



The Friends of Hartwood Paupers Cemetery

Newsletter

Summer 2021

And an invitation to join The Friends.

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The aims of The Friends are:

“To preserve and protect the former Lanarkshire, Hartwood, Paupers Cemetery and enhance the site as a public amenity.

To maintain, repair, restore, preserve, improve, beautify and reconstruct the Cemetery as a place of historical merit and allow us to explore the history of mental health and the cemetery”.

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Compassion and Friendship.

As a newly elected committee, we are sure we can learn from each other and flourish whilst improving our wellbeing in these strange times.

For those, this grounds is their last resting place, where they may no longer have a voice but we can help to make sure they are given the respect they most rightly deserve and no longer be hidden.

Nowadays, attitudes have changed and are continuing to change towards mental illness but the stigma that is historically associated with mental health, still sits uncomfortably within many of us. We, as a group will do our utmost to help break down this stigma and help build hope in those affected by mental illness, where we will provide a safe and empowering space.

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“The living owe it to those who no longer can speak to tell their story for them.”

— Czesław Miłosz

A Haven for Nature

Though funding, donations and sales of our merchandise, we will continue the project, where we hope to :

- ◆ Publish Newsletters online.
- ◆ Improve our grass cutting schedule so that visitors can gain access to the gravestones and other features.
- ◆ Plant 1000 bulbs in Autumn as well as new bee-friendly flowers and shrubs.
- ◆ Install more bird boxes and bug hotels to encourage the local wildlife to take up residence.
- ◆ Install a badger gate in the fence.
- ◆ Improve all our own mental health.

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We are helping families who are seeking lost relatives, that may have been buried within the cemetery, by providing a free service to search the records that we have. We continue to receive enquiries from around the world which is providing us with a larger picture of the names we have.

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The first burial was on 26th August 1896 and it's last on the 09th April 1952.

There are 1255 named individual within the 634 graves, which were marked with a simple number plaque.

If you are aware of the history, you may know the majority of the plaques where thrown away and many headstones removed as deemed dangerous a few years ago.

Here Comes Summer? ... Hopefully

After what has been the longest and coldest period for many years, it was not surprising that many of our plants didn't make it through the winter and we are beginning to refill our barrels with new plant. Rhona has nurtured the plants we had and propagated the new seeds in her garden haven.

The wildlife loved our 500 spring bulbs but we did manage a display of beautiful spring tulips under the willow.

We have installed 8 new barrels around the site which has given us a total of 25, We have moved 1 tonne of the finest NLC compost into the barrels to give our plants the best chance to grow.

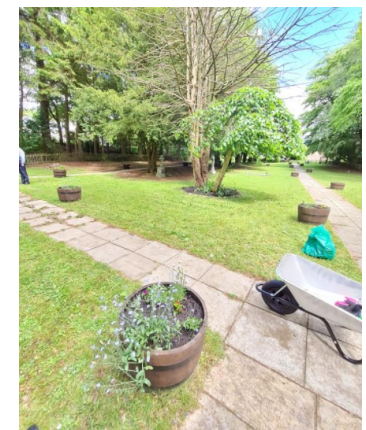
We are trying to enhance the cemetery by also utilising what flora we have at our fingertips within the grounds of the hospital.

Within the barrels we have begonias, red hot pokers, lobelia, orchids, lavenders, marigolds, poppies, viola, comfrey, forget me nots, chrysanthemums, baby's breath and pansies to name a few.

Our mission is to remove the weeds and fence at the top right as we have since found graves within this area.

These patients were excluded in life and now sadly also in death. So our aim is to bring them back into the cemetery with the others by removing the barrier.

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We would like to thank the following :

- ◆ NLC Community Justice for the bird boxes and bug Hotels.
- ◆ Co-op Newhouse who have made volunteers available to us.
- ◆ Tom Gormill for endless hours researching the records.
- ◆ All the volunteers who have given up their free time.
- ◆ Everyone who has wished us well and joined our social media platforms.

Thank you

If you have any information or photographs of how it once looked we would appreciate it whole heartedly
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/922448381938628>