Friends of Tunbridge Wells Cemetery

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Facebook: Friends of Tunbridge Wells Cemetery at Hawkenbury Twitter: @FoHCTW
Web: foftwc.wix.com/foftwc

Our First Six Months

Saturday 16th August

Joint visit with Friends of Woodbury Park Cemetery to Abney Park Cemetery and Clissold House. This was a most interesting, informative and enjoyable day, and we hope to run further events in conjunction with Woodbury Park Friends in future.

Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th September

Heritage Open Days. We opened up the disused chapel and mounted an exhibition showing some of the interesting history of the cemetery and of those buried there. There were also stands manned by the RTW Civic Society and the U3A photographic group. During the afternoons, there were guided walks around the cemetery to look at some of the fascinating memorials and a "photographic" walk entitled "Walking with Angels". We had a good attendance by the public, the weather held fast and we signed up a few more "Friends"!

Saturday 25th October

Fungi Foray. A conducted "treasure hunt" for various fungi was well attended by visitors of all ages, who were fascinated by what can be found in the most unlikely places if you look...
hard enough! Around 30 or so different species were spotted, and there was clearly enough interest to encourage us to host more of this and other nature walks in future.

Sunday 9th November

Remembrance Sunday. The usual modest afternoon ceremony at the two World War memorials was extended this year, and we hope to make this a regular and constantly improving event in future. The two simple ceremonies at the two memorials with buglers were organised by the Tunbridge Wells branch of the Royal British Legion, and not only the Deputy Mayor of Tunbridge Wells, but also our local Deputy Lieutenant were present. Afterwards, we opened the chapels to hear a brief presentation by the Civic Society on the launch of their new book on the Great War entitled "The Shock of War", copies of which were also on sale. We hope that future Remembrance Sunday afternoons will provide a quiet time for reflection and a source of information for those wanting to do something more than attending the morning service at their local war memorial, so that the two events can become complementary to each other.

We are aiming to obtain the disused chapel as our "base" (we are in negotiation with TWBC over this), and we would dearly love to mount a permanent exhibition there to be open to mourners, and to the public at large from time to time.

We continue, of course, with our inscription recording work together with the associated historical research, and we hope to help in tidying and maintaining the site. In the long term our aspiration is to help in planning planting and landscaping works in a programme of gradual improvement of the whole cemetery.

We will continue a programme of events throughout the year, some in conjunction with the Friends of Woodbury Park Cemetery, and we will keep you advised of these through our website, emails, Facebook and Twitter. We will also post out to those who do not have access to computers.

Lecture on Victorian Medical Practice

This event to be held in conjunction with the Friends of Woodbury Park Cemetery will be a lecture by Dr John Ford to be held at the Camden Centre at 7.30 p.m. on 27th February 2015. It should be very interesting. Tickets....????

Annual General Meeting

The first AGM of the Friends Group will be held in the Spring next year (date to be advised). We hope as many of you as possible will be able to come along and elect your first formal Committee who will take us forward

The Future

Over the winter months, we will be planning our programme for next year. We need you to encourage more of your friends and acquaintances to join us in the "Friends" group - the annual subscription is only £8 - and where possible to take an active part in our various tasks and interests.
into the future. We will provide more details in due course.

Finally

My sincere thanks to all of you who have supported our formation last year, attended our Launch or other events or who have generally encouraged us to continue with this work. We all love it, but could not do it without you and your help and involvement is essential to our existence. We think and hope we have started something worthwhile, and with your continuing support we woul all love to see it flourish.

Happy Christmas

Bob Atwood - Acting Chair

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