. Dunstan's Church in Kings Heath. It was hoped that holding the meeting during daylight hours and in a more central area would lead to an increased attendance and this proved to be the case.

There were close to twenty members in attendance and the Committee was duly elected as follows:

Chairman: Jane Edwards  
Other Committee Members: Philip Brown, Nicola Clarke, Sarah Courbet, Julia Griffin, Adrian Harris, Coral Howard, Julian Pritchard, Brian Rai and Barrie Simpson.

At the first Committee Meeting following the Annual General Meeting, duties were allocated as follows:

Secretary: Jane Edwards  
Vice-Chairman: Coral Howard  
Treasurer: Julian Pritchard  
Newsletter: Coral Howard

A warm welcome is extended to our new committee member Julia Griffin.

## Civilian Garden of Remembrance

Early in the summer the Friends engaged 'Darren Rudge Landscape Designs' and some of his students to refresh and partly redesign the Civilian Garden of Remembrance. The original planting had gone wild and the edges of the flower beds had become misshapen. Some of the old plants have been divided and re-used and other new planting purchased. The old soil has been replaced and the beds made circular in shape and edged with blue bricks.

This transformation has been made possible by a generous anonymous donation for which FBEC is extremely grateful.



After the beds had been emptied.



The completion of the refurbishment.

The small group of volunteers who maintain the garden will now find the task much easier and if you would like to participate in the upkeep of the garden, please contact FBEC. The contact list is on the back page.

The official unveiling of the garden in all its magnificence will take place on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 10.00 a.m. A warm invitation is extended to everyone who wishes to attend.

There will be very short opening ceremony followed by tea/coffee and cakes.

## Britain in Bloom

This year the Royal Horticultural Society Heart of England, Britain in Bloom included cemeteries as one of the categories and FBEC registered as a competitor. A portfolio of photographs and information was compiled and submitted.

The cemetery then became a hive of activity with gates mended, benches varnished, roses pruned, hedges cut, notice boards washed, section markers scrubbed and litter picked. All the things we normally do over a period of time but not usually all at once. You might not have seen us but we were there working in ones, twos or threes during the month leading up to judgement day.

On Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September three judges from Britain in Bloom visited the cemetery and we now await the result.

Just two of the beautiful shrubs in the cemetery.



## Service of Remembrance 2016

Each year a Service of Remembrance takes place at the Cross of Sacrifice on the main drive of the cemetery. The Service this year will commence at **10.50 a.m.** on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November and will include two minutes silence at 11.00 a.m. and the laying of wreaths. The numbers attending this short but meaningful tribute increase year by year and all are welcome.



There are over 350 War Graves in the cemetery and a Poppy Cross will be laid on each one during the week leading up to Armistice Day. This is planned and organised by a dedicated member of the Committee.

## Volunteers

FBEC are still seeking an archivist, committee members, litter pickers and people willing to weed and tidy in the Civilian Garden of Remembrance. The editor is always pleased to receive articles for the newsletter.

## **Primrose Wood Natural Burial Site Kings Norton Cemetery**

As those of you who have relatives buried in Brandwood End know, we have close links with the much newer cemetery at Kings Norton. This is where the Bereavements Staff and Ground Staff of both cemeteries are based.

Primrose Meadow is a Natural Burial site within Kings Norton Cemetery and on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2016 an event is planned for anyone who may be interested in Natural Burials. Primrose Meadow, established in 2012 is in its infancy and the event is intended as a consultation exercise on the future development of the site.

You are cordially invited to attend between 11.00 a.m. and 1.00 p.m. Staff will be on hand to guide you through the protocols of a natural burial and various wildlife organisations have been invited who will provide information for those simply interested in wildlife and wildflowers.

## **Grapes and Graveyards**

Ten years ago the chief executive overseeing Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Hayward, California was looking for a cheaper alternative to grass lawns. He chose to plant vines for their foliage, not to go into the wine business. However, the climate and soil conditions proved ideal for cultivating a range of grapes. The idea spread to other cemeteries and at first the grapes were sent to a winery to be turned into altar wine.

After a time the wine was considered to be so good that the Rock Wall Wine Company persuaded the diocese to begin making serious wine and they have now, accidentally, become serial prize-winners.

The expanding Bishop's Vineyard wine programme is filling communion chalices in 44 of the Diocese's 84 parishes and bringing in funds to help poor families with school fees and support church charities.

There is a Bishop's Vineyard online shop, a Facebook page and a blog.

## **Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery – Contact Details**

**Telephone:** 0121 605 4316

**E-mail:** [friendsofbec@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofbec@gmail.com)

**Post:** Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery

Lakeside Centre  
180, Lifford Lane  
Kings Norton  
B30 3NU

**Website:** [fbec.org.uk](http://fbec.org.uk)