

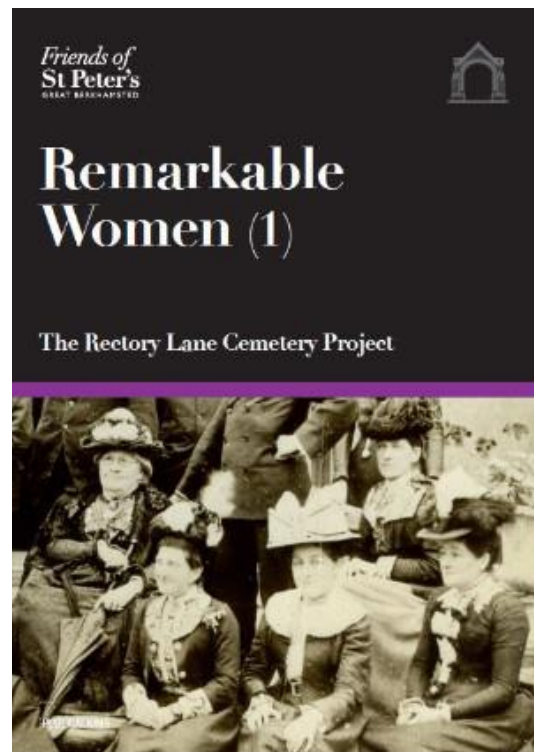


March Hare-ing! There's lots going on ...

Dear Kate

We are excited to publish ***Remarkable Women***, coinciding with *International Women's Day* and the centenary of the *1918 Suffrage Act* which gave women (over 30 with property worth £5) the right to vote. Pick up your copy from **Berkhamsted Waterstones** or download from our [website](#).

It has not been easy to uncover these stories (thanks go mainly to Jenny Sherwood of the Berkhamsted Local History and Museum Society) as women tended to remain in the shadow of the men in Victorian times. But we hope to produce **Remarkable Women (2)** and beyond



- if you can help with research let us know.

Developing the wildlife area

A huge thank you to the leaders of 1st Berkhamsted Scout Group and Triple V Explorer Scouts who made our **Nestbox Building event** at the end of February possible. With materials donated by Travis Perkins around 20 kits were prepared for Bluetits, Sparrows and Robins, with different sized holes. Six completed boxes were proudly taken home and six made for the Cemetery, of which three were put up that afternoon. We did spot a Bluetit checking one out yesterday so are hoping that they get occupied.

March is officially the start of Spring - the place is ringing with birdsong and primroses, crocuses and snowdrops are now visible with the latest snowfall melting. Do pay the Cemetery a visit on these beautiful Spring days.

We have enlisted the help of a local butterfly expert to help us optimise the site for butterflies (not pictured below!)



Terrain surveying, borehole drilling and people counting

We were pleased to hear recently that **Terrain Surveys** had won the **2017 Surveyors Award** at the *Hertfordshire Building and Construction Awards* for their survey of the Cemetery back in June 2017. The brick perimeter wall, measuring around 400m in length and backing onto 17 private homes, is in a state of considerable disrepair. Over a period of three days Terrain Surveys managed a 3D laser scan survey of both sides of the wall, liaising with householders to arrange access to rear gardens where necessary. This work was crucial for restoration contractors to quote for remedial work.



Bill from Herts and Essex Site Investigations spent last Friday in sub-zero temperatures **drilling boreholes** to get three 7-metre deep core samples for analysis. The first will help us understand the ground conditions in the vicinity of the entrance gates and so inform the underpinning work that needs to be carried out to correct the substantial lean on the three piers; the other two, taken near the northern boundary (well away from any burials!) are to assist with the design of the anchors necessary to restrain the northern wall - the ground is much higher on the Cemetery side of the wall, which over the years has caused it to bulge.

Taking advantage of the open holes, the firm also conducted a 'falling head test' which involves pouring water down the hole and measuring how quickly it drains away. This demonstrates the drainage conditions and will inform the final design of the paths. We are looking forward to receiving the results!



In order to understand and evidence the impact of our transformation programme we need to capture how people are choosing to access and spend time in the Cemetery - hence this month we will be installing **electronic people counters** to record footfall at both the Rectory Lane and Three Close Lane entrances. The random one-one conversations that we have with visitors while we are on site working is always very enlightening too - and we hope to have many more of those!

Spreading the word

We have given more local talks - each time turning up new information from relatives. This is key to bringing the Cemetery to life. Let us know if you are part of a group that would welcome either a visit to the Cemetery or a talk.

The Cemetery is being featured on online community **Radio Dacorum** today (Wednesday) at 7pm with Kate being interviewed as part of ***What's On in Dacorum*** and sharing some music - kind of like Desert Island Discs! Do tune in, although it will mean you missing the Archers ...

We are now tweeting! If you tweet too, please follow us
RectoryLaneCemeteryProject @dead2living.

Two reminders from February's bulletin

Firstly, please shop at Tesco's during March and April (*Metro Berkhamsted, Express Northchurch or Tring Superstore*), ask for the tokens and vote for the Project through their **Bags of Help Grant Scheme!** If, as we have found on occasion, no blue tokens are available you can keep your receipt and ask for a token on your next visit. It may take a bit of effort but it is hugely important for the project and will help us to provide a much-needed volunteer facility on site.

Secondly, if you are interested in the **memorials which are due for conservation** work in April: *Barnes; Creedy; Groves; Leach; Hewson; Holloway; Hurst; Key; Lane; Leaper; Page; Rippon; Rolph; Smith-Dorrien; Tompkins; and Unwin*, contact James on 07545 786 372 or via jamesmgmoir@aol.com, Photographs of the monuments can be seen on our website www.stpetersfriendsberkhamsted.org.uk

and Easter Bunny

Family Easter Egg Hunt - with a difference!

Easter Sunday, 1st April at 2pm

Come along and join in and discover more about this lovely green
space

Let Kate know if you would like to help to organise this fun event

Campbellkate01@gmail.com

With best wishes from the Rectory Lane Cemetery Project Team

