

## Arthur Tait, BEM

When the Federation's former Chairman died on 13<sup>th</sup> January, aged 86, the NCF Newsletter was already at the printers and, though announced by email and on the website, only now can our fuller tribute be published.



*Photograph courtesy of  
Robert Stephenson*

Arthur had a warm and approachable personality first seen when the Friends of Brompton Cemetery hosted the NCF annual general meeting at their cemetery in 2002 and Arthur was Chairman for the day and for the business meeting. We owe a particular debt of gratitude to him when, through his generosity and kindness, he later agreed to add the chairmanship of the NCF to the already demanding role of Chairman of Brompton Cemetery Friends. He stepped in to support the NCF Secretary and Treasurer who had been managing for five years since the resignation of the first Chairman.

At the time, the NCF had a constitution but no committee, so Arthur first set up a 'support group' which the members voted in as 'the committee' at the 2003 AGM when Arthur was confirmed as Chairman. The committee started to meet twice a year at Arthur and Ann's Chelsea home where we enjoyed their personal hospitality. Arthur was then responsible for strengthening the constitution and starting a recruitment plan. He also helped steer members through the government surveys and questionnaires for a programme from the Burial and Cremation Advisory

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Group (BCAG) which was created following a Select Committee's critical findings on the state of cemeteries in England and Wales.

Members had an opportunity to meet Arthur at the NCF's annual general meetings held in a different part of the UK each year. When he resigned in 2015 to conserve his energies for the Brompton Cemetery restoration project, he had served 13 years and membership had grown from 46 members to 90 in that time.

Arthur was first and foremost a family man, devoted to Ann, his wife of 62 years and his five children and nine grandchildren. He was an active member of St Mary The Boltons, serving in a number of roles, including Churchwarden. He also wrote and published a history of the church and surrounding area in 2004. His interest in cemetery conservation came about when living in Chelsea in his retirement but this followed a successful career where he had honed his leadership skills.

Educated at Eton, Arthur completed his National Service in the Army before reading history at St John's College, Cambridge. He then joined ICI and worked for them for 30 years in a variety of roles around the country. When he retired from ICI, he became Secretary General of the Institute of Actuaries where there was opportunity for him to lead the organisation into a successful modern establishment.

Arthur joined the small group of Friends of Brompton Cemetery in 1997 and, as most Friends start, they set to work in the neglected and severely overgrown cemetery to clear acres of brambles and ivy. He soon became Chairman and set the goals of co-operating with The Royal Parks to improve the cemetery and restore it as a local asset of green space combined with architectural beauty. The Royal Parks had responsibility for the cemetery rather than the local authority.

Arthur and his supporting team were to overcome many difficulties over the next 20 years, but their efforts culminated in the Royal Parks being granted £6.2 million from the National Heritage Lottery Fund and the National Lottery Community Fund. In July 2018 when the restoration was officially launched Arthur spoke happily of 'a dream coming true', then, characteristically, gave advice for the future.

In the 2020 Queen's New Year Honours he was awarded the British Empire Medal for services to the community in the London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea in which his contribution to the Brompton Cemetery restoration was recognised.

He will be missed by all who knew him, but there is no doubt Arthur Tait was one of the leaders in the growth of the cemetery friends movement and in promoting the now generally accepted idea that volunteers have a role in the conservation of cemeteries: a fitting legacy for this special gentleman.

Gwyneth Stokes, NCF Secretary

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## **The BACSA Manual: a practical handbook for the care of old European cemeteries and monuments in South Asia**

forwarded by Peter Boon, Honorary Secretary of BACSA

One of the legacies of the British period in South Asia is the large number of cemeteries containing European burials. These cemeteries are part of the built heritage of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and other South Asian countries. Their graves and tombs need regular and effective care to preserve this unique window into part of South Asia's history. Cemetery locations in South Asia range from sharply sloping hillsides to desert plains, tropical areas with heavy post-monsoon growth and city centres. As green spaces they can be a community asset.

