

CARING FOR GOD'S ACRE

CELEBRATING BIRMINGHAM'S BURIAL GROUNDS

PROJECT EVALUATION



Historic England



Made possible with

**Heritage
Fund**

PREPARED AND PRESENTED BY

DAKIN EVENTS
2022



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ABOUT THE CELEBRATING BIRMINGHAM'S BURIAL GROUNDS PROJECT



EXPLORING SOCIAL HISTORY IN BURIAL GROUNDS IN BIRMINGHAM

In October 2019 £69,678 was successfully secured from Garfield Weston, Historic England, and the National Lottery Heritage Fund to deliver Celebrating Birmingham's Burial Grounds (CBBG), a project focused on the social history to be discovered and shared by exploring 5 burial grounds in Birmingham. Celebrating Birmingham's Burial Grounds was an initiative of the burial ground conservation charity Caring for God's Acre and saw a diversification in CfGA's work into an ethnically and culturally diverse urban centre.

The project utilised a bespoke digital system, the Burial Ground Mapping System (BGMS) to map 5 sites, with recording sessions taking place both within the burial grounds, the mapping process, and desk-based activity, data entry sessions for each site, where the collected information was added onto the digital maps to create a searchable archive for that burial ground. This work was undertaken by volunteers, who were vital to the project's success and were engaged through a series of events and sessions encouraging them to help survey the monument inscriptions, promoting the social history to be uncovered within Birmingham's burial grounds, and the biodiversity of the sites.

The following report evaluates the project, its successes and challenges faced using interviews, case studies and participant surveys. It examines the impact on communities, public perception, the historic environment and the wider heritage sector.



PROJECT TIMELINE & OUTPUTS

THE APPLICATION WAS ACCEPTED IN OCTOBER 2019. THE UPDATED DATES REFLECT DISRUPTION TO THE PROJECT TIMELINE DUE TO COVID-19 (COMPLETION WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 2021, EXTENDED TO DECEMBER 2022)

ACTIVITY	HERITAGE OUTCOME/ PRIORITY	TARGET	WHEN
MAPPING MAP SITES USING THE BGMS	PROMOTES BEST PRACTICE STANDARDS FOR DOCUMENTATION AND INTERPRETATION	5 SITES SURVEYED AND MAPPED	NOV '19 - FEB '20 UPDATED: DEC '21
CONDITION ASSESSMENT DEVELOP A SIMPLE MEMORIAL CONDITION ASSESSMENT SYSTEM FOR INCLUSION ONTO THE BGMS. HISTORI ENGLAND GUIDANCE TO BE SOUGHT FOR THIS	PROMOTES BEST PRACTICE STANDARDS FOR DOCUMENTATION	GUIDANCE DEVELOPED, APPROVED AND INCLUDED ONTO BGMS	NOV '19 - FEB '20 UPDATED: APR '21
EVENTS DELIVER BUILT HERITAGE EVENTS TO ENGAGE COMMUNITIES	ACTIVITIES THAT STRENGTHEN THE ABILITY OF THE SECTOR TO REDUCE OR AVOID RISK TO THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT BY UNDERSTANDING, MANAGING AND CONSERVING. BUILDS CAPACITY AND COMMITMENT OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES	25 EVENTS ACROSS 5 SITES ATTENDED BY MINIMUM 375 PEOPLE	NOV 19 - OCT 21 UPDATED: OCT '22
DIGITISATION POPULATE THE BGMS WITH RECORDS OF INDIVIDUAL MONUMENTS ACROSS THE 5 SITES. TRAINED VOLUNTEERS WILL RECORD MONUMENTS AND UPLOAD DATA. THE CONDITION ASSESSMENT WILL BE INCLUDED	PROMOTES BEST PRACTICE STANDARDS FOR DOCUMENTATION AND INTERPRETATION. SUPPORT BODIES DISCHARGING STATUTORY CONTROLS	25% OF ACCESSIBLE MONUMENTS PER SITE RECORDED	MARCH '20 - SEPT '21 UPDATED: ON-GOING

ACTIVITY	HERITAGE OUTCOME/ PRIORITY	TARGET	WHEN
REVIEW UNDERTAKE AN OVERARCHING REVIEW OF STRUCTURES AND INDIVIDUAL MEMORIALS WHICH MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR LISTING ACCORDING TO HE GUIDANCE	ACTIVITIES THAT STRENGTHEN THE ABILITY OF THE SECTOR TO REDUCE OR AVOID RISK TO THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT BY UNDERSTANDING, MANAGING AND CONSERVING	20 VOLUNTEERS TO BE TRAINED TO IDENTIFY POTENTIAL STRUCTURES. CONSIDERATION OF LISTING TO TAKE PLACE IN SURVEYED AREAS OF THE 5 SITES AND APPLICATIONS MADE IF APPROPRIATE	MARCH 2020 – AUG 2021 UPDATED: COLIN'S YOUTUBE. HE DECLINED (VICOTIRAN MEMORIALS HAVE TO BE EXCEPTIONAL TO BE LISTED)
EVENTS DELIVER NATURAL HERITAGE EVENTS TO ENGAGE COMMUNITIES	ACTIVITIES THAT STRENGTHEN THE ABILITY OF THE SECTOR TO REDUCE OR AVOID RISK TO THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT BY UNDERSTANDING, MANAGING AND CONSERVING	5 SESSIONS ACROSS 5 SITES ATTENDED BY 125 PEOPLE	MAY 2020 – AUG 2021 UPDATED:
BIODIVERISTY COLLATE BIODIVERSITY RECORDS	BUILDS CAPACITY AND COMMITMENT OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES SUPPORT BODIES DISCHARGING STATUTORY CONTROLS	1000 RECORDS ADDED TO NBN ATLAS	MAY 2020 – AUG 2021 UPDATED: OCT '22
EVENTS DELIVER SOCIAL HISTORY EVENTS TO ENGAGE COMMUNITIES, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LOCAL ARCHIVE OFFICE	BUILDS CAPACITY AND COMMITMENT OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES SUPPORT BODIES DISCHARGING STATUTORY CONTROLS	2 SESSIONS PER SITE (TOTAL 20 SESSIONS) ATTENDED BY 90 PEOPLE	FEB 2020 – OCT 2021 UPDATED: NOV '22, REPLACED BY BGMS ACCESS AND 'HOW TO GUIDE'
FRIENDS GROUPS ESTABLISH FRIENDS GROUPS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BIRMINGHAM OPEN SPACES FORUM	TO CARE FOR THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AND MAKE A FORMAL COMMITMENT THROUGH MEMBERSHIP OF NATIONAL AND LOCAL HERITAGE BODIES	3 FRIENDS GROUPS	OCT 2021 UPDATED: OCT '22
EVENTS DELIVER 'BURIAL GROUND BIG EVENTS'	BUILDS CAPACITY AND COMMITMENT OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES PROMOTES BEST PRACTICE STANDARDS FOR CONSERVATION, DOCUMENTATION, INTERPRETATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES	3 FAMILY EVENTS DELIVERED ACROSS 3 SITES ATTENDED BY 250 PEOPLE.	MARCH 2020 – JULY 2021 UPDATED: NOV '21

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project mapped four cemeteries and one closed churchyard:

- Key Hill Cemetery
- Warstone Lane Cemetery
- St Mary's Churchyard, Handsworth
- Brandwood End Cemetery
- St Barnabas Closed Churchyard

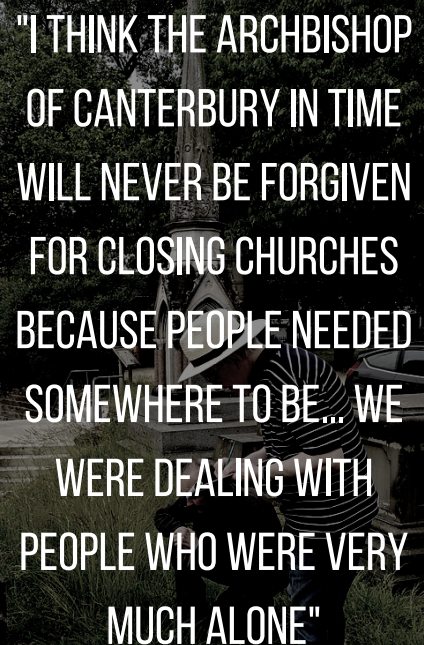
The project aimed to increase public awareness of the varied and unique historic importance and biodiversity to be found in burial grounds by engaging communities in exploring and recording their local cemeteries and churchyards, in turn illuminating Birmingham's unique history of migration and immigration. Through the process of recording and mapping, the project would provide site managers and volunteers with valuable digital information to aid both the management of and public engagement with the burial grounds. Training would be provided to support the identifying, recording, and assessing the condition of the monuments, all with the aim of strengthening the ability of the sector (both professionally and voluntarily) to reduce or avoid risk to the historic environment through increased knowledge and improved management.

The invaluable digital information created would be of great use to those interested in researching local history and genealogy or who planning burial ground-based interpretation. Complementing CfGA's core work on biodiversity and training in species identification, the aim was that the project create a more holistic view of how nature and the built environment complement each other and that this message reaches a new audience of potential volunteers, enthusiasts and future conservation champions.

COVID-19

The impact of the global pandemic on the project was both significant and illuminating. While there was a material impact on the ability of CfGA to deliver the project during lockdowns, Covid-19 also highlighted the significance of Birmingham's burial grounds to the city's communities. This includes both a strong culture of grave tending, most clearly seen at Brandwood End Cemetery, and the significance of these burial grounds as significant green spaces in an urban environment.

The project attracted the active, retired community, a cautious group for whom the project offered a gently sociable opportunity to ease back into volunteering and social interaction, with a number of people undertaking activity on their own during the lockdowns. However, the easing of Covid restrictions also impacted the project, with it becoming more challenging to engage people once more things opened up and the options available for people's leisure time increased.



"I THINK THE ARCHBISHOP
OF CANTERBURY IN TIME
WILL NEVER BE FORGIVEN
FOR CLOSING CHURCHES
BECAUSE PEOPLE NEEDED
SOMEWHERE TO BE... WE
WERE DEALING WITH
PEOPLE WHO WERE VERY
MUCH ALONE"

*Father Robert Stephen, St.
Mary's, Handsworth*

PROJECT DESCRIPTION CONTINUED

The project was designed to benefit a range of individuals and communities, including burial ground managers, local communities, existing Friends Groups, and the people joining them, Historic England, Birmingham City Council, with a focus on a diverse, urban audience.

MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

- To increase the preservation of monuments and the funeral landscape by **keeping burial grounds connected to communities**, through the creation and support of Friends Groups - acting as champions for local burial grounds
- To **strengthen heritage sector capacity and resilience** through training events, bringing together professionals and volunteers to share knowledge and experience in monument recording, condition assessment, and conservation
- To **increase public understanding of designed funeral landscapes** through the digital Burial Ground Management System
- To **increase public enjoyment and knowledge** of monuments, historic buildings and local history, targeting the BAME community and investigating migration and immigration to Birmingham
- **Encouraging long-term protection of the historic environment** by showcasing beneficial use. Varied events will illustrate the potential of burial grounds to engage communities and improve well-being
- To provide the best value by utilising **match funding** from existing projects
- To identify potentials for **listing review**

THE ROLE OF VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers were central to this project, supporting it in a variety of ways;

- Recording memorials through surveying in burial grounds, photographing

monuments, recording inscriptions and assessing condition

- Inputting the data gathered onto the BGMS
- Recording biodiversity and uploading records to the Beautiful Burial Ground Portal within the NBN Atlas
- Helping to set up new Friends Groups and joining existing ones, thus increasing the knowledge and skill base of these groups
- Assist in promoting and organising 'Burial Ground Big Events' within local communities
- Attending events and training, and gaining new knowledge and skill which will increase the resilience of heritage

BEAUTIFUL BURIAL GROUNDS

The project provided value by utilising match funding from CfGA's Beautiful Burial Grounds project, delivering against that project's aims of:

- Promoting and supporting citizen science activity and supporting built and social heritage surveys and research
- Making heritage information available when planning interpretation
- Making heritage data on burial grounds available for analysis on a national level
- Increasing CfGA's legacy and sustainability through an increase in profile, support, membership and resilience

Alongside the Beautiful Burial Grounds project, Celebrating Birmingham's Burial Grounds also took place within the wider context of the ongoing Jewellery Quarter work, focused on social history and offering insight into Birmingham lives. This wider context, and the involvement of Josie Wall, Activities Programme Manager for the Jewellery Quarter Cemeteries Project and a PhD student at the University of Birmingham, brought much-needed local perspective and connections to the project.

THE IMPORTANCE OF RECORDING & DIGITISATION

AND THE ROLE OF PARTNER ORGNISATIONS

'We create new, accurate and up-to-date maps of everything in a churchyard or cemetery, including taking photographs of memorials and headstones together with images and indexes of associated records' Atlantic Geomatics <https://agintl.org/>

Formed in 2009, AG Intl Ltd is a family owned business specialising in recording the assets of burial grounds in the UK and around the world.

They provide a secure, easy-to-use, interactive web-based map system to hold and protect records. Information is easy to search and view, reducing the time taken to find what you are looking for. Simple tools enable users to add new records and photographs, search for information, record biodiversity, carry out health and safety inspections and much more <https://agintl.org/>

Atlantic Geomatics' Burial Ground Management System (BGMS) was at the core of CBBG. The system had not yet been used at the scale that this project allowed, which in turn meant the project served in some ways as R&D for the system, as volunteers engaged with the system and discovered areas for development and improvement.

This was particularly noticeable with Brandwood End cemetery, where the large scale of this site caused challenges with page loading due to the sheer quantity of data.

Progress with the mapping ultimately relied on volunteers'

comfort in using it, and it is those areas where volunteers were comfortable using the system that the greatest progress was seen. With an aim of a recording and digitisation session in each burial ground per month, this training also facilitated volunteers continuing the work on their own outside of structured sessions, with many digitising remotely and some wracking up as many as hundreds of hours of involvement. This went some way to ameliorate the challenges of the cost of hiring spaces for in-person sessions and difficulties with wifi quality, for such a data-heavy system.

Alongside the mapping and digitisation process, the greatest progress in the project was seen in those burial grounds where project contributor Josie Wall had existing contacts, and partnering with her, embedded as she already was in the communities, was particularly fruitful throughout the project.

Though there were initial ambitions that the project be a multi-partner undertaking, the lack of engagement from potential partners such as the Archives, Birmingham City Council and Birmingham Open Spaces Forum (partly due to the impacts of Covid and the ensuing resourcing issues) forced the project to evolved and adapt, with the focus shifted onto delivering for the volunteers on the ground.

VIDEO CASE STUDY



FILMED TALKS

The Celebrating Birmingham's Burial Grounds Project ran an afternoon of talks on subjects around the project on Saturday 20th November 2021 at the Birmingham and Midlands Institute in central Birmingham. Though 60 people had booked the event, 40 of these did not attend, so the talks were hosted online. Speakers Included;

- [Georgina Sharp](#), Community Coordinator and CfGA project lead
- [Harold Mytum](#), Professor of Archaeology at University of Liverpool. Harold is a leading expert on the study of graveyard memorials and author of several books and numerous papers
- [Josie Wall](#) is the Activities Programme Manager for the Jewellery Quarter Cemeteries Project and a PhD student at the University of Birmingham
- [Colin Fenn](#), Vice Chairman of the National Federation of Cemetery Friends.

These talks were available for 9 months on the CfGA YouTube channel, and remain available on request.

BURIAL GROUNDS OVERVIEW

To better understand the experiences of those who took part in the project, interviews were conducted with participants from across each of the burial grounds and developed into case studies. Each burial ground, and each participant, has their own story to share, but through conversation, shared themes emerge. The below offers a brief outline of each cemetery, all of which have been digitally mapped with the BGMS.

Key Hill Cemetery

Birmingham's first Garden Cemetery was opened in 1836 by the Birmingham General Cemetery Company, was not consecrated and so open to all denominations. It was bought by Birmingham City Council in 1952, Key Hill is Grade II listed in recognition of the significance of its landscape. The Friends Group was founded in 2004 and was part of the Jewellery Quarter Cemeteries Project, which saw extensive catacomb repairs in 2019, with the interior open to the public for the first time in September 2021.

Warstone Lane Cemetery

The Church of England Cemetery, neighbour of Key Hill Cemetery was consecrated in 1848. As with Key Hill it ran into difficulties and was bought by Birmingham City Council in the 1950s, with the two cemeteries managed together, The Friends and Jewellery Quarter Research Trust have worked hard to protect and improve the cemetery, with the new 'Garden of Memory', marking the site of the former chapel and now a community space, opened in July 2021.

