

2015 Opening Dates and Events

The Cemetery and Chapel will open to all visitors and volunteers from 10.00am to 4.00pm on the following dates:

Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th of March

Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th of April

Saturday 9th, Sunday 10th and Sunday 24th of May

Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th of June **Annual Open Day**

Saturday 11th, Sunday 12th and Sunday 26th of July

Sunday 9th and Sunday 23rd of August

Saturday 12th, Sunday 13th and Sunday 27th of September

Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th October

Sunday 1st November **All Souls Service** 3:00 pm

Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th November

Events will also be notified through 'What's On' in the Wells Journal and posted on the Cemetery notice boards.

Looking forward to Spring!

Hooray it's Spring!! It's that time of year when all gardeners can't wait to get to start work in the garden, or in our case...the Cemetery. Already the bees have been out perusing our Spring floral display, especially the Hellebore and Crocus which have added a splash of colour to the grounds this March. So to provide our flying friends (including butterflies, birds and insects) with a veritable feast of food we're just about to start a small new flower bed directly behind the Chapel. At the moment we've just started clearing the rubble, then we'll add to the soil, our own compost that's been quite happily rotting away in a far corner. Having taken advice from Megan our Master Beekeeper, we will endeavour, over the next few months, to plant all things bee friendly, such as Echinops, Japanese Anemones, Sedum, Lavender, Geranium (not Pelargoniums!) to name but a few. We also hope to provide a seating area close by in order to observe the 'hive of activity' we're hoping to achieve, well that's the plan anyway....you'll have to visit later in the year to see how we've got on!

Annual Open Day

On Sunday June 14th from 2:30pm to 4pm we are holding our annual event when tea and cakes will be served to visitors in the Chapel. All Friends and members of the public are very welcome to join us. If the sun shines we hope it will be an opportunity to stroll down to the hives to see the bees busy collecting nectar and pollen.



Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday March 13th 2015 from 7.30pm in St Thomas's Church Hall. Light refreshments will be available after the meeting.

The Friends help families seeking lost relatives

For the past thirteen years The Friends have been providing a free service to family history researchers seeking the graves of relatives who may have been staff or patients in the old Mendip Hospital..

Chairman's Review of 2014

From the Chairman's point of view the committee together with its volunteers have had a successful year, with more bulbs, flowers and shrubs planted to help the five hives of bees we have in the Cemetery. The hives are owned and looked after by local Master Beekeeper Megan Seymour. Honey can be purchased whenever the Cemetery is open. Spring is approaching and most of the 3000 bulbs planted are putting on a colourful display and providing early Spring foraging for the bees. Maintenance and up-keep of the Cemetery grounds and Chapel continued and the main gates were repainted ready for the first opening in 2015.

Unfortunately the committee has been saddened by the passing of our Treasurer Mrs. Jill Sturman who had done sterling work in this role. Our thoughts are with her family.

Table-Top Sale

Held on Saturday 21st February at St Thomas's Church Hall. Entry was free and there was a Tombola, Bric-a-brac and home made cakes and honey were on sale.



The Friends of Mendip Hospital Cemetery

Newsletter

Spring 2015

and

an invitation to join The Friends

Contact us:

www.mendiphospitalcemetery.org.uk

Chairman:	Tony Cavill	
	7 Foster Close ,Wells	01749 674 678
Vice Chairman:	Graham Livings	
	Lilliput, Upper Milton, Wells	01749 675 720
Key holder:	Mike Harris	
	40 King Castle Road , Wells	01749 675 212

Registered Charity no. 1085981

A warm invitation to become 'A Friend'.

I wish to become a Friend of the Mendip Hospital Cemetery and I enclose my first subscription of:

£ 5 £10 other

Please make cheques payable to 'Friends of Mendip Hospital Cemetery' and return this form to the Chairman, Tony Cavill, at 7 Foster Close, Wells, Somerset, BA5 3NB. Thank you!

Name.....

Address.....

Postcode.....Telephone.....

e-mail.....

Date.....