This is a practical handbook for the management of old European cemeteries in South Asia. It is the first publication dealing specifically with the problems of maintaining and conserving these cemeteries. The illustrated manual provides guidance in the care and maintenance of these ageing structures. It will be of particular help where skilled knowledge is lacking. It is available in Hindi, Urdu, Bangla and English. It can be downloaded free of charge from the BACSA website.

BACSA - British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia - is dedicated to assisting with conservation in a practical and financial way.

For further information contact Peter Boon: [secretary@bacsa.org.uk](mailto:secretary@bacsa.org.uk) or Dr Rosie Llewellyn-Jones: [rosieljai@clara.co.uk](mailto:rosieljai@clara.co.uk)

## **A year of fresh opportunity**

from Sue Beel, Chairman of the Friends of Wisbech General Cemetery

Wisbech General Cemetery in North Cambridgeshire is a gem of a small Victorian garden cemetery. Just 3 acres in extent, it became the final resting place for 6571 people before it was closed in 1972. Neglected throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century the cemetery was invaded by tree seedlings of ash and sycamore but with careful management since 1972 it now forms a wonderful woodland wildlife site, a rare habitat in this intensively farmed area of The Fens and an oasis of peace and tranquillity in one of the busiest parts of our market town. It is much appreciated by local people and visitors alike.



*Spring flowers in Wisbech General Cemetery –  
March 2021*

*Photograph courtesy of Sue Beel*

Members of our very small group of Friends have remained active throughout the pandemic, working informally alone or in socially distanced pairs. While some activities have been scaled down more spare time has enabled us to undertake new projects.

One of our members uses an Austrian scythe to mow the verges, glades and meadow and this has helped to keep the brambles, nettles and cow parsley under control. The result has been a profusion of wild and naturalised flowers during the summer and a stunning display of spring bulbs and primroses this year. Towards the end of winter, he turned his hand to laying a boundary hedge which had been planted some years ago.

Two members progressively spread wood chippings, provided by contractors working for Fenland District Council, along all the main paths, a task normally undertaken by Community Payback. Right from the start of the pandemic a couple of volunteers used their unexpected

spare time and opportunity for exercise to clear weeds and develop a stumpery in an area which only has one grave. Bounded by a hedge and wood piles the site has been planted with ferns, wildflowers from elsewhere in the cemetery and two Malus trees. Logs have been imported and the ground is covered with wood chippings, but this is still very much work in progress.

Guided walks earlier in the year were cancelled but we did go ahead with Heritage Weekend. Hourly guided walks, pre-booked for five people plus the guide, proved very popular and a plant stall raised some funds.



*Anemone blanda* in Wisbech General Cemetery  
Photograph courtesy of Sue Beel

Local grants will enable us to replace two badly weathered interpretation boards and we are awaiting the outcome of a bid to the Culture Recovery Fund which, if successful, will enable us to develop digital resources for use by local schools, to purchase some hand tools and a storage container and to repair some of the monuments.

In conclusion, the past year has seen a lot more people visiting the cemetery, taking their daily exercise or as part of a longer town walk. They have observed how the cemetery has changed through the seasons and are very appreciative of the work being done by the Friends. Whilst keeping their distance, many want to stop for a chat, to find out more about the history of the cemetery and the people buried there and to share their appreciation of being able to enjoy nature within their town.





## Rectory Lane Cemetery completes restoration programme

by Kate Campbell, Community Engagement Officer for the project for the Friends of St Peter's, Berkhamsted

It was impressive to read in the previous edition of the NFCF newsletter how other Cemetery Friends have managed to keep going during the pandemic challenges and restrictions, offering valuable green space to the public and in some cases digital tours.

Here at Rectory Lane Cemetery, we were impacted not only by the need to arrange Covid-safe working conditions for our landscape team, but also by atrocious weather, which necessitated closing the cemetery for a period while they battled with Somme-like conditions to complete the works. And just before the first lockdown our team was reduced from four to three – as one left to join a firm of undertakers for more job security!



