

Newsletter Issue No 27

March 2019

Registered Charity No. 1114333

The Chapels



The installation of a temporary roof on one of the chapels is now complete. Although this is only a step towards preventing further deterioration, it is nevertheless a huge improvement to the appearance of the chapel.

Important Notice

The fourteenth Annual General Meeting of Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery will be held at **2.30 p.m. on Thursday 11th April 2019** in the Conference Room at St. Dunstan's Church, Kings Heath. **Please note that this is a change from our usual time of 10.30 a.m.** As you enter the main gate from Kingsfield Road, the Conference Room is to the right.

The purpose of the AGM is to approve the Annual Accounts, receive the Annual Report of activities carried out throughout the year and to elect the committee for the coming year. Plans for the near future are also outlined and tea/coffee and cakes are served at the end of the meeting. Please come along and show your support for FBEC.

Poppy Crosses

During the two weeks leading up to Remembrance Sunday, Poppy Crosses were placed on every War Grave in the cemetery and once again a field of Poppy Crosses was created to the side of the Cross of Sacrifice. We are indebted to all those who gave up their time to achieve this, including members of FBEC and members of Birmingham Air Raids Association. Also personnel from 202 Field Hospital Reserves, based at Dawberry Fields, who spent a few hours on Saturday 10th November placing Poppy Crosses at the Screen Walls and the small area of War Graves close to the Garden of Remembrance.



In addition to this the reservists also cleared the areas around four graves which had almost disappeared beneath the shrubbery. Their help was invaluable and much appreciated. They did an amazing job.

A special thank you to Christopher Gascoigne of Gascoigne and Sons who once again generously helped sponsor the Poppy Crosses.

Service of Remembrance

Held on the 11th November 2018, the Annual Service of Remembrance was attended by approximately one hundred and fifty people. The service was led by Deacon David Fairbotham who once again offered a thought-provoking address and prayers in memory of the fallen. Our thanks to David, the bugler and Bereavements Services staff who made sure that the area around the Cross of Sacrifice was in good order.



A two minute silence was observed and wreaths were laid on behalf of Birmingham City Council, the Royal British Legion, the Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes, West Midlands Police, ourselves and the Catholic Women's League.

Catholic Women's League

What is the connection between the Catholic Women's League and the two World Wars?

At the beginning of the First World War an appeal was made for a Catholic recreation hut for the Forces in Boulogne and the immediate and generous response from members of the public made it possible for the League to open a hut there. The earliest hut in England was opened in 1916 beside Westminster Cathedral. This was open 24 hours a day for troops passing through London. Many huts were opened during WW1 and by 1918, thirty five huts

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in total had been established in England and on the war fronts in Europe. These were staffed by League members. When peace came in 1918, the League began the adoption of ruined villages and churches in Europe and the huts in France were donated for use in shattered areas.

When the Second World War broke out in 1939, the Committee obtained permission from the War Office to resume the running of the Canteens. League members, now in uniform, under the auspices of the Council for Voluntary Welfare Work (CVWW), were in North Africa, Iceland, Malaya, Burma, Singapore and India. Other organisations also operated canteens and they were open to service personnel of all faiths and none.

Battle of Baku

At each of the 1914-1918 100th Anniversary Commemoration Services a particular campaign and combatant have been highlighted. This year we referenced Private Alfred Harold Pane. He was born in Birmingham in 1897 and was the son of Alice Mary Pane and Alfred John Pane. He served with 'A' Company, 9th (Service) Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment. Private Pane died on 1st September 1918 following the Battle of Baku. He is remembered with Honour and named on the CWGC Memorial in Basra, Iraq, also on the family headstone in Section B11.



English Heritage Open Event

Further to the report of the English Heritage Open Event in the previous Newsletter, there has been a subsequent interesting development.



Included in the monologues giving details of servicemen who died as a result of the First World War was one relating to Captain Dr Claude Johnson. Claude was interred in a family grave at Brandwood End (instead of a Commonwealth War Graves Commission Grave) because he died after the end of the war.

Claude was educated at King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys. He played cricket for Moseley Ashfield Cricket Club and football for Moor Green Football Club. After attending Birmingham University to study medicine, he qualified in 1908. When war broke out he was already on the Army Special Reserve and joined the BEF after the Battle of Mons. He was promoted to Captain and sent to India in 1915, serving there until the end of the war.

Claude then returned to "Rockmount", Vicarage Road, Kings Heath and took over his father's medical practice. He died in May 1920 aged 36, weakened by the dysentery he contracted while in India. **Continued**

Continuation.....The information about Claude offered at the English Heritage event resulted in a search for the family grave in Section 2A C.E. It was discovered that the cross on the original grave had been laid flat during "make safe" procedures.



The present Johnson family were advised and they decided to have the grave restored to its former glory.

Tree Replacement

On 15th January the Friends were joined by pupils from St. Alban's Catholic Primary School, local Councillors, the Mayor of Birmingham elect, Tree Officers and a Ranger to start what we hope will be an ongoing project of tree replacement.



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The event was organised by Birmingham Trees for Life after the local Tree Officer appealed for help in replacing the 64 Poplar trees which were recently removed, having reached the end of their life. Three trees of each of the following species were planted: Flowering cherry, Oak, Tulip, Crab apple and Liquid Amber. This is the start of returning the tree stock to previous levels.

The Friends helped with the planting and provided hot drinks, squash and biscuits for the labourers.



Litter Picks

The Litter Picks continue on a monthly basis and are attended by a small number of volunteers. Why not come and join us? Enjoy fresh air and exercise whilst providing a service to the Community.

Dates of future Litter Picks:

Sunday 2nd June 2019

Saturday 7th September 2019

Sunday 1st December 2019

Donations

From time to time members and visitors to the cemetery generously give donations to help with our work. Some members add a donation to their annual subscription, others donate because they are impressed with the work undertaken by the Friends or receive help from them. Recently we received a legacy from a deceased member.

We offer a sincere thank you to all those who make donations to our work in in any way and for whatever reason.

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