

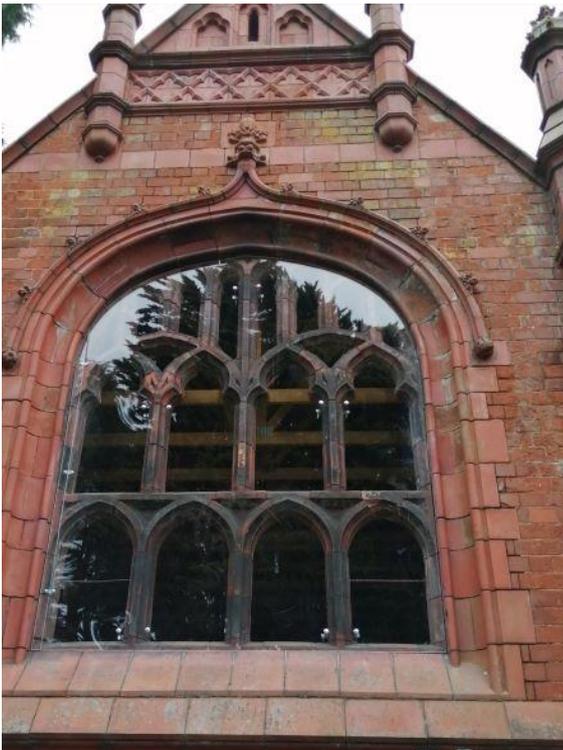


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September 2021

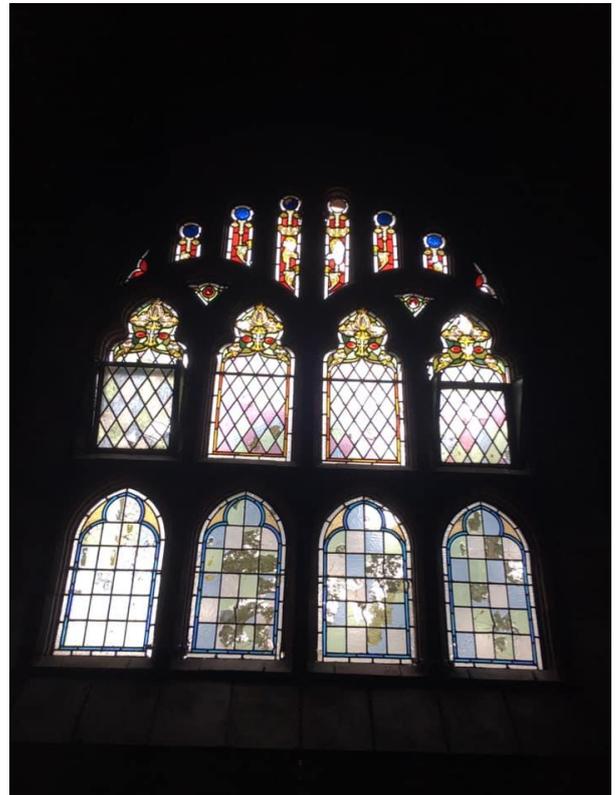
Registered Charity No. 1114333

The Chapels



Just after the March Newsletter had gone to press, there was a wonderful surprise. The ugly black panels which were covering the windows of the Chapels were replaced by clear Perspex and they look amazing. Almost immediately after that a smart new fence was erected around the Chapels. What a transformation! Although Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery have not yet achieved their main aim of finding a sustainable use for the chapels, they now look as though they are cared for and are partly restored to their former glory. Thanks for these improvements must go to the Bereavements Officer at Kings Norton

Cemetery, who made a good case to Birmingham City Council for the improvements to take place. Thanks also to the specialists who carried out the work with expertise and sensitivity.



Above is a photo of the windows from the inside, the effect of having the light shine through is quite stunning and it is hoped that at some time in the future it will be possible to have limited access to the chapels for all to enjoy them. Overleaf is a photograph of the Chapels with the newly covered windows and the smart new green fence.



Annual General Meeting

Because of the restrictions on meetings in place at the time, the Annual General Meeting took place on 15th April 2021 via Zoom. The Annual Report was approved but because of the difficulties relating to Covid, the Annual Accounts had not been finalised. However, an interim report was presented and the Accounts confirmed at the next Committee Meeting.

The following committee members were elected:

Chairman: Julia Griffin
Secretary: Jane Edwards
Treasurer: Julian Pritchard
Vice-Chairman: Coral Howard
Committee Members: Philip Brown, Sarah Courbet, Lisa Fair, Carola Klein, and Kerry Tinkler. We extend a very warm welcome to Lisa our new committee member and our thanks to Adrian Harris who resigned during the year.