*Upper cemetery with beehives, woven willow seat and volunteers' retreat  
Photograph by Kate Campbell*

Nevertheless, our three-year programme of conservation and landscaping to transform the Cemetery '**from a dead space to a living place**' was completed on time and on budget. We delivered small, guided tours in the autumn to show the public what had been going on behind closed gates, until those were stopped, but we have since resumed, offering three tours a week and the Cemetery is once again open 24/7.

Like many Cemetery Friends, in the absence of onsite activities we focussed our efforts on developing digital resources: completing the online database of all 7,000 people buried in the cemetery and beefing up our volunteer genealogy research team – we now have over 700 biographies on our website, which can be searched by name <https://www.rectorylanecemetery.org.uk/about/burials-memorials/burials/> or by trade <https://www.rectorylanecemetery.org.uk/about/burials-memorials/explore/>

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We also recruited an Education Volunteer to lead our school outreach, offering **Victorian Berkhamsted and Berkhamsted in WW1** resources linked to Key Stages based around personalities buried in the Cemetery – as a forerunner to class visits being able to return, hopefully in the autumn term: <https://www.rectorylanecemetery.org.uk/visit/schools/classroom-resources/>

Building on the earlier restoration programme which rescued the fabric from further neglect and deterioration, the transformation has been completed by the landscaping. We now have an elegant, welcoming entrance leading into wide, accessible paths throughout two-thirds of the site, 12 new seats which have been specially designed to suit each of the three key character areas of the Cemetery, a



*Looking towards the Garden of Remembrance  
Photograph by Kate Campbell*

performance area in the Victorian area with ‘Angel of the South’ sculpture, a volunteers’ Retreat in the wildlife area, a refurbished and repurposed Sexton’s Hut. A new Garden of Remembrance in the memorialisation area has been created with far-reaching views, a new war memorial and an innovative fused glass tile Celebration of Life wall where members of the public can celebrate loved ones, both dead and living, producing a touching collection of sentiments that represent life and love as well as death.



*Small tour admiring the Angel of the South in the lower cemetery  
Photograph by Colin Drake*

Along with universally positive feedback from the visiting public, the transformation project was shortlisted in the **2021 RIBA MacEwen Award** ‘celebrating architecture for the common good’ and won the



**Berkhamsted Citizens' Association 2021 Environment Award** 'for outstanding design, sensitive remodelling and refurbishment, the quality of materials, environmental attributes, and simply the finest community project seen in Berkhamsted in recent years.' We hope to join other cemeteries who have achieved Green Flag Community Award status and are awaiting news of our application.

Finally, we are looking forward to when we can host community events in the Cemetery again, welcoming a wide range of groups in to share the restored Cemetery and to help us continue to care take this previously neglected special place for future generations.

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### **Buried Biographies: a new oral history programme**

by Barbara Altounyan, Founder and Trustee of The Hospice Biographers

The organisers of a Covid-inspired oral history project are interested in Cemetery Friends' views on this proposed scheme.

"Buried Biographies" hope to create a "talking" app which will tell cemetery visitors across the UK about the fascinating life stories of some of those buried there. Visitors will be able to download a GPS/ three-word app - free of charge. This means that when they arrive at a cemetery somewhere in Britain, they will be able to stand in front of a designated gravestone and hear a voice telling them about the enthralling past life of a buried person. Gravestones will not be marked in any way.

As we all know there is a huge treasure trove of fascinating stories lying in our cemeteries and could include stories about slavery, the plague, politicians, authors, musicians, historians, former miscarriages of justice and of course our war heroes. Please note any member of the Friends of Cemeteries joining them as a volunteer will receive training in genealogy and script writing. Depending on location, training may be delivered remotely.