St Mary's Churchyard, Handsworth

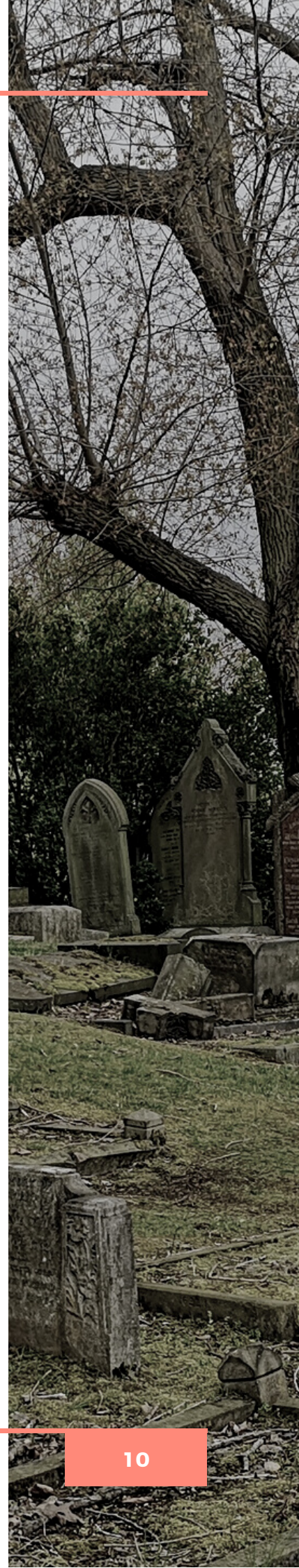
A Grade II listed Anglican church, the first stone church on the site dates from 1160. With the churchyard bordering on dereliction, the Friends of St. Mary's Churchyard began in 2006, and aims 'to be a focus for future hopes for the integrity of St Mary's Churchyard as a special place... because of the association of this church and its grounds with the founding fathers of the industrial age, and more recently with two important figures in the development of football' handsworthstmary.org/

Brandwood End Cemetery

Opened in 1899 and gradually extending over the years, the cemetery now covers 53 acres, 2 of which were sold in 1919 to the Jewish Community. The grounds are a fine example of a Victorian landscaped cemetery, which earned it a Grade II listing in the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England in 2001.

St Barnabas Closed Churchyard

Built in 1822, and devastated by a fire in 2007, the new St. Barnabas Church Centre was completed in 2012. With the creation of a Friends group delayed by the pandemic, Erdington Historical Society spearheaded the digitisation of the graves, as part of wider community-led efforts to help restore the churchyard.



CASE STUDIES

Twenty-two people from across the project were approached, with eleven people interviewed either over zoom or email, with an additional three people interviewed in person.

Through these conversations, some common themes emerged. Though memorial recording can be a hard sell, and engaging people proved challenging for the project leads, once engaged, people found huge value throughout the project, and the activity absorbing and rewarding. While the ties with personal history can be tenuous for people who have moved into an area, a shared sense of history and the narratives of each area, such as the harsh reality of infant mortality, exposed for people the detail and stories which can be found through this work. Although all participants interviewed other than one had not heard of Caring for God's Acre, many were able to eloquently communicate the organisation's purpose after their involvement in this project. In contrast to CfGA's core work, the audience here was largely motivated by social and family history, with biodiversity a new area of interest for them. Though few would call themselves conservation champions, an increased commitment to conservation and the importance of recording was felt across the board after their involvement. The burial grounds were viewed by all participants as areas of calm, reflection, and there was a strong sense that their time in the burial grounds, and outside in the natural environment, had contributed to their general wellbeing and sense of contributing to a community doing important work. *See appendices for full interviews.*

BRANDWOOD END CEMETARY

Brandwood End proved the most challenging site for CBBG, both because of its considerable size and the limitation that the site is locked at 4pm, restricting the times available for recording sessions. It is a beautiful site that people care deeply about, with a strong culture of grave tending and an engaged and active Friends Group (the [Facebook page](#) has 771 followers). The significance of the site was highlighted during Covid, with its closure leading to tangible distress for the community who care for it. Though none of the people interviewed about Brandwood End had heard of CfGA prior to the project, interviewee Gemma Watkin was an example of someone becoming something of a champion for the organisation through her involvement with CBBG, and the project has been embraced by the Friends Group and has provided a transfusion of enthusiasm into the group, even facilitating new members joining the committee.



JANE EDWARDS, FRIENDS OF BRANDWOOD END CEMETERY

The project was obviously of interest to us and our members as it involves attracting people into the cemetery. When we were approached by George and were assured that contacting our group had been suggested by Birmingham City Council Bereavements Officers we were very happy to be involved as our mission is to get as many people as possible engaged with the Cemetery as a green space.

As a group we have always been well aware that nature and the built environment complement each other but this project enabled us to attract a new group of people to the Cemetery who maybe had not understood this connection before.

I guess all the members of The Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery would like to think that they were 'conservation champions'.

I would not say that we have a greater understanding of the importance of burial grounds as green spaces for wellbeing and community as this is the message we continually convey at our events.

We, as a group and individually, would really love to carry on with this project and would welcome the opportunity to work with Caring for God's Acre. We would like to be able to continue the recording ourselves and we do have people willing to continue with digitising the records but we would need to have the finance to enable us to hire venues with internet facilities.

GEMMA WATKIN, VOLUNTEER

I had taken a short break from work and had some spare time before my new job began, so I went along to find out more about it. I don't usually volunteer for things but wanted to push myself to try something new.

I had never heard about Caring for God's Acre before the project, however since taking part in the project I have been telling many people about it. When I'm out collecting memorials in the cemetery and strangers approach me to see what I am doing, I explain all about the project and the organisation and encourage them to look online to find out more about it or get involved.

George explained everything thoroughly to me and I started going out into the cemetery for a couple of hours on the weekend accompanied by my Dad who had also become really interested in the project.

What attracted me to the project was having the chance to read the inscriptions, take time to find out about some of the history within the cemetery and help with such a monumental task of collecting the memorials.

The ease of the technology involved, the simplicity of the process, being able to continue the work at home in my own time and the relaxed

'We have always valued our headstones but the opportunity to populate a digital map was beyond our wildest dreams' *Jane Edwards*



GEMMA WATKIN, CONTINUED

atmosphere of the group, makes it all an enjoyable activity to participate and be involved in.

I do see myself continuing to be involved with this project as I thoroughly enjoy working on it. I would like to see it through to the end.

I would like to share that when I have been inputting the inscriptions onto the digital map, I sometimes come across people with intriguing names or circumstances in which they have died and I often take the time to research online to see if I can find out more information about that person. I find it fascinating how the inscriptions have changed through the years with what was in fashion at the time and the grandeur of some of the types of memorials.

I would just like to say how wonderful it has been to meet and work with the people involved in this project, especially George, who has been so welcoming and friendly. She has been extremely helpful and informative in regards to anything that I have asked her about and also Julia Griffin, Chairperson of the cemetery, who is equally as welcoming and encouraging.

LISA FAIR, VOLUNTEER

What was it that first attracted you to the project? If you're very involved in the friends already, I guess there was already a tie there?

Well, it was less to do with the Friends and more to do with my interest in social and family history, really. And knowing how much information you can get from a gravestone that isn't necessarily documented on a death certificate or anywhere else. So being able to digitally map those things and see with the photograph, especially if you're not local to an area. I thought it was a great idea.

So would you say that you have that your understanding of these spaces as places for well-being and community has changed at all through the project?

One of the reasons I got involved with the Friends was the sense of peace that you get in a place like Brandwood End. It's an old cemetery, and it was originally built on the lines of an Arboretum, so there are a lot of trees, a lot of wildlife, very peaceful. And it's 53 acres in the middle of a busy city and during lockdown, I know a lot of people found walking through. Certainly that has made a difference, yeah.

I don't think many people would think of cemetery as being a place to go for some, peace and quiet, because they have obviously the association with death and misery. But doing the inscribing when you recognise it, the most common word that you come across is love. I thought was quite profound really.

Do you see yourself continuing to be involved in this kind of project and is there anything that you'd need to support that, to help you continue to be involved?

No, I'm quite happy to carry on. I like the fieldwork part of it. I was there yesterday, Wednesday, actually, with Josie and it might be that we, the Friends, will carry on if the project doesn't continue because we find it useful, and we do, you know, histories of people, to be able to find out a little bit more about them and to be able to look them up.

I think I've enjoyed being involved. I like the social history aspect of it. I think I've learned something from it. I found it quite addictive, once you start. And I'm glad to have had the opportunity.

'The most common word that you come across is love. I thought that was quite profound really' Lisa Fair

KEY HILL & WARSTONE LANE

Both Key Hill and Warstone Lane cemeteries are at the heart of Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter, and the interviews demonstrated how personal people's interest in the project is and how deeply it runs, from a family connection to an affinity with cemeteries and their stories. Josie Wall was also praised by all interviewees of these specific cemeteries as instrumental in each person getting involved in the project, due to her enthusiasm and visibility.

Key Hill and Warstone also served as the focus for a series of after school clubs, designed to engage and enthuse a new generation of conservation champions and further extend the reach of the project. The clubs also served as a heritage-focused contribution to the Commonwealth Games activities taking place across Birmingham in 2022.



JOSIE WALL, ACTIVITIES PROGRAMME MANAGER, JEWELLERY QUARTER CEMETERIES PROJECT

The Jewellery Quarter Development Trust and Explore the Past Worcester worked with two local secondary schools (Jewellery Quarter Academy and City Academy) to run an after school 'Heritage Club' on Fridays in the summer term.

As well as guided tours of the area, discussions in the classroom, and an art workshop, the main project for the term was to record memorials in Key Hill Cemetery and learn how to add those records to the digital map.

The students were from all year groups from Year 7 to Year 11 and they recorded nearly 50 monuments during the term. They learned photography skills, practiced their handwriting, and got very good at deciphering faded letters! Their recording sessions helped them understand the pattern of burials in the cemetery and decide where we should put the test pits for our archaeological dig to uncover some headstones which were buried in the postwar tidy-up of the cemetery. We were joined on the dig by local residents and kids from the Solihull YAC too and found 3 buried ledger stones, for the Tongue, Twiss and Grove families, whose stones hadn't been seen since the 1950s!

'We are bringing young people together with the local community, celebrating the stories of Brummies' past and present, and looking at the contribution this city and the Jewellery Quarter have made on a world stage'
<https://cemeteries.jewelleryquarter.net/our-stones-our-stories-project/>



GILL CARMICHAEL, VOLUNTEER

So would you agree that having gone through this process, you have more of an understanding of how monuments can teach us about the kind of places that we live?

Oh, yes, yes. I've always thought that. I mean, we are active members of National Trust and English Heritage and Victorian Society. I think old buildings and places have so much to tell us now and you can get really sort of drawn into these areas and we feel quite drawn to Warstone Lane now.

Would you say you're a conservation champion?

I think it's so important. And it does worry me that they are gradually crumbling away. And, you know, that's why we need to record them. I know there can be re-erected. But again, that costs money and we're all sort of safety conscious of, you know, stones falling on people and everything. But I do wish we could actually have some of them re-erected and repaired. It would be good. I'm thinking also of my own great grandmother, grave in Whittington in the little cemetery there. And my great uncle is buried right in front of her with his brother. And he's he had a medal, a military medal in the First World War. But her stone is directly behind and it is flat. And we only found it by accident because it was covered in undergrowth. And, you know, I just feel sorrowful that these stones could be lost in the past if people don't find them or care for them.

ROBERT CARMICHAEL, VOLUNTEER

Firstly as with anything, it has to be something that appeals to me and for that must thank Josie's presentation back in lockdown. Then of course need to find the actual work is interesting and worthwhile which it is. I feel that both George and Josie have a passion for the project which is a good motivator and one of the main reasons for continuing to work on the project. Finally, I must say that George, Josie, and the other participants are all interested in the project and also very pleasant people.

Although it is all very interesting the most rewarding part for me is on site uncovering some text which has probably not been read for decades.

'I've actually enjoyed doing it. it feels sort of like I'm really contributing something to Birmingham as well' *Gill Carmichael*

TINA KIRKHAM, VOLUNTEER

What was it that particularly drew you to the project?

When we go on holiday, I always like visiting really old churchyards and I really like, I just like the feel of them to be honest. I mean some people think it's a bit weird, don't they? But I just think it's a lovely connection with people that lived before, and so I think when I walked around and I didn't realise, particularly, I fell in love with Key Hill, I think. And I didn't realise quite how beautiful it is. And I think I just felt that if I could just do a little bit and be somewhere that I find I really like. It's a bit like an oasis really, in the center of the city. So I just thought, yeah. And then I kind of think, I know that might sound ridiculous in a way, but I kind of know the people that are there are dead. But I kind of think it would be nice to think that people are still interested in them and they're interested in their lives. So I kind of have this sense of thinking that they, I hope they like the fact that we want to be around and still are interested in them

And would you say Key Hill was a particular highlight for you?

Yeah, I think it is. I mean also knowing the light, I don't know, it's got a particular feel about it. I just thought it was lovely. And I think, I suppose with the people, a couple of people buried there, you know, people that you can associate with things like Avery Scales, you know, the inventor of tennis well, and the modern tennis as we know it. Birds Custard. You know these are names you hear of, aren't they? And you don't necessarily know anything about them. And then, I don't know, it just brings it to life a little bit, I think, although they're not there, they are there, aren't they?

And would you say you understand more about the benefits of the actual monument recording and digitisation?

I do because I think it can be lost otherwise. I think unless people know it and pass it on via word of mouth, and then even so, that information can get distorted or might not be correct. And I think it's a lovely way of keeping that information for people to research, whether it's for the use for their own families or just from a historical perspective, really.

And would you say you have a greater understanding of how nature and the built environment complement each other?

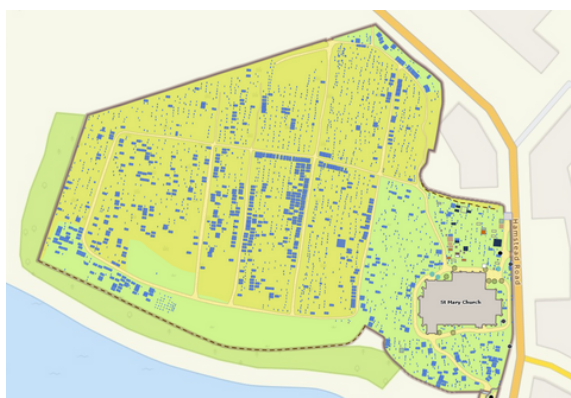
Yeah, I mean I quite like the way that nature kind of comes back in and it's a lovely kind of wild space, isn't it? And I think I was talking to George, and she was talking about how some of the churchyards got some of the kind of the, I'm not gonna say this in the right way, but like the original sort of, we've got some of the older sort of species because they're undisturbed, aren't they in a way, they're not cultivated. So they're quite good to kind of know what was there before, but also they are a great habitat potentially for wildlife.

And I do like the way that nature is as they've left alone. Yeah, it kind of, you know, it sorts itself out in a way, doesn't it, if we don't interfere with it sometimes. It might need a bit of management because of what we've done to it. But ordinarily it would probably, I might be being a little bit naive, but it would sort itself out, it would probably find the balance, wouldn't it, without our intervention.

'It's just been a really nice thing to be a part of. And I'm glad I found out about it because otherwise I mean, I would still continue to go visit churchyards when I'm on holiday, but this has been a really nice local thing to do. And actually, I think it's a beautiful surprise in the middle of the city because I think, I don't think people actually would realise quite what a lovely space it is' Tina Kirkham

ST. MARY'S, HANDSWORTH

Due to the sheer size of Handsworth Cemetery, it became clear early on in the project that the churchyard at St Mary's was going to be a better and more manageable focus for the work. A survey was completed of St Mary's in 1984 - 1978 which, through the CBBG process, was shown to have a number of mistakes and omissions, so the process has added to the shared knowledge of the Parish Churchyard. The comparison with this earlier survey also starkly highlights the degradation of the graves over time, adding a sense of urgency to the work of recording.



FATHER ROBERT STEPHEN

Tell me a little bit about your involvement because you've moved on now is that right?

Yes, I was Rector of Handsworth until the 31st of July. So basically I did what all Anglican clergyman do and made decisions without consulting anyone. The Churchyard Saint Mary's is one of the more significant, the church having been there since about 900 and certainly in the last couple of centuries since graves have been marked, there are one or two people who thought they were important at the time who are decomposing there. So yes. It was very useful, but we had had the census completed in 1984 to 1987, so there was a hard copy of the grave inscriptions that were readable at that point together with our map. But the idea of digitising it became very attractive because three four times a week I would get inquiries from people who were tracing somebody that they didn't like when they were alive.

