



Grave Issues – Issue Two

the newsletter of the Isle of Wight—Cemetery Wardens

Summer 2011

Training treat for Wardens...



Nearly 20 people have signed up to train as Cemetery Wardens joining the 17 that were trained last year. This year's training event in will be held in August at the historic All Saints Church in Freshwater.

Please ask anyone else you know who might be interested to contact The Footprint Trust—as there are still a couple of places left for the free training.

The project, which covers the whole Island, has been made possible thanks to support from Heritage Lottery funded West Wight Landscape Partnership.

Those attending will be given guidance on managing sites for nature conservation, the landscape, heritage and the community. All types of burial grounds, including municipal cemeteries and churchyards are welcome into the scheme—subject to the owners permission.

This year Cemetery Wardens will have the treat of hearing Richard Smout, the IW County Archivist, speaking on the subject of researching the history of burial grounds.

Richard Grogan from the Hampshire & IW Wildlife Trust will be leading a walk and talk around the churchyard—sharing information on managing burial grounds for wildlife.

Ray Harrington-Vail from The Footprint Trust will be talking about conserving heritage and community involvement.

Existing Wardens are also welcome to attend - please phone 82-22-82 to book a place...

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US IN SAVING OUR HERITAGE?

CALL 82-22-82



Where is this?



A walk around nature's garden...

Many years ago I read an article about Highgate Cemetery in London. It had been neglected for decades. Thanks to the passion of one leading local character Jean Pateman, a 'Friends of...' group was set up and the burial ground was handed over to them in 1975.

Jean was the chairman of the group for four decades and has only just stepped down. Having read the article I rang her up and she was happy to talk about the achievements of her group.

She talked about the burial ground as if it were a garden full of interesting plants and features. Like many large gardens there were formal spaces and wild places. She was pragmatic—it was not possible or desirable to save every building or restore it to its former glory. Part of the history of

Highgate is its decay. Highgate now offers the visitor a fascinating glimpse into the past and a chance for Londoners to see wildlife. Amongst those buried there are campaigning journalist Paul Foot, Douglas Adams writer of Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy, Jeremy Beadle and the parents and wife of Charles Dickens and of course Karl Marx.

The IW also has some fantastic heritage and wildlife hidden away in our burial grounds—the job of the Cemetery Warden is to inspire others to feel passionate about these special places...

Ray Harrington-Vail

More Cemetery Wardens Wanted — call Ray on 82-22-82 for more details...



First Cemetery Warden training day in August 2010 at All Saints Parish Church Freshwater

The IW Cemetery Warden Scheme is financed by the Heritage Lottery Fund, through the West Wight Landscape Partnership and supported by the Isle of Wight Council.



Where is this... from page 1..
Mountjoy Cemetery looking towards
St Mary's Church, Carisbrooke.