Annual Service of Remembrance

With the lifting of restrictions on gatherings, we can once again hold the Annual Service of Remembrance at the Cross of Sacrifice on the main drive. The short Service will commence at 10.50 a.m. on Sunday 14th November 2021 and will include two minutes silence at 11.00 a.m. Wreaths will be laid by local Councillors and other local organisations.

Poppy Crosses

The annual placing of Poppy Crosses on War Graves commenced in the middle of October and will continue until all the crosses are placed. If you have been involved in the past and would like to do so again or would like to be involved for the first time please contact Jane Edwards by email at: friendsofbec@gmail.com

Commemoration of Anzac Day



On 25th April, in spite of Covid restrictions a small but moving joint ceremony took place at the grave of Trooper Horace Turner. It was attended by Mr. Ian Binnie (Gallipoli Association), Colonel (Retd.) Bob Carruthers (Royal Warwickshire Regiment Association), Mr Richard Millington (Warwickshire Yeomanry Association). Julia Griffin, Coral Howard and Pat Franklin represented FBEC. After the service the group took the opportunity to visit the cemetery's other four graves of men who served with the Australian forces at Gallipoli. Col. Bob Carruthers laid a wreath on behalf of the Royal Warks Reg. Association at the Cross of Sacrifice in memory of Charles Cripps. It is hoped that this will become an annual event.

Recording of Memorials

Caring for God's Acre is an organisation working nationally to record, investigate, care for, and enjoy burial grounds and graveyards. Over the last year God's Acre has been steadily GPS and geo physically mapping the memorials in Brandwood End cemetery. Eventually there will be a map of blue squares each one representing a grave with written details. This is an ongoing project with small teams of volunteers working in twos, one reading and the other writing details. This is not a high-tech operation, all the recording is done using a pen and paper and over the summer months the activity has proved to be both useful and fascinating.



Bat walk

At the beginning of September fifty three people participated in another of the ever popular bat walks led by "Brum Bats".

Fantastic Fungi

Over 25 different species of fungi, including Stinking Dapplings and Shaggy Parasols were found in just a small area of the cemetery during a Fungi Walk which took place on the 13th October. Our thanks to Lukas Large, Curator of the Natural Science collection at Birmingham Museums Trust and Georgina Sharp, Community Co-ordinator for God's Acre

Heritage Open Event

FBEC Heritage Open Event was marked by a number of activities this year. After months of planning and weeks of hard work by our Chairman and Secretary the events included a photographic session led by Gerald Griffin, a Member of the Royal Photographic Society, a memorial recording session organised by God's Acre and a tree walk led by Dean Paul the local Ranger.

On Sunday 19th September the main event took place. Section markers had been washed, the Lodge cleaned, gazebos erected, cakes made, chairs put out and details of walks printed.

Inside the Lodge were static displays with information on FBEC, photographs and folders containing information on 4 Military and 4 civilian people buried or remembered in the cemetery, plus details of the Gallipoli Association and research undertaken by Pat Franklin on Eldred Hallas.



Outside, Doug Smith twice delivered a talk with monologues entitled "From Trams to Trenches". Doug wore a 1st World War Officers Uniform and brought his acting skills into play. This was followed by a short presentation from a member of the Gallipoli Association. Homemade cakes and tea and coffee were provided and served by Bereavements Officers who gave up their day off to join us. Sheets were available for a self-led walk along the main drive pointing out items of interest.

For children, there was a trail of 39 beautifully painted stones to follow. The stones had been decorated by local parents working with their children and each one depicted wildlife or other points of interest found in the cemetery.



Thank you to:

Everyone who contributed in any way to the success of the Heritage Event.

Members of the Edwards family, who on learning that the flower bed surrounding the Lodge would not be planted out this year promptly obtained and planted the area creating a wonderful display.

Rebecca Faizey and son David who responded to an appeal on the FBEC Face Book page and washed all the Section Markers.

David Lewis who travelled from Yorkshire to visit his father's grave on what would have been his 100th birthday and used the occasion to make a donation to FBEC.

Councillors Mike Leddy, Julien Pritchard and John Cotton for their interest and support. Councillor Cotton is the Birmingham City Council Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion, Community Safety and Equalities. Bereavement Services come under this remit.

Next Litter Pick:

Sunday 5th December 2021

Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery – Contact Details

Telephone: 0121 605 4316

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Post: Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery

c/o Julian Pritchard

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