If there is sufficient interest Buried Biographies will seek funding for a pilot project, so they wish to know (1) if your group considers this a good idea and (2) if you would like to join them. Please contact Barbara Altounyan. Email: [altounyanb@gmail.com](mailto:altounyanb@gmail.com) or mobile: 0771-253-4399

## **Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe (ASCE): Highgate to host online conference in November**

by John Moffat, UK Steering Group member

The Association, like many others, continues to recover from the effects of Covid. The 2020 AGM was due to run in October 2020 in Milan, the very epicentre of Covid infections for Italy. I think it is a measure of how hard Milan was hit when Giovanni Colace, the lead at Milan, said at the end of last year that she was not even prepared to think about hosting in 2021.

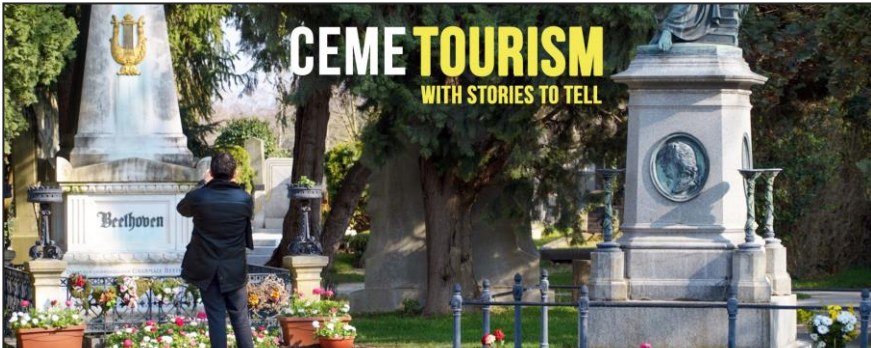
ASCE had the need to have a formal AGM of some kind in order to comply with Italian laws. To meet those requirements the 2020 AGM was purely procedural and held online and hosted by Vienna. Our steering group (SG) meetings have likewise gone to online format. This enabled us to strengthen the management of ASCE. Miguel Trepal Celis has now taken a position on the SG, he is director general of the major Barcelona Cemeteries group and will be sure to make a major contribution to the Association. The UK's Ian Dungavell, already on the SG as a delegated, (not elected), member has now been given another hat on the scientific committee. Ian has done good work in the last year working out a methodology for assessing if new cemetery applicants are 'significant': always a difficult decision for us to make on the SG. I was also pleased that I had been able to gain approval for Ioanna Paraskevopoulou's placing on the scientific committee.

Another positive development came when our president, Lidija Plibersek, travelled to Budapest and, by securing the city's membership, achieved ASCE membership in Hungary. Budapest offered to host a future AGM and they have since decided that the procedural aspects of the AGM can be managed in person this year on Friday, September 17<sup>th</sup> 2021. Members have been sent registration forms. As the Conference side of the 2021 event had already been planned, Budapest will arrange cultural activities to follow the AGM.

### **Conference theme of "Cemetourism"**

The dates of an online conference were agreed by the SG as November 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> 2021 and an editorial board was set up, consisting of Ian Dungavell, myself, Andreea Pop and Ionna

Paraskevopoulou. Ian quickly assumed the lead of the board and secured Highgate Trust agreement to host the conference from Highgate. We then reached agreement that we wanted to look at the development of cemetery tourism and Andreea remembered the term – Cemeturism, so we quickly adopted it. As ever with these boards there is the dynamic of academic versus pragmatic and Ian was very keen that this event should be the latter. As a result, we have started to pull together speakers who have hands on experience in improving the visitor experience in cemeteries.



*Photograph courtesy of John Moffat*

The Conference theme of, “Cemeturism: cemeteries with stories to tell” will be explored in detail with the following sub themes:

- Understanding the cultural significance of cemeteries
- Developing the unique story of your cemetery
- Wayfinding: helping visitors navigate the parts that matter
- Cemetery museums: complementing the outdoor experience
- Cultural programming in cemeteries
- Working with tourism agencies
- Reconciling tourism with burial activities

To ensure that you secure your place at the Conference keep a watch on our website for the announcement of online booking.