GIFT AID

If you are a UK Tax payer please help us to claim charity tax relief by completing the following declaration. Doing so will cost you nothing. Please return the completed form to the Chairman, Tony Cavill, at 7 Foster Close, Wells, Somerset, BA5 3NB..

GIFT AID DECLARATION

I declare that all the sums I pay to the Friends of Mendip Hospital Cemetery by way of subscription or donation on or after January 2006 and until I notify you otherwise are to be treated as Gift Aid so that tax can be reclaimed by the Friends.

Name (block capitals please)

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Address:.....

.....

Postcode:.....

Date:.....

Signature:.....

1. To be able to qualify you must pay an amount of income tax at least equal to the tax that the Friends reclaim in any one tax year. i.e. approximately one third of your subscription or donation.

2. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief on your self assessment return.

3. If your circumstances change so that you no longer pay tax or if you change your mind for any reason, you can cancel this declaration by contacting the Friends.

4. If you are unsure whether your subscription qualifies for Gift Aid relief you can ask your local tax office for leaflet IR113 or consult the government website.

The co-operative membership community fund

Work on 'Plan B' supported through the Co-operative Membership Community Fund will continue during 2015. The project has enabled us to:

- distribute Newsletters since January 2013
- improve our grass cutting schedule so that visitors can gain access to the sculptures, gravestones and other features
- plant 1000 crocus bulbs in Autumn 2013 and 2000 in Autumn 2014 as well as new bee-friendly flowers and shrubs
- sell honey collected from the Cemetery hives

In Winter in the hive the queen bee and her daughters kick out all the male drones and hunker down for the cold weather. Although this Winter was mild any cold snap will send the bees shimmering their wings around the queen to keep the hive temperature around 17C. On a fine, sunny day, even if the outside temperature is as low as 6C, some bees will fly on 'airing' or 'cleansing' flights to rid themselves of a build up of waste products. Then, during February, bees became more active and begin gathering early pollen from catkins, crocus, and ivy to replenish depleted food stores. This is a critical time for the colony and its survival may depend on the beekeeper topping up hive stores with sugars.



Jill Sturman

"It is with deep sadness we confirm the death of our erstwhile treasurer Jill Sturman; indeed a 'friend' and fellow trustee to this 'sacred' place. Jill was already a septuagenarian when she volunteered to the position and brought a 'forensic' insight into the responsibilities of her office more so the affairs of the registered charity; she will be sorely missed. Of course our All Souls annual service will permit us to remember her in our thoughts and prayers.

Lives of great men and women all remind us

We can make our lives sublime,

And, departing, leave behind us

Footprints on the sands of time;"

Focus on sculptures

We are very fortunate to number among our Friends local chain-saw artist, Peter Bolton. Peter has given freely of his time and considerable expertise over the past few years to produce the seven tree sculptures you see in the Cemetery today. Each one has been carved from a tree grown in the grounds which was either felled due to disease or blown down in the winds. Three of the standing sculptures still have roots in the ground and are weathering well but those lying on the ground are showing some signs of natural decay...



"It is easy to tell the toiler
How best he can carry his pack
But no one can rate a burden's
weight
Until it has been on his back"

Last year, following consultation with Peter, we added a quotation or few words of description beside each of his sculptures. We would like to know what you think of them...

Part of the 'Tree of Heaven' moved to the Cemetery.

After gales felled the 128 year old 'Tree of Heaven' (below) in the grounds of the Bishop's Palace, Wells, on 27th October 2013, a section of the tree was moved to the Cemetery in February 2014. Since then local sculptor, Peter Bolton, has been working on a new sculpture, located in the south west section of the Cemetery. So in the future we can hope to welcome an additional sculpture that will be 'an angel from the Tree of Heaven'! A delightful prospect!



Friends on-line

Contacting you by e-mail really does help to save money on paper and postage which in turn enables us to spend more on maintaining the grounds and providing forage for the bees. If you are on-line, please send an e-mail to:

webmaster@mendiphospitalcemetery.org.uk

Thank you!