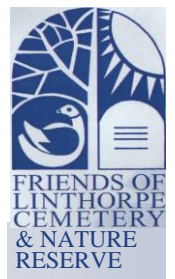


FRIENDS OF LINTHORPE CEMETERY & NATURE RESERVE

NEWSLETTER



After a difficult spring with warm weather early on and then rain and yet more rain, it changed the planting times of all flora and vegetables etc.

SUMMER – We had hot temperatures for weeks which created very poor dry conditions for the older trees in the Cemetery (some originating from the first plantings in 1869). This, with sudden strong winds, caused branches and limbs to break off and brought a number of trees down due to the dry roots. We had very good produce from other shrubs and fruit bushes though vegetables planted only gave a 60% yield.

WILD FLOWER MEADOW AREAS – We are already having success with these new projects; new flora and special grasses appearing already having the light and space to flourish. Martin Allen, well-known Botanist and Artist who has been advising us, is delighted with these early results.

NEW GARDEN AT THE HEBREW PRAYER HOUSE has been planted out, looking splendid and known as the Welcome Garden.

ANIMALS – Bats were out nightly on warm evenings with plenty of midges and gnats for them to feed on. We held three very successful Bat nights in the year with Sarah Barry, Bat Officer for the Tees Valley & East Cleveland funded by TVWT which were very well attended by a growing force of young Bat followers!

Birds were seen all over the Cemetery with lots of young this year. We had a very successful Bird Survey, results being forwarded to ERIC NE the Newcastle-based recording unit.

TREES – There was a great harvest of conkers giving our resident squirrels a feast time and bringing in the children to collect in the age-old tradition.

THE FRIENDS – Our workers have exceeded with the work load. There are three strimmers in action on Wednesdays, Thursdays and some Saturday mornings.

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR the Team cut back bramble bushes, shoots of trees and sawed tree branches into small piles – clearing all areas of the Nature Reserve and keeping everywhere safe for the public and giving wildlife habitats for the Winter.

All Commonwealth War Graves cleaned and pathways cleared up to and around the graves.

EVENTS:

A DAY OUT AT WASHINGTON WETLANDS was very educational and some ideas brought forward. The group were able to see at first hand the staff feeding and caring for the animals, everyone enjoyed the experience.

We held a History Walk/Talk led by Ian Stubbs giving an interesting and knowledgeable account of our heritage we hold and celebrating St. George's Day researching names we hold beginning with the letter 'G'. Well-attended.

SUMMER started with a Flora Walk/Talk with Martin Allen, this being invaluable to the public and to The Friends, who will take his ideas forward into our work in caring for the Nature Reserve.

We were asked by Christine Corbett, Project Officer for River Tees Re-Discovered, if we would like to host a workshop day on the theme of River Tees Pilots as we have seventeen Pilots graves within the Cemetery. The primary speaker was Geoff Taylor who himself was an ex Tees Pilot and regaled us with many tales of piloting adventures. Derek Lewis drew maps and marked out routes along the River. Malcolm Cummins presented the day-long event. Very well attended.

We had a day out to the National Glass Centre at Sunderland where we watched a brilliant demonstration in the art of glass blowing, very informative and a most enjoyable day.

Norman Moorsom gave a very knowledgeable talk on Tom Parrington who lived in the Middlesbrough Farmhouse and linking this to historical events leading up to the creation of the new town of Middlesbrough. Very well received by our Friends group.

We worked with Sue Antrobus, Paul and Volunteers from TVWLT together with Mark Fishpool of MEC on our annual Children's Midsummer's Event Butterflies, Bugs & All Things That Fly. This was a great success with a number of families taking part in exploring the world of mini beasts all around us in the Nature Reserve.

DAY OUT AT THE YORKSHIRE LAVENDER FIELDS – Great day, smelt beautiful. Visited Mousey Thompson (Oak furniture maker) at Kilburn on the journey back. Very interesting, promised to make a return visit to see the tour of the workshop.

We celebrated Yorkshire Day in great style with Ian Stubbs giving us a talk/walk, another great achievement.

HISTORY DAY OUT IN GUISBOROUGH – This was very informative with a cousin of Adrian Humphreys – Martin Smith, a local historian, taking us on a tour of the Market Place with its old buildings steeped in history and on to the ruins and grounds of Guisborough Priory for a 'working lunch'!

We were invited to DARLINGTON REFORM SYNAGOGUE Open Day. It was most enlightening, particularly as we have two Jewish Cemeteries within our Cemetery. We were given a very warm welcome and are looking forward to working with the Jewish community in the future.

DISCOVER MIDDLESBROUGH MONTH – Ian Stubbs, Eddie Rutherford and Alison Brown got together ideas and three walks/talks shown to the public. These were very well attended with a lot of preparation work involved beforehand with the team flagging up our willingness to take part resulting in a high profile in the brochure.

SAMMY the RAINBOW SNAIL arrived in August! A chance to discover the secret life of gastropods and join in a hunt for these and other mini beasts, model making, arts and crafts with Sue Antrobus and the Tees Valley Wildlife Trust team. We were part of 11 road shows across the Tees Valley – the group had to do their homework beforehand so we were ready for lots of questions from the visiting children! A great Road Show reaching outward.

MERCHANT NAVY DAY – We were proud to take part in remembering this event – Ian Stubbs gave a well-researched Talk/Walk on the lives of some of the sailor's graves that reside with us. It was made more poignant as two of our members, Derek Lewis our Chair and Malcolm Cummins our Vice-Chair are ex Merchant Navy personnel and with Ian's friend John lending the Red Ensign flag from his Grandfather being demobbed, which we raised in salute.