And just thinking as well, the inquiries that you would have from people wanting to look at those records, did they tend to be local people or was it people who'd moved to the area?

Mostly, it would have been people who were away from the area, and about half of those would have been from the colonies from America and Australia. And I suppose that was just the nature of the expansion of Handsworth in the 19th Century. In 1700 the parish of Handsworth covered most of north west Birmingham from Soho Hill all the way to Kings Standing and had 200 souls in it in 1700. And so the explosion of the population meant that a great many looked for opportunities elsewhere.

Will the information recorded and transcribed by the volunteers impact your work going forward. I suppose that's not so relevant for you as you've moved on, but do you see it having an impact?

The more that that develops, the more accessible the records become the more positive the engagement can be, rather than just somebody emailing through and saying my great aunt Jessie died in 302 and the records say St Mary's has her, where is she, oh I don't know. So to digitise it to have that accessible, to have the location plan accessible actually means we're freer to get on with the job we're there to do rather than being curators of a mausoleum.

'It's been great to see how George in particular, as the local person on the ground, has been just excellent and quiet and inspirational at the same time' *Father Robert Stephen*

FATHER ROBERT STEPHEN CONTINUED

And I suppose that ties into my next question which is about long terms impact, which seems to be about strengthening the connections that are already there .

Yes, it's when you consider that when you walk round the graveyard the reality of infant mortality in the Victorian era becomes so clear that almost every other grave has an infant in it. When you think of the links, the history with some of the victims who died in the corn riots in Birmingham being curried in the churchyard. When you have people like William Booth, the forger who was executed twice because the rope broke the first time, then he did it again and got caught. But how they got him out of Stafford jail to be buried in consecrated ground, there's lots of those stories, that instead of just administering general inquiries, you then have time to follow up. Because it's quite an exciting place in terms of all those individuals.

Final question, would you like to see more of this type of project, but possibly more importantly what would place like St Mary's really need to make that happen?

The things that happen in any project like this are funding and manpower, so the funding that's been available I would be very supportive, and very happy to give any letter of support to ensure that that continues. Because at another level it has drawn some volunteers from the community together in an interest way that they hadn't encountered each other but they've got to know each other through this. And yes it's dusted down a few gravestones, but for some people who've been on their own that's a very powerful thing, just to have an excuse to encounter others, and it is inspiring the volunteers. The problem with a project like this is that when you start it at the beginning there's nothing you can point people to say that's the progress we're making, but now it's started you can say 'here it is, you can contribute into this'

PAULETTE BURKILL, VOLUNTEER

And what would you say, have there been any particular highlights of the project for you?

We have found one or two graves that aren't on the 1980 survey for some reason. Which is of interest to me because it adds to our knowledge for when we do get inquiries. We've also frustratingly not being able to find some and because I mean we were there yesterday and we knew that on this patch of ground we were standing on there was one underneath but we haven't got the right sort of equipment to excavate if you like. So you know, and the last but one session I did, I was just checking the details on this one and I realised I was standing on something hard and I'd sort of brushed away the grass and there was a different flat grave by the side of it with evidence of like holes where railings had been. Ohh, and that wasn't on the original survey either and I thought, well, would they have missed this one? Yes, it's sort of adding to our survey as well as this future one. So those are the highlights. Finding new ones! I would go more often if I could.

Would you say you understand more about the benefits of monument recording and digitisation?

Well, I think I've always thought that. I suppose since family history became more widespread and more of an interest to people. I think the more access you've got to records, the better. And these days, of course, digitisation is going to help because our paper survey fills 4 ring binders. And if you can just go to a website and search, then obviously that's going to make life much easier.

PENNY CLARKE, VOLUNTEER

It's a bit bizarre to say we've enjoyed it, but it has been a good way to spend our time. We've learned an awful lot. You know, had a few laughs as well and quite a bit of sorrow. You know, graves, lots of children in these very, you know, older, older churchyards, so many, you know, babies. And we've just had the baby in the family. So that's resonated a bit more, I guess.

'We've got a few more helpers now, including a Muslim guy who I've worked with for the past two churchyard sessions we've done, and he's joined our Historical Society as well, so that's very nice' *Paulette Burkill*

PENNY CLARKE CONTINUED

And what was it that what was appealing to you about the project? What made you get involved in the first place?

So I think I have an affinity to Key Hill Cemetery and because a previous project many years ago had transcribed some of the gravestones and saved the information, I was able to find my family's graves quite easily. So I sort of saw it as a sort of a carry on from that really, not only for people searching family history but just to try and conserve, preserve what's there because it doesn't stay there forever, you know, all the information that's there, it's quite apparent in St. Mary's particularly there was a documented study, I think it was about 30 years ago, 40 years ago and the deterioration on a lot of those gravestones since then, lots of information has been lost.

And would you say you understand more about the benefits of monument recording and also the digitisation?

Well, yes, because it preserves graveyards, hopefully forever, and makes it so accessible to people anywhere. So I mean, I guess a lot of the thrust of this is, from the users' point, is family history research predominantly, but obviously depending on how the digital map is indexed. I don't know to what detail that's going to be indexed. But, you know, there's potential there, finding out, you know, places people lived, what work they did, you know how many children they had.

Would you say, and this is sort of something that seems to have come out particularly through COVID, that you have an increased understanding of the importance of burial grounds as green spaces, so for sort of both well-being and community?

I don't know that that is the case because of COVID. But I think, I mean, I said to someone the other day, and until I got involved in this project I would never ever have walked on a gravestone. I would have felt really bad about doing that. Whereas now we're clambering over all sorts of things, you know, and scratching away, trying to find the, you know, the lettering on the stone and what have you. So I feel if you like a lot more comfortable and less sort of, respect isn't the word, but less sort of bowed down by it all and would now, I think I would feel quite, well I did, I went and had my lunch in Key Hill the other day, you know, which is perhaps something I wouldn't have done before this, but I wouldn't say that's as a result of COVID particularly.

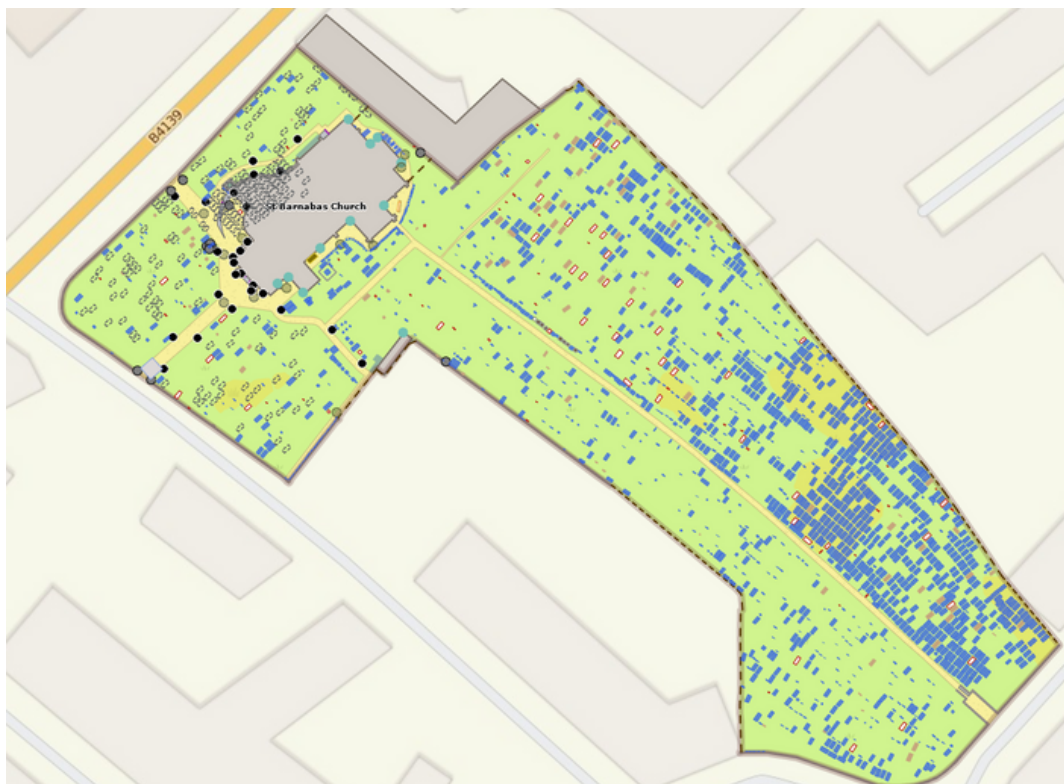
And do you see yourself continuing doing this kind of project and is there anything that you'd need to help that happen?

Yes, I would. I'd be keen to carry on. And I'm hopeful that these particular projects might be able to be extended for the volunteers to try and make a bit more impact because I think some of the areas we've only really scratched on the surface, yeah. And I have become a friend of Key Hill and Warstone Lane.

'I think this particular project is worthwhile and has given me, I've gotten something out of it myself but I think for a volunteer that is important that you're not just giving all the time that, you know, something's coming back the other way. And I feel for me this project has definitely done that. And the knowledge of the two, George and Josie, who are the leads on this in this area, you know, their knowledge is just fantastic and they're very willing to share it' Penny Clarke

ST. BARNABAS, ERDINGTON

With volunteers at St. Barnabas given access to the BGMS by Atlantic Geomatics during lockdown and therefore undertaking their recording independently from CfGA during this period, their experience of the project was somewhat different from the core of CBBG, with the full churchyard mapped during lockdown. Unlike the other churchyards in this project, St. Barnabas did have awareness of CfGA already through their churchyard regeneration plans. Despite the independence of their work, there was a strong feeling that the project had increased their appreciation and understanding of the importance of this work.



REVEREND EMMA SYKES

What attracted you to the project?

Takes the environment seriously and works with churches to make the most of our churchyard spaces.

What was the highlight of the project for you?

Really accessible and involves groups of people of all ages in an engaging way.

Do you have any stories or pictures you'd like to share of your time on the project?

It was great taking part in the count on nature and watching the children being fascinated by all the different minibeasts that were found!

ROBERT BROWN, VOLUNTEER

Whenever we were working in the graveyard many people came and asked us for information and seemed interested at the time.

'We have been involving (the project) in our plans to improve the churchyard and have helped us map all our burial plots which is invaluable' Reverend Emma Sykes



FEEDBACK

All volunteers were encouraged to complete a feedback form (see appendix 12). Out of 321 participants (some of who were repeat participants), 34 people completed feedback forms. For full answers, see appendix 13.

From the feedback forms we can see some clear trends. Though the split between people who had an existing tie to the churchyards and those who didn't was 50/50, all participants were inspired to get involved because they were curious and interested in the topic or the space. All enjoyed the sessions, with 94% definitely wanting to do it again or actively seeking opportunities to do more.

74% had never done this sort of activity before, suggesting a new audience for both CfGA and monument recording, with 82% likely to volunteer again now they'd taken part in a session.

68% felt the session had changed their view of burial grounds, with 76% now valuing them more, and those who disagreed with the statement feeling they already had a strong appreciation for them.

With participants clearly engaged with and impacted by the sessions, 94% felt they also already had, or were working towards, being able to continue the activities themselves, with more

opportunities and sessions highlighted as the main further support required. All who replied felt they would, or would like to, submit records again, though not necessarily immediately, with one noting 'yes I would love to be involved again'. The barriers to further involvement were work and free time, with sessions being in the week precluding some people's involvement (one participant noted they had taken annual leave in order to be involved, although weekend sessions, when scheduled, saw very little uptake).

Some additional feedback:

- 'Enjoyable and interesting experience'
- 'Lovely session, more intrigued now'
- 'Keep up with this vital recording'
- 'Very well organised'
- 'Interesting project'
- 'At very early stages'
- 'I just feel it is so important to record these stones as they are so vulnerable to weather etc.'
- 'More sessions on Saturdays and Sundays'

Of those that answered, 62% were female, with the majority in the 60-69 age bracket (though all age brackets were represented). 89% were white, with Asian (Bangladeshi, Indian, Pakistani, Other), Black (Caribbean, African, Other), Mixed Ethnic Group represented, and only one participant considered themselves to have a disability.

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 Caring 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 overwintered 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 before Christmas and more recently at the Moseley Exchange. have been along to a session and are happy with how the sy works we are happy to arrange for you to be able to carry on if you wish. As the map is web based no fancy software is n your usual web browser in most cases.



On Tuesday 22nd Churchyard map room at Handsworth there is so much us know how ma

Wednesday 30th Handsworth
Celebrating Birm project and why Free admission.

Thank you to everyone who has been involved so given to this

Newsletters produced in November 2021 and March 2022
See appendices 14 & 15

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](#)

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



Made possible with
Heritage Fund

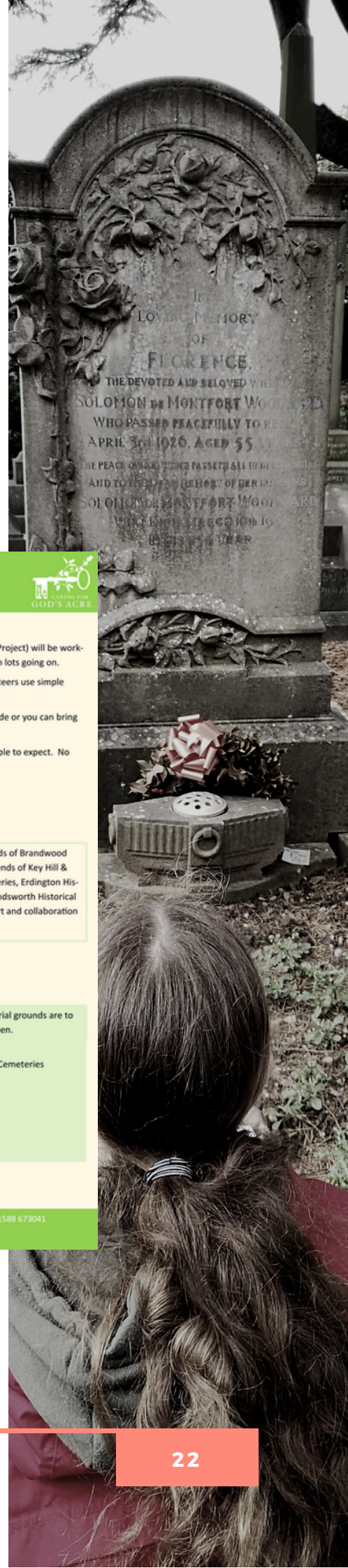


Supported by
Historic England



Garfield Weston Foundation

George(in) Sharp, Community Coordinator, Caring for Gods Acre. george@cfga.org.uk, 01588 673041
(answerphone only some days)
caringforgodsacre.org.uk



PROMOTION

ONLINE NEWSLETTERS

Join the Celebrating Birmingham's Burial Grounds Project for a

BioBlitz

Warstone Lane Cemetery

in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter

How many species can we find ?

Saturday 9th July 10am –1pm



Celebrating Birmingham's Burial Grounds Project

Churchyard Fungi Walk

Thursday 13th October, 10:30am

St Mary's Churchyard, Hamstead Road, Handsworth

Booking is essential, please contact George Sharp at george@cfga.org.uk to book your free place.

Free Event, just come along!

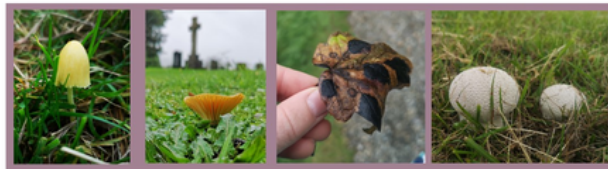
Join experts and enthusiasts and

Bees, Birds, Plants, Invertebrates

Families Welcome – Free Children's Activities

For more information please contact george@cfga.org.uk

The Celebrating Birmingham's Burial Grounds Project is an initiative of the burial ground conservation charity Caring For God's Acre. To find out more about this project and the wider work of the charity please visit www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk



Come discover what an important role our burial grounds play for the wildlife of the city

The Celebrating Birmingham's Burial Grounds Project is an initiative of the burial ground conservation charity Caring For God's Acre.

To find out more about this project and the wider work of the charity please visit www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk

Funded by:



PROMOTION

ONLINE POSTERS

SHARED ON FACEBOOK & TWITTER

We are running several memorial recording sessions as part of [Birmingham Heritage Week](#) and have places left on two of them. Come and learn how and why we record memorials and have a go yourself and help us collect the details to build digital archives of each burial ground.

This is a free, gently sociable activity. No experience or equipment needed

Wednesday 15th September... [See more](#)



11 likes 13 shares

Like Comment Share

A beautiful morning spent in Warstone Lane Cemetery today exploring the biodiversity of this special place just 1.5 miles from Birmingham's city centre.