<http://www.significantcemeteries.org/search/label/AGM2021>

Some of you will have had positive experiences from attending our ASCE events and others may have been put off by the logistics of travelling to Europe. Well, this year you can easily take part in an event which aims to enhance your ability to improve your own cemetery’s visitor experience.

## Restoration of Dockroyd Graveyard, Oakworth, West Yorkshire

The Trust Chairman Andrew Heaton describes how the local community made it possible

As I start to write this in April 2021 my mind is taken back to what Dockroyd Graveyard was like two years ago before any restoration work had been carried out. Firstly, it was very difficult to get into the graveyard via the official entrance on Chapel Lane. Over a hundred blue dumpy bags full of building waste blocked the entrance and had to be removed from site to satisfy legal requirements.



*Dockroyd Trust Members (Left to right): Roger Laird, John Sugden, Jean Sugden, Stuart Sharp and Andrew Heaton  
Photograph courtesy of Andrew Heaton*

That was the easy bit! When volunteer Roger Laird first stepped into the 'jungle' we lost him in the ivy – Bob the dog went missing too! We could hear the thrashing about and after a day's hard labour the first gravestone was revealed. At least it was a start and an eye-opener as to how much work was involved. The ivy was draped over the entirety of the headstones like a giant net firmly fixed to the ground by roots as thick as your forearm. Only the granite headstones had been able to

resist the invasion. With a vice-like grip the ivy wrapped itself around anything and everything, woven tightly like a wicker basket. Great care was needed not to damage the delicate engravings, as each headstone was cleared like lifting a bonnet off a baby's head. But then, if the ivy didn't get you the brambles would with their sharp thorns intent on drawing blood whenever they had the opportunity.

A callout for help over Facebook resulted in the very welcome arrival of reinforcements. Over the spring and summer, dozens of supporters gave their time and effort to reveal more and more. For some a day was enough but for many the challenge was addictive. As we kept being faced with the next seemingly unsurmountable obstacle someone would come forward with the appropriate skills – or at least knew a man who could. This was also the case with the many local businesses who contributed to the project. With their help the impossible became doable. The attention of the BBC Look North cameras registered an amazing 297,000 views.

At first our intention was just to make all the headstones safe by laying them down if necessary. However, the arrival of Stuart Sharp, with his lifelong experience as a master stonemason, changed the plan. His help and guidance taught us how to reset leaning headstones and sunken kerbstones. Observing and learning the skills of the Victorian stonemasons was an added bonus. Our target now was to stand everything up so we could admire their work.

As each headstone was uncovered there became a desire to read the inscriptions and find out who lived there. A personal lifestory was uncovered and an understanding of how everyone fitted into this Victorian community was unravelled. The gravestones had come to life. The occupants were no longer dead and forgotten, they seemed alive and going about their daily lives.

I was continually asked if I was writing a book about our findings, and we had to agree that if everyone buried here is to be truly remembered then it needed recording for posterity. And so, the idea for our handbook and its title *Dockroyd Live* was born.

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Dockroyd Graveyard is the former Wesleyan Methodist Burial ground in Oakworth, West Yorkshire. The first burial in 1844 was a one-year-old boy Thomas Ickeringill and the last was 70-year-old Mabel Falkingham in 1969. In between more than 2500 people are buried here of which 572 are children under the age of five. There are at least 770 graves and 2500 people here. More than half are not recorded on a headstone and conversely there are many remembered on a headstone but not buried here. There are around 350 headstones or grave markers, many of which are double or multiple graves. In addition, there are many unmarked graves which have required a forensic examination of the burial records to discover their whereabouts and occupants. Quite poignant was the discovery of a small area reserved for still born children.

Following its formal closure the graveyard slid into decline, over-run with self-seeded trees, ivy and brambles. The Church unexplainably sold it in 2006 to a property developer who in cutting down trees demolished many of the headstones. His actions caused considerable damage and legal problems which were finally overcome when Andrew Heaton purchased the graveyard as a private individual. The intention was to restore the graveyard, secure its future and hand over to the local community. With this in mind Dockroyd Graveyard Trust was formed in 2020 with Andrew Heaton as Chairman.

