



Grave Issues – Issue Three

the newsletter of the Isle of Wight—Cemetery Wardens

Winter 2011

Wardens now trained and ready...



Due to popular demand The Footprint Trust's Cemetery Warden scheme held its second wave of training on Saturday 27th August at the historic All Saints Church in Freshwater. 13 keen local people were trained as volunteer Wardens to join the 17 trained last year. The project, which covers the whole Island, has been made possible thanks to support from Heritage Lottery funded West Wight Landscape Partnership.

Ray Harrington-Vail of the Trust said.. 'Churchyards and cemeteries are often one of the last refuges for rare wildflowers and lichens and contain fine examples of architecture. They can hold the key to family and social history.'

'They must be cared for in a sympathetic way which means managing with wildlife in mind, whilst being mindful that it is a place of remembrance...'

As part of the training Wardens were given guidance on the dangers of over-enthusiastic clearance which can damage memorials and destroy rare and interesting features.

One concern is the cleaning of gravestones with chemicals, which can eat away at the delicate stonework. Another is removing ivy which if not done correctly can damage the stone and remove the inscription.

The Wardens were informed about the history of modern burial, nature conservation management, recording and indexing of graves, and how to raise funds and recruit local people.

Those present were taken on a guided walk and talk by Richard Grogan from the local Wildlife Trust.

The County Archivist Richard Smout shared an insight into the resources available from the County Record Office.

The wardens will be given ongoing support from The Footprint Trust. Anyone else wishing to assist can contact the Trust on 82-22-82 or email ray@footprint-trust.co.uk

**WOULD YOU LIKE
TO JOIN US IN
SAVING OUR
HERITAGE?**

CALL 82-22-82



First Aid in the great outdoors...

A free practical training event to equip you with the basic skills you need to save lives...

If you are a volunteer working on practical outdoor projects you need this training!



The half day course will cover, resuscitation, dealing with cuts, concussion, broken limbs etc...

**Saturday 26th November
2011 Freshwater**



To book a free place contact The Footprint Trust on 82-22-82 or email info@footprint-trust.co.uk

This training is financed by the Heritage Lottery Fund, through the West Wight Landscape Partnership and supported by the Isle of Wight Council.

Support your local Warden...

Cemetery Wardens need the support of local people to help them in their task. If you do not wish to become a warden, but would like to get involved, then please do get in touch. If you are keen on monitoring wildlife, recording graves, improving habitats, designing leaflets or giving guided tours...then contact The Footprint Trust and we will put you in touch with your nearest warden. *Please note that you do not have to be a member of a church to be involved in this scheme—which covers all burial grounds—subject to the owners permission.*

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