

Friends of St. Matthew's Churchyard

News Update

February 2015

Dear Friend,

Firstly, a rather belated Happy New Year to you all. If you have visited the churchyard recently, we hope you will have noticed continued improvements. More areas have been cleared, more headstones revealed, many saplings have been removed and trees pruned and the footpaths have been widened and covered with chippings, to make them more accessible. Calderdale Council have also repaired a section of damaged wall along Till Carr Lane. We would like to take this opportunity to say a big **thank you** to all the Friends of St. Matthew's Churchyard (FOSMC), Calderdale Countryside volunteers and Calderdale Council for all their support and hard work throughout 2014.



Green Team

We had a good turnout for the first working party of 2015 on 18 January and were lucky with the weather. There will continue to be working parties from **2.00-4.00pm** on the **3rd Sunday of every month** (except December) throughout 2015. The next few dates are:

- Sun 15 February
- Sunday 15 March
- Sunday 19 April
- Sunday 17 May

Alan Greenwood is our 'Green Team' co-ordinator and all are welcome to join our friendly group of volunteers.

Annual General Meeting 2015

All members should have received notification of our Annual General Meeting 2015, which will take place on **Tuesday 17 February from 7.30pm at St. Matthew's Church Hall, Wakefield Road, Lightcliffe**. All members and friends are welcome to join us. If you are not yet a member and would like to join, then please email for a membership form or you can join at the AGM. Membership is free and open to all individuals and groups who support our aims.

The committee is elected at each AGM. All existing committee members are willing to stand again and the following nominations are supported by the FOSMC Committee:

- Chair: Ian Philp
- Treasurer: Stuart Crowther
- Secretary: Angela Monaghan
- Green Team Co-ordinator: Alan Greenwood
- Committee Members: John Brooke, Mike Wood, Revd. Kathryn Buck (ex officio)

There are currently 3 vacancies on the committee for new members and nominations are welcome.

Events

We have a number of events lined up for 2015:

- **Batwatch** - Wednesday 20 May at 9.00pm. Led by Chris Sutcliffe of the Calderdale Countryside Service.
- **Open Churchyard** – Saturday 6 June. Activities and information throughout the day.
- **Autumn Concert** – will return in October, by popular demand! Details TBC.

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A sanctuary for the living as well as for the dead

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Fundraising

Recently, we were delighted and grateful to receive a £500 grant from the Lightcliffe Ward Forum to enable us to buy a heavy-duty grass cutter. This will help us to clear large areas quite quickly without damaging the memorials. Many thanks to the Ward Forum and Councillor Graham Hall in particular for their support.

We have also made a bid for Heritage Lottery Funding to help us deliver our 5-year development plan, including providing seating, installing information and interpretation boards, doing education work with local schools, developing a website and continuing to clear and maintain the churchyard. We'll let you know how we get on!

Burial Records

One of our committee members, Ian Philp, working with local volunteer Carol Crowther, has done a remarkable amount of work on the burial records for the churchyard. All burials are now searchable and have been mapped to burial plots. This information has been shared with the Calderdale Family History Society to include with their records and we hope to be able to publish it on our own website (yet to be developed) in future.

Ian is happy to answer queries about burials in the churchyard and can be contacted on ian-philp@supanet.com.



Staying in Touch

We send out news updates by email throughout the year. If you received this in hard copy and would like to receive e-news update in future, then please email us on lightcliffchurchyard@gmail.com.

You can also stay in touch through:

- Facebook - www.facebook.com/lightcliffchurchyard (NB: you don't need to have your own Facebook page)
- Twitter - @FOSMChurchyard
- Phone - 07941 286821
- Our noticeboard, situated by the first entrance to the churchyard off Till Carr Lane

If you no longer wish to receive information from us, then please let me know and I will remove your name from our mailing list straight away.

With all best wishes for 2015.

Angela

Angela Monaghan
Chair, Friends of St. Matthew's Churchyard, Lightcliffe

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