

## Newtown Road Friends welcome NCFC

The 2016 AGM hosted by the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery was held on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June at the Phoenix Resource Centre in Newbury and was attended by 31 including representatives of 16 cemetery Friends' groups. Following a warm welcome from the Mayor of Newbury, Councillor Julian Swift-Hook; the Chairman of the Friends, Mr

Brian Sylvester spoke about the history of the cemetery and the work being undertaken by the Friends. Attendees were then invited to join one of the several cemetery tours on offer.



*The outside of the chapel  
Photograph by Stuart Wilkinson*

The Newbury Cemetery Company was established by an Act of Parliament in 1847. The Act enabled the Cemetery Company to raise funds through the sale of 800 shares at £5 each. Two adjoining pieces of land between Old Newton Road and Newton Road were purchased and development of

the cemetery included the installation of a lodge; boundary wall and two chapels plus a well (although the location of the latter is unknown). The Anglican Chapel and the northern section of the cemetery was consecrated by Samuel Wilberforce, Bishop of Oxford in 1850. The other chapel known as the Dissenters' Chapel stood in the southern section designated for non-conformist burials.

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The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the NCFC.  
All material by the editor unless otherwise attributed.

Although, occasional burials still took place, the responsibility for the cemetery was turned over to Newbury Corporation in 1953. The Dissenters' Chapel was demolished soon after being considered too costly to repair following fire damage. The cemetery was finally closed on health and safety grounds in 2000. The Friends group were formed in 2009 and following a lot of work in association with Newbury Town Council, the cemetery was reopened to the public in 2011.

Not all the burial records are still in existence but it is thought that up to 11,000 individuals were buried in the cemetery's 4½ acres between 1851 and 2006.

Lunch was kindly provided by Co-operative Funeral Care and many took advantage of the warm sunshine to enjoy their lunch outdoors before commencement of the formal AGM business. Details of



of the business meeting can be found in the minutes sent to NFCF members. Any members who have not received the minutes please contact the secretary: [gwyneth1@btinternet.com](mailto:gwyneth1@btinternet.com)

Thank you to the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery for their hospitality on the day. The next NFCF AGM will be hosted by the Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery, London, on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

*Left: One of the angel monuments featured on the 'Angels, Artists and Authors' tour of the cemetery  
Photograph by Stuart Wilkinson*



*The Chapel stained glass window commissioned in memory of Henry Godwin  
Photograph courtesy of Carol Stevenson*

## Cemetery Friends receives another award from Paul Davies, Friends of Great Yarmouth Cemeteries



*Above: Michael Pearson with the award  
Photograph courtesy of Paul Davies*

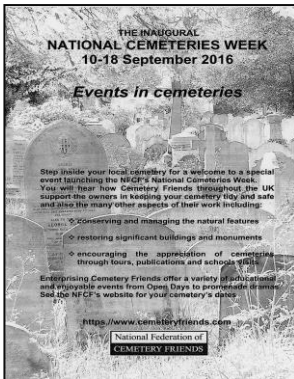
Every year, the Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership organises the Community Biodiversity Awards to recognise outstanding community efforts to conserve biodiversity across Norfolk. This year, an award was made to the Friends of Great Yarmouth Cemeteries and the Minster Churchyard in the Churchyards and Cemeteries category. This award was sponsored by the East of England Co-op. The judging panel were highly impressed by the Friends' work in involving the community to protect the habitat and to enhance biodiversity across the cemeteries and to widen their knowledge base through visits to other local cemeteries as well as Kensal Green in London. The foreman of the Cemeteries Working Party, Michael Pearson and a committee member, Penny Larsen went to receive the award in Norwich.

The Chairman of the Friends, Paul Davies said "it is terrific that the Friends' hard work has been recognised in yet another award and recognises the hard work, enthusiasm and commitment of all concerned."

The Friends won the cemetery category in the Anglia in Bloom Awards in 2014 and helped the town of Great Yarmouth to gain a gold award in the Britain in Bloom competition in 2015.

# NFCF's first National Cemeteries Week launches in 2016 with events across the UK

by Gwyneth Stokes



*NCW poster*

The National Federation of Cemetery Friends launched the inaugural National Cemeteries Week (NCW) last September with the aim of making people more aware not only of the work of their local groups but that this is part of a cemetery friends movement throughout the UK.