4 likes 1 share

Like Comment Share

[Birmingham Heritage Week](#) is coming up and as part of the Celebrating Birmingham's Burial Grounds Project we are running four memorial recording sessions across the city.

In these sessions we collect the details of the memorials to add to a digital map to create a searchable archive (with photos) for each cemetery.

Memorials can tell us so much more than just names and dates. They tell us about fashion and status, relationships and religious devotion and map the social history. [See more](#)



18 likes 1 comment 4 shares

Like Comment Share

Most relevant

Write a comment...

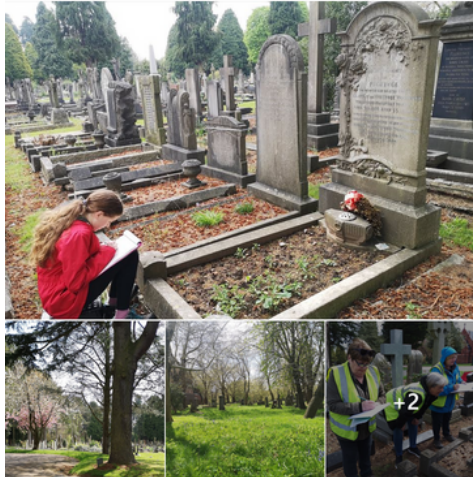
Irene Whittaker
What a wonderful job all these volunteers do to help us find our generations of ancestors. A huge thanks lovely people

Like Reply 7 w

It's National Cemeteries Week and there's lots going on with the Celebrating Birmingham's Burial Grounds project.

All sessions are free, there's more information and booking via the links.

Wednesday 10:30 - Brandwood End Cemetery... [See more](#)



3 likes 1 share

Like Comment Share

FACEBOOK: 1,370 LIKES, 1,683 FOLLOWERS

PROMOTION

SOCIAL MEDIA SAW A WIDE RANGE AND NUMBER OF POSTS WITH APPEALING VISUALS, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS LIMITED ENGAGEMENT WITH POSTS



TWITTER: 3,484 FOLLOWERS

PROMOTION

THOUGH SOME VOLUNTEERS REFERENCED SOCIAL MEDIA, RECOMMENDATIONS, FRIENDS GROUPS AND CONVERSATIONS WITH PEOPLE ON THE GROUND WERE AS IMPORTANT IN RAISING AWARENESS OF THE PROJECT

PROJECT LEGACY

Celebrating Birmingham's Burial Grounds has developed and fostered a pool of engaged and skilled volunteers keen to continue the work of memorial recording and digitisation. The challenge will be developing opportunities for these people to continue their work.


The structure of a Friends Group holds the greatest potential for future work opportunities, and those Friends Groups who have engaged with the system are best placed to continue forward with the project, for example, Brandwood End. Once working with the system, it becomes clear how simple it is to use.

Although there was limited involvement from the Archives, they will be given a login into the BGMS, opening up the maps to anyone looking for support or information from the Archives, and a 'how to' guide being produced by Josie Wall to support users to navigate the Archives..


The project raised the profile of burial ground activities to the Bereavement Services, under which a new 3 day a week Lottery Funded role has been created, with Josie Wall continuing her work. This has had an immediate impact on the burial grounds themselves and provides a focus for continuing volunteer engagement, such as with the recent holly-clearing activities at Brandwood End (see right).


The BGMS itself is an easy-to-use system, now populated with details from across each of the burial grounds, opening up the information to a remote audience in a searchable, accessible format.


Caring for God's Acre has extended its reach, visibility, and core work of biodiversity to a new, urban, more diverse audience that it didn't have prior to this project. All participants have also been granted free membership to the charity and access to the community pages, encouraging and supporting their on-going involvement.

**Jane Edwards**
15 October at 16:55 · 🌐


Sorry to bang on (not really!) Some more pics from today's Holly Clear up. Thanks Josie for organising this. The Friends are so pleased to be


**Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery**




 35


6 comments


**Don Smith**
I am so impressed with the work you guys do. I have relatives buried there and if I lived nearer, I would be there with you.
1 w


**Shelley Campbell**
It's was lovely to get out in the autumn sunshine 🍂🍁🌞
1 w

**Jane Edwards** Author

Good to see you Shelly. You certainly do your community hours!!
1 w

**Tricia Winspur**
Thoroughly enjoyed today. The cemetery seems to give me so much joy in being able to help the FOBE group in maintaining it. I no longer just see it as the beautiful place my family are buried.. It has so much more too it. Appreciate it so much more. Thank you Jane Edwards and Julia Griffin for accepting me as a member. 😊
1 w

**Debra Costello**
Thank you for doing what you do my Mam is there and I live in South Shields so it's nice to see what you are all doing to keep it nice I might see our grave one time on your pics x
1 w

**Christine Richardson**
Great work if I lived nearer I would love to help
3 d

26

RECOMMENDATIONS

Future Projects

CBBG has illuminated the value of the BGMS, alongside the importance of volunteer engagement, a community-focused approach and structured programme of activity to maximise the utility of the service and mobilise supporters.

'The problem with a project like this is that when you start it at the beginning there's nothing you can point people to to say that's the progress we're making, but now it's started you can say 'here it is, you can contribute into this.

It's been great to see, it's been great to see how George in particular, as the local person on the ground, has been just excellent and quiet and inspirational at the same time' *Father Robert Stephen*

The progress and impact of CBBG is ripe for a further funded project. An holistic approach is needed to maximise the potential of the BGMS, harnessing the power of engaged volunteers, specialist knowledge and existing resources and organisations into a structured programme of activity, to share and promote the stories to be found and the lessons to be learned from our burial grounds.

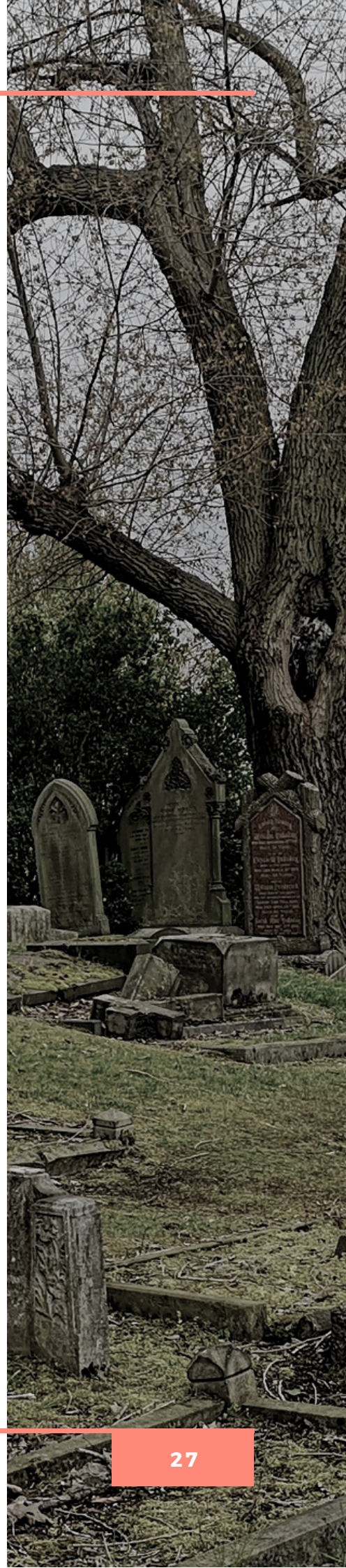
The challenge of engaging a new audience is considerable, however once people are

engaged, the enjoyment of the activities, and the skills and knowledge gained, capture people's imagination. A structured programme, with a way into these local communities (the role Josie Wall played in this project) is of vital importance to gain authentic local traction; capitalising on individual interest through a structured programme.

'It's just been a really nice thing to be a part of, I think. And I'm glad I found out about it because otherwise I mean, I would still continue to go visit churchyards when I'm on holiday, but this has been a really nice local thing to do. And actually, I think it's a beautiful surprise in the middle of the city because I think, I don't think people actually would realize quite what a lovely space it is' *Tina Kirkam*

Although the engagement from the initial projected project partners was limited throughout, the resource now available through the BGMS must be adopted for the full impact of the volunteers' work to be felt.

This has been embraced by the Archives, however there is potential for the system to be more widely promoted and used.



RESOURCES

ACCESSIBLE THROUGH THE CFGA MEMBERS' AREA



**ADDING MONUMENTS
TO THE MAP**
SEE APPENDIX 16

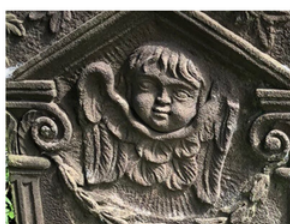


**ENTERING
INSCRIPTIONS**
SEE APPENDIX 17



EXPLORING THE MAP
SEE APPENDIX 18

**ADDITIONAL
RESOURCES ON
RECORDING
MEMORIALS CAN BE
FOUND ON THE
CFGa SITE [HERE](#)**



DISCOVERING AND RECORDING GRAVESTONES 

A beginner's guide to visiting and recording memorials in burial grounds.



PART ONE - RECORDING THE MEMORIALS 

To be used in conjunction with Professor Mytum's Memorial Recording Form and Code Sheets.



PART TWO - PHOTOGRAPHY AND ADDITIONAL RECORDING 

How to photograph gravestones to capture them in the best light.



MEMORIAL RECORD FORM 

You will need one form for each memorial you wish to make a record of.



RECORDING CODE SHEETS 

This document illustrates the styles and types of memorials and shows you how to allocate a code to describe them on the Record form.



WEBINARS WITH PROF. HAROLD MYTUM 

Series of three webinars with Professor Mytum, recorded in Dec 20/Jan 21, in which he talks about the history of burial grounds and explains his method of recording memorials.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Final outputs and outcomes

Despite the challenges of the pandemic and the lack of engagement from potential partners, Celebrating Birmingham's Burial Grounds successfully developed and engaged a pool of skilled, engaged volunteers newly enthused about the importance of monument recording and burial grounds as vital green spaces and rich sources of knowledge. The project raised awareness of the potential of burial ground-based activity, with a new role created under the Bereavement Services, and extended the public awareness of Caring for God's Acre, its work on biodiversity, and the intersection between the natural world and social history.

Outputs

- **Sites mapped** All five sites were mapped by the end of 2021
- **Memorial condition assessment system** CfGA helped to improve the existing condition assessment system within the BGMS, bringing it in line with existing approved assessments which HE approved. These assessments were taking place from the beginning of the project, and although the paper records have been made for all burial grounds, there have been some issues with adding these to the BGMS system, with only Warstone Lane currently fully digitised
- **Events and sessions** A total of 61 sessions were delivered, with 321 participants (including repeat attendees). 7 of these were natural heritage events (at least one per site), with the remainder covering built heritage. Total events and sessions:
 - Key Hill: 7
 - Brandwood End: 16
 - Warstone Lane: 13
 - Handsworth: 14
 - Jewellery Quarter: 6
 - Kings Heath: 1
 - CBBG: 1
 - Moseley: 2
 - St. Barnabas: 1

- **BGMS** The maps have been populated to varying degrees, with many volunteers keen to continue to their completion. Due to the dedication of the volunteers working independently through lockdown, St. Barnabas in Erdington was 100% completed (although this registers as 96% in the system, as some of the stones could not be read and some memorial have been moved.

Brandwood End			
1,942 names entered	28,147 memorials	835 memorials with info	3% recorded
St. Barnabas, Erdington			
3,724 names entered	1,892 memorials	1,815 memorials with info	96% recorded
St. Mary's, Handsworth			
315 names entered	2,805 memorials	123 memorials with info	6% completed
Key Hill			
713 names entered	2,772 memorials	176 memorials with info	6% completed
Warstone Lane			
4,862 names entered	2,657 memorials	1,389 memorials with info	52% completed

- **Structural review** Though Historic England declined to deliver a session on this, a recording was made of the live session by Colin Fenn, which can be viewed in the filmed talks section on page 9. Though many of the stones in

PROJECT SUMMARY

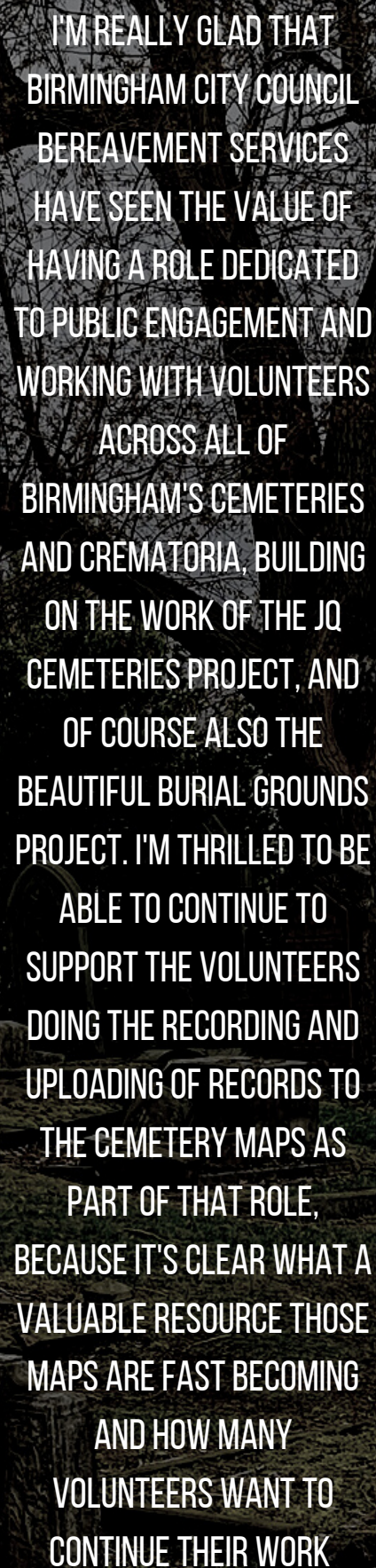
the burial grounds are Victorian and so of less interest for listing, some of the oldest stones from St Mary's Handsworth date from the 1700s, and so have been flagged with the head of the Midlands Listing team

- **Biodiversity records** A number of records have been added to NBN Atlas
- **Social history events** Due to the Archives suffering from oversubscription and understaffing (which was exacerbated by the pandemic), these were not delivered. However, Josie Wall produced a Written Research Guide (currently waiting to be submitted) as a 'how to' guide to navigate the Archives, as an alternative to the events
- **Friends Groups** Though impacted by the pandemic, CfGA offered support on Friends groups to St. Barnabas, with the project also positively impacting the Brandwood End Friends Group with new committee members
- **Burial Ground Big Events** Due to an ongoing lack of engagement with events, particularly those at the weekend, the filmed talks were hosted online as an alternative way to communicate the messages that these events would have shared.

Despite the challenges faced in reaching the number of participants initially hoped for, the number of hours given by those who did engage with the project is striking, an indication of volunteers' commitment to and enjoyment of the work, and the strength of the flexibility of the project and people's ability to undertake the work independently and remotely.

For example:

- Warstone Lane & Key Hill
 - Alan Chambers: 348 hours inputting inscriptions onto the map at home
 - Frances Shraime: 236 hours recording memorials independently on site
- Key Hill & Handsworth
 - Penny Clarke: 34 hours inputting inscriptions on the map at home
- Brandwood End
 - Mags: 7 hours in the cemetery, 15 hours at home
- St Barnabas
 - Robert & Sandra Brown: 285 hours each recording & inputting



I'M REALLY GLAD THAT BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL BEREAVEMENT SERVICES HAVE SEEN THE VALUE OF HAVING A ROLE DEDICATED TO PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND WORKING WITH VOLUNTEERS ACROSS ALL OF BIRMINGHAM'S CEMETERIES AND CREMATORIA, BUILDING ON THE WORK OF THE JQ CEMETERIES PROJECT, AND OF COURSE ALSO THE BEAUTIFUL BURIAL GROUNDS PROJECT. I'M THRILLED TO BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE VOLUNTEERS DOING THE RECORDING AND UPLOADING OF RECORDS TO THE CEMETERY MAPS AS PART OF THAT ROLE, BECAUSE IT'S CLEAR WHAT A VALUABLE RESOURCE THOSE MAPS ARE FAST BECOMING AND HOW MANY VOLUNTEERS WANT TO CONTINUE THEIR WORK

Josie Wall



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APPENDIX 1

JANE EDWARDS

I heard about Caring for God's Acre when George from CFGA approached us as an established Friends Group in Brandwood End Cemetery

We had not, as a group, heard of them before

We have worked alongside George to publicise events and also attended both the taking of details and entering the info. George also arranged for a Fungi expert to lead a walk in the cemetery which we advertised, and supported.

