



## Heritage Open Day

Fun and enlightenment for the whole family!

## Programme

Our vision is to *'change perceptions of cemeteries as "dead spaces", transforming ours into a vibrant and diverse contemporary garden of commemoration, a pivotal heritage asset and an environmental haven by making connections, promoting health and wellbeing and welcoming all.'*

**We hope you have a great day in the Rectory Lane Cemetery!**

Please help us capture today by sharing any photographs on our Facebook page:  
**@stpetersberkhamsted friends**

To find out more about this exciting project go to our website:  
**[www.stpetersberkhamstedfriends.org.uk/projects/cemetery](http://www.stpetersberkhamstedfriends.org.uk/projects/cemetery)**

## Activities and where you can do them! (See map on reverse of programme)

Station 1	Add to our interactive gravestone timeline Have your likeness taken – Victorian style! Enter Mr Claridge’s photograph competition				
Station 2	Find out if any of your ancestors are buried here				
Station 3	Have a go at stone carving				
Station 4	Live finishing touches to Foot memorial and chat with Seat of Remembrance restorer Explore our gravestone geology collection				
Station 5	Join one of our guided tours – details below				
Station 6	Discover what lies beneath!				
Station 7	Gravestone symbolism – explore with an artist’s eye				
Station 8	Cemetery sketches Create artwork for a collective Memorial Wall Make a floral tribute with <i>Flowers by Wetherley</i>				
Station 9	Solve Mr Ghost’s puzzles – maths and engineering challenges for all ages				
Station 10	Find out about Adopting a Grave – and creating a mini-garden				

## Guided tours and performances

**Lives Cut Short Tour with Sister Cottingham – Station 5: *Forget-Me-Not*** Sister Cottingham was a much loved and respected Matron at the V.A.D. Hospital here in Berkhamsted. She succumbed to the Spanish Flu at the close of the WW1 at just 31. In this tour she talks about others who have had their lives cut short and how, thanks to medical advances, this is mostly a thing of the past.



### The Heroine Project Presents *Memento Mori* with Eleanor Buchan – Performance Area

Every gravestone tells its own story; we have commissioned theatre company ‘The Heroine Project Presents’ to create a promenade performance.

*Memento Mori* explores the lives – and deaths – of two unusual women who are buried in the cemetery – one of whom turns out to be Berkhamsted’s hitherto forgotten Victorian feminist icon! The writer and the director have been working with our researchers to explore some tantalising new evidence, which will be woven into an intimate and interactive 20-minute performance.

(Image courtesy of the Thanatos Archive)



**Historical Tour with the Countess of Bridgewater – Station 5: *Forget-Me-Not*** We have to thank wealthy benefactor and chatelaine of Ashridge House, Charlotte Catherine Countess of Bridgewater for giving the land for the Cemetery to the people of Berkhamsted. She will explain how this Victorian community project came about and share confidences about some of her contemporaries buried here.



**St Peter’s Choir – listen out for them at various points in the Cemetery** Members of the Choir will sing hymns reflecting some of the epitaphs recorded on the gravestones.

**Conservation Tour with Julia Gynn and Adrian Bowen – Station 3: *Conservation Conversation*** Two of the conservators from Messenger, who have been undertaking the restoration work, will guide you around the cemetery, providing fascinating insights into the hands-on challenge of conserving around 20 of the special memorials, including a discussion of the techniques and approaches they use to bring a monument ‘back to life’.

**Commemoration Tour and Discussion with Rev. Nixie James-Scott – Station 5: *Forget-Me-Not*** Using selected gravestones, interfaith minister and celebrant Nixie will prompt a discussion into how their messages illustrate different concepts of death and how people remembered their loved ones, whilst also bringing in contemporary customs, attitudes and funeral choices.

**Berkhamsted Youth Theatre: *Who’s Walking over My Grave?* Pop up** Written by local writer Kate Perera, a playlet featuring former movers and shakers of the town George Loader, Rev Cobb and Walter Pitkin talking about the changes taking place in the Cemetery.

**Gravestone Symbolism Tour with Hugo Hardy and James Moir – Station 7: *Grave Messages*** Explore some memorials which illustrate how the Cemetery is a microcosm of the remarkable cultural diversity and huge range of influences that have shaped our characters and communities.

**Gravestone Geology Tour with Nina Morgan and Philip Powell – Station 4: *Set in Stone*** The wide range of rock types used for gravestones means that cemeteries can be geological treasure-troves. Nina and Philip, authors of *The Geology of Oxford Gravestones*, will be highlighting the wide variety of rock types and geological features that can be seen in the Cemetery, with a handling collection as well to provide an introduction to geology that anyone can enjoy.

Please gather at the appropriate Station (number in brackets) in good time to join in!