Our 'week' is actually extended to nine days so that planned events for Heritage weekend and London Open House could be incorporated. In future, we hope there will be NCW dedicated events, perhaps on the other weekend to your heritage one. Fifteen groups

took part, the majority contributing guided walks of the cemetery but the Friends of Brompton Cemetery opened their catacombs and several members added special events.

The Friends of St Peter's, Berkhamsted, for instance, contributed a heritage Open Day at Rectory Lane Cemetery with the theme Seeing the Light. As well as varied entertainment visitors had an opportunity to see plans for the future of the cemetery and to have their say in its proposed development through HLF funding. The climax of the day was the lantern parade which made its way from St Peter's to the cemetery accompanied by a jazz band, culminating in choral singing and illumination of the cemetery.

'Community comes back from the dead to celebrate burial ground milestone' was the headline in the local press reporting the performance event



*Re-enactment celebrates cemetery's 170 years  
Photograph courtesy of Jude Kershaw*

of the Friends, Skipton. This event marked the 170<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the consecration of the burial ground. With the support of the Skipton Town Council some 10 people, including council officers, dressed in Victorian costume to recreate the lives of some Skiptonians buried there. Friends' chairman Jean Robinson commented 'We had a tremendous day with 119 people visiting and the feedback has all been positive with the public generally saying how good it was to see "flesh on the bones". I can certainly recommend it as a way to bring other cemeteries into the public eye.'

### **Art exhibitions**

The Friends of Nunhead Cemetery participated over two days of the Open House Weekend with an exhibition on the theme Celebrity Immortality in the restored Anglican chapel. This public art exhibition displayed steel cut-outs of celebrities by welded metal sculptor Jolanta Jagiello who is FONC's arts curator. The 12 exhibits were inspired by bronze life-size sculptures of celebrities installed around the world from the Golden Age of Hollywood as well as Great British Comedians and Legendary Musicians and Singers, including Michael Jackson, Billy Fury and Amy Winehouse. Jolanta also took her exhibition Animals in Service to the chapel



*Amy Winehouse steel cut-out by Jolanta Jagiello*

of a neighbouring cemetery for the NCW contribution of the Friends of Brockley and Ladywell Cemeteries on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> September. Various artists marked the huge contribution that 16 million animals made in transport, cavalry and communications as well as the morale of the troops. This had also been seen in other London cemeteries as part of the CWGC Living Memory Project commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of the Somme.

Many NFCF members had taken part in this project and added it to their NCW day. *(Full report in next issue.)* The Friends of Lawnswood Cemetery, Leeds, had a display relating to the battle and the Friends of

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*Belgrave Friends pay  
100 year tribute to  
Somme casualty  
Photograph by John  
Tomlinson*

Belgrave Cemetery, Leicester, also included their Somme commemoration in their Open Day on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Poppy tributes were placed on family memorials for two Leicester young men killed in action on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> September 1916.

The NCFC thanks the abovementioned groups and the following for helping to start what we hope will become an established event in our calendar:

Brookwood Cemetery Society, Surrey; West Norwood Cemetery, London; Hyde Park Cemetery, Doncaster; Lister Lane Cemetery, Halifax; Beckett Street Cemetery, Leeds; York Cemetery; Cathays Cemetery, Cardiff and Cathcart Cemetery, East Renfrewshire.

In 2017 the dates will be 9<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> September and you will be kept informed by email.

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## **‘Children Bringing History Alive’ at Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery**

The Friends took a novel approach for their Annual Open Day in August. They engaged the help of ten younger members of the community to read the narrative at each of the graves featured on the cemetery tour. Introduced as ‘Children bringing history alive’, each youngster was dressed in the style of clothes or uniform appropriate to the occupation or profession of the deceased person. Each were given a certificate and a £10 Amazon gift voucher.



*The ten young presenters  
Photograph courtesy of John  
Vaughan*

## **The fall and rise of Willow Grove Cemetery, Stockport**

by Maureen Fahey and Sheila Robins, FOSC

Willow Grove Cemetery in South Reddish was established by a private company in 1877 to meet the needs of the rapidly-expanding population of the township. It eventually became the final resting place of more than 35,000 people across the social spectrum, from wealthy industrialists and noble benefactors to destitute paupers and nameless infants. It is said that death is the great leveller but the class divide remained evident even thereafter, with magnificent marble edifices erected to mark the graves of the prosperous, while those at the other end of the scale lie buried with strangers in unmarked communal plots.

