



**Newsletter 6**

**Winter 2012/13**

The Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery, c/o 100 Enbourne Road, Newbury, RG14 6AN

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## Chairman's Chatter...

Brian Sylvester

Hello Friends.

I hope it's not too late to wish you a Happy New Year.

I suppose you could call this an interim newsletter. You'll recall we committed to sending out two regular newsletters a year\* to all Friends; well, this is a third as I felt it important to keep you abreast of certain points regarding the Newtown Road Cemetery.

Those who pass the cemetery will have noticed the trees have recently been pollarded - the tree equivalent of "a short back and sides" - but with the top, too! Whilst this looks severe at present, we are assured by the West Berks Tree Conservationist that this is very necessary for the health of the trees (a bit like humans taking cod liver oil, I guess), and that they will recover their glory in the spring. Fingers crossed. There is some further minor pruning required elsewhere which will take place in February/March.



\* Going back to our biannual newsletters, in the past we have sent these out by mail but, in view of escalating postal charges, we thought we should change to e-mails for those who have this facility.

So this we shall do in the spring unless you prefer to continue with "snail-mail": if so, please notify our secretary, **Maureen Hudd**, on [maureen.hudd@btinternet.com](mailto:maureen.hudd@btinternet.com)

Those of you without this facility will, of course, continue to receive postal deliveries.

## Volunteering

The government have made big noises about the "Big Society" and the need for volunteers. We in Newbury have been doing this for years and I never fail to be impressed by the good work that goes on in and around the Town. On **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January** the annual Volunteer Fair will be held in the Corn Exchange. It's a complete sell-out and well worth a visit to amaze you.



FNRC will have a stall so that we can show off what is being achieved: do make a point of looking us up. Indeed, if you can spare an hour, why not give a hand? It's OK; no slick selling skills are required, just letting people know we exist in a friendly way. If you can help, please call **Ros Clow** on **01635 40188** or e-mail her on [raclow@ntlworld.com](mailto:raclow@ntlworld.com) to learn more. You'll enjoy it.

We're also planning a coffee morning, date as yet unfixed. If you can help, either by attending, or baking your favourite cake, again please let **Ros** know.

Visitors to the cemetery cannot fail to notice the adverse affect of the weather on the older gravestones. A dedicated team is systematically going through them in order to record the inscriptions before it's too late: if you would like to know more about this very gentle project, do contact **Doug Larsen** on **01635 826334** or [dlarsen@ntlworld.com](mailto:dlarsen@ntlworld.com) He'll be happy to tell you more.

Okay, researching or going around the cemetery is not everyone's cup of tea. But, as you know, we are trying to build a database of facts about the history and "residents" of the cemetery. Could you help by doing a bit of transcribing of the remaining burials and other documents? It's amazing what can be done with just an hour at the keyboard, and this will add considerably to the overall achievement. Please contact any of the above if you can spare a little time. I promise you, you'll find it fascinating.



## Subscription Reminder



Thank you very much for your support on this fascinating journey we have undertaken. Even if, for whatever reason, you are unable to take an active role with the Friends, please don't forget to support the on-going work through your subscription. A membership form can be found at the end of this newsletter.

## Stained-Glass Window



As many of you will know, we are fortunate to have a most amazing Victorian stained-glass window in the chapel, made by the important London manufacturers Heaton, Butler and Bayne. Unfortunately, the ravages of time and vandalism have taken their toll, but we are assured that restoration can and should be carried out. All is not lost, step forward grant applications ....

I recently checked how much had been accumulated towards renovating the window and discovered that nothing at all had been donated. This is not particularly surprising as the web site has hundreds of requests for funds, most of which have a zero balance.

The way this grant application works is that however much is given, Greenham Common Trust matches it ("matched funding"). In our case the Town Council has already pledged £9000 and we need to raise a similar amount. Of course we could do this by having coffee mornings, raffles, bring and buys – all the usual suspects.

But Ros and Dave tried out the West Berkshire "find me a grant" website, found it easy to use and the best bit was that as soon as they donated £20 it was shown as a donation of £45 with the Trust's matched funding and Gift Aid. So only £8,955 to go!

So, if you have some surplus after the new-year sales (!) then please chip in so we can see our magnificent window in its full glory in the not too distant future. Go to: <http://www.findmeagrants.org/wberks/browse.aspx>. As they say at Tesco's, "Every little helps!"

## Remembrance Sunday

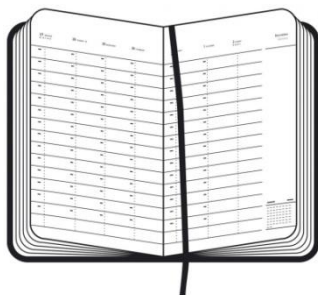
Our experiment to hold our commemoration of the War Dead a week earlier than the 11th November seems to have worked a treat despite having selected the wettest Sunday of the year.

We had a good and enthusiastic turn out from the British Legion, and a number of other curious members of the public to be shown around the graves on which we had placed poppies, and to hear their personal stories. We are sure we can build on this and are happy to announce we shall be doing the same on **Sunday, 3rd November**. Do come and join us.





## Other Dates For Your New Diaries



10th February (Sunday) - Unveiling the memorial to the 1943 bombing victims. 4pm at St. John's Memorial Garden (Opposite St. John's Church)

13th April (Saturday) - Welcome Day at the cemetery

23rd June (Sunday) - Welcome Day at the cemetery.

BUT: Don't forget, the cemetery is now open daily from 10am to 3pm. Come along, relax, see and enjoy the constant changes which occur in our peaceful local amenity.

### *Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery*

#### Renewal of/New Membership Form (Delete as appropriate)

1<sup>st</sup> October 2012 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013

By completing this form, I agree to the following:

- To further the aims of the Friends.
- To allow my contact details to be maintained on the Friends' computer for the purposes of the Friends alone; they will not be passed on to a third party.

Membership is secured by donation; please indicate the level of your donation by ticking the relevant box.

Under 16 Free     £5     £10     £15     Other £\_\_\_\_\_

(Minimum payment - £5 per person)

You can pay your donation by one of the following 3 methods (*please indicate preferred method*)

- 1) By cheque payable to *The Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery*
- 2) By completion of attached Standing Order Form  
(please see instructions for return of form and tick box)
- 3) By cash

Then return this form plus payment to:-

John Guild (FNRC Membership Secretary)  
21 Rockingham Road,  
Newbury,  
RG14 5PA

(Tel: (01635) 43756. [johngraybeard@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:johngraybeard@hotmail.co.uk))

PLEASE NOTE:- if paying by Standing Order you MUST return that form to your bank not FNRC

Name(s)	
Address	
Post Code	
Telephone Number(s)	
Mobile (if applicable)	
E-mail (please print)	