The project was obviously of interest to us and our members as it involves attracting people into the cemetery. When we were approached by George and were assured that contacting our group had been suggested by Birmingham City Council Bereavements Officers we were very happy to be involved as our mission is to get as many people as possible engaged with the Cemetery as a green space.

We were already involved with reading inscriptions on headstones through our work as a Friends Group and our research but it was interesting to learn the sentiments behind many well-used inscriptions.

We have always valued our headstones but the opportunity to populate a digital map was beyond our wildest dreams

As a group we have always been well aware that nature and the built environment complement each other but this project enabled us to attract a new group of people to the Cemetery who maybe had not understood this connection before.

I guess all the members of The Friends of Brandwood End Cemetery would like to think that they were 'conservation champions.

I would not say that we have a greater understanding of the importance of burial grounds as green spaces for wellbeing and community as this is the message we continually convey at our events.

We, as a group and individually, would really love to carry on with this project and would welcome the opportunity to work with Caring for Gods Acre. We would like to be able to continue the recording ourselves and we do have people willing to continue with digitising the records but we would need to have the finance to enable us to hire venues with internet facilities.

APPENDIX 2

GEMMA WATKIN

I first heard about the Celebrating Birmingham's Burial Grounds project on Brandwood End Cemetery's Facebook page. I attended a litter pick at the cemetery and when I returned home I checked their Facebook page for details of the next organised litter pick and came across a post all about the project and what a group of volunteers had been doing over the previous summer in the cemetery. The post included details of the meetings at the Moseley Exchange Centre and how the memorials would be added to a digital map. I had taken a short break from work and had some spare time before my new job began, so I went along to find out more about it. I don't usually volunteer for things but wanted to push myself to try something new.

I had never heard about Caring for God's Acre before the project, however since taking part in the project I have been telling many people about it. When I'm out collecting memorials in the cemetery and strangers approach me to see what I am doing, I explain all about the project and the organisation and encourage them to look online to find out more about it or get involved.

I'm actually yet to find anyone who has heard about the organisation. I even have a friend who is a Reverend and both she and her church community have never come across it before either.

To begin with my involvement in the project started off with attending the regular sessions at the Moseley exchange, where I added the pre collected inscriptions onto the digital map with guidance from George. As time went on, I found myself taking more packs of inscriptions home with me to complete. Once I'd finished them I then emailed George to see if she had any more inscriptions ready to do that she could send me in the post.

I then asked about how the inscriptions were collected in the cemetery and whether they had to be collected during organised sessions or not. By this time I had begun my new job so I was only free in the evenings or at weekends but really wanted to help. George explained everything thoroughly to me and I started going out into the cemetery for a couple of hours on the weekend accompanied by my Dad who had also become really interested in the project.

After some time spent recording in the cemetery, I then tried my hand at photographing the memorials using my mobile phone. I'm not that great with technology so it took me a short while to figure out how I could transfer the photos from my phone, onto my laptop then upload them onto the digital map. I tried a couple to begin with, asked George to check I'd done it correctly then continued.

Now I help on the project by adding inscriptions onto the digital map that have already been recorded, collecting the inscriptions out in the cemetery, photographing them and uploading them all onto the map.

What attracted me to the project was having the chance to read the inscriptions, take time to find out about some of the history within the cemetery and help with such a monumental task of collecting the memorials.

The ease of the technology involved, the simplicity of the process, being able to continue the work at home in my own time and the relaxed atmosphere of the group, makes it all an enjoyable activity to participate and be involved in.

The highlight of the project for me was being out in the cemetery collecting the inscriptions then returning home and adding them to the digital map. It gave me a great sense of achievement to complete whichever section I had been given, especially if it was a very large section!

Statements:

- *Would you agree with the statement 'I understand more about what monuments can teach us about the places we live'* Agree
- *Would you agree with the statement 'I understand more about the benefits of monument recording and digitisation'* Agree
- *Would you agree with the statement 'I have a greater understanding of how nature and the built environment complement each other'* Agree
- *Would you agree with the statement 'I consider myself a conservation champion'* Disagree - I don't consider myself as a conservation champion

Would you agree with the statement 'I have an increased understanding of the importance of burial grounds as green spaces for well being and community' Agree

I do see myself continuing to be involved with this project as I thoroughly enjoy working on it. I would like to see it through to the end.

I would need to have access to the digital map, the recording sheets and the sections of the cemetery maps showing which inscriptions still need recording to be able to continue.

I would like to share that when I have been inputting the inscriptions onto the digital map, I sometimes come across people with intriguing names or circumstances in which they have died and I often take the time to research online to see if I can find out more information about that person. I find it fascinating how the inscriptions have changed through the years with what was in fashion at the time and the grandeur of some of the types of memorials.

I would just like to say how wonderful it has been to meet and work with the people involved in this project, especially George, who has been so welcoming and friendly. She has been extremely helpful and informative in regards to anything that I have asked her about and also Julia Griffin, Chairperson of the cemetery, who is equally as welcoming and encouraging.

APPENDIX 3

LISA FAIR

So where did you hear about the celebration Burmese burial grounds project? When did you kind of first find out about it?
It was through my involvement with the Friends of Brandwood end. And they'd done the mapping of this cemetery digitally, and then George got in touch about volunteers to do the inscribing for the digital map, over a year ago.

OK, excellent. And had you heard of caring for God's acre before you got involved with the project?
No.

And could you give me a bit of an overview of sort of your involvement, like practically what you were, what you did on the project?
Yes I've done the Graveyard inscriptions, and I've also done the inscribing and putting on the database. So that's what I've done.

OK, excellent. What was it that first attracted you to the project? Obviously if you're very involved in the Friends already, I guess there was already a tie there.

Well, it was less to do with the friends and more to do with my interest in social and family history, really. And knowing how much information you can get from a gravestone that isn't necessarily documented on a death certificate or anywhere else. So being able to digitally map those things and see with the photograph, especially if you're not local to an area. I thought it was a great idea.

And what was the highlight of the project for you?

I really enjoyed having a look at the inscriptions actually and what it tells you about. how people thought about each other and they're their placing time? You know, things like she kept a good house.

Would you say that you have more of an understanding of monuments and what they can teach us about where we live?
Absolutely.

And would you agree that you understand the benefits more or more about the benefits of the recording and the digitisation process?
Yep.

And would you say you have more of an understanding of how nature and the built environment complement each other?
I haven't done any of the fungi walks that I know were available. I couldn't, but I would have liked to have done that but the different sorts of fungi and the lichen on them and the way the material changes over time and the animal life. Those are all fascinating.

So that's sort of more of a would you say that's an area you'd be interested in finding more about?

Actually what I'd be more interested in would be finding out more about the monuments themselves like the, you know, like the broken column being symbolic and being able to read the symbolic symbolism a little bit more clearly.

Would you consider yourself a conservation champion?

Not a champion. Certainly, I'm a positive believer in conservation. But I don't. I rarely do anything specific to further that.

So would you say that you have that your understanding of these spaces as places for well-being and community has changed at all through the project?

One of the reasons I got involved with the friends was the sense of peace That you get in a place like Brandwood End. It's an old cemetery, and it's originally built on the lines of an Arboretum, so there's a lot of trees, a lot of wildlife, very peaceful. And it's 53 acres in the middle of a busy city and during lockdown, I know a lot of people found walking through. Certainly that has made a difference, yeah.

I don't think many people would think of a cemetery as being a place to go for some, peace and quiet, because they have obviously the association with death and misery. But doing the inscribing when you recognize it, the most common word that you come across is love. I thought was quite profound really.

Do you see yourself continuing to be involved in this kind of project and is there anything that you'd need to support you to continue to be involved?

No, I'm quite happy to carry on. I like the fieldwork part of it. I was there yesterday, Wednesday, actually, with Josie and it might be that we, the Friends, will carry on, if the project doesn't continue because we find it useful, and we do, you know, histories of people to be able to find out a little bit more about them and to be able to look them up.

I think I've enjoyed being involved. I like the social history aspect of it. I think I've learned something from it. I found it quite addictive. Once you start. And I'm glad to have had the opportunity to be.

APPENDIX 4

GILL CARMICHAEL

Where did you first hear about celebrating Birmingham's burial grounds? The project. How did you kind of first get involved?

Well, I think we watched Josie deliver a presentation about the burial grounds, and then somebody who's connected to the U3A set up a visit. And that's how we got in sort of that way. I mean, they only just visited and then we sort of became more involved in it.

And tell me a little bit more about your involvement in the project, what have you kind of been involved in?

Well, when we arrived, usually we're given an area and I come along with my husband and one of us reads and one of us records to get the information off the Stones. And then at a later date, either I think it's George sends us a pack and then we just enter it on the database. We've got passwords and we do it that way.

Okay, Fantastic.

In fact, we've still got some to do.

And had you heard of Caring for God's Acre before you were involved in the project?

Not Caring for God's acre, but I knew that God's acre was like a cemetery. A graveyard.

And what was it that attracted you to the project? What sort of made you get involved in the first place?

Well I'm generally very interested in history, and I've been studying my own family history, and with Warstone Lane my. I think my great great grandmother was actually buried there. And I managed to find out where the grave was. And I think it was Josie who took me around. But of course, it's all under hedges and trees. And she has a feeling that the stones are probably flattened or buried. And at some point, I think she said in the future they'd probably clear that area. But it's a communal grave. So I'm generally interested in graveyards. You know, they're sort of, you know, I've walked around them and had a look at the names and I found gravestones and burials connected to my family history in other places, not Warstone Lane. But yes, my great, great is buried there.

Are you particularly local to Warstone Lane?

Uh, we live in Solihull. So it's a train ride away, you know?

And what would you say the highlights of the project were for you?

I think it's the opportunity to actually record the messages and the families on these stones just really for I mean, some people don't really get very interested in their family histories till they're starting to get a lot older and they're all sort of decaying and, and well, not all of them. Some of them are quite rare, but, you know, I just needed need to actually record it. And I feel as though I'm doing something for social history if you like.

So would you agree that kind of having gone through this process, you have more of an understanding of how monuments can teach us about kind of the places that we live?

Oh, yes, yes. I've always thought that. I mean, we are active members of National Trust and English Heritage and Victorian Society. I think old buildings and places have so much to tell us now and you can get really sort of drawn into these areas and we feel quite drawn to Warstone Lane now. Now we've worked there, we've only been to Key Hill once but I expect we'd have more of an affinity with it if we, if we went there more. But at the moment, we like Warston. There's a nice, warm feeling, if you like.

Do you feel like you've got a good understanding of the benefits of that and sort of the purpose behind it?

Oh, yes. Yes. I would like to think that what I've recorded someone will search for at some point in the future, and I would like to think that it would be easily accessible to people with a computer who wants to chase up family history and search. It would be nice to know they can get to it, preferably without having to pay. But, you know, these things are there. I do understand that these things have to be paid for.

Would you say the project has given you insight into how nature and the built environment can complement each other and work together?

I think I do, especially in a graveyard, because of the trees, and I think there is evidence of wildlife, but we've actually been more focused on what we're doing. But I think it is important. It is a very sort of you can walk around and it's it feels sort of relaxed basically it's a nice atmosphere. You know, I feel like I'm sort of enveloped, if you like, in the history of the place as well.

Would you say you're a conservation champion?

I think I think it's so important. And it does worry me that they are gradually crumbling away. And, you know, that's why we need to record them. I know there can be re-erected. But again, that costs money and we're all sort of safety conscious of, you know, stones falling on people and everything. But I do wish we could actually have some of them, you know, re-erected and repaired. It would be good. I'm thinking also of my own great, grandmother, grave in Whittington in the little cemetery there. And my great uncle is buried right in front of her with his brother. And he's he had a medal, a military medal in the First World War. But her stone is directly behind and it is flat. And we only found it by accident because it was covered in undergrowth. And, you know, and I just feel sorrowful that these stones could be lost in the past if people don't find them or care for them.

Do you see the benefit of them as green spaces as for wellbeing and kind of as part of a community?

I do, yes. I do feel quite strongly about that. It concerns us that some people exercise their dogs around the grave, the graveyard, and the first or second time we went, it was most unpleasant because we were recording quite close to the entrance in the path and there was a lot of, you know, dog excrement around. I'm glad to see that there's a sign being put up to dissuade people and the heavy fines, but it does sort of detract if you've got to look where you're treading all the time and we have to there actually because some of the stones are under trees. But yes, it's a tranquil place usually. It's very disrespectful as well. You know, exercise a dog in a graveyard.

And do you see yourself continuing to be involved in this kind of project?

I'm happy to continue with this project. Yes, I would like to be able to.

In terms of continuing with this kind of project, would there be anything that would sort of make that easier for you to do and a thing that you kind of think needs to happen to be able for you to continue this kind of work?

It seems to be working for us at the moment. It's helpful to know in advance days so we can actually plot them in the diaries because we both do lots of activities and, you know, and we are our weeks get very full and it's always helpful to know in advance when these activities are going to happen.

I've actually enjoyed doing it. It's it feels just sort of I feel like I'm really contributing something to Birmingham as well.

APPENDIX 5

ROBERT CARMICHAEL

Had you heard about Caring for Gods acre before the project?

During the pandemic lockdown we watched some Zoom presentations hosted by the University of Birmingham. One of these was Josie presenting on Warstone Lane cemetery which we thought was excellently presented and also very interesting. Sometime later after lockdown a friend mentioned to us about the Celebrating Birmingham's burial grounds meeting at Warstone Lane which we went to and really enjoyed.

We had not previously heard about Caring for God's acre but we feel it is really worthwhile.

Involvement in the project

Initially, we went along to record the inscriptions on Gravestones. Our first visit was in autumn (possibly September 2021). When the winter weather set in we were invited to learn about the database input by George and accepted the invitation. Although we have a lot of other things which we are committed to we have found we can do some site work at Warstone lane and Key Hill and also do some data input at home.

Attraction to the project and highlight

Firstly as with anything it has to be something that appeals to me and for that must thank Josie's presentation back in lockdown. Then of course need to find that actual work is interesting and worthwhile which it is. I feel that both George and Josie have a passion for the project which is a good motivator and one of the main reasons for continuing to work on the project. Finally I must say that George, Josie, and the other participants are all interested in the project and also very pleasant people.

Although it is all very interesting the most rewarding part for me is on site uncovering some text which has probably not been read for decades.

Statements

What monuments can teach us about places where we live? I think I had a good understanding of this already but the project reinforces the understanding.

Benefits of recording and digitising. Definitely. But of course this will also depend on how the public can access it and how easy it will be to operate.

Nature and the built environment complement each other. This should be the case but at present, I feel we are traveling in the wrong direction. Easing on planning regulations, building on green belt, some totally out of context modern architecture.

Conservation champion. To a degree but probably I am not proactive enough. We do live in a conservation area, I have made objections to planning requests both locally (demolish arts and crafts house and build 20 apartments) and wider afield (Warwick castle to construct hundreds of glamping units in ancient forest). But that's as far as it goes to date.

Importance of burial grounds. My wife Gill has a strong interest in family history so we have visited burial grounds quite often. Many people can see how beautiful and important they are but also it is discouraging that some people view them only as places to exercise their dogs and allow them to foul the burial ground.

Continuing to be involved. I would like to continue to be involved with local projects but only as a volunteer and not to lead a group. We need passionate professionals like George and Josie to lead.

APPENDIX 6

TINA KIRKHAM

Could you tell me a little bit about your involvement in the project?

Yeah. Well, initially I think we were on a walk around. It was an organised walk by somebody not connected with the Jewellery Quarter, he does history tours like the city centre. And we were doing a walk around both cemeteries, Warstone Lane and Key Hill, and I just thought I'd have a look, he said there were some volunteers and they were sort of doing sort of site maintenance, you know, clearing leaves and tidying up around the grave. So I thought, ooh, I'll just have a look and see if there's anything I might be able to get involved with, came across on the website the phone number for Josie. So had a chat with her and she was sort of very accommodating and was just like, yeah, come along, we'll have a chat and see what you can do. So I had an initial chat with her and we sort of said we would get involved with sort of recording the memorials really, so we sort of thought we might go along once a month. But I would say probably in the time we've been involved if we've done 6 visits, that's probably been it. But we thought, yeah, I really thought I'd like the idea of recording the memorials. And then obviously we would come home, write them up onto the database. And then that would be it. So that's how I kind of how we got started really.

And had you heard of caring for God's acre before you started the project?

No.

And then what was it sort of that particularly drew you to it? It sounds like Josie being there and actually being able to kind of see it in person was helpful.