Within *Dockroyd Live* we have first looked at the history of the graveyard, its connection with the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel and how neglect allowed it to become overgrown and inaccessible. We look at how the Dockroyd Graveyard Restoration Project came about followed by a photo gallery illustrating the sequence of events and progress made. We then explain how the special grid marking system works, enabling visitors to easily locate any grave they wish to find. This, combined with the Memorial Inscription information and Burial Register information, both of which can be found in appendices at the back of the publication, enables the reader to match up the different aspects of each and every grave. A profile of every grave and photograph of every headstone is included in the Who's Who section.

Find out more on: [www.heatonfamilyonline.co.uk/dockroyd](http://www.heatonfamilyonline.co.uk/dockroyd) or follow us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/DockroydGraveyard](https://www.facebook.com/groups/DockroydGraveyard)



## **New Members and Associates**

The following groups have recently joined the NFCF

### **Atherton Cemetery Friends and Heritage, Atherton, Greater Manchester**

This group was set up by local people who had a common love of this spiritual, green space in the urban town of Atherton and the town's historical figures themselves. The cemetery was founded after the Burial Act of 1855, and it was officially opened in February 1857. It is now owned by Wigan Council.



*Photograph by Colin Ellison*

The two mortuary chapels and the gatehouse were constructed in 1856 to designs by Thomas Denville Barry. Barry designed numerous other cemetery buildings in the Northwest region, including chapels at St Helens, Toxteth, Heywood, Preston and Lower Ince (previously Wigan).

Atherton's cemetery buildings are among rare survivals of Barry's work where all the buildings survive, and they are listed in Pevsner's 'Buildings of England'. Therefore, the Friends of Atherton Cemetery Group are keenly aware of the local and national significance of their cemetery chapels. Unfortunately, these buildings have lain empty since the 1970s, although the lodge has been restored and it is now a private residence.

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The Friends hope to raise enough community support, donations in kind and funding to see their restoration and return to use for and by the community. Thanks to support from the National Cemetery Friends, the group constituted in March 2021, and they have been successful in securing the works of a local graphic designer 'Amy's Little Studio' as a donation in kind.



*Photograph by Carl James Davies*

The group have begun their campaign to raise awareness of the cemetery among the local community. Local historian Thomas McGrath has begun research on the history of the cemetery, including the 'past lives' of those buried there for future cemetery tours. The group have organised events to celebrate the cemetery's role as a tranquil green space and its natural habitat. A children's and young people's wildlife photography competition has been organised in partnership with Greater Manchester Police to celebrate the changing seasons. Also, the group's first volunteering event saw a wildflower garden created with the biodiversity organisation Give it a Grow, alongside a thorough litter pick.

The group are enjoying the planning stages and welcome any advice on offer.

Contact: Rachael Flaszczak, [cemeteryfriends@gmail.com](mailto:cemeteryfriends@gmail.com)

### **The Babell Graveyard Project**

Fears of development on an abandoned graveyard in Swansea, where five generations of his family were buried, prompted Richard Hopkins to buy the site in 2018. This was the graveyard for the Babell Chapel, Cwmbwrla, long since demolished. Then aware of the amount of work to be done to make the site a pleasant urban meadow, he set up the Babell Graveyard Community Project and called on the community to help. In the two years before the lockdowns, volunteers were working regularly on clearance and tidying; access to graves has improved, the retaining wall has been repaired and the knotweed under professional control. See photos on the website.

Website: <https://babell-chapel.com>

Contact: Eleanor Skipper, [community@babell-chapel.com](mailto:community@babell-chapel.com)

### **Friends of Greenbank Cemetery, Bristol**

Greenbank Cemetery is a large, impressive Victorian garden cemetery which opened in 1871 away from the city, about 30 years after Arnos Vale. Neglected and abandoned in the past, it is now owned by Bristol City Council and the Friends have been formed to help restore the cemetery and the chapel for the benefit of the community. Ornate tombs and sculptured angels are a feature and, as well as the Commonwealth War Graves, there is a special memorial to the civilians who died in the Bristol Blitz of 1941.