The opening of Stockport Crematorium in the 1930s led to a marked decline in the number of traditional burials and Willow Grove began to show signs of neglect as its revenue decreased. By the 1960s, it was in poor condition, despite pressure from the grave owners and Stockport Council on the Willow Grove Cemetery Company to implement much-needed improvements. The Council took ownership of the cemetery in 1973 and began a major clean-up operation, gradually transforming the neglected burial ground into a lawned cemetery. Sadly, the improvement was short-lived and the following thirty years saw further serious deterioration.

In 2003, the “Friends of Stockport Cemeteries” (FOSC) was established; this group has worked closely with Stockport Borough Council to reinstate memorials and restore the cemetery to its former glory. By 2007, FOSC had secured external funding to provide magnificent new gates; install seating and waste bins and carry out planting and landscaping, together with environmental enhancements for the benefit of the local wildlife. Further work to improve access and promote the use of Willow Grove for educational and leisure purposes, and as a haven for quiet reflection, was completed by 2010. By 2012, almost all the objectives had been achieved and Willow Grove’s once uncertain future had begun to look distinctly brighter. Two major tasks remained however, the recording of all the cemetery’s monumental inscriptions and the restoration of the impressive monument to Susannah Bogg.

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## The Susannah Bogg memorial

Susannah was one of five children born to William Bogg and Susannah Hemming-Myerscroft and lived from 1855 to 1924. The family was very much involved in the music industry in Manchester. William and his sons built a reed organ named “The Regent” at their shop on Dalton Street in the City, where the young Susannah (who became a music teacher) helped out alongside her sister. She eventually inherited much of the family’s fortune and writing her will in 1904, she stated “It is my wish to be buried in Willow Grove in a grave as near to my sister’s as can be secured and that a suitable tombstone shall be erected over my grave and that the cost of such a tombstone, exclusive of the cost of the grave and the funeral, shall be not less than £500” (around £27,000 in today’s money). The grave was a double vault in a prime location next to where the Gothic-style Church of England and Non-Conformist chapels once stood. Susannah’s sister lay close by, in a grave of comparably modest design.



*Susannah Bogg Memorial  
Photograph courtesy of  
Sheila Robins*

Susannah’s once graceful memorial, known as “The Angel of Willow Grove” lay broken and disconsolate on the ground, having been extensively damaged over the preceding years. Much-needed financial assistance was provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund and in 2013 the process of restoring the “fallen angel” was begun. The plinth and cupola were removed and other parts of the broken monument were cleaned and renovated. New marble was used to repair the angel and the pillars and columns which surround her. The project was completed in 2015 and the “Angel of Willow Grove” now stands gracefully on her marble plinth once more, a tribute to the hard work and dedication of all who were involved in saving her.



## **Research into burials**

Extensive research has revealed a distinct pattern of interments at Willow Grove, with “special” burials such as Susannah Bogg’s being sited on the perimeter of each section of the cemetery. Plots were placed closer together towards the centre of each section. By contrast, pauper graves were generally situated around the perimeter of the cemetery itself, many of them at the back of the site and usually hard up against the boundary fence. One such paupers’ grave received six adults and twenty-eight children over a period of just six months. The final ignominy for the stillborn or short-lived infants who occupy the public graves was that they were denied even the dignity of a funeral service. While the vast majority of these communal plots, which are now referred to as public graves, are unmarked, there is a headstone on what is believed to be such a grave where just four people, apparently unrelated, lie buried. These long-dead individuals were saved from eternal anonymity by their names having been inscribed on this stone – by dint of whose generosity, we do not know.

Only those who could afford a headstone could leave information about their lives and deaths whereas burial indices of course include everyone, rich and poor alike. Pouring over these old registers has illustrated the alarming rate of infant mortality in Stockport. Although this was said to have begun to decrease between the world wars, that news evidently did not reach Newtown, an area of South Reddish bounded by Sandy Lane to the east and the Stockport branch of the now defunct Ashton Canal to the west. Here, streets comprising rows of small, damp terraced houses provided homes for the many people who worked in the factories, mills and engineering works which were plentiful in that area. For some unknown reason, the death rate among the infants of Newtown was higher on Weston Street than on any other and the name of that street appears with astonishing regularity in the old burial registers, particularly in the 1930s.

All the information collated from the Willow Grove project is to be deposited at Stockport Heritage Library and Stockport Cemetery Services and Crematorium. A booklet chronicling the restoration of Willow Grove and of course, its angel, is also to be published. The project has culminated in a valuable legacy for the people of Stockport and for genealogists and family historians across the world.

