

## Friends of Hollinfare Cemetery – Chairs Annual Report Tues 21st November 2017

The Friends and volunteers have had another very busy and productive year in continuing their aim of 'Improving the Look and Feel of Hollinfare Cemetery'.

- An average of 15-20 volunteers each Action Day have turned their hand to general weeding, clearing of fallen branches, bushing up, pruning and watering at each of the 10 Action Days as well as using their skills to assist with specific projects
- The 10 committee members held 3 meetings during the year to discuss and plan actions and projects to actively engage the volunteers
- 29 graves in the Grave Tending Scheme have been weeded and cleaned each Action Day
- Grassed areas have been kept looking pristine thanks to our regular volunteer grass mower
- The covered area had a Spring clean to help prevent slipping
- The store-room has been tidied and further tool racks introduced
- A digitised inventory of the tools & equipment has been introduced
- Front wall & pots have been planted with Spring, Summer and Winter bedding plants - the majority having been kindly donated by Eddie & James Atherton
- Areas either side of the entrance gates have been weeded and planted up to create colourful borders that now welcome visitors on entering the cemetery
- 15 untended graves have been weeded and tidied by applying weed block (bought by Friends) and golden gravel (provided by WBC)
- Storage bays have been cleared and tidied to enable the wheelbarrows to be securely stored outside to give more room in the storeroom
- Further memorial inscriptions have been recorded
- 11 memorials have been reinstated by WBC Bereavement Services along the main path-side as part of the Memorial Improvements project, much improving the look of the memorials and pathway. Materials were funded by the Friends group and volunteers have since weeded, levelled & sown grass seed in front of the reinstated memorials
- In March we purchased a new lawn mower funded by WBC Local Area Fund
- April 11<sup>th</sup> the Friends committee held a meeting with HS2 & WBC Bereavement Services to discuss the impact HS2 would have on the cemetery and in particular future burials
- May 7<sup>th</sup> the committee held another successful fundraising lunch which was enjoyed by 50+ volunteers and friends and raised £682.66 for future projects - thanks to our hosts and to all who donated food and raffle prizes
- Friends committee members held meetings with Roughleys to discuss plans for the new memorial sculpture
- In June the cemetery was in the 2017 Garden Safari and a stall was also held at the Parish Carnival to help showcase and publicise the work of the Friends
- In August, largely due to the Friends hard work and input, Green Flag status was maintained for the cemetery for the 6<sup>th</sup> year running
- In October another lovely annual dinner was held with 42 volunteers getting together for a fun evening to help celebrate the Friends achievements
- Two new volunteers joined us for the October action day and received a warm welcome – their additional help is much needed and very appreciated

I am so very proud of all the volunteers involved and continue to be amazed at how much we achieve together. Thank you to all....keep up the good work!

Mandy Eccles (Chair)