

Celebrating Birmingham's Burial Grounds Project

Spring Update

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 Carling 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.

Hello! I hope you have all over wintered well and have managed to avoid the worst of the winter bugs and covid. Spring is certainly in the air and we have lots of sessions planned between now and the end of October. More on that later. First lets look at what has been going on over the winter. - George

We have managed to run a few sessions adding the memorials to the map. Pictured here, the group have met at the Coffin Works museum and are adding inscriptions to the Warstone Lane Cemetery Map. They have done a brilliant job and have carried on at home when Omicron was at it's peak and we had to cancel getting together.



We have now almost caught up with all the records that were gathered last year so will be back out in the cemetery in April and also starting in Key Hill Cemetery.

For Brandwood End Cemetery we have met at Kings Heath Library before Christmas and more recently at the Moseley Exchange. Once you have been along to a session and are happy with how the system works we are happy to arrange for you to be able to carry on at home if you wish. As the map is web based no fancy software is needed just your usual web browser in most cases.



On Tuesday 22nd March we will be making a start on the Handsworth Churchyard map. The session will be at 10:30 am in the community room at Handsworth library. Please join us if you can spare the time, there is so much to do! [Please click here to book a free place](#) (it helps us know how many laptops to bring).

Wednesday 30th March, 7pm, St Mary's, Hamstead Road, Handsworth

Celebrating Birmingham's Burial Grounds - An evening talk on the project and why our burial grounds are important to us today. Free admission.

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

There is a lot to get done this year and so Josie wall (from the Jewellery Quarter Cemeteries Project) will be working with George to run sessions and support volunteers. It is going to be an exciting year with lots going on.

Burial Ground Sessions - Monthly sessions collecting the inscriptions, working in pairs volunteers use simple monument recording forms to note down the inscriptions and details of memorials.

Adding inscriptions to the map—Monthly, indoor sessions working on laptops (we can provide or you can bring your own) adding the records collected in the burial ground sessions to the map.

All sessions are free to take part in but we ask people to book on so we know how many people to expect. No former experience is required and we will bring along any equipment needed.

Brandwood End Cemetery

Cemetery sessions - [More information & booking link](#)

Adding Inscriptions to the Map at the Moseley Exchange [Information & booking link](#)

Warstone Lane Cemetery, Hockley

Cemetery sessions - [More information & booking link](#)

Adding Inscriptions to the Map at the Coffin Works Museum
(dates to be confirmed contact George for more information)

Key Hill Cemetery, Hockley

Cemetery sessions - [More information & booking link](#)

Adding Inscriptions to the Map at the Coffin Works Museum
(dates to be confirmed contact George for more information)

St Mary's Churchyard, Handsworth

Churchyard sessions - [More information & booking link](#)

Adding Inscriptions to the Map at Handsworth Library [Information & booking link](#)

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

The following Burial Ground Nature sessions are being planned to explore how important burial grounds are to the ecology of Birmingham. Links will be available via our [events calendar](#) when bookings open.

May

Dawn Chorus Walk— St Mary's, Handsworth
Dawn Chorus Walk- Brandwood End Cemetery

June

Churches Count on Nature session
St Barnabas, Erdington
Churches Count on Nature session
St Mary's, Handsworth

July

Bioblitz— Key Hill & Warstone Lane Cemeteries

August

Bioblitz - St Mary's, Handsworth

September

Bat Walk- St Mary's, Handsworth



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