DAY OUT AT SALTHOLME – The group were able to enjoy this RSPB gem of a Nature Reserve on our doorstep, fascinated by the wealth of birds nesting and feeding on the Tees Estuary. We were able to learn from bird watchers who willingly gave us pointers to look for when we were watching from the hides. There were short and longer walks so everybody could be involved in the day, culminating with us all meeting up for a lovely lunch.

BABY MEMORIAL COMMEMORATION – Area cleaned with 500 geraniums planted in the nearby Baby Graves by The Friends. A sincere, moving service run by James Cook University Hospital Chaplaincy. Afterwards the group invited people to a buffet in the Hebrew House, kindly baked by one of our members June Stubbs. A volunteer from the public looks after all the tributes left at the Memorial Wall which is welcomed by the families attending.

WW1 ST. EDWARD'S SCHOOL PROJECT – 60 children came aged 10-11 years, they are doing a WW1 Project as part of their curriculum. Eddie Rutherford took them around the War Graves explaining a little of the circumstances from boys and men joining up to finding themselves at the Front.

The school children put wooden crosses on the stone fronts with a religious ceremony taking place at The Cross of Remembrance conducted by Derek Lewis. Malcolm Cummins and Dorothy Humphreys talked about the vital role women played in the War. Informative of the 3,165 Soldiers from Middlesbrough who died for our freedom.

The Friends were invited back to St. Edward's School for a commemoration of singing and poems to mark the end of the War with the children dressed as soldiers, nurses and kinder dress complete with little suitcases. A fine tribute.

Derek, Malcolm, Eddie and Dorothy led this year's 11th November Remembrance Walk, this was well received. Derek wrote two poems especially for this event and people were invited to write a message to leave on cards around the white roses surrounding the Cross. The youngest present, a small schoolboy, was invited to lay a cross on behalf of The Friends.

PROJECTS – Alison Brown is applying for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to enable us to purchase a WWII Commemorative Board to honour the 56 fallen whose graves reside within our care. Eddie Rutherford has applied for funding for the purchase of more Bat detectors, amplifiers and other equipment to enhance our programme of events we are

involved with. Ian Stubbs is in the process of applying to the HLF for funding to create a new public engagement document, creating new leaflets, enabling more links with other groups together with the purchase of a new laptop.

The group with great support from TVWT won the first prize in the Tesco Bags of Help competition! Members of the group with Michelle Humphreys actively encouraging the local Managers to high profile our group went all out to achieve this which enabled Martin Allen to design and create our wildlife garden at the Information Centre and Nursery Lane area.

TVWT were successful in obtaining a small grant from Newcastle Building Society enabling Martin Allen to purchase more plants for this on-going project.

TRAINING – Members have attended concise and high level courses throughout the year in various fields – First Aid at Work, ERIC NE Recording of Data, Operating of Strimmers and the training day for Holocaust Memorial Day in Newcastle. The Friends are involved in a series of training days with TVWT; ‘Caring for Urban Meadows in the Long Term’ and ‘How to Get Volunteers and Keep Them’ were two of the day-long courses in the Summer.

Alison, Ian and Dorothy attended the National Federation of Cemetery Friends AGM held at Gosforth Park in May. We were given a very warm welcome by the Friends of Jesmond Old Cemetery who hosted the event. Ian did a presentation of our work which was an excellent introduction to other members; a great day to network with groups from all over the country with Ian putting our group forward to host the AGM in 2021!

We are active participants in our Green Spaces Conference held quarterly for all the Friends groups in the area which enables us to be up to date with all the information and ideas that are driving our mission to achieve excellence.

We are holders of the Green Flag Award for the tenth year running.

Jenny Hagan of TVWT is bringing in two groups from Mind and Ageing Better for a taster session in December to introduce people to the benefits of volunteering for green place groups like ourselves which we are delighted and looking forward to.

The TVWL is involved as Heritage partners with a charity Going for Independence. Sue introduced Pam Bennet who gave an excellent introductory talk to see if the group would be interested for people who are blind or partially sighted coming into the Cemetery for guided walks and activities. We are delighted to be involved with this project.

CHANGES TAKING PLACE IN THE CEMETERY AND NATURE RESERVE with Area Care, Bereavement Services and Dr. Susan Antrobus, Project Manager at Tees Valley Wildlife Trust – THE WAY FORWARD – what we can do to assist in the Cemetery. We have been working with MBS, AC and Sue Antrobus throughout the Summer and are grateful for the working relationship and involvement we have with them to enhance this wonderful green space for everyone to enjoy. We will achieve a new Management Plan, a working document. This is on-going (now December).

We look forward to seeing people popping in on a Wednesday to the Hebrew Prayer House @ 12pm or when we are working in the Nature Reserve from the beginning of the morning!

Our team of historians Alison Brown, Eddie Rutherford, Ian Stubbs and John Learoyd are always willing to research any family grave for enquirers, which is proving to be a very welcome service.

John Learoyd is continuing his work on unearthing and recording inscriptions on long lost graves for our extensive digital records.

Alison is involved in digitising the burial records held by Bereavement Services beginning with the records held for Thorntree Cemetery.

If anyone wishes to become a member we have a small charge of £5.00 for an individual/£10.00 family membership per year which includes a broche.

- We can be contacted by our web page www.folc-nr.co.uk on our face book page: Friends of Linthorpe Cemetery or by e-mail folc-nr@gmail.com

Looking forward to the annual Carol Service in December – Sunday 2nd - 11.45-3pm. with The South Bank Brass Band and The Middlesbrough Happy Ukulele Band – all very welcome.

A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THE FoLC GROUP who have put their best foot forward to make 2018 a very fruitful year, THANK YOU. FORWARD INTO 2019 – LOTS OF EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO AND A NEW DIARY OF EVENTS.

WISHING ALL A PEACEFUL NEW YEAR