## The Reception House at Margravine Cemetery receives listing status

by Robert Stephenson

An attractive, octagonal building in Margravine cemetery, which once provided a temporary resting place for coffins prior to burial, has been listed Grade II. This steeply-roofed structure, designed by George Saunders, the architect of the cemetery, which opened in 1869, remains completely intact. Not only are the cast-iron ventilation lattices and the substantial stone shelves on five of the internal walls still in place, but remarkably its original trestles and biers survive in good condition. It is the only example



*The reception house  
Photograph courtesy of Robert  
Stephenson*

of such a building in a London cemetery and it marks a brief period in cemetery history deriving from the recommendations of the sanitary reformer Sir Edwin Chadwick, as contained in his milestone *Special Inquiry into the Practice of Interment in Towns* of 1843. This report highlighted the plight of 20,000 poor families living in single rooms in London that when death struck had no other place to keep a body or coffin. Chadwick's solution was the general introduction of Reception Houses for the dead and this was one of the unrealised aims of the *Metropolitan Interments Act* passed in 1850. The continental fear of premature burial was strong at this time and his report contains a drawing of a German waiting mortuary, where corpses would be left exposed until undeniable signs of decomposition were evident. However, this morbid obsession failed to cross the channel and in vain did Chadwick advocate the adoption of such fear-provoking buildings in this country. On top of this, it was not long before undertakers began providing chapels of rest and a network of purposely-designed mortuaries with autopsy facilities, often combined with coroners' courts, was established.



*Interior of the reception house  
Photograph courtesy of Robert  
Stephenson*

The announcement of the listing was deliberately made at Halloween and done in great style with Roger Bowdler, Director of Listing for Historic England, and staff from the DCMS at the cemetery. A member of the Friends group wearing widow's weeds draped herself over a coffin and a short film of the event is to be found on the DCMS website (see:[https://www.gov.uk/government/news/victorian-building-for-londons-dead-receives-grade-ii-](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/victorian-building-for-londons-dead-receives-grade-ii-listing)

[listing](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/victorian-building-for-londons-dead-receives-grade-ii-listing)). Subsequently there were articles in the national press and on Radio London. The timing was perfect for the Friends who celebrated their tenth anniversary a fortnight later!

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## **Adlington Friends reveal Victorian floor in Chapel** forwarded by Stuart Clewlow

On 6th November, the Friends of Adlington Cemetery planted just over 800 daffodil bulbs around the cemetery grounds, which had been donated by Adlington Town Council and Anderton Parish Council. Whilst on site, they also did a little clearing inside the unused Chapel and realised that the Victorian flooring is still in very good condition.



*Above and left: Inside of  
the cemetery chapel  
Photographs courtesy of  
Stuart Clewlow*

## **Conflict, Memorial and Reconciliation**

Emer Seamark gives her impressions from the ASCE conference on this theme held in Dublin Castle last October

This annual three-day event of the Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe was attended by 107 delegates from 19 countries. The 15 from the UK included NCFC committee and members from Arnos Vale, Flaybrick, Highgate, Newbury, Nunhead and West Norwood.

George McCullough, CEO of Glasnevin Trust, one of the sponsors, opened the conference and introduced the Irish Minister of State for the Diaspora, Joe McHugh. The minister spoke of mutual understanding in the prevailing situation in Europe and the importance of keeping the past alive for the sake of the future; he saw the role of the ASCE as an important part of this process and felt encouraged by this gathering together from so many countries. Lidija Plibersek, ASCE president, also thanked members for attending the meeting which marked the 15th anniversary of the ASCE and she wished all present a wonderful three days. She then went on to chair the AGM.

### **Business matters**

Changes to the constitution concerning non-payment of fees and non-appearance of members were voted on, also rules regarding establishment of the AGM and the voting process; all changes were approved. The financial report was presented and showed the organisation to finally be in profit. Lidija urged members to belong to the European Cemeteries Route. Dusan Vrban, ASCE administrator, went on to speak of the need for visibility and reminded those present that the materials and tools needed to help cemeteries promote themselves are readily available. He thanked all who had sent information and pictures of events which had taken place over the past year. Before closing business Lidija thanked the committee members for their contribution.

