



## The Chapels



During the month of May scaffolding was erected round one of the chapels. Question: What was being done to the chapel? Answer: Some repair work was being carried out to the roof and walls of the chapel to help prevent further damage caused by the weather, vegetation and pigeons.

## Annual General Meeting

This was held on 13th April, 2017 in the Conference Room at St. Dunstan's Church, Kings Heath. The Annual Report and Accounts were approved and Officers and Committee were elected as follows:

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

Committee Members: Philip Brown, Nicola Clarke, Sarah Courbet, Julia Griffin, Adrian Harris, Carola Klein, Brian Rai and Barrie Simpson.

## Litter Picks

A record number of pickers attended the June litter pick, including Scouts and Leaders from the 148th (St. Dunstan's) Scout Group. 17 bags of rubbish were collected on a lovely sunny morning which ended with a downpour just as we finished. Well done Scouts and many thanks!



Dates of future Litter Picks:

**Sunday 3rd December 2017**

**Saturday 3rd March 2018**

**Sunday 3rd June 2018**

**Saturday 1st September 2018**

The Litter Picks start at 10.00 a.m. and finish at 11.30 a.m. Pickers and rubbish sacks are provided, all you need is stout footwear, a pair of gloves and a smile. All are welcome but children must be accompanied by an adult. If picking litter does not appeal, help with tidying the Civilian Garden of Remembrance is always welcome.

## Civilian Garden of Remembrance

The planting in the new round beds in the Civilian Garden of Remembrance is now well established and showing a fine display of colour and texture. Better still, this has led to a minimum of maintenance being required.



By July this year the hedge surrounding the garden had thickened and grown to such an extent that it was hampering the grass cutting. The hedge had previously been kept in trim by members of the Committee but it now needed a more professional approach. Idverde, the organisation which mows the grass, agreed to undertake this task and the hedge is now back under control and all looks very tidy again. Many thanks to Idverde.



## Service of Remembrance 2017

The Annual Service of Remembrance organised by Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery will take place as usual at the Cross of Sacrifice on the main drive on Sunday, 12th November. Everyone is welcome and the Service, lasting approx. 15 minutes, will commence at **10.50 a.m.** and will include two minutes silence at 11.00 a.m. plus the laying of wreaths.

## Cyclists Memorial Event

In Meridan, Warwickshire there is a large obelisk on the green which is the Cyclists War Memorial. The memorial was erected in 1921 and in the middle of May participants from far and near attend an annual service in recognition of the contribution made by cyclists in times of conflict.



This year, to mirror this service, a small group cycled from Cotteridge Church Centre to Brandwood End Cemetery and held a short service at the Cross of Sacrifice.

In addition to the cyclists the very moving service was attended by a small number of non-cyclists plus four standard bearers. The two members of the clergy in attendance read some short prayers, a wreath was laid, two minutes silence were observed and the Last Post and Reveille were played.



## Help for Hedgehogs

The Help for Hedgehogs Project continued throughout late spring and early summer with further visits to both Woodthorpe and Saint Alban's Primary Schools and the final touches were added to the making of the film. This starred some budding young film presenters.



On 5th June the draft of the completed film was shown in Park House, Kings Heath Park. The room was packed with pupils and parents from both schools, members of the public and FBEC members. Also in attendance were local councillors, the community film maker Rachel, Emma from Birmingham and Black Country Wild Life Trust and the local park rangers Dean and Jan.

Emma and Rachel started the evening with a short presentation of all that had happened during the project. This was followed by the showing of the film and those present then had an opportunity to question the adults leading the project and the children who had taken part. Children spoke with enthusiasm about their experience and knowledge gained during the project. Jane Edwards thanked Rachel, Emma, Dean and Jan for their involvement and the Heritage Lottery Fund for their grant. Thanks were also expressed to the pupils, parents and school staff. The evening ended with a buffet supper.



The film was then shown at both schools. Help for Hedgehogs proved a very popular and successful project. Who knows what the next one might be?

## New Tree Walk

The Friends are very aware of how popular our last Tree Walk leaflet was but it is several years since it was designed and time and weather have taken their toll on some of the trees featured. Therefore a small group has started working on a new version that will cover a larger area and feature a wider variety of trees. We have now started listing and photographing trees to be included and hope to be able to produce the leaflet early next year.



First we need to take lots of photographs, locate a good printer.....and find a sponsor!

## The Unremembered Project

The Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG), has funded an inclusive and thought provoking programme to invite communities to commemorate the sacrifices of the Labour Corps and their contribution to the First World War.

On July 4th a group of pupils from Swanshurst School, under the guidance of Doug Smith, visited Brandwood End Cemetery and recited monologues to honour Labour Corps members commemorated on the Screen Walls by the Cross of Sacrifice.

The Labour Corps are not always remembered, hence the Unremembered Project, but they were absolutely essential during the 1st World War. They transported weapons, ammunition, food, fodder, water and fuel in addition to building and maintaining roads and railways.

A video of this event will be available on the school's 'YouTube' channel in September.

## CWGC Wins Medal at RHS Chelsea

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for the graves and memorials of 1.7 million Commonwealth servicemen and women who died in the two world wars. These exist at 23,000 sites in more than 150 countries. Established in 1917, the founding principle of commemorating each person equally, irrespective of rank, religious belief or nationality, still ensures that their names will never be forgotten.



In this, their centenary year, CWGC won Silver Medal Award at the Chelsea Flower Show.

## 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)