



Spring in the Cemetery ...

Dear Kate

Our first event of 2018!

Join us in the world's largest garden wildlife survey - the [RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch](#) has been running for almost 40 years, with more than half a million people taking part last year.

We will be hosting a **Family Birdwatch** in the Cemetery from **09.00 - 10.00 on Sunday 28th January**. Do come along and help us record the birds and provide vital data to the RSPB. Bring your children / grand-children for the hour - we will have a local volunteer ornithologist and wildlife enthusiast on hand to help us identify the different species and answer any questions. We are encouraging more bird activity in the cemetery and have provided vital seeds and fats for them to feed on so we hope to spot a variety of visitors.

- Meet at the Three Close Lane entrance at 08.45
- Wrap up warm, bring a garden chair / cushion, binoculars (if you have them), notebook and pen
- We will bring tasty **Birdwatch Bites** to keep energy and concentration levels up!
- Let us know you're coming by emailing [Kate Campbell](mailto:kate.campbell@...)



We are committed to enhancing the Cemetery as a wildlife haven and are planning two further family events - **National Nestbox Week** in February and **Dawn Chorus Day** in May. More details to come.

Getting the conservation works underway!

At last, the fabric of the Cemetery will begin to receive the attention it has deserved for so long! We are currently seeking quotations from firms with the requisite conservation skills to undertake the works, which will include:

- Restoring the elegant, but sadly neglected, wrought iron entrance gates and octagonal gatepiers (which bear signs of having been moved from elsewhere – possibly from the entrance to the Rectory.) This also involves rectifying the lean of the piers by underpinning them.
- Rebuilding the collapsed section of the west wall and carrying out strengthening works to other vulnerable parts of the boundary walls, by introducing some new buttresses, inserting anchors or in some places

simply renewing the pointing. We will also be repairing or replacing sections of the iron fencing atop the wall on Three Close Lane.

- Cleaning the Foundation Stone which commemorates the donation of the Cemetery land in 1842 by the Countess of Bridgewater.
- Piecing together, fixing and stabilizing a selection of the earlier memorials in the Lower Cemetery – part of this work will involve carrying out research into those they commemorate – such as the intriguing story of Anne Hewson, of which more in a future bulletin!
- Enhancing the Memorial Arch, including re-cutting the unreadable inscription on the south face (*Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest* which is taken from Epistle to the Hebrews, Chapter 4, part v.11).

Do check out the updates on our website www.stpetersberkhamstedfriends.org.uk as well as our Facebook page.

Hope to see some of you for the Family Birdwatch!

With best wishes from the Rectory Lane Cemetery Project Team