For the remainder of the first day and the morning of the following day Dr Ian Dungavell, CEO of Highgate Cemetery in London, introduced a variety of excellent speakers from all over Europe and the USA who gave their own interpretations of the chosen theme. Notably Dr Peter Harbison, archaeologist, art historian, iconographer and the longest serving member of Dublin Cemeteries Committee; Richard Moylan

president of Green-Wood Cemetery in New York since 1986 and Ian Hussein, Director of the Mediterranean area, Commonwealth War Graves Commission (former director City of London Cemetery). A familiar name to British cemetery enthusiasts was the architectural historian Professor James Stevens Curl who as well as having an impressive list of academic titles is the author of many books including The Oxford Dictionary of Architecture and The Victorian Celebration of Death. Professor Curl has given support to Cemetery Friends groups in the past and has written books on Kensal Green and Nunhead cemeteries. Our own John Moffatt from Birkenhead, who is a member of the ASCE steering committee, played no small part in putting together the programme of speakers and has been informed since the conference that Professor Curl intends to join the ASCE.

### **Splendid Glasnevin Cemetery**

Given the anniversary date, its significance in Irish history and the chosen theme it was no surprise that the conference erred on the political. This included a visit to the splendid Glasnevin Cemetery on the afternoon of the second day where the emphasis was on the 1916 uprising. Being the national cemetery – set up by Daniel O’Connell to provide a burial place for those of any religion or none – imposing monuments to most of the major figures in the independence struggle can be seen here. It was impossible not to be impressed by the major improvements that have been made at Glasnevin which boasts a superb new visitor centre, museum and a garden cemetery.

Any discomfiture felt by members regarding the political emphasis was more than offset by the magnanimous hospitality and generosity shown by the Irish hosts and sponsors and all the people involved in making this AGM very memorable. The Dublin Castle venue was truly impressive and if that wasn’t enough the weather was beautiful!

Conference partners, ecoLegacy organised a visit to Tallaght to demonstrate their pioneer facility, ecoLation - a revolutionary emission-free alternative to current methods of cremation, using a thermal process. The 2017 AGM will be held in Athens. The ASCE hope to publish the papers on their website: [www.significantcemeteries.org](http://www.significantcemeteries.org)

If interested in becoming a member, please contact John Moffatt: [flaybrick.m.garden@ntlworld.com](mailto:flaybrick.m.garden@ntlworld.com)



## **Publications**

### **Funerary monuments and memorials in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh**

The funerary monuments and memorials in the Church of Ireland Cathedral Church of St Patrick, Armagh, include fine works by celebrated sculptors including Bacon, Chantrey, Farrell, Marochetti, Nollekens, Roubiliac, Rysbrack. Professor James Stevens Curl's book describes and illustrates all of them; giving details of the artists and their subjects, thereby filling an unaccountable gap in the literature.

The standard paperback edition can be purchased directly from the author. See:

<http://www.jamesstevenscurl.com/funerary-monuments-and-memorials-in-st-patricks-cathedral-armagh>

### **Hidden Histories – Tales from Cathays Cemetery**

Cathays Cemetery in Cardiff is the final resting place of many of Cardiff's founding fathers and leading citizens, as well as thousands of ordinary people. This new publication running to 96 pages is a compilation of stories written by members of the Friends group, detailing the lives of some of the (often forgotten) 'residents' of the cemetery.

The publication of the book was supported by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

It is priced at £10 and is available through the Friends' website.

See: <http://www.friendsofcathayscemetery.co.uk/>.

## **Notes from the Burial and Cremation Advisory Group (BCAG) meeting**

Ann Wilkinson attended the June 2016 meeting of BCAG on behalf of the NCF

The consultation on Infant Cremations closed in March. The 83 responses included those from the cremation authorities, funeral directors, medical referees, voluntary organisations and faith groups. The responses were currently under review and the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) were unable to go into detail about what action would be taken further to the consultation. The issues raised included support for a clear definition of ashes and national standards and for regulation regarding the cremation of fetuses of less than 24 weeks' gestation. It was confirmed that it was the intention to set up a working group which would assist with technical advice on practical aspects of infant cremation.

The *'Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England'* also known as the 'Purple Guidance' was being updated by the Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England (APABE). A link to the published APABE guidance is provided on Historic England's web page: <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/technical-advice/archaeological-science/human-remains-advice/>

The Department of Health's (DH) consultation on 'Introduction of Medical Examiners and Reforms to Death Certification in England and Wales' was due to close on 15<sup>th</sup> June. If no analysis was required, their response document should be published in October 2016. The intention is to have legislation in place by March 2017 with the implementation of reforms in April 2018. This would allow time for allocation of funding to local authorities to meet the costs of setting up a new service.

The Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management reported that the metal recycling scheme had raised another £400,000 surplus in the last six months.

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An issue concerning a demand for relevant documents to be translated into Welsh was considered. Whilst it was felt that there was no immediate demand, it was agreed that guidance be sought from the Welsh Language Commissioner on which documents needed to be translated under the 1993 Welsh Language Act outside of Government as a minimum and whether there is a list of accredited Welsh language translators who could be called upon when required.

It was reported that an 'in principle' agreement has been reached between the cremation sector associations and the Funeral Furnishing Manufacturer's Association (FFMA) on the Coffin and Casket Testing Protocol. The next step was for the cremation sector associations to seek the agreement of their respective governing bodies for a formal announcement to be made following which detailed operational guidelines for crematoria and funeral directors would be developed.

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## **New Members**

### **Friends of St Helens Cemetery, Merseyside**

St Helens Cemetery was opened in 1858, designed by eminent local architect Thomas Denville Barry. He included three chapels of which the Gothic style Anglican is the only one remaining. The original cemetery is designated as a Park and Garden of Special Historic Interest.

The Friends were set up in 2006 as a result of St Helens Council inviting local people to become involved and take an interest in the heritage, planning and day-to-day issues of the cemetery and crematorium. The council continue to support the Friends. The first issues mainly focused on the preserving and maintaining of the overall appearance of the grounds, and lobbying for improvements in the areas of car parking, use of cars in the cemetery, dog fouling and damage and theft to graves.

Later the Friends played an important role in contributing to the design of the new section of St Helens Cemetery which opened in 2011. They worked with the council and planners by making and agreeing on a new concept of design for this part of the cemetery which includes a

children's section. They were successful in their bid for Heritage Lottery Funding and were awarded a grant to develop the group.

Among the Friends' activities is a flower delivery service which they have slowly built up over the past years. They buy, deliver to the grave and clean and tidy it for those who cannot visit. They ask for a nominal donation and buy the flowers from local shops.

Contact: Marlene Downey, [hello@friendsofsthelenscemetery.co.uk](mailto:hello@friendsofsthelenscemetery.co.uk)

Website: [www.friendsofsthelenscemetery.co.uk](http://www.friendsofsthelenscemetery.co.uk)

### **Friends of Lye and Wollescote Cemetery, Stourbridge**

The Friends help to maintain and enhance this working cemetery, which is still open and owned by Dudley Borough Council. The group started two years ago, to support the HLF project of the West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust (WMHB) to refurbish the Grade II listed chapel, 'at risk'. It was a rare example of a chapel designed to incorporate two chapels within a single building. Now completed it is used as the council's registration offices, offering a beautiful historic building for weddings. The project was shortlisted for last year's Andrew Lloyd-Webber's Angel Awards.

The group meets monthly to tidy up the older parts of the cemetery and both the Friends and the WMHBT organise a range of events including guided walks, talks and open days.

Contact: Sue Smith, [sue.smith356@btinternet.com](mailto:sue.smith356@btinternet.com)

Website: [www.lyeandwollescote.info](http://www.lyeandwollescote.info)

### **Friends of Sunderland Cemetery**

A group of volunteers are working with Sunderland Council officers on setting up a Friends for Sunderland (Grangetown) Cemetery. This was the first municipal cemetery opened in 1855 and is now a 40-acre site.

Contact: Sharon Vincent, [sharonvincent03@hotmail.com](mailto:sharonvincent03@hotmail.com)

### **Friends of Barrow Cemetery**

The borough council of Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, is setting up a Friends group for their 66-acre cemetery opened in 1873.

Contact: John Penfold, [jpenfold@barrowbc.gov.uk](mailto:jpenfold@barrowbc.gov.uk)

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### **Friends of Old Folkestone Cemetery**

The Friends' formed in January 2016 to protect, preserve and promote interest in this Victorian cemetery owned by Shepperton District Council. All the burials are recorded in Burial Registers which date from the first burial in 1856 to interments of ashes which still occur today. There are almost 15,000 graves in the cemetery.

