



# Friends of BrandwoodEnd Cemetery

## This year marks our 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY.



**The Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery were constituted following a public meeting in 2005 . We had planned a number of events to highlight our achievements over the last 15 years but the Covid pandemic has meant their cancellation.**

Since 2005, FBEC members have worked alongside Bereavements Services staff to try and improve the overall appearance of the cemetery and the chapels. We have recently made several promising moves forward and we now have 'Interpretation' by the chapels explaining their history and the interiors have been cleared. Yet again, we were moving forward but Covid has halted progress in all areas.

**Our main aim is still to achieve a sustainable use for our Twin Victorian Terracotta Chapels- but whilst we wait, we continue to work with Bereavement Services and BCC to ensure that this green urban space remains welcoming for all who visit.**

## WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?

Over the last 15 years the Friends have worked continually, alongside City staff, to try and improve the environment within Brandwood End Cemetery. We have raised over £140,000 to make the chapels safe, repair the Lodge building and undertake some of the projects below

Installed **Section Markers** on every Section and **Boulder Markers** on our two Public Grave areas. **Designed and installed Interpretation Boards and Notice boards** at the entrances.

Held regular **Litter Picks, Bat Walks, open events (including Heritage Open Days)** to highlight the cemetery. **Cleared Ivy from graves, restored headstones, planted new trees with BTFL** and produced a **Tree Walk leaflet**.

Reinstated, and later refurbished, the **Civilian Garden of Remembrance** and **redefined a small War Grave area** with the help of local pupils and the community .

**Worked with The Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust, Birmingham Trees for Life and the Ranger Service** on projects to improve habitat and encourage wildlife

Every year FBEC organise a **Service of Remembrance** and place individual **poppy crosses on all our 300+war graves**. We continue to research and highlight the lives of those buried in the cemetery.