Yeah. And I mean I think when we go on holiday, I always like visiting really old churchyards and I really like, I just like the feel of them to be honest. I mean some people think it's a bit weird, don't they? But I just think it's a lovely connection with people that lived before, and so I think when I walked around and I didn't realise, particularly, I fell in love with Key Hill, I think. And I didn't realise quite how beautiful it is. And I think I just felt that if I could just do a little bit and be somewhere that I find I really like. It's a bit like an oasis really, in the center of the city. So I just thought, yeah. And then I kind of think, I know that might sound ridiculous in a way, but I kind of know the people that are there are dead. But I kind of think it would be nice to think, that people are still interested in them and they're interested in their lives and you know. So I kind of have this sense of thinking that they, I hope they like the fact that we want to around and still are interested in them

And would you say, would you say that Key Hill was a particular highlight for you?

Yeah, I think it is. I think, I mean also knowing the light, but I think he has me just think, I don't know, it's got a particular feel about it. I just thought it was lovely. And I think, I suppose with the people, a couple of people buried there, you know, people that you can associate with things like Avery scales, you know, the inventor of tennis well, and the modern tennis as we know it. Birds Custard. You know, it's just. Yeah. You know these are names you hear of, aren't they? And you don't necessarily know anything about them. And then, I don't know, it just brings it to life a little bit, I think., although they're not there. They are there, aren't they?

So would you say that you understand more about what monuments can teach us about the places we live?

Yes, I think so yeah.

And would you say you understand more about the benefits of the actual monument recording and digitisation?

I do because I think it can be lost otherwise. I think unless people know it and pass it on via word of mouth, and then even so, that information can get distorted or might not be correct. And I think it's a lovely way of keeping that information for people to research, whether it's for the right use for their own families or just from a historical perspective, really.

And would you say you have a greater understanding of how nature and the built environment complement each other?

Yeah, I mean I quite like the way that nature kind of comes back in and it's a lovely kind of wild space, isn't it? And I think I was talking to George, and she was talking about how some of the churchyards got some of the kind of the, I'm not gonna say this in the right way, but like the original sort of, we've got some of the older sort of species and yeah, because they're undisturbed, aren't they

in a way, they're not cultivated. So they're quite good to kind of know what was there before, but also they are a great habitat potentially for wildlife, yeah.

And I do like the way that nature is as they've left alone. Yeah, it kind of it, you know, it sorts itself out in a way, doesn't it, if we don't interfere with it sometimes. It might need a bit of management because of what we've done to it. But ordinarily it would probably, I might be being a little bit naive, but it would sort itself out, it would probably find the balance, wouldn't it, without our intervention.

Would you call yourself a conservation champion or is it more the sort of the family history or how would you kind of define yourself I suppose?

I think I went into it more as a Historical interest, I think. Not specifically a family interest, but more just a general interest in people that lived before. Because it feels like a tangible reference to who was here before because you, you know, I wouldn't have met any of those people, so I don't know that they existed. It's only from what you touch or read about, isn't it?

Would you say that you have an increased understanding of the importance of burial grounds as green spaces for sort of for both well-being and community?

Yeah, I think so. I mean, I think if, and this is the thing, I suppose it depends how they're managed and it can be quite subjective, I guess. I think certainly old churchyards, and I am speaking personally, I find them incredibly tranquil spaces. And I can't say I find the same for modern ones somehow. And I don't know why that is. Maybe it's because I do particularly like older buildings or older things, so maybe I don't know

Do you see yourself continuing to be involved in this kind of project, and is there anything that you'd need to be able to make that happen?

Um, well when I saw your evaluation I think I slightly panicked that we might be running out of time to be involved in it because as I said, I spoke to George a few weeks ago and we were like, yeah great, we can kind of restart and try and come every couple of weeks and yeah, life's got in the way again. But I would like to, even if it's once a month to come and do some recording. And then George had made it a bit easier by saying some people love to just do the inputting, right? So if you do the recording. You send those to me. And then other people will type all the information in. Yeah. So that, to me, seemed a better option for us because we can go record, come back and our bit's done.

So she was sort of, you know, quite accommodating in that sense really. So we would like to think we would continue because, as I said, I love it as a space to go to. And I love reading the memorials.

So is there anything else you'd want to share?

It's just been a really nice thing to be a part of, I think. Really. And I'm glad I found out about it because otherwise I mean, I would still continue to go visit churchyards when I'm on holiday, but this has been a really nice local thing to do. And actually, I think it's a beautiful surprise in the middle of the city because I think, I don't think people actually would realize quite what a lovely space it is.

APPENDIX 7

FATHER ROBERT STEPHEN

So first question, had you heard of caring for God's acre before the project?

No. I had been in Saint Mary's, we had an extensive churchyard, and it had been looked after by Community payback volunteers. So it was fairly piecemeal and then I heard about the project that was going on at Handsworth Cemetery and contacted George at that point. And that was just at the point that Handsworth Cemetery was undoable. So we've provided it was a very neat fitting together of circumstances.

Tell me a little bit about your involvement because you've moved on now is that right?

Yes, I was Rector of Handsworth until the 31st of July. So basically I did what all Anglican clergyman do and made decisions without consulting anyone. The Churchyard Saint Mary's is one of the more significant, the church having been there since about 900 and certainly in the last couple of centuries since graves have been marked, there are one or two people who thought they were important at the time who are decomposing there. So yes. It was very useful, but we had had the census completed in 1984 to 1987, so there was a hard copy of the grave inscriptions that were readable at that point together with our map. But the idea of digitising it became very attractive because three four times a week I would get inquiries from people who were tracing somebody that they didn't like when they were alive.

Just wanting to really check they'd gone. That's interesting, so actually you were getting quite a lot of that kind of people approaching you for that kind of thing.

Yes, this is what, 3, three and a half thousand people buried in the marked graveyard and probably 3000 in the paupers graveyard. So there's a lot of people there.

Yeah, that's quite a significant presence, isn't it. So how did you first learn about the Birmingham's Burial Ground project, where did you actually find out about it?

The secretary of Handsworth Historical Society is very clued into all sorts of community things. Had heard that it was happening at Handsworth Cemetery and thought there may be some linkage that would be useful. So she gave me the nod. And that's when I made the contact.

OK, brilliant. And I mean it's, it's still a question we're asking everyone, but what impact did the pandemic have on your kind of ability to do your work and I suppose more generally on Handsworth as well?

I think the Archbishop of Canterbury in time will never be forgiven for closing churches because people needed somewhere to be and a church like St. Mary's and Handsworth, there's plenty of space for people to space out. So we were dealing with people who were very much alone and some of the elderly people with no real support network around them so that we tried to fill the gaps where we could. Certainly by having regular contact with everybody. But I confess I freely and always broke the rules. Now I did one funeral according to the rules. I contacted the family by telephone and I turned up at the funeral like an idiot, and I didn't know who anybody was and there was no relationship. So therefore it was just a service delivered and I never did it again. Even in the worst of the lockdowns I met with the families because it was important.

Yeah, I mean it certainly seems from conversations I've had with other people that the burial grounds in Birmingham are very important to people. They're very actively important to them. Would you say that's the case at Saint Mary's?

Absolutely. I don't know if you can see the dog behind me, but I've got two dogs and they went round the Handsworth churchyard every day at least once, and meeting people who found the space important, whether it was people who were coming to visit graves, which was less and less because the graveyard was close to new burials 1937. But the space was used by all sorts of people. I did once interrupted a porn shoot too that was going on and did say that they hadn't paid any fees so they couldn't continue till they did.

Fair enough, fair enough!

So the graveyard, it's been used for all, all sorts of things, and certainly in the early years I was there was often used for people sleeping rough. Because the tree coverage provided more shelter than they would get elsewhere.

The inquiries that you would have from people wanting to look at those records, did they tend to be local people or was it people who'd moved to the area?

Mostly, it would have been people who were away from the area, and about half of those would have been from the colonies from America and Australia. And I suppose that was just the nature of the expansion of Handsworth in the 19th Century. In 1700 the parish of Handsworth covered most of north west Birmingham from Soho Hill all the way

to Kings Standing and had 200 souls in it in 1700. And so the explosion of the population meant that a great many looked for opportunities elsewhere.

And I suppose for those people actually digital records are much easier to be able to share than having to leaf through the paper records.

Yes or get the library to do it and the cost involved with that. And those that have pictures attached, so much the better because then they can see and then we can extort money from them.

As you should! Has the project, and the work that's happened through the project, changed how you see St Mary's and how people engage with the space. I mean I suppose that sort of runs alongside everything opening back up again and people returning to a certain extent.

I think that St Mary's, because it had gone into decline as a church when I arrived there were 15 people that came on the first Sunday and so it had lost confidence in its place, it was of real significance with Bolton and Murdoch buried in various corners of the place and so part of what we've done in the seven and a half years that we've been there is to build confidence in the significance of space again, and I think with Covid we'd built it sufficiently so that confidence continued. So just before Covid we celebrated James Watts staying dead for 200 years, it's not unique but they thought it was important, and then just after of course most recently we've had the Queen's 90th celebration and there's that real sense in which the Parish church, the established church, can gather people in a way that nowhere else can, and as they come in they walk through grounds, burial grounds, and then they become aware that this vast expanse of burial ground beyond and the Aston Villa supporters have to walk to the furthest point to meet their founder William McGregor who didn't even have Aston Villa on his gravestone, that was put on later by supporters.

Will the information recorded and transcribed by the volunteers impact your work going forward? I suppose that's not so relevant for you as you've moved on, but do you see it having an impact?

The more that that develops, the more accessible the records become the more positive the engagement can be, rather than just somebody emailing through and saying my great Aunt Jessie died in 302 and the records say St Mary's has her, where is she, oh I don't know. So to digitise it to have that accessible, to have the location plan accessible actually means we're freer to get on with the job we're there to do rather than being curators of a mausoleum.

And I suppose that ties into my next question which is about long terms impact, which seems to be about strengthening the connections that are already there.

Yes, it's when you consider that when you walk round the graveyard the reality of infant mortality in the Victorian era becomes so clear that almost every other grave has an infant in it. When you think of the links, the history with some of the victims who died in the corn riots in Birmingham being buried in the churchyard. When you have people like William Booth, the forger who was executed twice because the rope broke the first time, then he did it again and got caught. But how they got him out of Stafford jail to be buried in consecrated ground, there's lots of those stories, that instead of just administering general enquiries, you then have time to follow up. Because it's quite an exciting place in terms of all those individuals.

I suppose hopefully you can reach a bit of a new audience that way and maybe catch people who have an interest in the history side of things, in the wildlife side of things, give them a bit of a focus.

I learnt from one of George's presentations that city birds sing louder than country birds because they have to be heard above the traffic, I never knew that before.

Final question, would you like to see more of this type of project, but possibly more importantly what would place like St Mary's really need to make that happen?

The things that happen any project like this are funding and manpower, so the funding that's been available I would be very supportive, and very happy to give any letter of support to ensure that that continues. Because at another level it has drawn some volunteers from the community together in an interesting way that they hadn't encountered each other but they've got to know each other through this. And yes it's dusted down a few gravestones, but for some people who've been on their own that's a very powerful thing, just to have an excuse to encounter others, and it is inspiring the volunteers. The problem with a project like this is that when you start it at the beginning there's nothing you can point people to say that's the progress we're making, but now it's started you can say 'here it is, you can contribute into this'

Yes 'here's what you're actually materially doing, and here's the impact it has, it's so much easier to engage people that way

It's been great to see, it's been great to see how George in particular, as the local person on the ground, has been just excellent and quiet and inspirational at the same time.

APPENDIX 8

PAULETTE BURKILL

I guess as a starting point and could you tell me a little bit about your involvement with the project?

Well, I think I had an e-mail out of the blue. Umm, presumably because I'm involved with the local History Society, and that it was from the project and they said they were sort of looking at 3 or 4 cemeteries in Birmingham and, you know, sort of digitizing them to make them accessible via website eventually. And they were looking at Handsworth Cemetery.

And I replied, Handsworth cemetery is enormous. I said, you know, but Handsworth Parish Church is very interesting. I've got some. You know, interesting memorials and once they discovered the scale of the problem which Handsworth Cemetery, they did contact the rector and because I'm interested in local history and I love old churchyards and I just thought ohh yes I want to I want to get involved with this so that's more or less how it started.

And had you heard of caring for God's acre before you started the project?

No I hadn't, no.

And what was it particularly that attracted you to it?

Well, I think I mean our society already has a paper copy of the of a survey that was done in the 1980s and I am the for some reason, although somebody connected with the church who did it, the church itself hadn't got a copy. So every time they had a grave inquiry the rector had to pass it on to our society. And it, and I'm about the only one in the society who is interested, I'm not always there looking for graves. But I'm you know, certainly I have been in. Met a few people there and showed them where their particular grave was, if we could reach it and if it was still standing. So I have this interest in old churchyards and memorials. Not so much. I know that Caring for God's Acre is interested in the biodiversity side as well. That wasn't my prime interest.

So were you involved with both the recording at the churchyard but also the digitisation or was there sort of one thing you focused on more?

So far it's been mainly the actual checking the memorials of churchyard, I did do one transcription session when I was the only person in the whole of Birmingham who turned up to help. I mean, they put it on Facebook, they put it on local radio and everything. And we've got a few more helpers now, including a Muslim guy who I've worked with for the past two churchyard sessions we've done, and he's joined our Historical Society as well, so that's very nice. And I have sort of registered to. I have sitting here reminding me I have got some that I've got, I've got permission to transcribe onto the site, and they've been sitting there since April and I haven't had time yet.

And what would you say, have there been any kind of particular highlights of the project for you?

No highlights. We have found one or two graves that aren't on the 1980 survey for some reason. Which is of interest to me because it adds to our knowledge for when we do get inquiries. We've also frustratingly not being able to find some and because I mean we were there yesterday and we could we knew that on this patch of ground we were standing on there was there was one underneath but we haven't got any the right sort of equipment to excavate if you like. So you know, and the last but one session I did, I was just checking the details on this one and I realised I was standing on something hard and I'd sort of brushed away the grass and there was a different flat grave by the side of it with evidence of like holes where railings had been. Ohh, and that wasn't that wasn't on the original survey either and I thought, well, would they have missed this one? Yes, it's sort of adding to our survey as well as this future one.

So those are the highlights. Finding new ones! I would go more often if I could.

I've heard that from a couple of people actually. But if there was more, they would do more.

Yeah, because you do a session and you're really just getting into the swing of it and you've got to stop. And I appreciate that. You know, if George is coming down from Shropshire, , Birmingham or her colleague from Birmingham Jewellery Quarter gets involved and they've got other things to do as well, but.

Would you say you understand more about what monuments can teach us about the places we live.

I won't say I understand more about what they can teach us, but I think it is just fascinating too. The amount of information on them. 20 odd years ago I used to do a talk about, specifically based around the churchyard, about the amount of information on the old gravestones. Because you even get the cause of death on some of them.

Somewhere in the churchyard there's a 16 year old who died of sunstroke. Somebody who was knocked down by a horse while she was crossing the road. Somebody fell off the ladder. Footballer was hit on the head by a football. That's when the footballs were made of leather and a lot more hard, I should imagine, than now. And it's got people's addresses and sometimes their occupations and there's one that we saw yesterday, it's absolutely full of writing and it lists all the things this man was involved with; was president of this, that and the other it was involved with football. He was a football referee, it was Cricket Club.

And right at the bottom, he says it says something about his beloved wife, without whom none of this could have been achieved. And I thought, but I don't think he was ever at home.

So it does I suppose paint a bit of a picture and if I had more time, I'd probably try and create one.

And would you say that you understand more about the benefits of monument recording and digitisation?

Well, I think I've always thought that. I suppose since family history became more widespread and more of an interest to people. I think the more access you've got to records, the better. And these days, of course, digitisation is going to help because our paper survey fills 4 ring binders. And if you can just go to a website and search, then obviously that's going to make life much easier.

Would you say you have a greater understanding of how nature and the built environment complement each other?

Not really, but I haven't really thought. When you know sort of first had the information from the project, that churchyards are one of the few sort of undisturbed places as far as cultivation is concerned. And, you know, wildlife and wildflowers and things, far too many nettles. But, you know, I haven't really thought of it in that sense before so that's of less importance to me, but I do appreciate it.

Would you call yourself a conservation champion or sort of how, if you were to define yourself?

I probably would, if it was left up to me, I'd keep everything. And I know that's not always practical, but you know, I think it is important that things like, especially things like old churchyards,

And that ties in quite nicely to my next question, which is about the importance of burial grounds as green spaces, so spaces for well-being and community. Is that something that's sort of particularly significant to you?

Not really, and I mean I'm sure there are churchyards around the country where it's just nice to go and have a little walk around. I wouldn't recommend it at this particular one. You do find some strange people walking around it sometimes and I did once go and photograph a grave for someone that inquired and it was one of these flat table-like ones and I found a blanket. And a couple of little lamps on it. So I think somebody had been sleeping there and you know, you find beer cans and things around. So I, I think there are people do go and walk their dogs around the churchyard, but it's not a very easy space to navigate this one.

