



Friends of Tunbridge Wells Cemetery

Newsletter No.16 Autumn 2022



Return of Our Advent Carol Concert

We are pleased that the **Create Choir** will be presenting an evening of carols in the Cemetery Chapel on **Saturday 3rd December at 7pm** with seasonal refreshments and a raffle – all for £5. Tickets can be obtained from FTWC Secretary: lynnemonckton@gmail.com Tel: 01892 533652/ 07944364622 or via the website: www.friends-tw-cemetery.org

Heritage Open Days 2022: Tunbridge Wells 'Worthies' in our Cemetery

This year's HODs on 10/11 September saw the launch of a new booklet researched by the Memorial Inscriptions Group with a talk by Carol Mellors. This concerned some of the prominent individuals buried in the cemetery who had been included by the famed Photographer Henry Peach Robinson for his 1887 collection of the town's 'Worthies'. The very entertaining presentation provided a glimpse into some unexpected corners of Victorian life!

Tunbridge Wells Worthies chosen for
Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee
by Henry Peach Robinson
1887



Tunbridge Wells Cemetery

Battle of Britain Wreath Laying at RAF Memorial 15 September

This low-key but touching ceremony has become an annual event which provides a chance to pay tribute to those heroes with our wreath laid at the RAF memorial garden.



Gold Again for Our Gardening Team

Despite another summer of challenging weather, our determined small team of gardeners were once again awarded a Gold Award by *Tunbridge Wells in Bloom* judges. Despite their ongoing success, they never take it for granted and continue to maintain their high standard.

November Fungus Walk



This event, organised by our busy Secretary, has become an annual fixture and was again fully booked. It was led by Martin Allison, one of the country's leading experts. Despite the wind and rain curtailing the walk, 29 different fungi were spotted in under an hour!

Unveiling of 'Paupers' Memorial 6 November

In unrelenting rain, the Vicar of St Marks came to offer a blessing of the new memorial stone which we, together with TWBC, have funded to mark the place where were re-interred the remains of some humble Victorians whose unmarked graves had been disinterred and moved to a more auspicious spot with a monument designed by Burslem. We shall keep it well tended with seasonal plantings.



We then made our way back to the Chapel, to dry off and have a cup of tea, where we were later joined by those who had attended **The Annual Blessing of Catholic Graves** in the Cemetery. There was a little internecine rivalry when it was pointed out that the sun had shone on the latter event!

The Chapel was buzzing with those who had been honouring the past – just the sort of occasion which brings the Chapel to life.

Remembrance Sunday 13 November 2022



At last, the sun shone for the services and wreath laying which took place at both World War Crosses of Sacrifice, the Civilian Memorial and the RAF Memorial in the cemetery.

Once again, Felicity, a member of the Friends of the Cemetery Committee, made beautiful floral wreaths to be laid on behalf of the Friends on this poignant occasion which was attended by the Mayor, Cllr Godfrey Bland and the Deputy Lieutenant of Kent, Mrs Georgie Warner.



As usual, the buglers of TS Brilliant sounded the Last Post perfectly before our visitors gathered in the Chapel for coffee and cake.



Thanks to David Walter for use of his photographs.

The Friends thank you for all the support we have received from you this year and hope that we will see many of you at the Advent Carol Concert.

I shall take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a New Year which will be a significant one for the Friends of the Tunbridge Wells Cemetery:

2023 will mark the 150th anniversary of the opening of our cemetery!

Janet Sturgis
Chair FTWC