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/FriendsofGreenbank](http://www.facebook.com/FriendsofGreenbank)

Contact: Debra Newrick, [fogbc@protonmail.com](mailto:fogbc@protonmail.com)

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### **Culture Recovery Fund, round 3**

by Colin Fenn, Vice Chairman of the NCF

In June this year the government announced a new wave of £400m emergency funding for not-for-profit cultural organisations hit by the pandemic. This is being distributed through Historic England, National Lottery Heritage Fund, Arts Council England and the BFI. £40m will be available through the National Heritage Memorial Fund as its “Covid-19 response fund”. If your group has buildings or assets that have been badly affected by the pandemic these grants may apply to you. Several historic cemeteries made successful claims from previous rounds. See: <https://www.nhmf.org.uk/funding/covid-19-response-fund>

## **Members News**

A selection of news and events from Members newsletters and websites

### **Brandwood End Cemetery, Birmingham**

In May, the Friends announced their new project. Working together with Caring for God's Acre, the intention is to record the memorial information on individual gravestones, which will then be transferred onto a digitised map of grave location. A number of recording sessions are being run over the summer. More information on booking is available at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/154691517493>

### **Brompton Cemetery, London**

Some time ago the Royal Parks offered to dedicate a replacement lime tree on the main avenue to Arthur Tait, the Friends former President and Chairman, in recognition of his many years of service. (See pages 1 to 3).

In March there was a dedication ceremony, with restricted numbers, and Arthur's wife, Ann, also a long serving Friend of the cemetery, planted the tree, assisted by sons Gordon and Michael. As no plaques are allowed, the Royal Parks presented a certificate of dedication to Ann Tait and a copy will be held in the North Lodge and available for viewing.

### **Cathays Cemetery, Cardiff**

Due to a grant from the National Heritage Lottery Wales and CADW and with the assistance of the A48 Theatre Company and the writers of Living Lines, a film series consisting of twelve 'Stories from the Cemetery at Cathays, Cardiff' have made available for viewing on YouTube. See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UX1mXNI8>

### **Darwen Cemetery, Darwen**

With the help of a donation from Darwen's Lloyd Trust, the Friends have purchased a new lawn mower.

### **Down Cemetery, Trowbridge**

The Friends have submitted two funding applications, one to Wiltshire Council for funding to replace damaged bird feeders and next boxes and the other to the Co-op for funding to build a pollination corridor.

Their aims for the year include the continuation in the painting of the gates and railings and transcription of the graves in the conformist section of the cemetery.

### **Northwood Cemetery, Cowes**

The Friends have set a fund-raising target of £12,000 towards refurbishment of the WW2 civilian war memorial in preparation of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the air raid on Cowes of 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> May 1942.

As of May 2021, approximately £8,000 had been raised. If you would like to make a donation towards their project, please see:

[Newsletter-53-May-2021.pdf](#)

### **Nunhead Cemetery, London**

The Friends were successful in their bid for a Cleaner, Greener, Safer grant from Southwark Council. The £1000 grant has been put towards the purchase of equipment for safe working on volunteer workdays on site. As well as new secateurs, pairs of work gauntlets, Hi-vis vests, the Friends have also purchased a 1.6 tonne lifting winch and lifting strops and a pruning saw with a 4m reach.

### **Spital Cemetery, Chesterfield**

The Chesterfield Cycle Campaign donated a cycle stand which has been installed inside the cemetery's bottom gates.

### **Undercliffe Cemetery, Bradford**

Clearance in the area referred to as the 'Rhododendron Caves' has revealed several previously undiscovered graves.

## **NFCF contact details**

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### **Website**

Includes contacts for Members and Associates  
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