And do you see yourself continuing to be involved in this kind of project and is there anything that you would need to kind of support to make that happen?

Continued good health. Yes, I'm working, I certainly would like to stay involved because we've only completed a very small area really so far and I know the funding's not going to last beyond the end of this year and I'm just wondering what will happen as regards the rest, but it would be nice to be able to continue to keep recording it so at least we could eventually get it up onto a website.

Yeah, OK, excellent. Well, that's everything from me. And do you have anything, anything else you'd particularly wanna share?

No, I haven't. I haven't got any stories or pictures, so it's just increasing my knowledge of who's there. Having found some of these ones that aren't either aren't on the survey, I'm hopeful of finding eventually one or two that people have inquired about that's I've said we've got no, record of the memorial, and it may be that they shouldn't have one, but it just fascinates me.

APPENDIX 9

PENNY CLARKE

Tell me a little bit about your involvement in the project.

OK, well. My husband and I have been working together most of the time, although I've done a few sessions separately. We live in a place called Walsall, which is not far from Birmingham City centre. So it's not very far for us to travel, which is a bonus really, and we can do it on public transport. So we've been, we've been working in Key Hill Cemetery in the Jewellery Quarter in Birmingham and also after a while George mentioned that they were really needing help in Saint Mary's Church Road in Handsworth. Which is an area we know well. We were brought up not far from there. So we've been going to Saint Mary's as well. And I've got two family graves in Key Hill cemetery, people I never knew. I mean they're all you know, over 100 years since the last person was buried there. So I felt a bit of an affinity to Key Hill, I guess. Yes. So we've been going along and manning the dustpan and brush and water spray to try and decipher what's on the various monuments and it. It's a bit bizarre to say we've enjoyed it, but it has been a good way to spend our time. We've learned an awful lot. You know, had a few laughs as well and quite a bit of sorrow. You know, graves, lots of children in these very, you know, older, older churchyards, so many, you know, babies. And we've just had the baby in the family. So that resonates a bit more, I guess.

Had you heard of caring for God's acre before you got involved with the project?

No, no, I had no idea about the organization.

And where did you hear about the project itself? How did you kind of come across it initially?

I would imagine from the Friends of the Key Hill Warstone Lane cemeteries through their Facebook page.

And what was it that was appealing to you about the project? What made you get involved in the first place?

So I think I have an affinity to Key Hill Cemetery and because a previous project many years ago had transcribed some of the gravestones and saved the information, I was able to find my family's graves quite easily. So I sort of saw it as a sort of a carry on from that really, not only for people searching family history, but just to try and conserve, preserve what's there because it doesn't stay there forever, you know, all the information that's there, it's quite apparent in Saint Mary's particularly there was a documented study, I think it was about 30 years ago, 40 years ago and the deterioration on a lot of those gravestones since then. Lots of information has been lost.

Right, so even in that short amount of time.

Yeah, it's quite um. It's quite scary really.

And was there what was the highlight of the project for you?

Well, I have to say. It's very bizarre, but I was in Saint Mary's Church. That's not sorry. I'm laughing because it is not meant to be funny. But there was a gravestone we were transcribing, and on the top of the gravestone was an image of a hand with a finger pointing upwards, and we couldn't work out whether it was done at the time or subsequently. But the that the lettering the word 'gone' had been written on the bottom of the hand. So, I've never seen anything like that and. yeah, it's just really amused me that has. Bizarre. So that has to be a highlight really. But also, you know, we've met quite a few people and, you know, got to know some extremely knowledgeable people about a topic that we've only got like a general public's perspective on so we've learned an awful lot and I am quite an information hungry sort of person, so I've got a lot out of that.

Would you agree that you understand more about what monuments can teach us about the places we live, now that you've been involved in the project.

Yes, yes.

And would you say you understand more about the benefits of monument recording and also the digitisation?

Well, yes, because it preserves graveyards, hopefully forever, and makes it so accessible to people anywhere. So I mean, I guess a lot of the thrust of this is, from the users' point, is family history research predominantly, but obviously depending on how the digital map is indexed. Um, you know, I don't know to what detail that's going to be indexed. But, you know, there's potential there, finding out, you know, places people lived, what work they did, you know how many children they had.

Would you say you've got a greater understanding of how nature and the built environment complement each other?

Yes, I think so. I mean we've not focused massively on that area, which I know is your area. But you know, I'm aware anyway, from a general point of view that you know a fairly untidy overgrown looking churchyard is a haven for wildlife and you know, plant life, whereas the, you know, the clipped manicure beautiful looking at graveyards, which I'm sure are much easier to work in from this point of view, you know, quite some sterile really. Yeah, but that reflects my take on life. I mean one thing about Key Hill is this. I don't know 20-30, I've no idea how long ago, the train line was put through for the metro train in Birmingham. It's not a train, it's like a tram thing which travels through Wolverhampton and Birmingham and. There was an appeal in the local newspaper shows you how long ago it was because I don't read newspapers now. Anyone who had a relative or family grave to contact the department to see whether that grave was going to be disturbed by the building work because they're going to I don't know if they're going to reenter bodies or just move the memorials. And I'd always been told by my father that grandfathers buried in there, so I sent off my grandfather's name and he wasn't buried in there, but I have subsequently found out it was my father's grandfather. Just a little 8 year old, when he said, Grandfather. I just thought you meant my grandfather who had died before I was born. So I never yeah. So that's a bit about the, the built environment and the nature because that particular cemetery has been fairly significantly affected by the built environment, although it's all settled down now, there was a period where. And again that cemetery because it's in this sandstone quarry there's had to be a lot of shoring up work. Lot of, massive high brick walls, retaining walls have been built in there. So I guess when that work was being done that would have significantly affected the You know any wildlife Some of the plant life and what have you. Yeah, so I really can't recall how long ago that was. I'm guessing it was in the early 90s when the metro was put through, but.

Would you call yourself a conservation champion? Would you describe yourself in a different way in terms of kind of your interests in it?

I wouldn't describe myself as a champion as such, because I'm not active at sort of a project level, really. But certainly buildings conservation, Industrial heritage conservation is an interest of mine and has been since I was a young child. And sort of environment, nature, say we don't have a manicured garden, for example. That's my sort of contribution. I've always re-use things, recycled things, for many, many years. I don't use bin line so yes, I wouldn't call myself a champion in that I don't go out and proclaim about it. But I sort of in my own world, in my life, I do what I can.

Would you say, and this is sort of something that seems to have come out particularly through COVID, that you have an increased understanding of the importance of burial grounds as green spaces, so for sort of both well-being and community?

I don't know that that is the case because of COVID. But I think, I mean, I said to someone the other day, and until I got involved in this project I would never ever have walked on a gravestone. I would have felt really bad about doing that. Whereas now we're clambering over all sorts of things, you know, and scratching away, trying to find the, you know, the lettering on the stone and what have you. So I feel if you like a lot more comfortable and less sort of, respect isn't the word, but less sort of bowed down by it all and would now, I think I would feel quite well I did. I went and had my lunch in Key Hill the other day, you know, which is perhaps something I wouldn't have done before this, but I wouldn't say that's as a result of COVID particularly.

And do you see yourself continuing to do this kind of project and is there anything that you'd need to help that happen?

Yes, I would. I'd be keen to carry on. And I'm hopeful that these particular projects might be able to be extended for the volunteers to try and make a bit more impact because I think some of the areas we've only really scratched on the surface, yeah. And I have become a friend of Key Hill and Warstone lane although I haven't really done much as a friend because all their events, just for one reason or another, haven't chimed in my calendar. So I possibly need to rethink that one. Maybe I'll put those in my calendar 1st. The other stuff has to wait. I don't think I need any particular help as such. I mean, I'd be quite happy to receive, you know, information, newsletters and that sort of thing. And just keep an eye on what's going on, what projects are taking place and you know, if ever there's anything that's. On the ad hoc basis, I could get involved. With

Is there anything else you'd like to share before we head off into the rest of our days?

I think this particular project is worthwhile and has given me, yeah, I've gotten something out of it myself but I think for a volunteer that is important that you're not just giving all the time that you know something's coming back the other way. And I feel for me this project is definitely done that. And the knowledge of the two, George and Josie, who are the sort of the, yeah, the leads on this in this area, you know, their knowledge is just fantastic and they're very willing to share it. And yeah, that's been a bonus as well.

And meeting other people involved, yes. Other volunteers, yeah.

APPENDIX 10

REVEREND EMMA SYKES

Where did you hear about the Celebrating Birmingham's Burial Grounds project?

Word of mouth through George from Caring for God's Acre

Had you heard of Caring for God's Acre before the project? Yes through their involvement in our churchyard regeneration plans

Tell me about your involvement in the project

We have been involving them in our plans to improve the churchyard and have helped us map all our burial plots which is invaluable

What attracted you to the project?

Takes the environment seriously and works with churches to make the most of our churchyard spaces

What was the highlight of the project for you?

Really accessible and involves groups of people of all ages in an engaging way

Would you agree with the statement 'I understand more about what monuments can teach us about the places we live'

Yes

Would you agree with the statement 'I understand more about the benefits of monument recording and digitisation'

Yes

Would you agree with the statement 'I have a greater understanding of how nature and the built environment compliment each other'

Yes

Would you agree with the statement 'I consider myself a conservation champion'

I could be better

Would you agree with the statement 'I have an increased understanding of the importance of burial grounds as green spaces for well being and community'

Yes

Do you see yourself continuing to be involved in this kind of project, and what would you need to make this happen?

Yes definitely – time and resources

Do you have any stories or pictures you'd like to share of your time on the project?

It was great taking part in the count on nature and watching the children being fascinated by all the different minibeasts that were found! I think we have some photos somewhere.

APPENDIX 11

ROBERT BROWN

Where did you hear about the Celebrating Birmingham's Burial Grounds project?
They contacted us as we were working on a project in our church's Graveyard

Had you heard of Caring for God's Acre before the project?
No

Tell me about your involvement in the project.
I photographed the grave markers and my wife entered the inscriptions onto the website.

What attracted you to the project?
It seemed interesting and helpful to our project.

What was the highlight of the project for you?
Not having to make a separate map.

Would you agree with the statement 'I understand more about what monuments can teach us about the places we live'
Yes

Would you agree with the statement 'I understand more about the benefits of monument recording and digitisation'
Yes

Would you agree with the statement 'I have a greater understanding of how nature and the built environment compliment each other'
Not sure

Would you agree with the statement 'I consider myself a conservation champion'
No

Would you agree with the statement 'I have an increased understanding of the importance of burial grounds as green spaces for well being and community'
Yes

Do you see yourself continuing to be involved in this kind of project, and what would you need to make this happen?
I would not be interested in a different graveyard, this was to help the local church.

Do you have any stories or pictures you'd like to share of your time on the project?
Only that whenever we were working in the graveyard many people came and asked us for information and seemed interested at the time.

APPENDIX 12



Participant Evaluation Form

Thank you for taking part in today's session. To track the progress of the project and to improve our sessions we would be very grateful if you could take a few minutes to fill in the form below.

Session location		Session Date		
1. Did you enjoy today's session? <i>Please circle one response</i>				
No, not at all. Definitely won't do another one.	It was ok but I probably wouldn't do another one	Yes, I might do it again.	Yes, I will definitely do it again if the opportunity came up	Loved it! I will actively seek opportunities to do it again.
2. Have you done this sort of activity in burial grounds before? _____ Yes _____ No				
If not, what inspired you to do so now?				
4. Did you have, or were you supplied with, the correct equipment to participate in the session? YES/NO				
5. Would you have the correct equipment to record independently? YES/NO				
6. Do you currently have any connection with burial grounds? (if none, go to question 7)				
7. Are you likely to volunteer in this/other burial grounds now that you have undertaken this session? <i>Please circle one</i>				
Very unlikely 1 2 3 4 5 Definitely will				
8. Has the session changed your understanding of the importance of your local burial ground? <i>Please circle one</i>				
Made no change at all 1 2 3 4 5 Has significantly changed				
9. Do you value burial grounds more as a result of today?				
Value them less 1 2 3 4 5 Value them significantly more				
10. Do you feel you have, or are working towards the skills and knowledge to submit records?				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> _____ Yes _____ Working towards </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <i>Please tick one</i> _____ No </div>				

Continued overleaf

The Beautiful Burial Ground is a Caring for God's Acre project (charity number 1155536).

11. If you answered working towards or no to the question above what further support would you like?
12. Do you think you will record in burial grounds in the future?
13. If you answered no to the question above what is the main barrier to you recording in a burial ground?
14. Is there anything else you would like to tell us?
15. The section below is optional but allows the HLF to understand who is involved in the project.
What is your Gender?
Which age bracket do you fall into? <i>Please circle one</i> Under 18, 18-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, 80-89.
How would you describe your ethnicity? <i>Please tick one</i>
<div>Asian (Bangladeshi, Indian Pakistan, Other)</div> <div>Asian (Chinese)</div> <div>Black (Caribbean, African, Other)</div> <div>White</div> <div>Mixed Ethnic Group</div>
Do you consider yourself disabled? YES/NO

If you would you like to keep in touch with the Beautiful Burial Ground project and receive our quarterly e-newsletter either add your email address here or ask your session organiser for the newsletter signup sheet.

***Please return this sheet to your session organiser
you***

Thank

APPENDIX 13

Participant	Session Date	Did you enjoy today's session?	How do you think about the activity before?	If not, what inspired you to do it then?	Did you have or have you supported with the right equipment?	Would you have the correct equipment to record independently?	Do you currently have any connections with burial grounds?
Brandswood End Cemetery	6/20/2021	Lower #1 will actively seek opportunities	no	something that I find very interesting	yes	yes	relatives buried in Brandswood
Brandswood End Cemetery	6/23/2021	Lower #1 will actively seek opportunities	no	it was a great opportunity to find out about something I have no particular knowledge	no	no	yes- relatives buried here and live locally
Brandswood End Cemetery	6/23/2021	Lower #1 will actively seek opportunities	no	saw it on Facebook and have been a regular visitor to the cemetery since lockdown sounded	yes	yes	yes I have family buried here live locally
Brandswood	6/26/2021	Lower #1 will actively seek opportunities	no	it's local history	no	no	no
Wardstone Lane	6/18/2021	Lower #1 will actively seek opportunities	no	interesting subject	yes	yes	yes, ancestors buried here
Wardstone Lane	6/18/2021	Lower #1 will actively seek opportunities	no	interest in Genealogy	yes	yes	no
Wardstone Lane	6/18/2021	Lower #1 will actively seek opportunities	no	yes, I might do it again	yes	yes	no
Wardstone Lane	6/18/2021	Lower #1 will actively seek opportunities	no	mate suggested it	yes	yes	no
Brandswood End Cemetery	6/20/2021	Lower #1 will actively seek opportunities	no	enjoy history	yes	yes	no
Wardstone	6/20/2021	Lower #1 will actively seek opportunities	no	curiosity and the history behind it	yes	yes	no
Wardstone	9/10/2021	Lower #1 will actively seek opportunities	no	interest in local history and being in a lovely environment	yes	yes	no
Wardstone	6/18/2021	Lower #1 will actively seek opportunities	no	interest in the churchyard as a member of the church	yes	yes	none
Wardstone	6/16/2021	Lower #1 will actively seek opportunities	no	saw the post on Facebook and have been interested about this graveyard for a while	yes	yes	no
Wardstone Lane	6/18/2021	Lower #1 will actively seek opportunities	no	interesting history project	yes	yes	no
Wardstone Lane	6/18/2021	Lower #1 will actively seek opportunities	no	looking into doing something similar at Spital cemetery in Chislefield	yes	yes	yes still a cemetery churchfield
Wardstone Lane	6/18/2021	Lower #1 will actively seek opportunities	no	interested in local history	yes	yes	no
Wardstone Lane	6/18/2021	Lower #1 will actively seek opportunities	no	interest in cemeteries	yes	yes	interest in a relative grave in Wardstone
Wardstone Lane	6/18/2021	Lower #1 will actively seek opportunities	no	yes & full recommendation	yes	yes	no
Wardstone	6/1/2021	Lower #1 will actively seek opportunities	no	it's my local churchyard, why not do anything once	yes	yes	no
Wardstone	6/1/2021	Lower #1 will actively seek opportunities	no	no for church	yes	yes	no
Wardstone	6/1/2021	Lower #1 will actively seek opportunities	no	interest	yes	yes	none
Brandswood End	6/11/2021	Lower #1 will actively seek opportunities	no	visit cemetery a lot like to help	yes	yes	relatives buried here
Brandswood End	6/11/2021	Lower #1 will actively seek opportunities	no	enjoyed	yes	yes	relatives buried here
Brandswood End	6/11/2021	Lower #1 will actively seek opportunities	no	my mum	yes	yes	no
Brandswood End	6/11/2021	Lower #1 will actively seek opportunities	no	local opportunity	yes	yes	no
Brandswood End Cemetery	6/23/2021	Lower #1 will actively seek opportunities	yes		yes	yes	yes, friends group
Brandswood End Cemetery	6/23/2021	Lower #1 will actively seek opportunities	yes		yes	yes	member of PBC
Brandswood End Cemetery	6/23/2021	Lower #1 will actively seek opportunities	yes		yes	yes	no
Brandswood End Cemetery	6/23/2021	Lower #1 will actively seek opportunities	yes		yes	yes	committee member PBC
Brandswood End Cemetery	6/23/2021	Lower #1 will actively seek opportunities	yes		yes	yes	yes
Wardstone	6/2/2021	Lower #1 will actively seek opportunities	yes	interested in local history	yes	yes	no
Brandswood End Cemetery	6/23/2021	Lower #1 will actively seek opportunities	yes	friends member	yes	yes	no
Wardstone Lane	6/18/2021	Lower #1 will actively seek opportunities	no		yes	yes	no
Wardstone Lane	6/18/2021	Lower #1 will actively seek opportunities	no		yes	yes	no
Wardstone Lane	6/18/2021	Lower #1 will actively seek opportunities	no		yes	yes	no

