



Bird nests and family trees

Dear Kate

Building nest boxes ...

Just like us, birds' thoughts turn to love on Valentine's Day!

Birds across the country are beginning to pair up for the forthcoming breeding season and search for a safe place to raise their families. To encourage birds to nest in the Cemetery we are participating in **National Nest Box Week** (14-20 February). Join us, have some family fun and make your own nest box, ably assisted by 1st Berkhamsted Scout Group and Triple V Explorer Scouts, with materials donated by Travis Perkins Berkhamsted.

10.00 - 12.30 Sunday 18th February

at The Scout Hut, Chapel St,
Berkhamsted HP4 2EA

Afterwards, come along to the Cemetery as we fix some of them on the trees, ready for occupation!



We will provide pre-cut wooden kits for self-assembly (please bring a hammer if you have one), and assistance but you will be responsible for your children's safety. If you decide to donate the finished nest box to the cemetery there will be no charge. If you want to take it away for your own garden we suggest a donation of £5. Email [Kate Campbell](mailto:kate.campbell@berkhamstedliving.co.uk) so we know how many kits to prepare.

Hopefully some of the birds that we counted in January's **Big Garden Birdwatch** will decide to raise their broods here, for example Blackbirds, Blue Tits, Goldfinch, Dunnocks, Robins. Check out reports on our [website](http://www.berkhamstedliving.co.uk) and on [Berkhamsted Living](http://www.berkhamstedliving.co.uk)

Building family trees ...

We are appealing for any descendants of 17 families buried in the lower part of the Cemetery to get in touch - in April we will be starting **planned conservation work on these memorials**: Barnes; Creedy; Groves; Leach; Hewson; Holloway; Hurst; Key; Lane; Leaper; Page; Rippon; Rolph; Smith-Dorrien; Tompkin; and Unwin.

Project Manager James Moir explains "Some descendants may have details or photographs that could add to the knowledge of future generations. As responsibility for maintaining individual memorials normally rests with the families concerned they may also wish to help with the cost of the restoration or may have alternative plans and would prefer to commission the work themselves."

These monuments represent a number of unusual tombs and structures. Some have been chosen because they mark the last resting place of historical figures in the town and otherwise they may be lost. Health and Safety aspects have been taken into consideration too.

Family members or interested parties are asked to contact James by 30th March on 07545 786 372 or via jamesmgmoir@aol.com, Photographs of the nominated monuments will be shared on the website from Thursday 15th February www.stpetersfriendsberkhamsted.org.uk



Our next publication is due for release in March. Appropriately enough for the Women's suffrage centenary year, the focus will be on our own **Extraordinary Women** buried in the Cemetery and their stories: philanthropist, benefactor and lunatic, royal consort, cattle breeder, actor, WWI nurse, magazine editor, telegraph operator ... More in the March bulletin.

Feeding your family ...

In anticipation of all the work that is going to be done over the next three years and the growing volunteer workforce needed, we applied to the **Tesco Bags of Help Grant Scheme** for a contribution towards the cost of providing a simple wooden building tucked away at the top of the site where volunteers could report to, leave belongings, meet fellow helpers, brew a cup of tea etc. We are delighted that our application has been successful and our project will be put forward to a **customer vote during March and April**.

Please do shop at Tesco Metro
Berkhamsted, Tesco Express
Northchurch or Tesco Tring and **vote
for the Project!**

TESCO Bags of Help

With best wishes from the Rectory Lane Cemetery Project Team

