



Springing into action at Rectory Lane Cemetery

Dear Kate

April appeal

We've had some great support over the years which has enabled us to get this far. Now we really need more people to volunteer their time and skills if we are to deliver this ambitious programme of transforming the cemetery. If you have a bit of space in your life for a new activity and would enjoy being part of a Friendly bunch of people, do think about joining the Friends of St Peter's. We can offer a variety of roles, such as:

- Research into the lives of those buried here –with **genealogy** training
- Join our monthly work parties – **green exercise** and refreshments
- **Adopt a grave** – take on a neglected grave and look after it – guidance into clearing and planting
- **Become a guide** for others – learn about the history of the Cemetery
- Assist at **events** – welcome visitors, staff stalls, organise stuff!
- Get involved in **publicity** and promotion
- **Network** with groups you're involved in to encourage participation
- Bring the **arts** into the cemetery
- Bring **fitness sessions** into the cemetery

- Contribute to the **wildlife** area – learn about and help us to encourage a diversity of habitat
- And more!

We have a **volunteer drop-in evening** next Monday evening (**18.30 – 20.00, Monday 9th April**) at the Mad Squirrel Brewery Shop, 104 High St, Berkhamsted. Meet existing volunteers and others who are thinking about it (absolutely without obligation) with a drink! If you can't make it but are interested let me know and we can have a chat.

We can promise you fun and friendship and job satisfaction - research shows that volunteering is extremely good for you! If not you, then perhaps you know someone else who might be interested...?



Crepuscular cemetery celebration

A week ago we hosted ten members of **Tring and District Camera Club** in the Cemetery at dusk! The weather was perfect and the vibe was industrious as the photographers went about exploring the Cemetery and setting up their shots with just the light of their head torches. The results were very atmospheric and surprisingly colourful given that it was so dark. Unfortunately, I have to use a

low res image here, which doesn't represent the quality they produced - I have shared others on our website.

Later in the autumn we will be organising a photography competition which will be open to all - more details to come!

Easter Sunday's Discovery Trail

Over 114 visitors braved the weather to join in our family discovery trail (fortunately it was dry!) Guides in Easter boaters were on hand to help with clues and the trail included counting yew trees, finding particular graves, learning about the cemetery's bees, the mysteries of the Sexton's Hut and our grave digger Mr Ghost, and testing the wooden xylophone which hangs from one of the trees.

Many of the families had not been to the cemetery before, one even popped in with their little girl whilst on their honeymoon! All the children were rewarded with chocolate eggs donated by Tesco's, Waitrose and Penella Warren. It was a happy afternoon and lots more people now know that Rectory Lane Cemetery is a fascinating and welcoming place that they can visit whenever they like.



Chilterns Walking Festival (19th May - 3rd June)

We are really pleased to be participating in this initiative to encourage more people to explore the Chilterns and discover parts they don't know. Visitors are always looking for something a bit special and love to learn while they're walking, so the organisers are really happy that we are contributing three special tours of the cemetery, which will be lead by Jane Ghost, the wife of the cemetery's Victorian grave digger, Richard Ghost!

Our first '*Cemetery Circular*' is on the morning of [19th May](#), our second on the morning of [26th May](#) and our third, specifically aimed at children during Half Term, is on the afternoon of [30th May](#). Why not invite friends from Berkhamsted and beyond and book a party on one of our tours - they're free!



A note from the Project Manager

Over the period 26-28th March, the Rectory Lane gates were removed by Gary Gurney and taken to Marc Jarman's workshop at Bovingdon for restoration (under the watchful eye of one of the cemetery's squirrels). The piers have been shored and fenced until underpinning works commence shortly. The Memorial Arch will be tackled at the same time. Please note that there will be

no access through the Cemetery whilst the works to the piers are being undertaken - we apologise in advance for any inconvenience caused, but we can now look forward to the piers and arch being stabilised and no longer posing a health and safety risk. Notices will be displayed at the bottom of Rectory Lane, at the Gates, and at the entrance on Three Close Lane.

Please continue ...

- to shop at Tesco's during April (*Metro Berkhamsted, Express Northchurch or Tring Superstore*), ask for the tokens and vote for the Project through their **Bags of Help Grant Scheme**
- to spread the word about the Project, share and follow us on social media (www.facebook.com/stpetersberkhamstedfriends/ and Twitter ***Rectory Lane Cemetery @dead2living***)

GDPR

In order to comply with the imminent **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)** compliance requirements, I will shortly be circulating an email seeking confirmation that you are happy for me to keep your email address, specifically so that I can include you in future e-bulletins which will continue to be issued on a monthly basis. I hope you will be happy to stay connected!

With best wishes from the Rectory Lane Cemetery Project Team