How are you to volunteer in this or other burial grounds?	Has the session changed your understanding of burial grounds?	Do you value burial grounds more as a result of today's session?	Do you believe you have the skills and knowledge to submit records?	What further support would you like?	Do you think you will submit burial ground records in the future?
1 Made no change at all	1 Made no change at all	1 no as regularly visit anyway	yes		yes
2	2	2 working towards	yes	more knowledge/regards the materials of the memorials	yes
3	3 already thought they were important	3 already valued them	yes		yes I would love to be involved again
4	4	4 value them significantly more	yes	more info on coming dates and opportunities	yes
5	5 has significantly changed	5 value them significantly more	yes	further volunteering opportunities	yes
6	6	6	yes	none at present	not immediately
7	7	7	yes		maybe
8	8	8	working towards	to work with another individual who has done this before	yes
9	9 has significantly changed	9 value them significantly more	yes		yes
10	10	10	working towards		yes
11	11	11	working towards	extra experience	maybe depending on availability
12	12 already aware	12 already valued them	yes	more recording as of today	yes if they are very local due to health
13	13 has significantly changed	13 value them significantly more	yes	new project	yes
14	14	14	no		yes
15	15	15	working towards	further practice	I hope so
16	16	16	yes		yes
17	17	17	yes		yes
18	18 has significantly changed	18 value them significantly more	yes		yes
19	19	19	yes		yes
20	20 Made no change at all	20	yes		Y
21	21	21	working towards	other sessions offered or other areas of cemetery pointed out to work within	yes
22	22 has significantly changed	22 value them significantly more	yes	Further details of areas that need recording	yes
23	23 has significantly changed	23 value them significantly more	yes		yes
24	24 Made no change at all	24	yes		yes
25	25 already aware	25 already valued	yes		yes
26	26 Made no change at all	26	yes		yes
27	27	27 value them significantly more	working towards	more training/experience	
28	28 has significantly changed	28 value them significantly more	yes		
29	29	29 value them significantly more	yes		yes
30	30 has significantly changed	30 value them significantly more	yes		
31	31 has significantly changed	31 value them significantly more	yes		
32	32	32	no		
33	33	33	yes		yes

no, what is the main barrier?	is there anything else you would like to tell us	what is your gender?	which age bracket do you fall into?	how would you describe your ethnicity?	do you consider yourself disabled?
		female	60 - 69	White	no
		male	18 - 29	White	no
		female	50 - 59	White	no
		female		White	no
		Male	50 - 59	White	no
		Male	50 - 59	White	no
		Male	60 - 69	White	no
		Male	60 - 69	White	no
		female	60 - 69	White	no
		m	30 - 39	White	no
		female	50 - 59	Asian (Bangladeshi, Indian, Pakistani, Other)	no
		Female	60 - 69	White	no
		Female	40 - 49	Mixed ethnic Group	yes
		Female	70 - 79	White	no
		Female	60 - 69	White	no
		Female	70 - 79	White	no
		Female	60 - 69	White	no
		Male	60 - 69	White	no
		f	60 - 69	White	no
		m	70 - 79	White	no
		f	40 - 49	White	no
		female	60 - 69	White	no
		f	under 18	White	no
		f	40 - 49	White	no
		Female	60 - 69	White	no
		male	50 - 59	White	no
		male		Black (Caribbean, African, Other)	
		Female	50 - 59	White	no
		male	60 - 69	White	no

APPENDIX 14



Celebrating Birmingham's Burial Grounds Project

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 Caring 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.

As summer activities are behind us and we look towards winter, it felt like a good time to put together a short round up of the project so far and let you know what the plans are for the coming months. Please feel free to share this newsletter with anyone you feel would be interested in the project.

Over the summer volunteers began photographing and collecting the inscriptions of memorials. Mostly through organised sessions run by George(ina) Sharp (community coordinator for Caring for God's Acre) and partly by volunteers working independently.

During eight memorial recording sessions over 500 memorials were recorded by 55 volunteers across 3 burial grounds, a brilliant achievement! Stories emerged and people from the past 'met' and their lives discussed and wondered at.

Outdoor sessions have stopped now for the winter as it is difficult to plan around the rain and falling temperatures. We are now embarking on entering the details gathered over the summer onto the digital maps. This will begin in small groups, in large enough rooms that we can be comfortably spaced out. Dates and details are overleaf.



Dawn Chorus walk, Key Hill Cemetery.



Fungi Walk, Brandwood End Cemetery.



Looking at lichen in a family event, St Mary's Churchyard, Handsworth.

In addition to memorial recording the CBBG project also aims to inspire and support people to learn more about the biodiversity of burial grounds and the importance they play in our urban ecology.

A few sessions have taken place so far and the species identified were added to the national biodiversity network's database that helps track what is happening to our national wildlife.

Anyone can add their burial ground wildlife sightings of birds, insects, plants, fungi etc. via our web page [here](#) these can be common species such as robins and magpies as well as trickier to identify plants or insects.

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

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

We now have 500+ recording sheets to add to the internet based mapping system that will create a searchable archive of those memorialised in each burial ground.

This winter the focus is on Brandwood End and Warstone Lane cemeteries as this is where the majority of the summer recording took place.

The sessions are free to take part in and training will be provided. We have a limited number of lap tops available for the sessions so if you have one you can bring along that would be helpful.

Please book your place via the booking links, more sessions will be arranged in the new year.

Brandwood End Cemetery.

Monday 8th November 2-4pm, Kings Heath Library. [Book Here](#).

Warstone Lane Cemetery

Wednesday 17th November 2:30—4:30pm, [The Hive](#), Vittoria Street. [Book Here](#).

Warstone Lane Cemetery

Wednesday 1st December 2:30—4:30pm, [The Hive](#), Vittoria Street. [Book Here](#).



Stories from the Stones- an afternoon of talks around Memorial Recording.

The Celebrating Birmingham's Burial Grounds Project is inviting you to an afternoon of talks on subjects around this burial ground mapping and recording project on **Saturday 20th November 1-5pm** in the Dickens Room of the [Birmingham and Midlands Institute](#) in central Birmingham.

Speakers Include;

Harold Mytum, Professor of Archaeology at University of Liverpool. Harold is a leading expert on the study of graveyard memorials and author of several books and numerous papers.

Josie Wall is the Activities Programme Manager for the [Jewellery Quarter Cemeteries Project](#) and a PhD student at the University of Birmingham.

other speakers are to be confirmed.

Tickets are free but must be booked, please [click here](#) to book via Eventbrite.

Autumn Webinar Series

Caring for God's Acre are running an autumn webinar series on subjects surrounding the biodiversity and heritage of burial grounds. The webinars are free (donations are welcome) for details and booking links please visit our web page [here](#).

George(ina) Sharp, Community Coordinator
Caring for Gods Acre
george@cfga.org.uk
01588 673041 (answerphone only some days)
caringforgodsacre.org.uk

AGM & Online Talk

Caring for God's Acre is holding its AGM on Tuesday 9th November at 7pm.

The AGM business will be brief and will be followed by a talk by **Sheldon Goodman of Cemetery Club** 'The Original Garden Cemetery' Pere Lachaise, in Paris.

Please note there is a charge of £5 for non-members of Caring for God's Acre. [Booking Link](#).



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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 Caring 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)

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.

St Mary's Churchyard, Handsworth

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

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

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



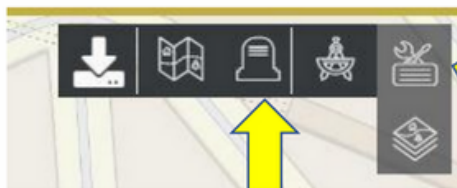
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George(in) Sharp, Community Coordinator, Caring for Gods Acre. george@cfga.org.uk, 01588 673041
(answerphone only some days)
caringforgodsacre.org.uk

APPENDIX 16

Adding and editing memorials on the map



Then click on the gravestone monument



First, click on the tool box icon to bring up this set of icons

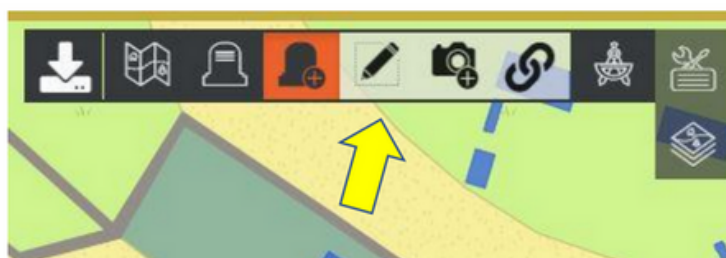


Then click on this icon and you will have a plot marker to drag and drop wherever you want it.



Once you have dropped it there are options to change its angle, shape and size and classification. Remember to save it by clicking on the disc logo.

It is also possible to edit existing monuments by clicking on the pencil icon and then clicking on the monument on the map.



APPENDIX 17



Entering Inscriptions records from the Recording Sheets/a notebook

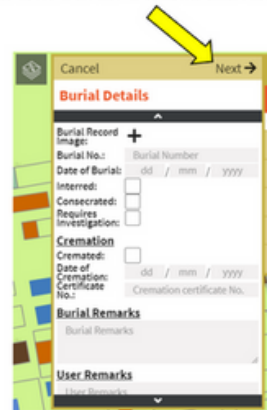
This guide is to help you transfer the information from the recording sheets or a notebook to the online map – it is reasonably straight forward once you get the hang of it,

Log in, allow the map to load, zoom in to the area you are working on.

1. Click on the memorial in question, click the **Add New** under **Persons**



2. Ignore the Burial Details box and click **Next**.



3. Fill in as much of the personal details as you have from the inscription, this will usually just be names and dates although you may occasionally have the profession or an address. (These are the fields that will be picked up in a search).

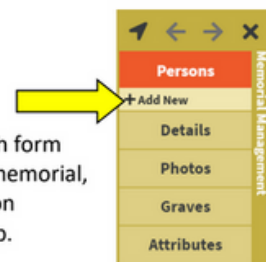
If a middle name or initials are on the inscription record these under first names.



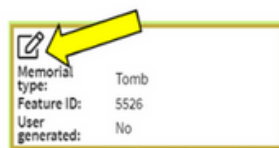
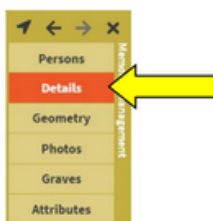
4. Click **Next** and then **Save**



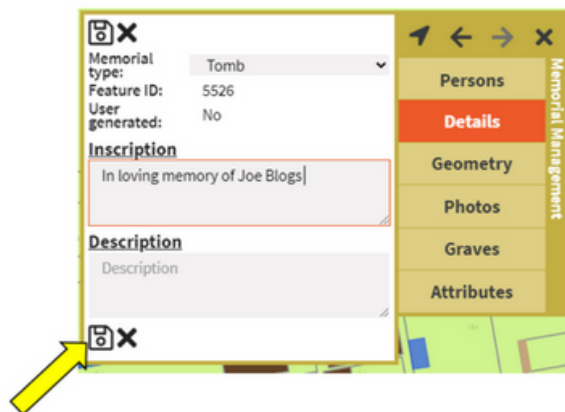
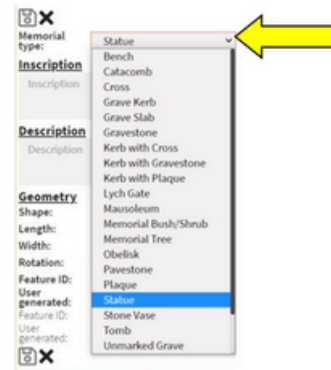
Click **Add New** for a fresh form for each person on the memorial, if there is only one person continue to the next step.



5. Next click on the **Details** section and click on the edit icon



6. Check the memorial type is correct, it can be amended by clicking on the downward arrow and selecting from the list you may need to scroll up and down to find the category you want.



7. In the inscription box enter the full inscription as it appears on the memorial including any misspellings. If you can see there is an inscription which is illegible add [inscription illegible] or something similar record what can be read even if you need to add between words. **Save the entry by clicking on the disc icon.**

If you find your inscription is too long for the inscription section, please continue in the description section.

If it is still too long, copy and paste the text into a word document, save it as a jpeg and add it as a photograph to the memorial by following the 'how to add photographs to the map' guide.

Adding the Condition Assessment

Open the Inspections section by following these steps.

Close the memorial management section by clicking on the cross in the top right-hand corner.



Click on the toolbox icon in the top right-hand corner



Click on the gravestone icon.

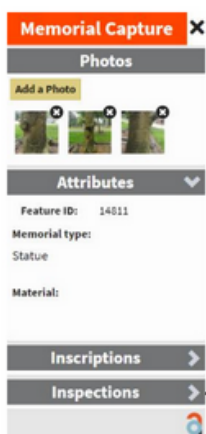


Click on the camera icon.



Allow the map to update (lots of green arrows and/or red crosses will appear).

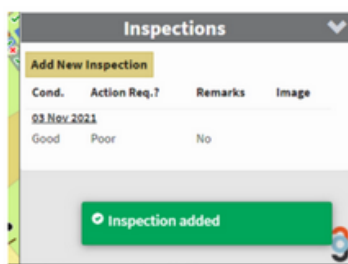
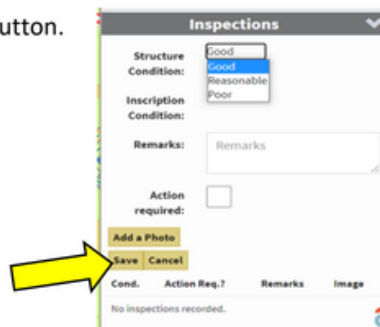
Click on the memorial in question and a box like this will appear.



Click on the inspections arrow.

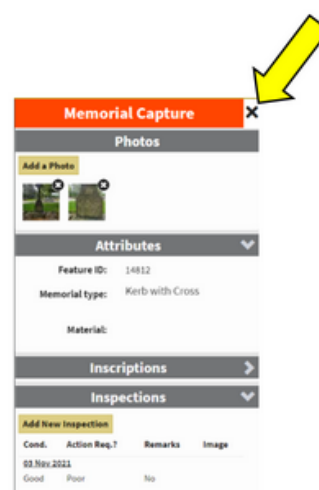
Select the required option from the drop-down menu for the condition and structure of the monument you can add in any remarks in the remarks box.

Click the save button.



The new inspection will appear with today's date and a green box will appear.

Close the box by clicking on the arrow in the top right-hand corner.



Start from the beginning with the next memorial.

APPENDIX 18

Exploring the Map

Go to <https://burialgrounds.co.uk/> and log in now.

You will then find a page like this but personalised to you and the map/maps you have access to.



Good morning, George



Click on the downward pointing arrow next to the map name, the options available to you will appear. Click on the Map Management option.



Have a bit of an explore, on the right hand corner of the map there are two grey boxes one with map drawing tools and one with a stack of layers.

Click on the bottom one of the two and the key will appear (you can scroll up and down) you are able to turn the various elements on and off as you please.



You are able to zoom into the map and hover your mouse over the monuments if a name shows up there is information recorded for that plot, if not it will come up as an 'unknown grave'.

Click on the monument and you will be able to see the information associated with it. Scroll down through the memorial details by moving the grey bar on the right and click on each one to see what information is held.

