

# The Longden Road Old Cemetery Project

## Spring Update

The Old Cemetery Project is creating a digital archive of the old cemetery on Longden Road, Shrewsbury that opened in the 1840s. The cemetery has been digitally mapped and volunteers are collecting the inscriptions from the memorials and, along with photographs, are adding them to the digital map to create a searchable archive of the cemetery. This project is part of a wider Beautiful Burial Ground Project, an initiative of the burial ground conservation charity Caring For God's Acre funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

**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 monthly outdoor and indoor 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.**

We have managed to run two sessions adding the memorials to the map. In the computer room at The Roy Fletcher Centre in Shrewsbury. This is a great resource with eight computers ready and set up for us to use.

The small band of volunteers have done a brilliant job entering the records collected over the summer and have carried on at home when Omicron was at it's peak and we had to cancel getting together.

One of our winter recorders has just handed in a batch of inscriptions ready to be entered and so we have plenty to do!

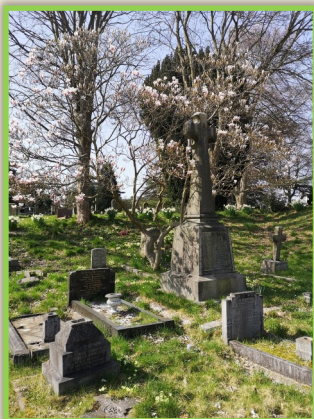
The next session at the Roy Fletcher centre will be on Tuesday 5th April 10:30-12:30 you can book onto the session (there is no charge) here [booking link to Eventbrite](#) or email [george@cpga.org.uk](mailto:george@cpga.org.uk).

Some volunteers have carried on collecting the inscriptions in the cemetery over the winter, popping in as weather and time allows.

*"Each time I pop over to the cemetery I experience a deep out - breath; a deep sigh of inner peace and tranquillity. It's like nothing else. There is something about an old cemetery or graveyard that forces one to pause, take stock, reflect on lives lived through extraordinary times. I absolutely love my time over there clearing some grass or a bit of moss to delve into the text and find out about the lives of people I never knew and to wonder. I think about their lives and ponder their passing and how the world has changed. It is like stepping back in time.*



George



*Then I have to re -enter my life in the 21st century and haul myself back from the past and the bit of peace I have been fortunate to experience. Like a distilled retreat without going far from home."*

Diane

If you would like to work on an area of the cemetery at your own leisure, get in touch with George ([george@cpga.org.uk](mailto:george@cpga.org.uk)) and we will get a pack to you.

We will be back out in the cemetery on Thursday 14th April 10:30—12:30 the booking link for this and other up coming dates is here [booking link to Eventbrite](#) bring a friend!

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

# Upcoming Sessions

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.

**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.

Thursday 14th April 10:30 –12:30

Thursday 12th May 1:30—3:30

Tuesday 28th June 10:30—12:30

Thursday 14th July 1:30—3:30

All the above sessions are open for booking here [Booking Link](#)



**Adding inscriptions to the map**—Monthly, indoor sessions working on computers at the Roy Fletcher centre in Shrewsbury adding the records collected in the burial ground sessions to the map.

Tuesday 5th April 10:30-12:30

Tuesday 17th May 10:30-12:30

Monday 4th July 10:30 - 12:30

Tuesday 2nd August 10:30-12:30

All the above sessions are open for booking here [Booking Link](#)



This is the final year that there is funding to support this project and there is lots to do so please share this newsletter with anyone you feel would be interested.

Our website has lots of information on the heritage & biodiversity. Our [Built Heritage Resource page](#) has recordings of a series of webinars by leading academic in the field, Harold Mytum with the accompanying forms and guidance.

We also have a series of blogs posts, those focussing on built heritage can be found by following [this link](#).

## Friends of Longden Road—Conservation volunteers

The Cemetery has been managed for biodiversity for around 10 Years. A group of conservation volunteers meet every other Wednesday throughout the year to carry out practical conservation work. They are always looking for extra pairs of hands and meet at 10am by the bench behind the chapel. In April they will be in the cemetery on the 13th and 27th. For more information please contact [susan.adams21@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:susan.adams21@yahoo.co.uk).



There is a Facebook page for those who have an interest in the history, architecture & wild-life of the cemetery & chapel. [Friends of Longden Road Facebook Page](#)



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