The idea for the 'Friends' group originated with Cllr Jan Holben (current Chairman of the council)) who when visiting the Old Folkestone Cemetery for a Remembrance Ceremony noticed how badly some of the graves had been neglected. She discussed what could be done to save this lovely place with Richard Grundy (Jan's partner), Peter Anderson (historian) and Giles Barnard (SDC Community Safety Officer) and volunteers now work every week helping with tidying and maintenance. They have many plans including memorial recording and research.

Contact: Jan Holben, [janholben@yahoo.com](mailto:janholben@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.fofc.uk](http://www.fofc.uk)

### **Friends of Linthorpe Cemetery and Nature Reserve, Middlesbrough**

The Friends of Linthorpe Cemetery return to membership with Nature Reserve added to their name. As well as being a microcosm of the history of Middlesbrough with connections going back to the Domesday Book, the cemetery offers an island rich in trees and wildlife in the busy town centre which the Friends strive to preserve. The 52-acre site is a working cemetery of the Middlesbrough Council and offers woodland burials.

Contact: Dorothy Humphreys, [djhumphreys@virginmedia.com](mailto:djhumphreys@virginmedia.com)

Website: [www.folc-nr.co.uk](http://www.folc-nr.co.uk)

### **Duxford Parish Council**

This Cambridgeshire Parish Council is supporting volunteers to form Friends of Duxford Cemetery and St John's Churchyard. St John's Church is a Grade1 listed building of architectural interest now in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust.

Contact: Clerk to Duxford PC, [clerk@duxfordvillage.com](mailto:clerk@duxfordvillage.com)

Website: [www.duxfordvillage.com](http://www.duxfordvillage.com)



## **Members News**

A selection of news and events from Members newsletters and websites

### **Belgrave Cemetery, Leicester**

The Cemetery has been awarded another Green Flag; making it the fourth in four years.

### **Broadwater and Worthing Cemetery, Worthing**

A new open group Facebook page has been set up which will be used to promote forthcoming tours and the Friends group activities.

### **Cathays Cemetery, Cardiff**

The Friends held an event in November to mark their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### **Hyde Park Cemetery, Doncaster**

On 13<sup>th</sup> November, family descendants of William Webb MC MM gathered at his graveside to pay tribute. It was on this day in 1916 he received the citation for his Military Cross which was awarded for gallantry during the Battle of the Somme. His grave has recently been restored by the Victoria Cross Trust who also cleaned the Cross of Sacrifice.

### **Lawnswood Cemetery, Leeds**

Jointly led by a local expert from the Mid-Yorkshire Fungus Group and a Parks and Countryside Park Ranger; a Fungal Foray was held in October. A wide variety of fungi species were uncovered on site and attendees were shown some of the steps used in the identification.

### **Redcar Cemetery**

The Friends have been successful in obtaining funding for an unusual paving stone depicting Peter Pan flying accompanied by the inscription '*second to the right, and straight on till morning*'. The paving stone was laid under the Precious Garden Arch leading into the children's area of the cemetery.

### **Southampton Old Cemetery, Southampton**

In August, the Friends received a kind donation of two pruning saws with spare blades and two hatchets from Bulldog Tools.

## **NFCF contact details**

A list of members is available from the Secretary

### **Chairman**

Robert Stephenson  
C/o South Lodge, Brompton Cemetery, Fulham Road, London, SW10 9UG  
(020 7351 1689)  
[chairman@cemeteryfriends.com](mailto:chairman@cemeteryfriends.com)

### **Vice Chairman**

Colin Fenn  
20 Selsdon Road, London, SE27 0PG (020 8670 4146)  
[vicechairman@cemeteryfriends.com](mailto:vicechairman@cemeteryfriends.com)

### **Secretary**

Gwyneth Stokes,  
42 Chestnut Grove, South Croydon, CR2 7LH (020 8651 5090)  
[secretary@cemeteryfriends.com](mailto:secretary@cemeteryfriends.com)

### **Treasurer**

Carol Stevenson,  
30 Kirkwood Road, Nunhead, London, SE15 3XX  
[treasurer@cemeteryfriends.com](mailto:treasurer@cemeteryfriends.com)

### **Newsletter Editor**

Ann Wilkinson  
129 Siddal Lane, Siddal, Halifax, HX3 9JS  
[editor@cemeteryfriends.com](mailto:editor@cemeteryfriends.com)

### **Website**

<https://www.cemeteryfriends.com>

### **Webmaster**

James Slattery-Kavanagh (0871 703 2210)  
[webmaster@cemeteryfriends.com](mailto:webmaster@cemeteryfriends.com)

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