

Celebrating Birmingham's Burial Grounds Project

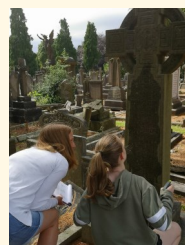
The Celebrating Birmingham's Burial Grounds (CBBG) project spans five burial grounds in Birmingham. Two churchyards, St Barnabas, Erdington & St Mary's, Handsworth and three cemeteries Warstone Lane & Key Hill in the Jewellery Quarter and Brandwood End Cemetery. It is a memorial recording project creating a searchable archive around a digital map of each site. The project is an initiative of the burial ground conservation charity Caring for God's Acre and is funded by Historic England, The National Lottery Heritage Fund and The Garfield Weston Foundation. The project will run until December 2022.

As summer activities are behind us and we look towards winter, it felt like a good time to put together a short round up of the project so far and let you know what the plans are for the coming months. Please feel free to share this newsletter with anyone you feel would be interested in the project.

Over the summer volunteers began photographing and collecting the inscriptions of memorials. Mostly through organised sessions run by George(ina) Sharp (community coordinator for Caring for God's Acre) and partly by volunteers working independently.

During eight memorial recording sessions over 500 memorials were recorded by 55 volunteers across 3 burial grounds, a brilliant achievement! Stories emerged and people from the past 'met' and their lives discussed and wondered at.

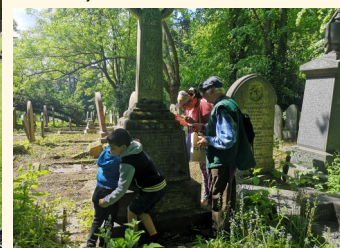
Outdoor sessions have stopped now for the winter as it is difficult to plan around the rain and falling temperatures. We are now embarking on entering the details gathered over the summer onto the digital maps. This will begin in small groups, in large enough rooms that we can be comfortably spaced out. Dates and details are overleaf.



Dawn Chorus walk, Key Hill Cemetery.



Fungi Walk, Brandwood End Cemetery.



Looking at lichen in a family event, St Mary's Churchyard, Handsworth.

In addition to memorial recording the CBBG project also aims to inspire and support people to learn more about the biodiversity of burial grounds and the importance they play in our urban ecology.

A few sessions have taken place so far and the species identified were added to the national biodiversity network's database that helps track what is happening to our national wildlife.

Anyone can add their burial ground wildlife sightings of birds, insects, plants, fungi etc. via our web page [here](#) these can be common species such as robins and magpies as well as trickier to identify plants or insects.

Thank you to the Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery, The Friends of Key Hill & Warstone Lane Cemeteries, Erdington Historical Society, Handsworth Historical Society and Josie Wall from The Jewellery Quarter Cemeteries Project for your support and collaboration on this project.

Thank you to everyone who has been involved so far, we really appreciate the time you have given to this project!

Upcoming Events and Sessions

We now have 500+ recording sheets to add to the internet based mapping system that will create a searchable archive of those memorialised in each burial ground.

This winter the focus is on Brandwood End and Warstone Lane cemeteries as this is where the majority of the summer recording took place.

The sessions are free to take part in and training will be provided. We have a limited number of lap tops available for the sessions so if you have one you can bring along that would be helpful.

Please book your place via the booking links, more sessions will be arranged in the new year.

Brandwood End Cemetery.

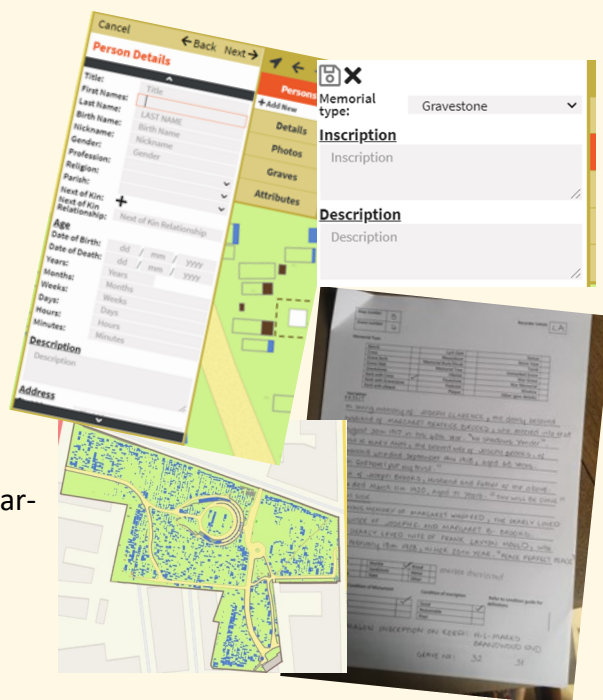
Monday 8th November 2-4pm, Kings Heath Library. [Book Here](#).

Warstone Lane Cemetery

Wednesday 17th November 2:30—4:30pm, [The Hive](#), Vittoria Street. [Book Here](#).

Warstone Lane Cemetery

Wednesday 1st December 2:30—4:30pm, [The Hive](#), Vittoria Street. [Book Here](#).



Stories from the Stones- an afternoon of talks around Memorial Recording.

The Celebrating Birmingham's Burial Grounds Project is inviting you to an afternoon of talks on subjects around this burial ground mapping and recording project on **Saturday 20th November 1-5pm** in the Dickens Room of the [Birmingham and Midlands Institute](#) in central Birmingham.

Speakers Include;

Harold Mytum, Professor of Archaeology at University of Liverpool. Harold is a leading expert on the study of graveyard memorials and author of several books and numerous papers.

Josie Wall is the Activities Programme Manager for the [Jewellery Quarter Cemeteries Project](#) and a PhD student at the University of Birmingham.

other speakers are to be confirmed.

Tickets are free but must be booked, please [click here](#) to book via Eventbrite.

Autumn Webinar Series

Caring for God's Acre are running an autumn webinar series on subjects surrounding the biodiversity and heritage of burial grounds. The webinars are free (donations are welcome) for details and booking links please visit our web page [here](#).

AGM & Online Talk

Caring for God's Acre is holding its AGM on Tuesday 9th November at 7pm.

The AGM business will be brief and will be followed by a talk by **Sheldon Goodman of Cemetery Club** 'The Original Garden Cemetery' Pere Lachaise, in Paris.

Please note there is a charge of £5 for non-members of Caring for God's Acre. [Booking Link](#).

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