11.00	<b>Lives Cut Short Tour (5)</b>	
11.15	The Heroine Project Presents <i>Memento Mori</i>	
11.30	<b>Countess of Bridgewater Tour (5)</b>	
11.45	St Peter's Choir (pop up)	<b>Conservation Tour (3)</b>
12.00	The Heroine Project Presents <i>Memento Mori</i>	<b>Commemoration Tour (5)</b>
12.15	<b>Lives Cut Short Tour (5)</b>	
12.30	<b>Countess of Bridgewater Tour (5)</b>	
12.45	<b>Gravestone Symbolism Tour (7)</b>	St Peter's Choir (pop up)
13.00	The Heroine Project Presents <i>Memento Mori</i>	
13.15	<b>Lives Cut Short Tour (5)</b>	
13.30	<b>Countess of Bridgewater Tour (5)</b>	
13.45	<b>Conservation Tour (3)</b>	
14.00	<b>Commemoration Tour (5)</b>	The Heroine Project Presents <i>Memento Mori</i> (Accessible performance)
14.15	<b>Lives Cut Short Tour (5)</b>	<b>Gravestone Geology Tour (4)</b> <i>Who's walking over my grave?</i> (pop up)
14.30	<b>Countess of Bridgewater Tour (5)</b>	
15.00	The Heroine Project Presents <i>Memento Mori</i>	
15.15	<b>Lives Cut Short Tour (5)</b>	<b>Gravestone Geology Tour (4)</b> <i>Who's walking over my grave?</i> (pop up)
15.30	<b>Gravestone Symbolism Tour (7)</b>	<b>Countess of Bridgewater Tour (5)</b>
15.45	<b>Conservation Tour (3)</b>	
16.00	<b>Commemoration Tour (5)</b>	The Heroine Project Presents <i>Memento Mori</i>
16.15	<b>Lives Cut Short Tour (5)</b>	<i>Who's walking over my grave?</i> (pop up)
16.30	<b>Countess of Bridgewater Tour (5)</b>	
16.45	<b>Conservation Tour (3)</b>	
17.00	The Heroine Project Presents <i>Memento Mori</i>	
17.15	<b>Lives Cut Short Tour (5)</b>	
17.30	<b>Countess of Bridgewater Tour (5)</b>	

### DIY tours available all day

Collect maps from **Station 2: *Hello from the Other Side*** (and others) and follow colour-coded tours featuring **Remarkable Women; Personalities from the Past; Commemorating WW1 Fallen; Lives Cut Short; Talking Tiles; Memorials Restored in 2018; Gravestone Geology; and Gravestone Symbolism.**

**PLEASE NOTE:** We are trialling a lot of these activities and tours and really welcome your feedback – please tell us what you think of today. There are **feedback questionnaires** at each Station.

We're grateful to the Heritage Lottery Fund that we can provide this **Let It R.I.P.** event free of charge, but **donations** are always extremely welcome (there are tins at each Station and as you leave). Thank you ☺

If you would like to **volunteer** on the project – just leave your details at one of the Stations and we'll be in touch. We're a friendly lot and it's an exciting project!

Hope this map helps you find your way around!

**Pop up Performance - various locations**

Berkhamsted Youth Theatre:  
*Who's Walking over My Grave?*  
St Peter's Choir: Hymns

**10. Pushing up Daisies**

Adopt a Grave scheme  
Graves as gardens

Three Close Lane entrance

Sexton's Hut

**9. Requiem Maths**

Solve Mr Ghost's puzzles

**8. The Art of Memory**

Art, design and creative activities  
Help us plan the new Garden of Remembrance

**6. Indiana Jones**

What lies beneath?

Memorial Arch

**4. Set in Stone**

Gravestone geology  
Foot headstone restoration

**Performance**

The Heroine Project Presents  
*Memento Mori*

**1. Location Location Location**

Gravestone timeline  
Photograph competition  
Victorian likeness

**7. Grave Messages - what do they tell us?**

Symbols, literature and music

**5. Forget-Me-Not**

*Lives Cut Short* tour with Sister Cottingham  
*Epitaphs - Dealing with Death* tour  
Historical tour with the Countess of Bridgewater

Foundation Stone

**3. Conservation Conversation**

Have a go at stone carving  
*Conserved Memorials* tour

**2. Hello from the Other Side**

Self-guided tours of *Remarkable Women*; *Personalities from the Past*; *WW1 Fallen*; *Geology*; *Memorial Symbolism*  
Find your ancestors

**Refreshments**

Home-made savouries and cakes  
Teas, coffee, soft drink  
All yours for a donation!

Rectory Lane entrance

**While in the Cemetery please:**

- Be respectful in remembrance of those buried here
- Be careful and aware of trip hazards, such as kerbstones, headstones and memorials, anthills, tree stumps and thick clumps of grass
- Be aware that some graves and memorials have sunk or may not be stable
- Keep off the boundary walls
- Do not eat any berries, fungi or other plants which may be poisonous
- Avoid marking the gravestones.

Thank you